

# Charter School FACT SHEET

## CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE:



- Tuition-free and open to all students including English-language Learners, and ESE population.
- Publicly funded by state dollars based on enrollment, like other public schools
- Held accountable to state and federal academic standards
- Non-profit organizations.

*However, like many districts, a charter school or its governing body is permitted to contract with for-profit entity to perform various tasks like payroll, professional development, facilities maintenance, etc.*

*Continually monitored by their authorizer to ensure that student achievement, and academic and financial requirements are met.*

*Graded and accountable for results.*

*In 2019, 74% of public charter schools in Florida earned an A or B on the state assessment. 61% of district-run schools earned an A or B. Two consecutive F grades is grounds for closure.*

## According to Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools: A Comparison of the Performance of Charter School Students with Traditional Public School Students, Florida Department of Education:

- Students making learning gains was higher in charter schools than district-run schools in 91.7% of the comparisons.
- African-American students in charter schools performed better than peers at district-run schools in 89% of the comparisons.
- Hispanic students in charter schools performed better than peers at district-run schools in 93% of the comparisons.
- Students eligible for free/reduced lunch in charter schools performed better than peers at district-run schools in 93% of the comparisons.
- A vital part of Florida K12 system of public education since 1997 and have fulfilled their purpose according to statute, including providing rigorous competition within the public school district to stimulate continual improvement in all public schools, and expanding the capacity of the public school system (F.S. 33)



**MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

*There are more than 313,000 students attending a public charter school in Florida (2018-19).*



# FUNDING 101

- In Florida, funding follows the student. Public schools receive Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding for every student they serve.
- The only facility funding that a charter school receives comes from the state.
- Disparity in funding: Except in a few counties, capital millage is exclusively used by school districts, even though parents of both district-run and charter school students contribute to those funds.
- Students attending a public charter school receive, on average, \$3,000 less than students attending a district-run public school - Ball State University May 2010



## PARENTS SUPPORT EDUCATION FREEDOM

According to a national survey, 78% of parents with school-age children support having a charter public school open in their neighborhood. Support for charter schools was even greater among African-American and Hispanic parents.

## ABOUT FCSA

Formed in 2010 by a group of educators, community leaders, and philanthropists, the Florida Charter School Alliance is a non-profit member-driven organization whose mission is to improve student achievement, and promote parental choice by advocating for, supporting, and collaborating with high-quality public charter schools. Our member schools run the gamut of education programs ranging from independent schools to networks with multiple campuses, National Blue Ribbon recipients to STEM Certified, ESE centers to classical curriculum, and credit recovery to college preparatory programs in high need areas. Yet all our member schools have a common thread – a steadfast commitment to raising the bar on public education and providing a quality education option to the children and communities they serve.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE REQUIRED:

- ☒ Meet all applicable state and local health, safety, and civil rights requirements.
- ☒ Hire state certified teachers.
- ☒ Be operated by a volunteer governing board that includes community leaders, representatives from the business community, parents, and educators.
- ☒ Provide regular financial information to its authorizer, and annual financial report and program cost report as outlined in state statute s. 1011.60(1).