

Public Charter School Accountability in New Jersey

2020-21

Public charter schools are designed to put the needs of students first and they face tough accountability to make sure they meet that standard.

Public charter schools are the **most accountable** public schools in the state of New Jersey because they:



Are publicly-funded, tuition-free public schools run by nonprofit organizations, that are open to all students regardless of zip code, race/ethnicity, income or ability level.



Operate on 4 or 5 year performance contracts that focus on student outcomes.



Must meet all state laws related to health, safety, civil rights, certification, academic standards and student assessment.



Must apply to be renewed by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) every five years.



Receive annual financial audits conducted by NJDOE and an independent fiscal auditor based on the Performance Framework.



Follow transparency requirements such as public records and open meetings laws and must meet specific financial, academic and operational standards.



Are governed by an independent nonprofit Board of Trustees comprised of members who receive no compensation for their service and may not have conflicts of interest.



Are held accountable continuously by the taxpayers' elected Governor through the Commissioner of Education.

PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY COMPARISON IN NEW JERSEY

| | | TRADITIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOLS (QSAC) | PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS (PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK) |
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| | OVERSIGHT | Every three years | Every year |
| | FOCUS | Inputs and compliance | Student outcomes |
| | RENEWED | Continue to operate regardless of performance | Must apply for renewal every 5 years |
| | HELD ACCOUNTABLE BY TAXPAYERS/VOTERS | Every 3 to 4 years during school board elections | Continuously by elected governor and his education commissioner |
| | CONSEQUENCE OF FAILURE | Submission of improvement plans | School closure |



NEW JERSEY
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ASSOCIATION

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