



Key Messages Concerning Charter Schools

- **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.
- **The Ohio General Assembly authorized public charter schools in 1997 in response to parents' desire for school choice.** The framework the legislature put in place provided for:
 - **Flexibility** in meeting children's individual, unique learning needs.
 - **Innovation** in the classroom. Teachers have freedom to try new ways to improve student achievement.
 - **Accountability.** Public charter schools have introduced an unprecedented level of accountability into the broader public school system. They are flexible enough to make changes to staff or curriculum in order to meet student achievement goals, and those with chronically poor performance are required to close.
- **The majority of charter schools work to the advantage of both parents and children.** They serve all kids from all backgrounds and meet a wide variety of interests and educational needs. They provided personalized and innovative education that prepares Ohio children for 21st Century jobs.
- **The Governor's proposed budget is a serious threat to school choice.** It would reduce funding for charter schools by more than \$100 million from current levels – more than \$1,000 per child. Because charter schools already have fewer resources than school districts, this reduction in funding could force our charter schools to close.
- **Charter schools are not an experiment** – some 80,000 students attend 330 charter schools in Ohio, selected by parents who want choice for their children. Because they are working, the legislature should protect charter schools, not cripple them.