



CHOICE. INNOVATION. AUTONOMY.

WHO IS THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD (SCSB)?

Charter schools must be authorized by an approved authorizer who promotes the establishment of charter schools and annually reviews and evaluates their performance. Authorizers hold charter schools accountable for their performance according to the charter agreement and what is allowed by statute and rule, but do not govern individual charter schools.

There are nine active charter authorizers in Utah. The State Charter School Board (SCSB) is Utah's largest authorizer; created by legislation with its members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. SCSB upholds stringent standards of authorization and oversight to ensure that public funds are used as intended. By maintaining high standards, SCSB ensures the long-term viability of schools and mitigates potential underperformance.

MISSION

Advancing choice, innovation, and student success through rigorous authorizing and supportive oversight

VISION

Every student has access to an excellent education that meets their unique learning needs

WHY CHARTER SCHOOLS?

Charter schools are tuition-free public schools open to any Utah student. A public school is defined as a school that is open to the public, funded by the public, and accountable to the public. Charters meet all three tests.

Charters offer parents and students additional choices about where students attend school and the school's curricular emphasis.

They allow educators freedom to try new strategies to inspire students and to experiment with innovative ways of educating students.

They are held to the same reporting requirements and state accountability as district schools.



CHARTERS IN UTAH

SCSB is committed to fostering innovation and experimentation in Utah charter schools, and setting a high standard for academic excellence. While encouraging autonomy, SCSB holds charters accountability for its students' education and stewardship of public funds.

79,067

students enrolled in a charter school (12% of total public school enrollments in Utah)

04/10

4 of the top 10 schools in Utah are charters

91%

SCSB oversees 91% of Utah's charter schools, serving all 41 districts

DIVERSITY

As a whole, charter schools serve higher percentages of students with disabilities and students who are ethnic or racial minorities. SCSB and its charters are committed to upholding the public trust by respecting the individuality and dignity of each student in order to support all students toward productive and meaningful lives within our multicultural society.

28%

of charter students receive free or reduced-price lunch

30%

of charter students are of color

9%

of charter students are English learners

14%

of charter students receive special education

IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND LEARNING

COVID-19 has impacted the way we are able to connect with our schools and how students are learning. SCSB's goal is to ensure students have access to services and tools that enable them to learn digitally or in-person. We will continue seeking ways to mitigate any potential roadblocks to learning through the pandemic. To support charters and students, SCSB has:

Provided charters with flexibility in their charter agreement to respond to the pandemic

Made digital learning available to every charter school authorized by SCSB who did not already have it in their charter agreement through the 2021-22 school year

Allowed flexibility in the enrollment caps for the statewide online charter schools who requested it

Collaborated with authorizers in other states on best practices for digital, mixed and in-class learning during the pandemic

