



2019 Policy Platform

Public Charter Schools of New Mexico (PCS) has a two-pronged mission to support and advocate for New Mexico’s charter schools. As part of advocating for a better charter environment, PCS advocates for policies that allow students to thrive when they choose to attend a public charter schools.

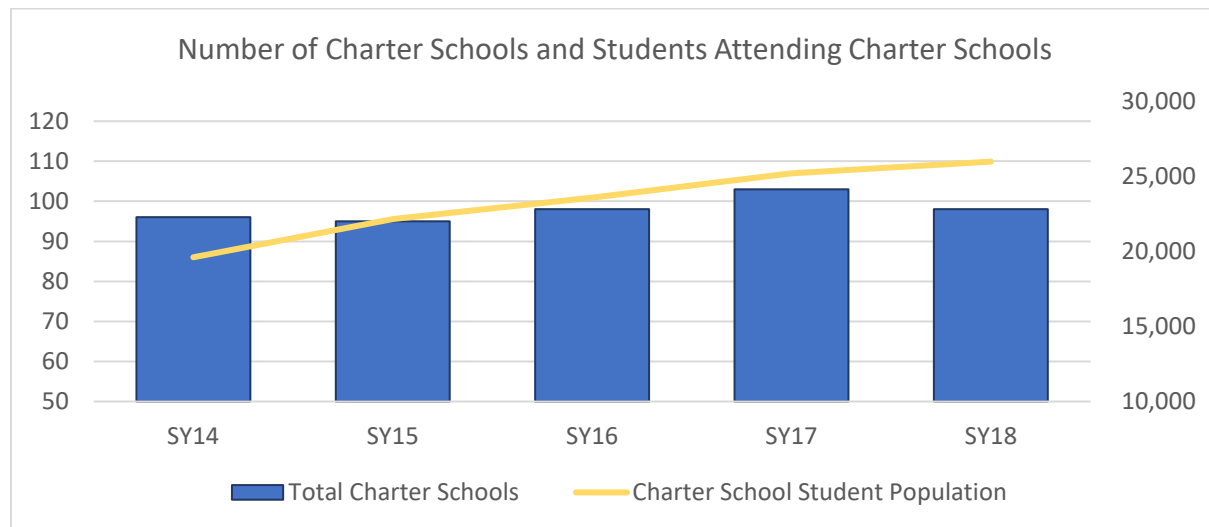
Charter schools in New Mexico have a history of leveraging their autonomy and accountability to accelerate student achievement. To continue this tradition, we advocate for policies that:

Maintain Funding Equity

New Mexico’s student-based funding formula should not discriminate against any student because of their choice of public school. PCS supports actions that maintain equity in the state’s funding formula. Any changes to the funding formula should not create divisions between public schools and should consider the funding formula’s original purpose: equity for students.

Allow Charter Schools to Evolve

A moratorium on charter schools would stop new and unique schools from forming in communities across the state. Charter school innovation is peaking, and their quality continues to improve. We are fervently against a moratorium on charter schools. In the past 5 years, the number of charter schools has remained steady, while charter school enrollment has continued to climb.





Expand Access to Long-term Facility Funds and Simplify Short-term Facility Assistance

There is a lack of legitimate options in the state that allow long-standing, successful charter schools to build facilities. Charter schools need new options to allow better access to permanent facilities. PCS supports mechanisms that allow charter schools greater access to existing facility funding as well as the ability to other public funding in New Mexico. Permanent buildings for charter schools allow them to grow and support the students that want to attend their schools as well as decrease recurring charter facility costs in the short-term.

Provide Specialized Charter Leader Professional Development

Many conversations this interim focused on the need for increased professional development for staff at the school-level. One area we believe we should focus on is training for new charter school leaders. New charter school leaders take on an incredibly difficult role: they are both the school site principal and the superintendent. Professional development for new charter school leaders could be combined with superintendents at small school districts, who face many of the same challenges and capacity limitations.

Better Access to Transportation Funding

Several barriers exist that deny transportation funding to charter schools. Charters must pay for transportation out of their operational dollars for their first year of funding, and they are restricted by their district boundaries in providing bus routes. These barriers serve to deny students access to charter schools, particularly those from low-income communities. PCS supports increased access to transportation funding for charter schools.

Fully-Funded Teacher Salary Increases

Every school's most important asset is its teachers, and increased pay is a worthwhile investment to help recruit quality teachers. When fully funded, new salary increases are supported by our charter schools. When not fully funded, these salary increases create undue burdens that have caused charter schools to lay off employees in the past.