

HOW A TRUE CHARTER SCHOOL SYSTEM WORKS



1

THE LAW--CREATED IN THE LEGISLATURE

Passes in the House and the Senate and then signed by the Governor

2

THE COMMISSION--APPOINTED BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Appointed by Governor, Sup. OPI, Pres. of Senate, Speaker of the House, Senate Minority Leader, and House Minority Leader. The Commission approves authorizers and charters for Community Choice Schools and reports to the BPE and Interim Education Committee annually

3

COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOLS--APPROVED BY COMMISSION OR AUTHORIZER

Governing Board of a potential Community Choice School applies to an Authorizer or the Commission by turning in a viable business plan, demonstrating community interest and a unified mission and vision for the school

4

FUNDING

Upon approval of Commission, Community Choice Schools receive a prorated Basic Entitlement based on enrollment size and additionally receive the General Fund ANB from resident county treasurer of each student

5

CHARTER RENEWAL, NONRENEWAL AND REVOCATION

Every 5 years, Community Choice Schools reapply for a charter. If CCS violates charter, it can be immediately revoked. If CCS does not meet the goals of their charter, it will not be renewed.

01 A Community Choice School Must Be a Nonprofit and Headquartered in Montana

-Each CCS shall function as a Local Education Agency and is responsible for meeting all requirements of an LEA, including those relating to Special Education

02 Subject to All Federal Laws

-Including laws related to civil rights, health, and safety requirements except as otherwise provided in sections 1-17

03 Exempt from Title 20

-Except as provided in sections 1-17
-In regard to retirement system: CCSs are not public employers, and CCS teachers are not public employees
-Teachers exempt from Title 20 certification requirements

Community Choice Schools Operation and Autonomy-- Section 14 Highlights

04 Elected Governing Boards

-By third year of operation, an election shall take place
-Qualified electors are CCS stakeholders, parents of students and employees of school
-Election process outlined in CCS bylaws and approved by Authorizer/Commission
-Board members are often: parents, retirees, former teachers, local business owners, etc.

05 Location of Community Choice School

-Encompasses the property lines of where the school physically exists
-Is neither "in" nor "of" the traditional district in which it physically exists
-Is a separate, public education entity authorized by and under control of the State

The Community Choice School Commission

Working as authorizers, can generate fees, but mainly must raise money to run operations

An understood, rigorous volunteer position: not a job!

Focused on the specialized work of authorizing, not acting as a regulatory body

Civically minded, generous people dedicated to improving educational opportunities in the state

Appointed by the Governor, Sup. OPI, Senate Pres., House Speaker, Senate and House Minority Leaders

Collectively possess experience in business administration, finance, law, education and philanthropy

COMMUNITY CHOICE SCHOOL FUNDING

Section 15

