

CONNECTICUT CHARTER SCHOOLS HELD TO STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN STATE



Public charter schools are held to some of **the highest accountability standards for public schools in the state**. They are granted **a charter by the state to operate for up to five years, are subject to regular review and renewal, and are held accountable for results in many ways**, including being subject to a variety of sanctions, including school closure.

- Public charter schools are **open to all students**. When there are more applicants than seats available, **charter schools must hold a blind lottery to determine enrollment**.
- Annual audits can include **written reports and site visits** to determine if the school is meeting the standards set forth in its charter.
- When it is up for renewal, a school that is deemed to have **successfully met academic, operational, governance and financial requirements are allowed to continue operating for up to five more years** at a time.
- For renewal, a school must provide **clear and compelling evidence of positive results, offer a detailed vision for the school's future plans, and outline solutions for any weaknesses or gaps** in the current program.



Connecticut Has Passed Laws to Hold Charter Schools Even More Accountable In Recent Years

- Schools that have **not met their requirements may receive additional conditions to meet to continue operating, given shorter renewal term limits, or may even be closed**.
- All staff serving in Connecticut's public charter schools **must be authorized by the state to serve in those schools**, and the state regularly reviews schools for compliance.
- **At least 50 percent must be serving under an initial, provisional or professional educator certificate**. The remaining 50 percent may serve under other temporary authorizations, with no more than 30 percent serving under a Charter School Educator Permit (CSEP).
- Additionally, Connecticut has recently passed laws to hold charter schools more accountable, gaining national attention for significantly strengthening its law. These changes included **additional transparency provisions, conflict of interest and anti-nepotism requirements, and additional disclosures**.



Connecticut
Charter Schools
Association

About Connecticut Charter Schools Association

The Connecticut Charter Schools Association is a nonprofit membership organization that serves as a unified voice for the 21 public charter schools, and the nearly 11,000 mostly minority and low-income students, that attend them, representing their interests at the state and local levels.