

Accountability Fact Sheet

Rhode Island's charter public schools are held to the highest accountability standards of any public school in the state. Rhode Island's single authorizer system, where only the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) can approve new charter public schools, means a stringent, transparent, and equitable process for new school applications.

Like all public schools in the state, charter public schools are ultimately accountable to RIDE and the RI Council on Elementary and Secondary Education. They are also governed by a volunteer board of directors, made up of community members and other local stakeholders. These public board members volunteer their time to serve, and share a deep commitment to ensuring every child in Rhode Island has access to a high-quality public school. Like school committees and boards of education, charter public school boards are subject to the open meeting law, conflict of interest law, and public records requirements.

Charter Public Schools Must Meet All the Same Requirements as District Public Schools

District Report Cards

Annually, RIDE assesses all public schools on a variety of metrics, including: academic performance, civil rights compliance, absenteeism, graduation, and educator data, to name a few.

Star Rating System

Annually, RIDE assigns every public school a star rating based on performance and accountability metrics outlined in District Report Cards.

Annual Plans & Annual Progress Reports

Annually, all public schools are required to submit Annual Plans and Annual Progress Reports to RIDE.

Charter Public Schools Are Subject to Additional Requirements that District Public Schools Are NOT

Charter Performance Review System

Since 2010, charter public schools in RI have been subject to additional, rigorous evaluation criteria. They receive additional oversight in terms of academic, financial, and organizational performance, and legal, regulatory, and charter contract compliance.

Annual Performance Review Report

RIDE evaluates and issues an Annual Performance Review Report to every charter public school in the state. Charter public schools' performance is thoroughly documented and readily available to the public.

Evaluation & Renewal Process

Depending on whether they are subject to a 1, 3, or 5 year renewal process, charter public schools must undergo a thorough review, site visits, and a vote by the RI Council on Elementary & Secondary Education in order to continue to serve their community.

To learn more download RIDE's comprehensive [Charter School Performance Review System](#).