Public charter schools are held to some of the highest accountability standards for public schools in the state. They are granted a charter by the state to operate for up to five years, are subject to regular review and renewal, and are held accountable for results in many ways, including being subject to a variety of sanctions, including school closure.

- Public charter schools are open to all students. When there are more applicants than seats available, charter schools must hold a blind lottery to determine enrollment.
- Annual audits can include written reports and site visits to determine if the school is meeting the standards set forth in its charter.
- When it is up for renewal, a school that is deemed to have successfully met academic, operational, governance and financial requirements are allowed to continue operating for up to five more years at a time.
- For renewal, a school must provide clear and compelling evidence of positive results, offer a detailed vision for the school’s future plans, and outline solutions for any weaknesses or gaps in the current program.

Connecticut Has Passed Laws to Hold Charter Schools Even More Accountable In Recent Years

- Schools that have not met their requirements may receive additional conditions to meet to continue operating, given shorter renewal term limits, or may even be closed.
- All staff serving in Connecticut’s public charter schools must be authorized by the state to serve in those schools, and the state regularly reviews schools for compliance.
- At least 50 percent must be serving under an initial, provisional or professional educator certificate. The remaining 50 percent may serve under other temporary authorizations, with no more than 30 percent serving under a Charter School Educator Permit (CSEP).
- Additionally, Connecticut has recently passed laws to hold charter schools more accountable, gaining national attention for significantly strengthening its law. These changes included additional transparency provisions, conflict of interest and anti-nepotism requirements, and additional disclosures.