

Minnesota Association of Charter Schools

Charter School Facts

Charter schools are K-12 public schools that provide choice for parents and students within the public school system. Charter schools are:

- Operated independently from the school district in which they are located
- Incorporated as a 501©(3) nonprofit organization or as a teacher cooperative
- Staffed by teachers who have appropriate state licensure
- Funded primarily by state general education revenue with start-up funding in the first three years provided by the federal government
- Located in leased facilities, funded in large measure by lease aid, a state program that provides per pupil funding to compensate for the fact that charter schools cannot own property, levy taxes, or issue bonds
- Open to all who apply, except if the school is over-subscribed, in which case a lottery is held for all of the students who applied before the deadline. Once a student is enrolled, siblings are given preference in admission.
- Free of charge
- Accountable for academic and non-academic outcomes
- Sponsored by a school district, an institution of higher learning, a nonprofit organization, or a foundation
- Reviewed every three years by the sponsor to determine whether the charter will be renewed
- Governed by a board of directors made up of parents, teachers, and community members elected by the school community

2007 - 2008 Minnesota Statistics

Number of Operating Charter Schools: 143 **Number of Enrolled Students:** 28,034

Year of Charter School Law: In 1991, Minnesota was the first state to pass charter school legislation. The first charter school in the United States, City Academy, opened in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1992 and is still in operation today.

Beacon Academy is authorized by Friends of Education,
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