



Top 10 Reasons to Support Charter Schools

1. One-size does not fit all when it comes to education. All parents should have the right to choose a school that best meets the needs of their child.
2. Charter schools stress a personalized approach to education, including smaller class sizes, more individual attention to each student and strong parental involvement.
3. Charter schools can be more flexible in meeting children's individual needs and more innovative in trying new ways to improve student achievement.
4. Charter schools serve all children, not just those who learn best in a traditional classroom. These include gifted children, dropouts, children of parents looking for a safe learning environment, children whose parents choose to teach their child at home, children whose parents want more direct involvement in their children's education, special needs children (such as autistic children) and children with learning disabilities.
5. Public charter schools make choice possible for low-income families. Before charter schools, choice existed only for families who could afford to relocate to a different school district or pay private school tuition. Economically disadvantaged children constitute 62 percent of charter school enrollment.
6. The innovation made possible in charter schools has resulted in increased innovation within traditional district schools.
7. Ohio's 330 charter schools provide children with safe, orderly and tuition-free environments conducive to learning.
8. Ohio parents, and the public in general, say they want school choice. The popularity of Ohio charter schools has grown so much that many of them have waiting lists. Fifty-two percent of Ohioans said in 2007 that they support charter schools; the number was nearly 60 percent in Ohio's five largest cities.
9. Charter schools are accountable. Public charter schools have introduced an unprecedented level of accountability into the broader public school system. They can more easily change staff or curriculum in order to meet student achievement goals than can traditional district schools. Those with chronically poor performance are required to close.
10. Charter schools have proven themselves. Some 80,000 students attend 330 charter schools in Ohio, and more than a million students attend more than 4,000 charter schools in 40 states.