

# WISCONSIN CHARTER SCHOOLS: KEY TERMS



Wisconsin established charter schools to foster innovation and parental choice. Charter schools are public entities often used as living laboratories to influence the larger public system to ensure learning for all.

## CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools are public, nonsectarian schools created through a business-like contract or "charter" between the charter governance board and an authorizer. The Wisconsin charter school law gives charter schools freedom from most state rules and regulations in exchange for greater accountability for results.

## DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter schools authorized by a local school district. District charter schools are often designed to serve educationally disadvantaged students and offer a choice to parents and students in the areas of curriculum, methodology, schedule, and classroom structure. District authorized charter schools are often used as solutions to needs identified by the district, community, school board, and/or parents.

### DISTRICT INSTRUMENTALITY CHARTER SCHOOL

A charter school authorized by a school district where the authorizing school district employs all personnel for the charter school. This agreement is described in the charter contract.

### DISTRICT NON-INSTRUMENTALITY CHARTER SCHOOL

A charter school that is authorized by a school district, but the employees of that charter school are not employees of the authorizing school district. The personnel of the charter school are considered employees of the charter school. This agreement is described in the charter contract.

## INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS

Independent charter schools are authorized by an approved public entity other than by a school district. Independent charter schools are authorized by one of the following: College of Menominee Nation, Lac Courte Oreilles, Ojibwa Community College, UW-System Office of Educational Opportunity, any UW System school, any technical college board, City of Milwaukee, and Waukesha County. The charter governance board is the Local Education Agency (LEA).

### 2R AND 2X CHARTER SCHOOLS

Independent charter schools are sometimes referred to as 2r or 2x charter schools. The terms "2r" and "2x" refer to the section of the charter school law within s. 118.40 that grants non-school district entities the authority to authorize charter schools.

