

Public Charter Schools of New Mexico

Presentation to the Public School Capital
Outlay Oversight Task Force

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Agenda

- Charter Schools Basics
- HB43: What it did
- Relevant Questions Moving Forward



Charter School Basics

- Charter schools have been a part of New Mexico's public school system since 1993
- There are 100 charter schools in the state
- Over 29,000 students attend charter schools
 - About the same as Las Cruces Public Schools
 - Median charter school population is ~225 students.

Charter School Basics

- Charter Schools Participate in the grand bargain of enhanced autonomy and accountability
- *Autonomy:* Charter schools have independent governance and the ability to choose their own calendar and length of day, staffing patterns, subject areas, textbooks, teacher evaluation and school principal duties.
- *Accountability:* Charter schools are held accountable for their performance, which is rooted in the contract they sign with their authorizer. A charter must meet or approach their goals or risk closure.

- Since 2015, 12 charter schools have been closed by their authorizer



Charter School Basics

- Charter schools have blazed a trail for what is possible in New Mexico education
- New Mexico charter schools offered the first comprehensive, school-based programming for:
 - Performing Arts
 - College Prep
 - Project-based learning
 - STEM
 - Incorporating New Mexican language and culture
 - Blended learning
 - Early college high schools
 - Virtual learning
 - International Baccalaureate
 - Montessori

What HB43 did:

Creates a set aside revolving fund for New Mexico Finance Authority

Public Land and Facilities will be offered by districts to charter schools with enforcement of the law

Provide for Lease Assistance at a per student rate, with no square footage measurements

Eases the process by which charter schools join on mill levy questions within their school district and provides a clear deadline for district and charter



Relevant Questions Moving Forward

- Will charter schools receive CPI increases to lease assistance?
- How will the revolving loan fund be executed?
- Will charter schools meet the newer, clearer deadline to be on mill levies?
- When will we see the first land transfer to

