

California State Board of Education Seminar

April 14, 2004



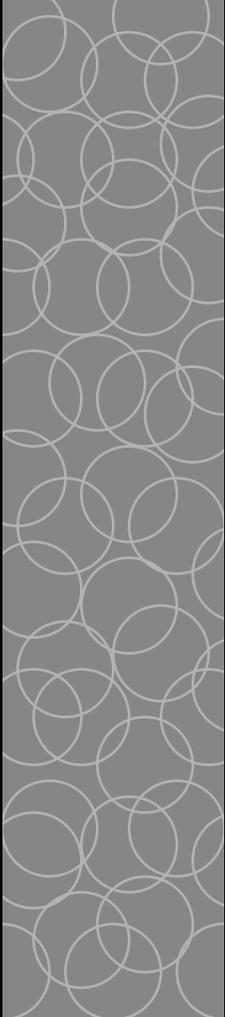


Charter Schools



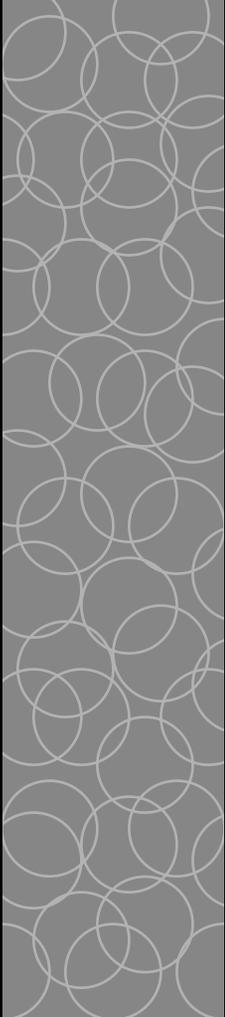
What is a Public Charter School?

- ◆ A public school chartered (contracted) by a local district, county office of education or State Board of Education.
- ◆ Open to ALL students.
- ◆ Intended to serve the neediest students.

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- ◆ Create governance systems that support the school's mission.
 - ◆ Accountable to a public body for meeting the terms of its charter and for improving student achievement.
 - ◆ Free from most CA education statute and regulations.



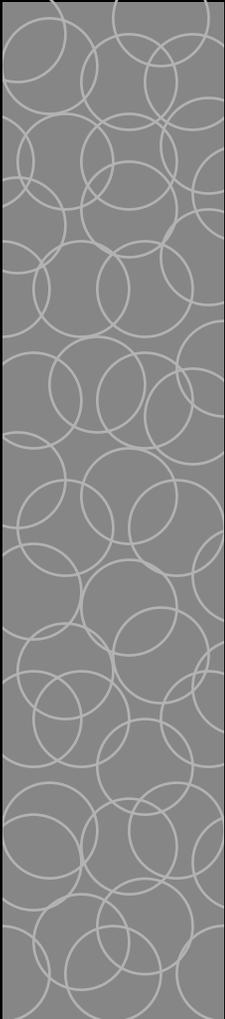
- ◆ Provide a public choice option
- ◆ Charter schools:
 - are public schools;
 - provide choices for parents and communities;
 - provide access and equity for the neediest students;
 - are accountable to the taxpayers – they must show improved academic achievement;

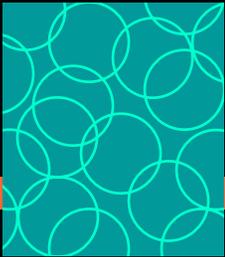
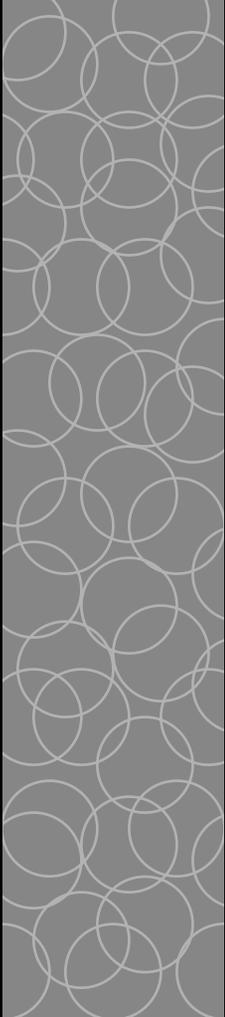
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- offer the opportunity within the public system to provide the innovation and restructuring necessary to meet today's standards; and
 - participate in statewide testing and meet NCLB requirements.



CA CHARTER SCHOOLS

- ◆ There are 471 chartered schools and districts currently in operation (463 schools and 8 all-charter districts).
- ◆ Of the 471 charter schools:
 - ◆ 70% are start-up schools;
 - ◆ 30% are conversion schools;
 - ◆ 69% are classroom based; and
 - ◆ 31% are nonclassroom based (e.g., virtual, independent study or a combination).

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- ◆ CA charter schools serve approximately 170,000 students.
 - ◆ Charter Schools are public education options in 47 of the 58 counties in CA.
 - ◆ Charter schools serve a disproportionately poor and minority student population.

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- ◆ Charter schools are generally smaller than traditional public schools.
 - ◆ Student achievement in CA public charter schools among educationally and economically disadvantaged students is improving faster than in non-charter public schools. *Source: Hoover Institute (2003), School of Education at CSU, Los Angeles.*



CHOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- ◆ Balancing the two pressures
- ◆ The relationship between choice and standards: meaningful and common accountability for results (student achievement) and operations
- ◆ Autonomy

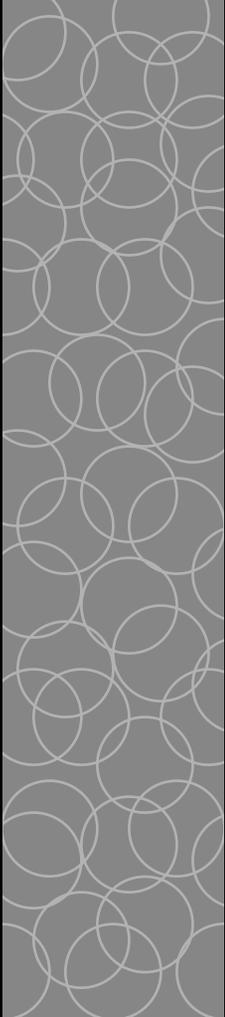


SUCCESSSES AND CHALLENGES



◆ Successes:

- Creation of excellent new public schools
- New opportunities and choice for urban and rural poor communities
- Innovative operations, finance and instructional settings

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- ◆ Challenges:
 - Uneven quality of charter schools
 - Lack of adequate facilities
 - Challenges of scale
 - Oversight



JOINT OWNERSHIP

- ◆ Partnership between the CA State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction



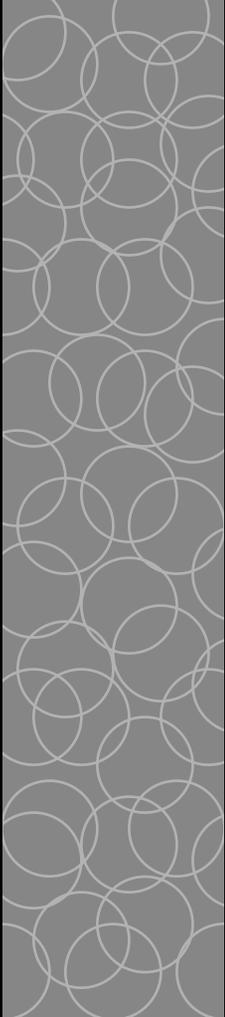
CHARTER SCHOOL DIVISION

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- ◆ The State Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - Established a new Charter School Division
 - Provides oversight to all SBE authorized charter schools and ALL charter school districts
 - Recommends and advises the SBE on charter issues
 - Works with the Advisory Commission on Charter Schools (ACCS) on behalf of the SBE.
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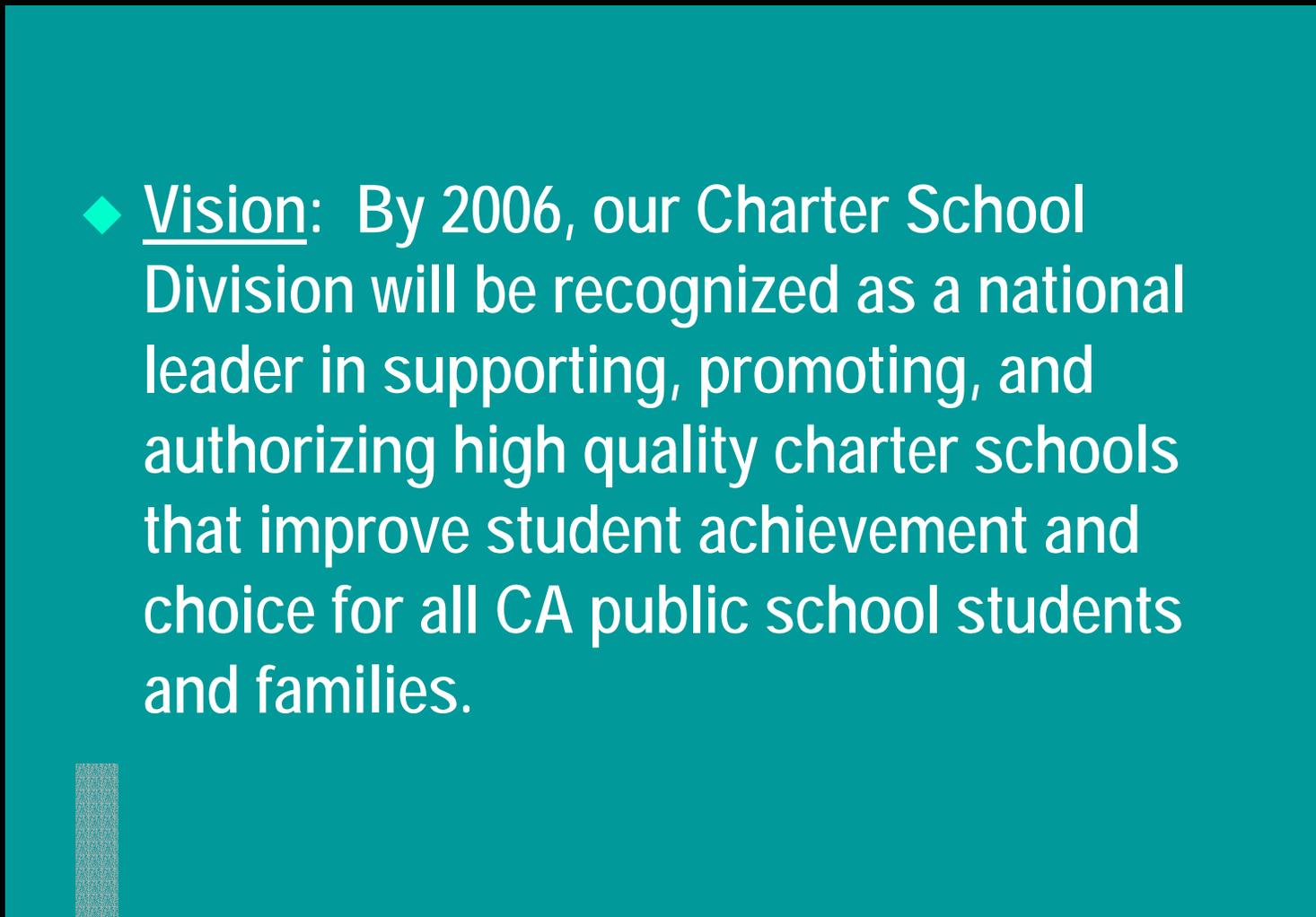
◆ The Charter School Division:

- provides pro-active leadership to the charter school community to promote and sustain the development of high quality charter schools;
- provides targeted technical assistance to new and emerging charter schools;
- promotes the development of partnerships and networks in support of charter schools;



- serves as the ombudsman within the CA Department of Education for charter schools;
- represents the SBE and SPI on charter matters with the U.S. Department of Education;
- provides stewardship for the charter school reform movement by promoting the establishment and maintenance of accountable, high quality charter schools; and
- provides “interpreter/translation” liaison between charter schools and CDE.



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- ◆ Vision: By 2006, our Charter School Division will be recognized as a national leader in supporting, promoting, and authorizing high quality charter schools that improve student achievement and choice for all CA public school students and families.