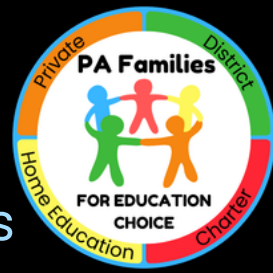


FACT Sheet

Public Brick and Mortar Charter Schools



Public charter schools, cyber charter schools, or charter academies are public schools that operate with a greater degree of independence than traditional district schools. Brick and mortar charter schools are approved by their chartering district.

What is an Authorizer?

Every charter school must have an authorizer: the entity empowered by state law to decide whether a school can open, how it must perform, and whether it should be renewed or closed. Unlike traditional schools, charters operate on a contract (a “charter”) that must be earned, renewed, and upheld.

Who are eligible authorizing entities?

- Local school boards
- Two or more local school boards for regional charters

Impact

93% of the state’s charter schools are authorized by **51** school districts.

Does the state allow applicants to appeal denials to a different entity?

Pennsylvania law provides that applications denied by local school boards can be appealed to a state appeals board. If approved by the state appeals board, the law requires the chair of the state appeals board to sign the written charter if the local school board still refuses to grant the charter

Source-paedchoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/NAPCS-Authorizing-2025-PA.pdf

Expanding Authorizing Options

Strong charter laws offer families multiple pathways to establish successful schools. We believe allowing various authorizers beyond local school districts would prevent barriers for promising schools. Currently, Pennsylvania restricts charters to one authorizer, limiting family choice. In contrast, states that empower additional authorizers, such as state agencies, higher education institutions, or independent commissions foster a healthier environment for quality school growth.



Family dedicated call/text line
(412) 606-0766



paedchoice.org

Source-<https://data.publiccharters.org/>