

PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

Services:

The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools is one of three entities authorized to sponsor charter schools in Arizona.¹ The Board has the following responsibilities:

- Evaluate applications and grant charters to qualified applicants;
- Monitor the schools it charters to ensure they comply with federal and state laws and charter contract requirements;
- Take disciplinary action against charter schools that violate federal, state, or charter contract provisions;
- Investigate and resolve complaints from parents, students, charter school faculty and staff, and the public regarding charter contract provisions, or, depending on the nature of the complaint, refer the matter to the appropriate authority; and
- Provide consumer information to prospective and current school operators and the public.

Board membership and staffing

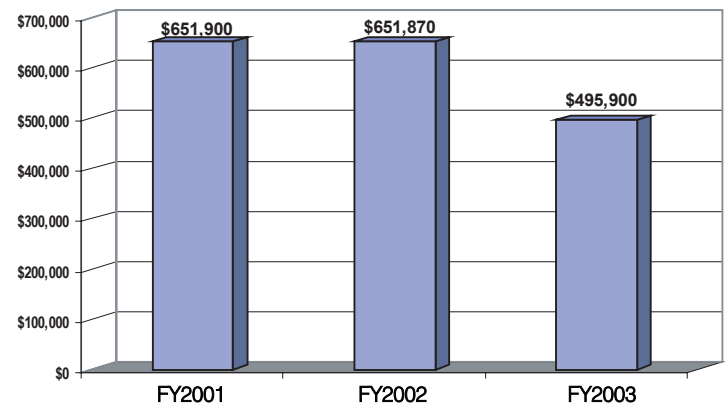
The Board comprises nine voting members and three nonvoting members:

- Three legislators who are nonvoting advisory members and the Superintendent of Public Instruction serve terms concurrent with their terms in office.
- Six members of the public and two members of the business community are appointed by the Governor and serve staggered 4-year terms.

As of May 2003, the Board had six staff, including an executive director, director of government affairs, and various specialists. For fiscal year 2003, the Board was authorized eight FTE.

Program Revenue:

State General Fund Appropriations



¹ The State Board of Education and local school district governing boards are also authorized to sponsor charter schools.

Facilities and equipment:

The Board leases space in the state-owned Executive Tower at 1700 West Washington Street in Phoenix. Its equipment includes typical office equipment such as office furniture and computers.

Mission:

The Board's mission is "to foster accountability in charter schools which will improve student achievement through market choice."

Program goals:

- To sponsor successful charter schools;
- To improve customer service; and
- To provide necessary oversight of sponsored charter schools.

Adequacy of performance measures:

Overall, the measures established by the Board are appropriate and appear to be generally aligned with the Board's goals. While the Board has established several input, output, outcome, efficiency, and quality measures, it should make some improvements to its measures. For example, the Board has established measures to track the number of charter school applications received and approved. However, the Board does not have an efficiency measure to report if applications were processed in a timely manner, or a quality measure to track applicant satisfaction with the charter school application process.

Additionally, the Board should establish measures that track the success of schools in operation. For example, the Board could include outcome measures regarding the number of charters granted to schools that failed within 1, 2, or 3 years; or the number of sponsored schools with a defined percentage of students who meet or exceed Arizona standards on achievement tests.