

# Rhode Island Charter Public Schools Fact Sheet

## **PUBLIC, TUITION FREE, OPEN TO ALL**

- ✓ By law, Rhode Island's charter public schools are public, tuition-free, and open to all.
- ✓ Given the high demand from families, charter public schools are required to enroll students through a fair, impartial, and transparent lottery process, which is overseen by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). This ensures that every student, regardless of their background or educational need, has equitable access to a charter public school education.

## **HIGHER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY**

- ✓ Rhode Island's charter public schools are held to the highest accountability standards of any public school in the state. They are required to meet rigorous academic, financial, and operational standards. Rhode Island's single authorizer system, where only 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. Charter public schools are also governed by a volunteer board of directors, made up of community members and other local stakeholders.
- ✓ In exchange for the strictest oversight of any public school in the state, charter public schools are granted a series of flexibilities when it comes to their day-to-day operations and programming.

## **SERVING DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATIONS WITH DIVERSE PROGRAMMING**

- ✓ With over 35 charter public schools in Rhode Island serving close to 13,000 students across the state, RI's charter public schools truly serve *all* kids.
- ✓ From Saunderstown to Cumberland to Providence, RI's charter public schools are embedded in their local communities and provide a high-quality public school option to families across our state. Charter public school students are diverse, in terms of demographics and need: they serve a higher percentage of multilingual learners and students from low income households than the state average.
- ✓ RI's charter public schools also offer specialized programming. From the arts to nursing to the environment, the diversity of educational models helps to ensure all students can attend at school that best meets their unique needs.