Overview

Charter schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract, or a “charter” which frees them from many regulations created for traditional public schools while holding them accountable for academic and financial results.

Who may authorize (sponsor) a charter school?

District School Board
State University (charter lab school)
Community College (in cooperation with a district)
Overview... continued

Accountability
(District-Sponsored Charter Schools)

Students

State Board of Education (SBE)

Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)

School District

Governing Board of Charter School

Charter School
Who is **eligible** to apply?

- Individual person
- Teachers
- Parents
- Group of individuals
- Legal entity organized under the laws of Florida. Includes, but is not limited to a:
  - nonprofit organization
  - municipality (preference given to children of residents)
  - business (charter in workplace, preference given to children of employees)
  - developmental research school
  - an existing district school (conversion)

Who is **NOT** eligible to apply?

- Private Schools
- Parochial Schools
- Home Education Programs
Accountability
(District-Sponsored Charter Schools)

School District

- Monitor & review the charter school in its progress towards goals established in charter
- Monitor revenues and expenditures
- Ensure the charter is innovative and consistent with the state education goals established in §1000.03(05), F.S.
- Ensure the charter participates in the state’s education accountability system
- Provide fair and equitable access to charter school students
Accountability
(District-Sponsor Charter Schools)

**Governing Boards**

- Exercise continuing oversight of charter school operations
- Adopt/maintain an annual operating budget
- Ensure retention of a CPA or auditor for the annual financial audit
- Receive/approve audit report, including findings & recommendations
- Monitor corrective action & financial recovery plan, if applicable
- Make annual progress reports to the sponsor: Student achievement data, financial status, status of facilities/plans & school personnel information
Accountability
(District-Sponsored Charter Schools)

**Cause for Nonrenewal or Termination**

- Failure to participate in the education accountability system
- Failure to meet fiscal management standards
- Violation of law
- Other good cause
- Health, safety, or welfare of the students is threatened
# Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Miami-Dade County Public Schools</th>
<th>Charter Schools</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Training/Certification</td>
<td>Principal must be FLDOE Certified / extensive training</td>
<td>No training, educational background or Educational Leadership certification required</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher Training/Certification</td>
<td>Teachers Certified by FLDOE</td>
<td>Teachers Certified by FLDOE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>Facilities – Built to State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF)</td>
<td>Compliance with Florida Building Code &amp; Fire Prevention Laws</td>
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<tr>
<td>Union Contracts</td>
<td>Must follow Union Contracts</td>
<td>Union organizations are rare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher/Staff Salaries</td>
<td>Teacher Salary schedule followed</td>
<td>Develops salary schedule</td>
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<td>Budget</td>
<td>Central Office directed and monitored</td>
<td>Oversight of budget(governing Board) &amp; School Based Budgeting</td>
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Growth of Charter Schools

- 2010-2011: 91 Schools, 35,500 Students
- 2009-2010: 84 Schools, 30,800 Students
- 2008-2009: 77 Schools, 23,917 Students
By The Numbers (continued)

- **#4** Florida ranks 4th in the nation in # of charter schools

- **#7** Miami-Dade ranks 7th in the nation in charter school enrollment

- **91** Schools serving **35,500** in Miami-Dade County

- **24%** Charter schools students statewide attend Miami-Dade County Charter Schools
By The Numbers (continued)

- **28%** 40 of the 91 Charter Schools classified as Differentiated Accountability Schools

- **51** Applications received to open new charter schools in 2011-2012

- **69** Applications received to open new charter schools in 2010-2011

- **3** Charter schools closed during 2009-2010
Challenges

- Lack of parent education (quality charter school, rights, expectations)
- Increased competition with traditional schools
- Increased district resources for operational support and technical assistance without power to mandate changes outside the scope of the law
- Inability to control mobility between charter and traditional schools – impact funding (survey periods)
Challenges

- Charter school becoming a safe haven for private school students
- Current legislation does not provide adequate power to district to ensure proper accountability
- District is fiscal agent for charters thereby requiring high levels of due diligence and monitoring (moneys flow through the district but the district has no authority to direct spending)
- Parents use the District as a forum for complaints instead of the Charter School’s Board
Goodbye...