

## Charter Schools

### *What is an MPS Charter School?*

An MPS charter school is a school that is authorized by MPS and has a contract of up to five years with the district. The basic concept of a charter school is that charters can exercise increased autonomy from state and local control while accepting higher standards of accountability.

A charter school is a public school that is exempt from most provisions of Wisconsin Statute, Chapters 115 to 121, except as otherwise explicitly provided by law or charter school contract.

### *Instrumentality Charter Schools:*

Instrumentality charter schools serve MPS students and are staffed by all MPS employees. These schools are located in facilities that are owned or leased by MPS.

### *Non-Instrumentality Charter*

*Schools:* Non-instrumentality charter schools also serve MPS students, but consist of non-MPS employees and are located in facilities that are approved by MPS.

For a complete list of MPS Charter Schools go to: [www.dcsmps.org](http://www.dcsmps.org).



## Alternative and Partnership Schools & Programs

Milwaukee Public Schools offers a wide array of Alternative Education Programs. These programs are designed to serve students at-risk of dropping out of high school, as defined by the Wisconsin Children At-Risk of Not Graduating from High School Law (State Statute 118.53).

■ **Students At-Risk:** Since 1986, Milwaukee Public Schools has been offering alternative school options. Alternative schools include those operated by the district as well as schools run by community based agencies in partnership and under contract with MPS. Eligibility for MPS Alternative and Community Based Agency Partnership Schools depends on meeting the statutory definition of a child at-risk, individual program criteria, permission of the parent or guardian and seat availability.

■ **Definition of At-Risk/Not Graduating from High School:** A student in grades 5 to 12 qualifies as at-risk if they are a dropout or meets two or more of the following criteria:

1. One or more years behind their age group in the number of credits attained;
2. Two or more years behind their age group in basic skill levels (reading or mathematics);
3. Habitual truants, as defined in 118.16(1)(a);
4. Parents;
5. Adjudicated delinquents;
6. Eighth grade pupils whose score in each subject area on the examination administered under 118.30(lm)(am)1, was below the basic level, 8th grade pupils who failed the examination under 118.30(lm)(am)2, or 8th grade pupils who failed to be promoted to the 9th grade;
7. Dropouts.

■ **Behavioral Reassignment:** The Behavioral Reassignment program serves students in grades 6-12 who have violated the Milwaukee Public Schools Code of Conduct. They maintain a continuum of services in an alternative school setting. Students are assigned by the Department of Parent and Student Services and are often placed at the school for one semester.

■ **Adjudicated Youth and Intensive Day Treatment:** Programs provide educational and therapeutic services to Milwaukee resident children ages 12 through 18 who are juvenile offenders or adjudicated youth. Most are MPS students who are on court-ordered probation due to a court finding of delinquency. Students placed in a day-treatment center are assigned for a designated period of time by court order. At termination, students are either reassigned to an MPS school or are referred to the court system.

■ **Special Education:** St. Charles, the special education school, is an educational treatment-oriented program for MPS students, grades 4-12, who meet special education eligibility requirements. The students are referred by their special education supervisor when they are on a pre-expulsion track.

■ **GED Option #2 Program:** The GED Option #2 (GEDO #2) Program allows authorized school districts to use the GED test battery to measure proficiency in lieu of high school credit for students enrolled in an alternative education program. A student who passes the GED tests and completes the other requirements for graduation is entitled to the traditional high school diploma.

■ **Project Direct Graduation Program:** Project Direct Graduation programs provide alternative educational settings for those students within the traditional schools “who are at-risk of not graduating from high school.” Students are provided with a smaller teacher/student ratio, individual instruction, alternative scheduling, academic and work linkages and effective supports.

For more information,  
call (414) 475-8140 or  
visit [www.dcsmps.org](http://www.dcsmps.org).





### DCS OVERVIEW

The Division of Diversified Community Schools (DCS) oversees the following categories of schools, programs and agencies:

- 26 Instrumentality Charter Schools
- 9 Non-Instrumentality Charter Schools
- 10 Partnership Schools (At-Risk)
- 5 Adjudicated Youth Programs
- 8 MPS Alternative Schools
- 6 Behavior Reassignment Schools
- 1 Special Education School
- 18 Project Direct Graduation Programs
- 12 GED02 Programs

**DCS serves approximately 15,000 students of the total 85,000 student population in Milwaukee Public Schools.**



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## Diversified Community Schools



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Achieving More*  
<http://wtam.milwaukee.k12.wi.us>



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### Diversified Community Schools Mission

The mission of Diversified Community Schools (DCS) is to provide support and advocate for innovation to empower the community of charter, partnership and alternative schools committed to educating and serving diverse student populations.