

NORTHEAST
CHARTER SCHOOLS NETWORK

The Northeast Charter Schools Network is the only statewide charter school advocacy group working to promote and protect the charter school movement at the capitals in New York and Connecticut.

We represent charter schools across both states – small and large, independent and CMO-supported.

NECSN fights for what's best for all charter schools.

WE LOBBY FOR YOU

- Block the harmful, anti-charter legislation routinely introduced and discussed in the halls of the capitol. Without our defensive work the charter movement would not survive.
- Advance pro-charter interests that benefit schools statewide through direct lobbying to state policymakers and lawmakers. Work with advocacy partners in coalitions to advance local, state and federal initiatives.
- Support schools in their efforts to mobilize and engage parents and other stakeholders in advocacy and lobbying efforts.
- Advocate for charter schools with authorizers, with a specific focus on blocking burdensome regulations for schools.
- Work closely and regularly with our team of experienced lobbyists and political consultants who have relationships at every level of state government.
- Fight for equal funding of charter school students. When necessary, we file lawsuits, such as *Brown v. New York*, which challenges the state's funding scheme for charter school students.

WE TELL YOUR STORY

- Last year NECSN and our schools were in the media nearly 350 times – in newspaper stories, op-eds, and letters to the editor, as well as in TV and radio interviews.
- Promote and share the good work of our member schools and partners in both traditional and social media.
- Generate original content to share a strong and effective pro-charter vision and explain the benefits of chartering.
- Work with journalists to educate the media and the public about the charter school movement.
- Hold editorial board meetings to build awareness and support for charter school issues.

ADVOCACY SERVICES

- “Capitol Updates” to keep you apprised of charter issues and legislation during budget negotiations and the legislative session.
- Place stories in the media and pen op-eds, letters to the editor and opinion pieces for national, state, and regional outlets.
- Share policy and regulatory bulletins with hot topic advice and information, including monthly updates on the New York Board of Regents and the Connecticut State Board of Education.
- Hold regional advocacy roundtables and meetings so we can answer your questions and talk one-on-one in small group settings about important charter issues.
- Provide customized legislative and advocacy analysis for members, along with advice on which relationships are key, and how to best help advocate for your school and the charter movement.
- Help get elected officials to visit our member schools.
- Offer consultations with experts who can provide guidance on: policy and advocacy, school services and technical questions, data analysis and monitoring, media and communications, and more.
- Member schools receive discounts from our vetted Preferred Vendors.
- Member schools receive crisis management advice and support as needed.





TECHNICAL SUPPORT

EFFECT SIZE ESTIMATES: We'll carefully review records from your charter term and provide estimates and projections using a method similar to what the authorizers use to evaluate growth.

DATA COMPARISONS: We'll provide a complete data breakdown to see how your school performs against your host district, other charter schools, and other district schools over the course of the charter term.

DATA DASHBOARDS: You provide us the data and we create a data dashboard that reflects your school in a way that the Board can easily understand and track.

HANDBOOK REVIEW: We'll review and provide feedback on employee and parent handbooks.

MEDIA 101: This session can cover topics such as press release writing and how to pitch a story, working on quotes and how to respond to inquiries, the basics of a strong op-ed piece or letter to the editor campaign, and the effective use of social media.

CHARTER HOTLINE: 24/7 access to a charter expert on anything from teacher certification to board questions. No matter the time of day, someone will always be available to take your call.

TRAININGS

TEACHING OBSERVATIONS: We'll spend a day in your school observing your teachers and providing immediate feedback. We can evaluate student engagement, academic rigor, or management – you tell us.

MOCK INTERVIEWS: Go through a practice session with our staff to prepare for renewal or any comprehensive school visit. This four-hour session will help flag potential speed bumps.

SITE VISIT PREPARATION: We'll spend a full day at your school getting you ready for renewal or a comprehensive authorizer visit. We will also include a desk audit.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT: We'll help you find ways to increase parental involvement and build relationships with your school community and legislators.

CHARTER SCHOOL 101 TRAINING: We'll come in to talk about what charters are, why they exist, and all you need to know about starting one or working in one.



► Rochester charter students wear t-shirts depicting the funding disparity in their city. They only receive 68 cents on the dollar compared to other public school students.

WE OFFER A DUAL DUES STRUCTURE. Basic Advocacy Membership is \$15 per student. A Services Membership is \$10 more per student and provides intensive technical support.

WE CUSTOMIZE ALL OUR SERVICES FOR EACH SCHOOL — no template offerings or generic advice!

WE WORK WITH NEW CHARTER APPLICATIONS WITH ABSOLUTELY NO COSTS. Schools that are approved but not yet open are given a complimentary membership!



ADDITIONAL SERVICES

STRATEGIC PLANNING: Our expert strategic planning coach will help your board and leadership develop a comprehensive strategic plan. This session is extensive, intense and requires a significant time commitment from the school.

OBSERVATIONS: Multiple days of observations with written feedback and a continuous improvement plan.

BOARD TRAINING: Full and half-day sessions available, tailored to the needs of each school, based on a charter grid for your school.

RENEWAL APPLICATIONS OR CHARTER AMENDMENTS: A full review of the renewal application or application to amend or expand the charter. Feedback and coaching provided.

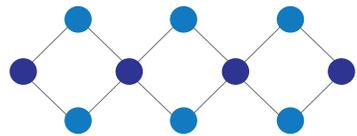
BUSINESS PLANS: For schools looking to replicate or possibly create a CMO. Let us help you work through the creation of a strong business plan from the start.

CONTACT US FOR DETAILS

✉ MEMBERSHIP@NECHARTERS.ORG

☎ (518) 694-3110





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