

FULLER NORMAL ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CHARTER SCHOOL

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

Charter schools are independent public schools, designed by educators, parents, community leaders, educational entrepreneurs and others who are interested in providing a quality education to children in their community. We are open to all students in Greenville County, regardless of income, gender, race or religion.

We are not a private school. As a public school, we cannot charge tuition and may not “pick and choose” our students. As a charter school, we do have similar attributes to private schools, such as autonomy and accountability that have allowed most private institutions to provide excellent education to their students.

As a charter school, we operate outside the educational bureaucracy that often stifles innovation in traditional public schools. We do receive tax-payer money and are managed by our own independent board.

WE OPERATE FROM THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES:

ACCOUNTABILITY

Charter schools are held accountable for how well they educate children in a safe and responsible environment, not for their compliance with district and state regulations. In exchange for freedom from these regulations, charter operators promise to fulfill a set of academic and operational goals. Charter schools are judged on how well they meet the goals and how well they manage

the fiscal and operational responsibilities entrusted to them. If they fail to deliver, they are closed.

CHOICE

Charters can be focused on specialized curriculum or they may serve special student populations, such as at-risk (underserved) students. Students choose to attend, and teachers choose to teach at charter schools. Charter schools are sponsored by entities that want to foster innovation and excellence in schools: state and local school boards, colleges and universities, and other community agencies. In South Carolina, charter schools must be sponsored by the local school district.

AUTONOMY

Charter schools are autonomous. They are freed from the bureaucracy and regulations that divert the energies of most traditional public schools. Instead of jumping through procedural hoops and over paperwork hurdles, educators focus on setting and reaching high academic standards for their students. Charter schools offer communities the chance to create the greatest range of educational choices for their children. Charter operators have the incentive to create schools that provide new and better services to students, and charter schools inspire the rest of the system to work harder and be more responsive to the needs of the children.