

Charter Schools Policy

The Cincinnati Board of Education will grant charters to schools in accordance with the provisions of Section 3314 of Ohio Statute (Community Schools Act). Since the Board is committed to transforming the district from a school system to a system of high quality schools, it will establish these schools so that they are funded and held accountable in a manner similar to district schools. Charter schools will use district academic standards and measurements of students' proficiency in meeting those standards.

In keeping with this principle, the Board of Education may grant independent charters for "New Startup Schools" and "Conversion Schools" to developers of schools in one or more of the following categories:

1. schools that are designed from the beginning to reflect all principles and strategies of the *Students First* strategic plan;
2. schools that introduce other promising practices or designs that may be replicable on a broader scale;
3. schools that address a specific need or underserved population of students;
4. schools that address the needs and preferences of a particular segment of the community;
5. existing high-performing CPS schools that apply to become "conversion schools" (schools meet this criterion through placement in the "Achievement" category of the district's School Accountability Plan for two or more consecutive years immediately prior to conversion);
6. schools that are in the Redesign category of the School Accountability Plan (the Board may close a school and convert it to a charter school).

All charters will be granted and renewed on the basis of a negotiated contract for student performance consistent with the School Accountability Plan. Charter schools will have a population of at least 350 students unless there is a specific need for a smaller population. These schools may not separate students by achievement level on a permanent basis.

The Board will fund its charter schools at the student-based budget amount; and, if serving a population of at least 350 students, the school will receive the school allowance.

Contracts must be signed with the district by December 1 of the year preceding the opening of the school.

The Board of Education will provide assistance to the potential governing authorities of startup and conversion charter schools in planning and operation.