



# CHARTER SCHOOL FAQs

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- WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

A charter school is a *public school* that receives *public funds* under a written agreement – a charter – that outlines student performance goals and educational services the public charter school will provide. Charter schools in Oregon are tuition free. PBCCS has been a charter school sponsored by Crook County School District (CCSD) since the 2010-11 school year.

- HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS FUNDED?

Charter schools receive a portion of the State School Fund, but typically do not receive other state funds, federal funds, facility funds, or local funds. Charter schools are funded based upon their enrollment numbers. Oregon law states that charter schools must receive at least 80% of State School Funds passed through by their sponsoring district. PBCCS receives 83% and CCSD retains 17% of State School Funds.

- WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A CHARTER SCHOOL LIKE PBCCS?

Charter schools can offer improved opportunities for child-centered education, as well as enhanced educational choices. School operators set high standards for success, and are driven to provide new and innovative services to students.

- DO CHARTER SCHOOLS CHOOSE WHO ATTENDS?

Charter schools are required to have a fair and open admission process, and to recruit from all segments of the community they serve. Because they are public schools, they cannot "choose" which students they accept — which means students are admitted on a first-come, first-served basis. In some cases, a lottery may be used when the number of applicants exceeds the number of available slots.

- HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS DIFFERENT FROM TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

**Accountability:** Charter schools are held to extremely high levels of accountability. In addition to state requirements, charter schools must also meet the requirements set out in their charter and agreed to by their sponsoring district. They must meet the student achievement goals and manage their fiscal and operational responsibilities.

**Choice:** Charter schools offer an alternative to students and families, beyond the traditional system. PBCCS is a school of choice with a unique mission and vision focused on *place-based learning* to help students succeed.

**Autonomy:** Public charter schools were created to provide innovative, flexible and creative educational choices for students and their families. As such, they are exempt from many state and school district regulations and tend to have more autonomy than a traditional public school.