

**Not just anyone can authorize a charter school. A charter school authorizer may only be one of the following:**

- Mayor of Indianapolis
- Four-year state university
- Any traditional public school board
- The Indiana Charter School Board (a state agency existing solely to act as a statewide authorizer)
- Non-profit college or university that offers a four-year educational program, where the board of trustees is ultimately the responsible party and may be granted a charter.

**The State Board of Education has a rigorous accountability framework for authorizers, which includes the ability to close charter schools and end the authorizers' ability to sponsor schools. Not just anyone and definitely not a for-profit organization may be a charter school "organizer".**

**An organizer must receive approval from an authorizer to start a charter school.**

The organizer is accountable to the authorizer to meet the terms of the agreement. It typically takes up to two years for a charter school to go from an idea to opening its doors.

**Charter schools are subjected to the same state testing and accountability requirements as traditional public schools.**

**All charter school agreements must include a requirement that the charter school close after four consecutive years of F ratings.** If an authorizer chooses not to close a charter school after four consecutive F ratings, they must request and receive approval from the State Board of Education (SBOE) to renew the charter agreement. After a hearing, the SBOE must implement one or more of the following: grant the renewal request (and determine length and conditions of renewal), order the closure of the school, and/or reduce the amount of administrative fees the authorizer can collect.

**Charter schools are required to have an independent financial audit completed every year,** unlike traditional public schools which are only audited by the State Board of Accounts every other year.

Unlike some traditional public schools, no student is forced to attend a charter school. **Parents make the decision to send their child to a charter because they believe it will be the best educational environment for their student.** A lottery must be held if the number of students who wish to attend the charter school is greater than the number of available seats in the school.

**Who holds charter schools accountable?**

