

What are Charter Schools?

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Heritage Academy, an APS charter school

Charter Schools are Public Schools!

- Free Education
- Not Private
- Not Religious
- Schools of Choice
- Autonomous (authorized by a school district or the Public Education Commission)

Who can attend charter schools?

- Students in grades K-12
- Each charter school...
 - Offers their own grades
 - Have a student enrollment cap
 - Lottery process

Why are there charter schools?

- Options for parents
- Usually much smaller
- They have their own mission, for example:
 - Some charter schools are bilingual and offer the Dual Language Program
 - Others focus on Technology, the Arts, College and Career Readiness, Math and Science, Strong in Culture, Credit Recovery, Environmental Stewardship, architecture, engineering, health, etc.

How do charter schools operate?

- Academic Performance Contracts (usually 5 year term)
- School Governing Council (at least five members)
- Responsibilities include: Hire and supervise the school principal, approve and supervise the school's budget, and approve school policies

Resources

- The Public Charter Schools New Mexico

<https://publiccharterschoolsofnewmexico.orgwww.nmccs.org>

- The Albuquerque Public Schools

www.aps.edu

- The Public Education Department

www.ped.nm.us

- National Charter School Resource Center

- <https://www.charterschoolcenter.org/category/states/new-mexico>