



NIM
CCS
New Mexico
Coalition *for*
Charter Schools

2018 Legislative Priorities

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Charter Schools in New Mexico

- Over 25,000 students and their families have chosen to attend charter schools, with thousands more on waiting lists
- A higher proportion of charter schools receive 'A' grades than district counterparts in 2017
- Charter re-engagement schools graduate hundreds of students each year
- Charter Accomplishments:
 - Sidney Gutierrez
 - NM Teacher of the Year
 - Taos Academy Verizon Award
 - Amy Biehl High School



NMCCS Legislative Priorities

Legislative Goals

- Maintain funding equity
- Provide greater accessibility to permanent facilities
- Enhance charter school flexibility



What's the Difference Between These Students?



Charter School Funding

- Same New Mexico students, same program cost for public school funding
- When all state funding sources are taken into account, charter schools are funded at a smaller per-pupil rate than districts
- Small school size incorporated for lack of economies of scale
 - This exists regardless of *why* a school or district is small
- Most charters don't want to be small
 - 62% of charter schools don't have a facility to meet their enrollment
- The number of charter schools is decreasing in New Mexico
 - From 101 to 97 over the last three years



Charter School Facilities

- This Fall, the Coalition released a joint report with the U.S. Department of Education: *An Analysis of The Charter School Facility Landscape in Albuquerque*
- Primary findings include:
 - 62% of charter schools did not have space to meet their projected enrollment
 - One-third of charter schools had to delay opening their school because they were unable to secure a facility
 - Most charter schools must use SEG funds to pay for their facility
 - Most charters do not have a science lab, library, or art room
- Charter schools lack equal access to facility funding due to down payment restrictions



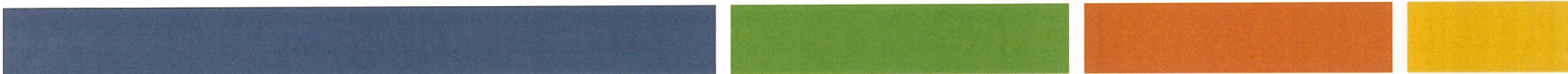
Charter School Facilities

- Ensure that investments in charter school facilities are state-owned if the charter is closed
- Have PSFA Monitor district facilities to ensure charters are allowed to utilize “available” space (land and facilities)
- Ensure that lease assistance is provided for at a market rate
- Determine standard local match for charter schools, and/or provide ways for them to obtain their own funding



Enhancing Charter Flexibility

- The mission of each charter school is what allows them to provide a unique experience for their students
- But there are personnel barriers that do not allow charter schools to implement that mission effectively:
 - Charter schools often blend instructional areas in unique and innovative ways; additional certifications in addition to licensure serve as a barrier to this
 - The subject areas taught in charter schools are vast and unique as well, and an expansion of mission-related vocational licenses is needed to reflect this



NMCCS Legislative Goals

Legislative Goals

- Maintain funding equity
 - Maintain small school size
- Provide greater accessibility to permanent facilities
 - Keep public investments public
 - Enforce available facilities law
 - Set standard local match for state charter schools
- Enhance charter school flexibility
 - Allow for flexibility in certifications beyond licensure
 - Allow for expansion of vocational licenses

