Partnering To Support Charter Schools
Florida Charter Support Unit

Free expertise and resources to help public charter schools thrive.

CHARTER SUPPORT UNIT

Introduction

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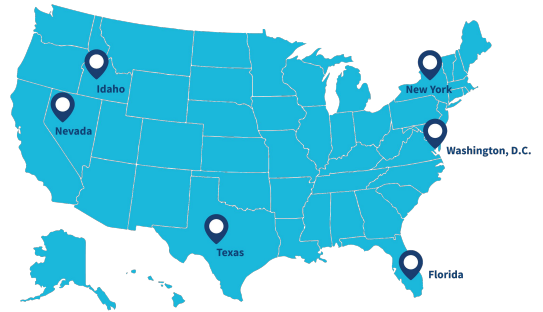(727) 223-6391 • cfuller@charter.support

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The Charter Support Unit is here to help charter schools thrive.
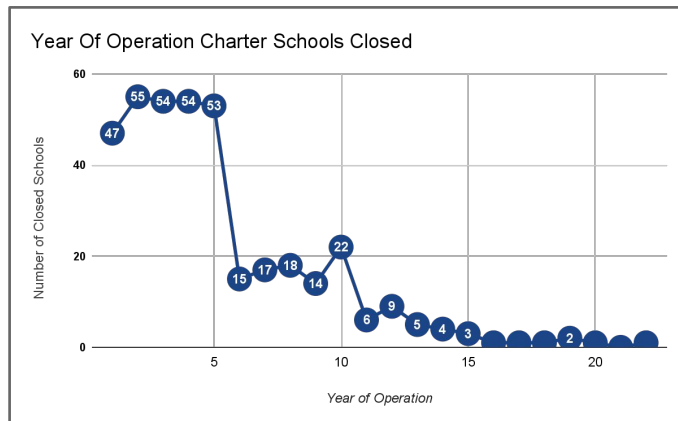
National Scope, Local Expertise

Every public charter school across America operates in a slightly different environment. But the priorities are the same wherever you are: serve students well, operate responsibly and sustainably, deliver value for families and taxpayers. The Charter Support Unit's no-cost resources and expertise can help your school achieve those essential goals and many more.

The CSU is here to help charter schools nationwide. With focused expertise in **Florida, Texas, Upstate New York, Washington DC, Nevada and Idaho** and **Rural communities,** we meet your needs from coast to coast.

Why the Support Unit Was Started

Year Of Operation Charter Schools Closed

Source: State MSID Database data regarding closed public charter schools (October, 2018).

Timeline of the Charter Support Unit

2012 - Began initial operation in the state of Florida through federal CSP Grant

2018 - Florida supported CSU through state general appropriations
2018 - Received a direct federal CSP Grant to expand offerings

2019 - Walton Grant allowed for significant expansion in Texas

2021- Florida CSP Grant renewed support of the CSU

Webinars

- Conduct regular webinars on topics of interest to charter schools
- We have a library of over 250 different presentations available on our website
- Topics cover a wide range of operational issues

Impact of Webinars

- Webinars allow for targeted professional development that focus on the specific needs of charter school leaders

- Increases the effectiveness of charter schools, specifically targeted towards:
  - new schools
  - new school leaders

- Incorporates best practices from successful charter schools

Sample Topics - All since March!

- TSIA and How To Calculate your School's Allocation
- School Safety and Charter School Responsibilities and Requirements
- Student Recruitment Post-COVID
- Sample Policy Manual & How It Impacts Your School
- E-Rate - What to know
- Best Practices in Designing Your Own Charter School
- Getting the Most Out of Strategic Planning
- A Positive Approach to Misbehaving Students
- School Cybersecurity
- Planning a Strong School Leader Succession

charter.support/all-trainings/webinars/

Resource Library

- No need to recreate the wheel every time you need a resource
- Sample forms, documents and resources
- If you have a need, let us know and we can research to find/create additional resources

Document Review & Access

CSU is also able to provide a review of operational documents of charter schools in the first five years of operation, for example:

- Internal control documents
- Budgets
- Employee Handbooks
- Student / Family Handbooks
- Policy Manuals
- Job Descriptions
- Forms

Sometimes it helps to have a second set of eyes looking out.

Facilities Planning

- Free technical assistance with the planning process
- Review facilities plans
- Review financial plans and forecasts
- Provide direction on financing options
- Develop an action plan for future projects

Planning & Launching

Application Training

Launch Year Training

First Year Support

Think Plan Work Success

School Launch Support

Launch Year Trainings:

- Virtual courses with pre-recorded as well as live topical lessons

- Time-sensitive materials that the operators should be thinking about or working on at each phase of opening the school

CSU Learning

We are developing online courses with both curated and new content focused around key operational issues such as:

- Accounting
- Facilities
- Governance

Courses will be available on demand and free of cost.

Finance and Budgeting

- Budget reviews for suggestions and comparison
- Budget templates
- Budget forecasts to assist with future planning
- Training on how to develop your financial plan

Boards and Governance

- Training on best practices
- Start up training
- Board support and guidance

Charter School Governance Guidance

- Governing Boards often have very little guidance on effective governance for their schools.
- We are able to provide Governing Boards with guidance on best practices from:
  - Governance experts
  - District liaisons
  - Effective charters
  - Attorneys

Governing Boards will gain access to :
- Handouts and recordings of each of the sessions
- Materials and presentations made available on the CSU-Learning platform
- Follow up assistance and guidance

Governance Conference

- Industry expert as presenters
- Multiple breakout sessions with varied webinar content:
  - Operations
  - Financial
  - Legal Concerns
  - Community partnerships
- Attendees pick areas of interests and tailor their day based on professional growth needs

Compliance & Grant Administration

Help navigating statutory requirements

Guidance and advice on Charter Requirements

Charters.Link Compliance Tool

Charter.Link Compliance Tool

- Charters.Link is an free online compliance tool

- Assists Authorizers and Charter Schools collect and organize their materials

- Facilitates effective communication between charter schools and authorizers

- Currently servicing 8 districts and 198 charters

- Provides training to charter schools on utilization of the platform

School Operations

- **Support Hotline**
- **Someone to help you think through your issues**
- **Support, training and resources**

Support Hotline

- Charter school operators can call, email, or use our online chat on our website

- CSU staff will provide information on research-based best practices and policies

- CSU endeavors to provide individualized solutions

- Reaching out to Florida DOE staff and/or other available resources when necessary

SUPPORT

Are There Additional Areas You Would Like To See Added to Our Support Services?

There are so many ways the CSU can help your school.

One-on-One Consultations

Have an issue that would benefit from an outside perspective? CSU consultants are available to meet with school leaders and boards to work through your school's particular challenges or to help you advance your mission in new ways.

Trainings, Webinars, Online Courses

The Charter Support Unit offers ongoing and free trainings, webinars and online courses. We also maintain a robust library of resources and documents that any charter school can use.

Real People, Real Resources

We're here... because we've been there. The CSU's team of consultants is eager to share what we've learned from developing, leading and growing schools. Turn to us for tested strategies and tools collected from some of the country's most successful charter school leaders and advocates.

*The Charter Support Unit is managed by **Building Hope**, a nonprofit serving charter schools nationwide, and is supported financially through government and philanthropic grants.*

Building Hope
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