



# OFFICE OF CHARTER SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

**PRESENTATION TO THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE  
CITY-WIDE PLAN FOR EDUCATION**

*October 25, 2021*

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# AGENDA



- ❑ Charter School Definition
- ❑ Charter School Sponsorship
- ❑ Charter Schools in St. Louis: Past
- ❑ Charter Schools in St. Louis: Present
- ❑ Charter Schools in St. Louis: Future
- ❑ Saint Louis Schools Collaborative and City-Wide Planning

# CHARTER DEFINITION



A charter school is a free, independent public school that operates outside of a school district. Charter schools are granted greater flexibility in return for greater accountability. Missouri charter schools are governed by independent boards and are non-profit organizations.

# DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHARTER SCHOOLS AND TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS



- ❑ Charter schools are established by teachers, parents, principals, educational experts and entrepreneurs. The biggest difference is that no student is assigned to a charter school. Families choose to enroll their children in charter schools.
- ❑ Charter schools operate freed from some of the regulations of a school district. Charter schools are accountable to achieve the same state standards as school districts, but may choose to use different measures and timelines for reaching their goals. In exchange for flexibility, charters can be closed if they do not keep their performance promises.
- ❑ Charter schools are governed by non-profit boards and must comply with the conditions of their “charter” agreement and performance contract. Unlike elected district boards, charter school boards are appointed and operate under Missouri Statutes that regulate non-profit organizations.

<https://mcpsc.mo.gov/for-families/what-is-a-charter-school>

# WHERE CAN CHARTER SCHOOLS EXIST?



Charter schools can open and operate in all school districts in Missouri. The Missouri Charter Public School Commission can sponsor charter schools in Kansas City Public Schools district, Saint Louis Public Schools district, any unaccredited district and any district provisionally accredited for 3 or more years.

<https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/charter-schools>



# CHARTER SPONSORSHIP

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There are three kinds of sponsors in Missouri: school boards of accredited districts, qualifying universities, and the Missouri Charter Public School Commission. Each sponsor sets their own policies and procedures for sponsorship. Sponsored charter schools must be approved by the Missouri State Board of Education and must meet all applicable state statutes and Department of Elementary and Secondary Regulations. Charters started in 2000-2001.



# CHARTER PAST

# CLOSED CHARTERS



- ❑ Total charter Local Education Agencies (LEAs) closed in Saint Louis City: 19
- ❑ Average lifetime: 5.4 years
- ❑ Total children displaced by closing charter schools: 8,686
- ❑ Off-Cycle closure rate: 47%

# CLOSED CHARTERS (19)



Opening School Year	School Name (LEA)	Sponsor	# of years in operation	1st Renewal	2nd Renewal	Enrollment at Closure
2017-2018	The Arch Community School	UMSL	5 years	Non-renewed (2022)		99
2011-2012	St. Louis College Preparatory (Middle/High)	UMSL	8 years	2015-2016	Terminated (2019) for Financial Mismanagement	292
2010-2011	Carondelet Leadership Academy	MCPSC	10 years	2014-2015	Non-renewed (2020)	407
2011-2012	Preclarus Mastery Academy	UMSL	7 years	2015-2016 (Recommended for Non-renewal by UMSL Charter Sponsor Office, Overruled by University)	Charter Surrendered and Sponsorship Removed (2018)	138
2010-2011	Grand Center Arts Academy	SLU	8 years	2014-2015	Merged with Confluence Academies LEA (2018)	714
2011-2012	Better Learning Communities Academy	UMC	5 years	Non-renewed (2016)		189
2011-2012	Jamaa Learning Center	UMC	5 years	Non-renewed (2016)		159
2001-2002	Construction Careers Center	SLPS	14 years	2011-2012	Terminated (2015)	162
2010-2011	Shearwater Education Foundation	SLU	3 years	Terminated (2013)		33
2007-2008	Imagine Academy of Academic Success	SBOE	5 years	Non-renewed (2012)		955
2007-2008	Imagine Academy of Careers (Elem and Middle)	SBOE	5 years	Non-renewed (2012)		1620
2007-2008	Imagine Academy of Environmental Science	SBOE	5 years	Non-renewed (2012)		1290
2007-2008	Paideia Academy	MST	3 years	Terminated (2010)		505
2000-2001	Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Academy	MoBap	10 years	Non-renewed (2010)		807
2007-2008	The Can! Academies of STL	SBOE	1 year	Terminated (2008)		295
2002-2003	Youthbuild St. Louis Charter	SLPS	3 years	Terminated (2005)		17
2000-2001	Thurgood Marshall Academy	UMSL	5 years	Non-renewed (2005)		1004
Did Not Open	Tessera Hall Academy	UMSL	never opened			
Did Not Open	Vernare School	UMSL	never opened			10



# CHARTER PRESENT



# OPEN CHARTERS

- ❑ Total charter Local Education Agencies (LEAs) open in St. Louis City: 16
- ❑ Total charter buildings in operation in St. Louis City: 36
- ❑ Average lifetime: 10.9 years
- ❑ Total children enrolled in charter schools in 2020: 11,803

# OPEN CHARTERS



Opening School Year	School Name (LEA)	# Bldg Codes	Sponsor	# of years in operation	Current Contract Expires	1st Renewal	2nd Renewal	3rd Renewal
2009-2010	North Side Community School	2	UMSL	13 years	2028-2029	2013-2014	2018-2019	
2008-2009	City Garden Montessori	1	SLU	14 years	2027-2028	2017-2018		
2021-2022	Atlas Public Schools	1	MCPSC	1 year	2025-2026			
2010-2011	Gateway Science Academy of St Louis	4	MCPSC	12 years	2024-2025	2014-2015	2019-2020	
2015-2016	La Salle Charter School	1	UMC	7 years	2024-2025	2019-2020		
2000-2001	Premier Charter School	1	UMSL	22 years	2024-2025	2010-2011	2019-2020	
2015-2016	The Biome	1	UMSL	7 years	2024-2025	2019-2020		
2015-2016	Hawthorn Leadership School for Girls	2	WU	7 years	2024-2025	2019-2020		
2019-2020	Kairos Academies	1	MCPSC	3 years	2023-2024			
2009-2010	St Louis Language Immersion School	1	UMSL	13 years	2023-2024	2013-2014	2018-2019	
2019-2020	The Soulard School	1	UMSL	3 years	2023-2024			
2009-2010	KIPP: St Louis	6	WU	13 years	2023-2024	2018-2019		
2000-2001	Lift for Life Academy	3	SEMO	22 years	2022-2023	2005-2006	2012-2013	2017-2018
2013-2014	Eagle College Preparatory	4	UMC	9 years	2022-2023	2017-2018		
2013-2014	Lafayette Preparatory Academy	1	UMSL	9 years	2022-2023	2017-2018		
2003-2004	Confluence Academies	6	UMC	19 years	2021-2022	2011-2012	2016-2017	



# CHARTER FUTURE

# CHARTER PARTNERSHIPS



The Saint Louis Public Schools' (SLPS) Office of Charter Partnerships is guided forward by the District's comprehensive, long-range strategic plan, Transformation Plan 3.0. The Office supports efforts on behalf of the District to provide excellent school options for all students within the City of Saint Louis.

# CHARTER PARTNERSHIPS



## MAIN FUNCTIONS:

- ❑ Discussions/evaluations of proposals for charter schools, contract schools, and use of buildings.
- ❑ Recruitment of students/transfer of student records from closing charter schools.
- ❑ Participation in state-level legislative and administrative discussions with charter sponsors through the Missouri Charter Sponsor Support Network (MCSSN).
- ❑ Formation of and support for the Saint Louis Schools Collaborative (SLSC), a collaboration between administrative leaders of charter schools and SLPS to achieve quick and important wins in the areas of shared services, advocacy, and location planning.

# SAINT LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS and KIPP PARTNERSHIP



- ❑ The partnership paves the way for KIPP to have access to other empty school buildings in the city for future charter schools, potentially removing one of the largest stumbling blocks to opening a charter in St. Louis. KIPP officials already operate two schools within district facilities (KIPP Inspire Academy is located at the former Pruitt School in the Carr neighborhood, and KIPP Victory is located at the former Mitchell School in the West End neighborhood). KIPP officials also operate four additional charter schools not located within district facilities.
- ❑ In return, all attendance, enrollment and test score data collected at KIPP's St. Louis schools are reflected in the data of St. Louis Public Schools, potentially strengthening the performance of the city school system. To continue using the buildings, the KIPP schools need to meet certain performance standards.



# **SAINT LOUIS SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE (SLSC) and CITY-WIDE PLAN**

# STATEMENT of PURPOSE



- ❑ The St. Louis Schools Collaborative (SLCS) is a collection of public school and educational leaders in the City of St. Louis who believe that better educational outcomes can be achieved for all children through collaboration with each other. Members currently include leaders of the Saint Louis Public Schools District, charter schools operating in St. Louis City, their University sponsors, and supportive parties who agree to this Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles. Currently, the Collaborative is an informal collection of individuals with no legal standing or binding authority.
- ❑ As a participating member of the St. Louis Schools Collaborative, all members have voluntarily committed to accept the principles of this “Statement of Purpose” and to abide by the following “Guiding Principles” in both public and private actions.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



The members of the St. Louis Schools Collaborative believe in the following principles that guide our work together, and we commit to abide by these principles, both publicly and privately:

- ❑ We believe all children in the City of St. Louis should be supported to achieve their highest potential, no matter which school they attend or in which neighborhood they live.
- ❑ We agree that higher educational outcomes for children should be at the center of all the decisions we make together.
- ❑ We agree that a role exists for both District and Charter schools to operate within St. Louis, and that collaboration between these entities is the best path to achieving greater educational outcomes for children in St. Louis.
- ❑ The members of the Collaborative agree to privately and publicly support each other's respective roles and missions, and we agree to actively seek ways to assist each other in achieving better outcomes for all students in St. Louis.
- ❑ When natural conflict arises between our institutions, we agree to seek to resolve issues through communication, collaboration, and compromise through the Collaborative structure.
- ❑ We believe that accurate and timely information is important for families and stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding the education of their children, and we agree to work together to provide reliable, timely, and easily understood information regarding public education in St. Louis through the Collaborative structure.

# WHAT WE DO



The Collaborative seeks to provide leadership to the St. Louis community through collaborative dialogue and action by:

- ❑ Undertaking collaborative initiatives between the St. Louis Public Schools District (SLPS) and the charter schools operating in the city of St. Louis to achieve better educational outcomes for all children, regardless of which school they attend or in which neighborhood they live;
- ❑ Initiating dialogue, seeking input, and engaging the community on the issues of public education in the City of St. Louis;
- ❑ Gathering, filtering, and analyzing data, facts, and various points-of-view regarding public education in the City of St. Louis;
- ❑ Recommending changes to the current educational system, developing collective priorities, and coordinating areas of focus for action among SLPS and Charter schools;
- ❑ Building support for the changes through communication, education, and organizational support and commitment;
- ❑ Mobilizing and coordinating resources for achieving coordinated action to improve educational outcomes for all children in St. Louis;
- ❑ Developing vehicles for measurement and communication of success, long-term.

# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SAINT LOUIS SCHOOLS COLLABORATIVE (SLSC)



2019

LEAs convene a few charter leaders + Dr. Adams to discuss how STL City schools could collaborate

MARCH

SLSC expands to include representatives from all public school in STL City

JUNE

Consilience's contract concludes. SKIP takes over project management

OCTOBER 2020

Consilience Group selected by school leaders to facilitate & provide project management

SKIP provides in-kind research & support

MAY

Workgroup topics selected

AUGUST

Workgroups launch, governance structure finalized

LOCATION  
PLANNING AS OF  
AUGUST 2021:

Student mobility - where are the kids? Where are the schools?  
Where are the gaps?

Enrollment city-wide: Begin collecting and sharing information

# WHAT DO WE MEAN BY A “CITY-WIDE PLAN”?



*A shared set of commitments that all parties agree to follow, even in the case that it may negatively impact them, keeping the focus on what is best for children across St. Louis City.*

- ❑ *BRING TO LIGHT* all actions being actively considered,
- ❑ *OPEN UP DIALOGUE*, and
- ❑ *HOLD US ALL ACCOUNTABLE* to our commonly agreed-upon **GUIDE-POSTS**.

## Suggested Areas of Commitments

- ❑ *Number of Schools*
- ❑ *Location Planning*
- ❑ *Shared Services*
- ❑ *Advocacy*



# QUESTIONS