

Charter Schools Services

Charter schools—tuition-free, independently run public schools—make up an increasing share of public school options nationally. To realize their potential, policy and education leaders must commit to authorizing great schools, expanding high-performers, and rapidly fixing, closing, or replacing chronically struggling schools.

Public Impact’s work in the charter school sector focuses on:

- Strengthening **charter authorizing** practices,
- Improving **state and federal charter policy** for excellence, equity and scale, and
- **Helping local leaders develop** and implement **high-quality charters** open to all

PUBLIC IMPACT’S THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

For two decades, Public Impact has worked closely with charter authorizers, charter management organizations, and state and federal charter school offices to shape policies focused on enhancing quality, innovation, and charter schools’ student outcomes. We have led the field by:

- Elevating how state charter law can ensure quality—or not (*The Charter School Challenge*, 1999),
- Making **charter authorizing** a force for excellence in the sector,
- Beginning with Starting Fresh (2003), advancing **restarts** of failing schools with excellent charter operators,
- Focusing the sector on **growing the number of students the best charter schools reach** (*Going Exponential*, 2009),
- Making **closure of low-performing charter schools** more practicable (2009),
- Pressing the sector to **innovate and meet unmet needs** (2015), and
- Addressing issues of equity and efficiency arising when charters achieve **high market share** (2015).

OUR SERVICES

We collaborate with educators, partners, funders, and clients to provide:

Strategy and Design

- Strategic planning for the charter sector with states, authorizers, foundations, local education organizations, and policymakers, with a focus on excellent outcomes and equitable access for all students
- Approval and replication process design for charter authorizers
- Performance frameworks and processes to hold charter schools accountable
- Staffing model design to help charters extend the reach of excellent teachers and principals

Implementation Support and Evaluation

- Performance monitoring and accountability implementation for charter school authorizers and states
- Data dashboards and other reports to gauge and share charter outcomes
- Evaluation of charter portfolios and individual charter schools and restarts

Research and Policy Advising

- Advising policy and education leaders on innovation and replication of high-quality schools
- Case studies that illustrate what is possible and identify gaps in the field
- Research that leads the charter sector forward when old charter approaches fall short of excellence

SELECT CHARTER SCHOOLS CLIENTS

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| • Charter School Growth Fund | • Nat’l Alliance for Public Charter Schools | • Opportunity 180 |
| • Delaware State Board of Education | • National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) | • Rhode Island Mayoral Academies |
| • Education Cities | • Nat’l Charter School Resource Center | • S.C. Public Charter School District |
| • IL State Charter School Commission | • New Schools for New Orleans | • Startup: Education |
| • Indianapolis Mayor’s Office | • NewSchools Venture Fund | • The Mind Trust |
| • Michael and Susan Dell Foundation | | • Thomas B. Fordham Institute |