

# 5 Facts You Should Know About Charter Schools



Although charter schools have existed in Pennsylvania for almost 15 years, there are a lot of misconceptions that have been intentionally fostered about charter schools. It's about time people understood some basic facts:

## **Charter schools are public schools.**

Charter schools are funded by tax revenue, monitored by government entities, and clearly defined in legislation as public schools. They provide an optional and different form of public education than traditional schools, but they are public schools.

## **Charters schools accept all children.**

Just as with traditional public schools, charters must accept any child who is a resident of Pennsylvania regardless of ability, income, ethnicity, or religion. If the number of applicants is greater than the number of seats available, the charter school must hold a public lottery.

## **Charter schools save taxpayer dollars.**

Charter schools in Pennsylvania operate on an average of 30 percent less money than the taxpayer is paying to the school district to educate a child.

## **Charters are academically rigorous.**

Charter schools are held to the same academic standards as traditional public schools.

## **Charters exist because parents need them.**

Parents are making the choice to move their children to charter schools. If the traditional public schools were meeting the needs of all the children, charters would simply not exist.



### **BY THE NUMBERS:**

# 115,000+

The number of students enrolled in public charter schools across Pennsylvania.

# 44,000+

The number of children in Pennsylvania who are currently on waiting lists to attend charter schools.

# 9.63%

The annual growth rate of charter schools in Pennsylvania.

[www.PAcharters.org](http://www.PAcharters.org)

