

Is a charter school the answer?

Scenario:

A district considers converting one of its schools into a charter school as an alternative to closing it due to funding issues.

Should this conversion occur, the district will still be responsible for meeting the educational needs of any student that lives within its district that chooses to not enroll in the charter...even if the student lives within the charter boundaries.

The district will not receive any additional state funding for the charter school.

Facility funding is different for charter schools. Charters are generally not included on/with district bonds and plant facility levies; this is often a hardship on new charters.

Conclusion:

More in-depth study is required.



Is a charter school the answer?

Scenario:

A district considers converting one of its schools into a charter school in order to offer more educational options.

Should this conversion occur, the district will still be responsible for meeting the educational needs of any student that lives within its district that chooses to not enroll in the charter...even if the student lives within the charter boundaries.

The district will not receive any additional state funding for the charter school.

Facility funding is different for charter schools. Charters are generally not included on/with district bonds and plant facility levies; this is often a hardship on new charters.

A clear authorizing relationship should be established between the board of the district and the board of the charter. Measurable criteria in the form of a performance certificate should be agreed upon.

Conclusion:

If all necessary elements are present, a charter school might be an effective answer!

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Scenario:

A group of citizens would like to design a unique educational program for their community.

The process for writing a charter application is complicated and requires research, dedication, and a commitment to academic excellence.

An authorizer must approve the application.

The district will not receive additional state funding for the charter school.

Facilities is often a point of struggle for new charters, so a solid facilities plan must be in place.

There must be a clear need and interest in the community for such an educational program.

Conclusion:

If all necessary elements are present, a charter school might be an effective answer!

