



## **2020 Policy Platform**

Public Charter Schools of New Mexico (PCSNM) has a two-pronged mission to support and advocate for New Mexico's charter schools. Charter schools in New Mexico have a history of leveraging their autonomy and accountability to accelerate student achievement. To continue this tradition, PCSNM advocates for policies that allow students to thrive when they choose to attend a public charter school:

### ***Maintain Funding Equity***

New Mexico's student-based funding formula should not discriminate against any student because of their choice of public school. PCSNM supports actions that maintain equity in the state's funding formula. Any changes to the funding formula should not create divisions between public schools and should consider the funding formula's original purpose: equity for students. Changes to the extended school year funding should be made to ensure equity as well.

### ***Adequate and Stable Funding***

Funding for public schools should allow administrators to meet student needs. To accomplish this, schools need adequate funding increases to public education that allow them to cover costs and provide new programming. We advocate for fully funded salary increases and changes to ERB, an increase in the at-risk index as well as additional funding for early literacy, mentorship, and professional development. A careful eye should be given to schools losing small school size adjustment.

### ***Expand Access to Long-term Facility Funds and Simplify Short-term Facility Assistance***

Long-standing, successful charter schools need new options to allow better access to permanent facilities. PCS supports mechanisms that allow charter schools greater access to existing facility funding as well as the ability to other public funding in New Mexico. This includes the establishment of a revolving loan fund for charter schools. Permanent buildings for charter schools allow them to support the students that want to attend their schools as well as decrease recurring charter facility costs. To simplify short-term facility assistance, the legislature should create a per student distribution of lease assistance funds.

### ***Allow Pathways for Adults to Earn High School Diplomas***

The Adult Diploma pathway was passed last year but not funded. A few charter schools have recently lost the ability to serve adult students, and these students are left with limited options to educate obtain the education they desire. The state must act to ensure there is an option for these students, and New Mexico charter schools with a history of serving these populations can continue to serve them.

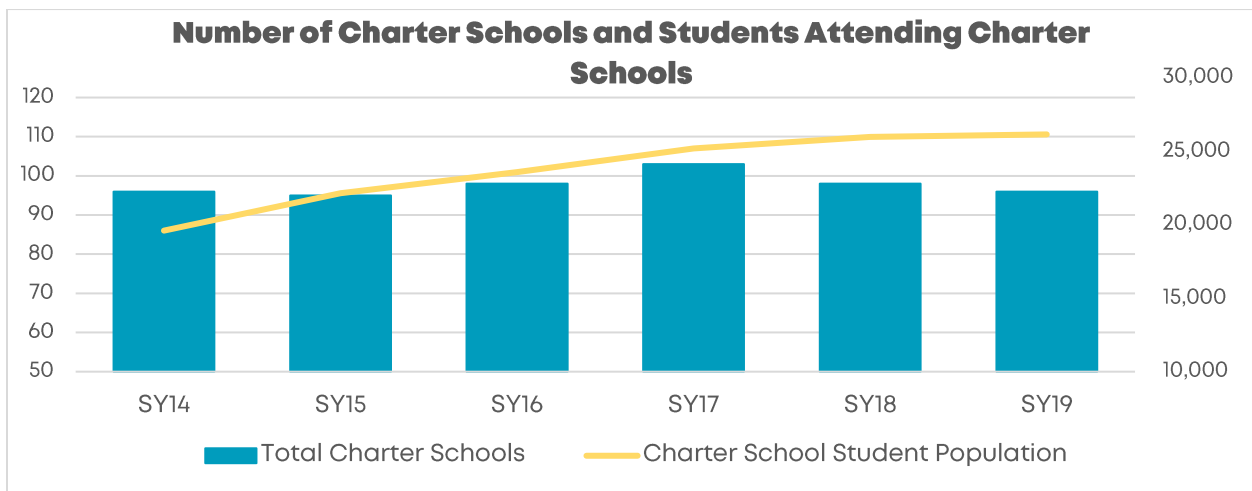


***Increase funds to expand PED’s Real-Time Data System***

Charter schools, along with small school districts, are sensitive to administrative burdens from state reporting. PED’s data pilot was designed to reduce administrative burden by streamlining data submission. We want this project to progress and support additional funding for this important project.

***Continue to Allow Charter Schools to Develop***

Charter school innovation is peaking and quality continues to improve. We are fervently against a moratorium on charter schools or any proposals to limit charter school enrollment from the state. In the past 5 years, the number of charter schools has remained steady.



***Better Access to Transportation Funding***

Several barriers exist that deny transportation funding to charter schools. Charters must pay for transportation out of their operational dollars for the first year of transportation funding, and they are restricted by their district boundaries in providing bus routes. These barriers serve to deny students access to charter schools, particularly those from low-income communities. PCSNM supports increased access to transportation funding for charter schools.

***Transparency in Charter School Authorizer Funding***

Charter school authorizers use up to 2% of charter school SEG for oversight. An audit conducted by former State Auditor Keller recommended more transparency on how these funds were used. Acting on this audit’s findings and recommendations will provide more transparency. Additionally, district policies intercepting charter school federal funding can be uncertain.