The CMU Model

A Disciplined Approach to Quality Education Options in Michigan

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Choice and Innovation Subcommittee

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The Governor John Engler
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2014 - 2015 CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AUTHORIZED BY CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

61 Public School Academies (PSA)

1 Strict Discipline Academies (SDA)

Approximately
31,000 Students
OUR SCHOOLS: BY THE NUMBERS

CMU Charter Students Compared to Statewide Average

- Free and Reduced Lunch: CMU Charters - 70%, Statewide - 60%
- Minority: CMU Charters - 50%, Statewide - 40%
- Special Education: CMU Charters - 10%, Statewide - 15%

Number Elementary Schools: 50
Number of Middle Schools: 51
Number of High Schools: 27
CMU-authorized schools have consistently higher graduation rates than schools in Detroit, Lansing, Flint and Grand Rapids.
Continuously enrolled CMU students nearly met the statewide average in reading proficiency and exceeded the statewide average in math proficiency!

**2013 MEAP ACHIEVEMENT IN READING**
by number of years enrolled in charters

- Grades 3-8 combined

**2013 MEAP ACHIEVEMENT IN MATH**
by number of years enrolled in charters

- Years enrolled before Fall 2013

MEAP Achievement in Reading and Math by number of years enrolled in CMU charters
MICHIGAN’S CHARTER SCHOOLS OUTPERFORM

CREDO Report confirms Michigan charter students have greater learning gains than demographically similar traditional school students.
MICHIGAN FRAMEWORK

Authorizing Body

The Charter Contract

Academy Board of Directors

Academy Management

Self-Managed

Educational Service Provider ("ESP")
The University’s Board Policy establishes three core questions to consider when issuing a charter contract:

1. Is the Academy’s academic program successful?
2. Is the Academy organizationally and financially viable?
3. Is there a demonstration of good faith in following the terms of the charter contract and applicable law?
CHARTER APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process is designed to identify applicants who:

- Articulate a *promising vision*
- Provide a *quality educational program*
- Propose a *sound business plan*, including demonstrated need
- Demonstrate the *ability to implement* a high-quality school
POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

- Community Groups/Individuals
  - Independent reform-minded candidates
- Regional and National Operators
  - Established organizations operating multiple schools
- Existing High-Performing Charter Schools (Replication)
  - Established relationship
- Hybrid Approach
CHARTER APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Application submitted to the Center
2. Application is reviewed and due diligence is performed (by subject matter experts and Center Leadership)
3. Development team meeting with applicant (face to face meeting, site visits, conference calls, etc.)
4. Center recommendation to move forward
5. CMU’s BOT action regarding authorization and board members
6. Timeline established
7. Submission of Charter Contract documents
8. Pre-operational meeting held
9. Finalize Charter Contract
10. Organizational meeting held (Charter Contract signed)
11. School is operational

If decision is no, applicant is notified

Due Diligence:
- Visit existing schools
- Visit ESP office
- Contact other authorizers
- Review data for other associated schools
CMU’S MULTI-STAGE APPROACH

Stage I: Written Application

Stage II: In-Depth Review

Stage III: Charter Contract Development

Stage IV: Transition to Operational School
STAGE I: WRITTEN APPLICATION

- Submission of CMU Application
- Reviewed by internal and external experts
  - Educational Program and Curriculum
  - Governance
  - Finance
  - Operations
  - Facilities
- Determine next step
STAGE I: WRITTEN APPLICATION

- Due diligence continued
  - Visit existing schools
  - Converse with other authorizers
  - Review data for other associated schools
  - Visit potential Educational Service Provider
  - Perform background research
  - Verify data provided in the application
STAGE II: IN-DEPTH REVIEW

- Additional information requested
  - Academic results
  - Growth/Business Plan
  - Financial information

- Development Team meeting conducted
  - Presentation of applicant’s vision
  - Assessment of education, business and operational program
  - Share expectations for board members and identify potential conflicts
  - Review proposed location and facility
  - Assessment of professional capacity to deliver proposed program
STAGE II: IN-DEPTH REVIEW

- Site visits performed
  - Existing schools managed by project team
  - Management’s headquarters
  - Proposed site location
- Board member selection
  - Board member application
  - Background check
  - Interview
  - Conflict of interest disclosure
STAGE III: CHARTER CONTRACT DEVELOPMENT

- CMU Board of Trustees approval of contract and board members
- Charter contract development
  - Timeline established
  - Continued due diligence
  - Preparation of contract sections
- Pre-operational meeting to discuss roles and responsibilities
- Organizational meeting
STAGE IV: TRANSITION TO OPERATIONAL SCHOOL

- Contract signed by CMU Board of Trustees and Academy
- CMU’s continued assistance
  - Field team
  - Board policies
  - Board orientation
  - Facility occupancy
  - Public relations
  - Compliance
STAGE IV: TRANSITION TO OPERATIONAL SCHOOL

- Additional new school support
  - School plan
  - Academic school support visit
  - Staff certification review
  - Business manager support
  - Site and facility review
  - Board and administrator training
A PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

The Charter Contract between the CMU Board of Trustees and the school’s board of directors is a *performance contract*. The contract contains standard compliance requirements, as well as specific performance requirements:

1. *Educational Goal*
2. *Fiscal Accountability*
3. *Organizational Performance*
The Educational Goal requires each academy to:

“Prepare students academically for success in college, work and life.”

This is determined by two measures of success:

1. Student Achievement
2. Student Growth
FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- Educate and inform boards and business managers
- Review
  - Interim Financial Statements
  - Budgets
  - Annual Audits
  - Leases
  - Educational Service Provider Agreements
  - Insurance
ORGANIZATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Monitor compliance

- State and federal law
- Charter Contract
- Master Calendar of Reporting Requirements
- Educational Service Provider policies
CHARTER CONTRACT CYCLE

1. Charter Contract Application
2. CMU Board of Trustees Approval to Proceed
3. Academy Organizational Meeting
4. Charter Contract Signed Upon Executive Director Approval
5. Academy Becomes Operational
6. Center Oversight and Support
7. Charter Contract Amendments (as necessary)
8. Determination Regarding the Issuance of a New Charter Contract
9. CMU Board of Trustees Action

Wind Up & Dissolution (as appropriate)

Life Cycle of a Charter Contract

THE GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER CENTER FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
CMU AND COLLEGE OF EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

Students

- CMU & You Day
- Camp Central
- College Night at CMU
- Spirit of the Future Scholarships
- Sports and Academics Camps
- Campus Visits

Educators

- Charter School Educator Tuition Award
- Center for Clinical Experiences
- State Continuing Education Clock Hours
- School and Educator Professional Development Programs
- Masters Degree in School Principalship/Charter School Leadership
- CMU Administration and Faculty School Visits
OUR MISSION

To transform public education through accountability, innovation and access to quality education for all students.

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