

For Rich Crandall's Presentation

AGENDA

1. Snapshot of Arizona
2. Arizona charter school law
3. Lessons Learned

SNAPSHOT OF ARIZONA CHARTER MOVEMENT

1994: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT ACT
NINTH SPECIAL SESSION
JUNE OF 1994
NOW A.R.S. § 15-183

- To increase student achievement AND provide choice for parents and pupils
- Charter and district students funded equally “requires charter schools to receive per pupil expenditures equal to the average cost per pupil for the district.”
- Independent state authorizing board

1995: 40 schools opened

- Initially granted five-year terms, but quickly changed to 15-year charter to allow facility financing (unique to Arizona)
- Allow for-profit charters to again allow quality leaders access to facility financing (unique to Arizona)

Arizona is now home to 509 charter schools that enroll more than 113,000 students.

Fully 25% of the state's public schools are charter schools, and 10% of all public-school students are enrolled in charter schools - **the highest percentage for any state in the nation.**

PARENTS' CHOICE:

Total enrollment increased 4 % over last four years:
From 1,043,298 students in 2005 to 1,083,408 students in 2009

Charter enrollment increase 32% over last four years
From 85,683 to 113,393 students

Source: Arizona Department of Education's October 1st enrollment figures.

ARIZONA CHARTER SCHOOL LAW

A Strong Movement

Led by a strong charter law...

Ranked in the top 10 nationally by National Alliance for Public Charter Schools and Center for Education Reform

Encourages...

Growth

Flexibility and Autonomy

Accountability

Growth

No Cap

No limits are placed on the number of public charter schools or students (and no geographic limits).

A Variety of Public Charter Schools Allowed

New Start-Ups, Public School Conversions, Virtual Schools

Multiple Authorizers Available

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Arizona State Board of Education

Local School Districts

Colleges and Universities (capped for first three years)

Flexibility and Autonomy

Automatic Exemptions from Many Laws and Regulations

Charter Law provides exemption
Flexibility in hiring teachers

Each School is Fiscally and Legally Autonomous

Independent school boards
Schools have ability to receive and disperse funds independently

Access to Relevant Employee Retirement Systems

Eligible, but not required to participate in the Arizona state retirement system and state health and accident insurance coverage program

Accountability

Monitoring and Data Collection Processes

Authorizer collects student outcome data

Financial Accountability through annual audit

Authorizer has oversight authority with corrective action

Performance Management Plans now required

Clear Student Enrollment Procedures

Open enrollment

Equitable enrollment process

Preference to children of employees, charter holder, and board members

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Accountability**

Performance-Based Charter Contracts (quantitative data needed to assess student achievement gains)

- **Facilities**

Equitable access to capital funding and facilities will improve your state's movement

- **Oversight**

Authorizers must have an appropriate budget to support continuous expansion and sufficient oversight of the schools it authorizes

Are Arizona Charters Improving Student Achievement?

Quantitative data needed

Unique student identifiers helped to obtain the quantitative data

A 2007 federal grant “***Building Charter School Quality***” allowed Arizona to invest in necessary quantitative data. Grant partnered:

Arizona’s authorizer (the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools)

Arizona Charter Schools Association (In Arizona, robust, credible, & reputable)

Stanford University

Colorado (state association & authorizer)

Ohio (state association & authorizer)

Florida (authorizer)

2007: FEDERAL GRANT

“Building Charter School Quality”

Purpose: Fair & Rigorous 2010 Renewal Process
53 charters up for renewal in 2010

46 reviewed to date

3 Notice of non-renewal

2 Failed to apply for renewal

19 Conditional approval or on Performance Management Plans requiring additional evidence of continuous academic improvement.

22 fulfilled all quality requirements

Unique Quantitative Data

Arizona Growth Model

Measures student progress from one year to the next in the context of a student's "academic peers."

Developed by National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment; Colorado and Massachusetts use as the state-wide measure of quality.

Students are compared to themselves from year to year so the results are not skewed by income levels, parental involvement, race or gender.

Uses multiple years of a student's test scores to show how each student is progressing from year to year and to estimate the student's expected future academic performance.

This data will be provided annually at the beginning of the school year for teachers to develop a plan to meet individual student needs.

Still Learning

National Association of Charter School Authorizers

Hosting

Annual Conference

Scottsdale, Arizona

October 18-21, 2010

<http://www.qualitycharters.org/>