

# SUPPORT EDUCATION CHOICE: VOTE YES ON SB 2241

**MYTH:** Charters are unlikely to be viable in rural areas and could undermine local public schools.

**FACT:** Every rural state with charter school laws has charter schools (Wyoming, New Mexico, Mississippi, Alabama, Idaho, Maine, and more). Nationwide, rural charter schools make up 11% of all charter schools and serve 10% of all charter school students. **No state has ever determined that a public school was closed due to a public charter school.**

**MYTH:** Public charter schools can exclude special needs students and fail to serve all North Dakota students.

**FACT:** Charter schools are public schools and **must provide special education services**; see page 11, lines 17-20: Student eligibility to attend a charter school is clearly stated on page 4, lines 23-25.

**MYTH:** North Dakota families already have public choice.

**FACT:** Families want an array of choices within the public school system. “Seventy-four percent of parents would consider sending their child to a public charter school if one were available in their area.” - 2022 NAPCS Analysis of Parent Sentiment in Education & Survey.

- a. The Learning Continuum is a good first step in public education innovation and public charter schools are a research-proven method of public education innovation.
- b. Public charter schools can offer programs like Montessori, project-based learning, early college model, career, and technical education, and so many more.
- c. Public charter schools provide real, immediate innovation for students and parents, taking into account local community values and needs. o

**MYTH:** More than 25% of Public Charter Schools close within 5 years.

**FACT:** According to the [US Government Accountability Office](#):

- b. In the 2021-2020 school year, only 89 charter schools closed out of 7,800 (1%).
- c. In the 2020-2019 school year, only 179 charter schools closed out of 7,500 (2%).
- d. In the 2019-2018 school year, only 235 charter schools closed, out of 7,300 (3%).
- e. Closure rates for charter schools are at an all-time low thanks to accountability standards, financial audits, and community driven education.

# SUPPORT EDUCATION CHOICE: VOTE YES ON SB 2241

## SUMMARY OF SB 2241: AN ACT TO CREATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

### DEFINITIONS:

- A charter school is a free public school open to all students that operates under a charter performance agreement with the State Superintendent.
- The State Superintendent is the authorizer of all public charter schools and will decide who can start a new charter school, oversee school performance, and if a school remains open.
- A performance agreement is a five-year agreement between a public charter school and the State Superintendent that describes academic, operational, and financial performance expectations.

### AUTHORITY OF THE STATE:

- The State Superintendent and Department of Public Instruction oversee all public charter schools.
- Create a uniform charter school application form and decision processes.
- Review charter applications and decide whether to approve or deny the opening of proposed public charter schools.
- Negotiate a performance agreement with each charter school and hold the charter school accountable for its academic and financial outcomes and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Facilitate revocation of a charter if it is determined that the public charter school:
  - Failed to comply with the provisions of the charter school law;
  - Committed a material violation of any of the terms, conditions, and standards required under the charter school law or the charter performance agreement;
  - Failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward the performance expectations set forth in the charter performance agreement;
  - Failed to meet standards of fiscal management, including fiscal violations.

### REQUIREMENTS OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS:

- Take the same state assessments and follow the same standards in the Century Code.
- Hire licensed teachers and follow the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board requirements.
- Follow the same state, local, and federal special education laws and regulations.
- Follow the same civil rights, health, and safety requirements applicable to other public schools in the state.
- May not engage in any religious practices in curriculum, admissions, and employment.
- May not be a home school or virtual school.

**Vote Yes on SB 2241, An Act to Create Public Charter Schools**



# VOTE YES ON SB 2241: EXPANDING EDUCATION FREEDOM IN NORTH DAKOTA THROUGH PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

## What is a charter school?

Charter schools are **free, public, and open to all students**. **All North Dakota students are welcome in public charter schools regardless of location, income, previous academic performance, or special needs.** Public charter schools have been meeting the unique needs of students for more than 30 years. However, North Dakota is one of only four states that do not allow public charter schools.

**Enacting a bill to allow public charter schools will expand education freedom in North Dakota and help build the workforce of the future.**

*"We also support building on the innovations and flexibility the Legislature approved with the previous administration. That includes providing the option to create public charter schools, which are accountable to performance standards just like our K-12 public system. With Lt. Gov. Strinden's leadership and our legislative partners, we can ensure every parent has the freedom and flexibility to choose the right educational plan for their child." — **Governor Kelly Armstrong***

## Public Charter Schools Get Results for Students

- **In Idaho**, economically disadvantaged charter school students outperform their district peers in both math and English Language Arts by about 10 points.
- **In Wyoming**, economically disadvantaged charter school students outperform their district peers in both math and English Language Arts.
- **In New Mexico**, economically disadvantaged charter school students outperform their district peers in both math and English Language Arts by more than 10 points.
- **In Colorado**, economically disadvantaged charter school students outperform their district peers in English Language Arts.

**Vote Yes on SB 2241, An Act to Create Public Charter Schools**