



September 2019

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## Message from the Executive Director

It is hard to believe that we are already beginning a new school year! We are kicking 2019/2020 off with 44 charter schools across six counties serving 22,236 students! What an impact!

In the last few months, a lot of exciting work has happened! We have already visited over 16 schools and met even more great school leaders, hired Phylicia Young as the new Baltimore Regional Specialist, contracted with Wide Angle Youth Media to steer our outreach campaign, built our advocacy platform for the 2020 General Assembly, and so, so much more! I traveled to Nashville to learn about hosting charter school events earlier this month and will be headed to Denver early next month to meet with other charter support organization leaders to learn how to better support our members. Stephanie has been leading many charter starter events with record attendance across MD. We are busy!

In the coming weeks, we will be looking for advocacy volunteers from our community. If you are interested and want to sign up, please complete the [form here](#). We have decided on the following items as our most important advocacy areas of focus this year:

- Charter facilities funding
- Kirwan Commission
- Charter funding formulas
- Increasing our charter school support coalition

Please [schedule time with me](#) if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or would like to have a school visit! You can also reach me by phone (410.919.9678 ext1) or [email](#).

Excited to see what the next quarter brings,  
McKenzie

## Consider Donating to MAPCS!

Make a contribution to MAPCS this holiday season! Our work is not possible without you!

We hope you will pick MAPCS or your local MD charter school to donate to this Giving Tuesday. Our work advocating and fighting for effective, innovative, and exciting learning opportunities for all Maryland families cannot happen without generous donations from people like you! THANK YOU!



[Click here to donate!](#)

\*All donations to MAPCS are fully tax deductible.

## Welcome our new staff member, Phylicia!



We are so excited to announce the addition of Phylicia Young to our MAPCS team! Phylicia will serve part-time as our Baltimore Regional Specialist focusing on:

- Increasing the number of children served by high quality charter schools in Baltimore City
- Engaging in citywide advocacy to support policies that create a favorable climate for public charter schools to start, renew, and expand
- Building an effective, sustainable, and strong Baltimore charter parent/guardian network
- Improving the perception and understanding of charters schools throughout Baltimore City
- Planning, promoting, and hosting the annual Baltimore Charter School Fair

She comes from years of working in education, from being a classroom teacher to leading Title I after school programming in several counties around Maryland. Phylicia is excited and motivated to get started, saying eventually she wants to open her own charter school focused on reducing and improving student trauma. She will be working evenings and weekends for our MAPCS's Baltimore community as she finishes her MA in school counseling at Bowie State University. She can be reached at [phylicia@mdcharters.org](mailto:phylicia@mdcharters.org).

Welcome, we are SO happy to have you!

# Maryland public charters in the news!

Here are just a few links from recent articles positively featuring Maryland public charter schools! We are so proud of the work happening in our schools!

- [Welcome charter school success in Baltimore](#) (June Baltimore Sun)
- [Study: Maryland charter students' gains outpace those at traditional schools; black, Hispanic pupils benefit most](#) (July Baltimore Sun)
- [Baltimore County school board grants final approval for Watershed Charter School to open in September](#) (Aug. Baltimore Sun)
- [Study confirms charter schools good for Baltimore](#) (Aug. Baltimore Sun)
- [Ring in the new: Baltimore County prepares for first day of school](#) (Aug. Baltimore Sun)
- [Our City, Our Schools](#) (August AFRO)
- ['The first day is about promise': Maryland students return to school excited for new challenges](#) (Sept. Baltimore Sun)
- [The most needed \(and opposed\) education legislation](#) (Sept. Frederick News-Post)
- ["You Feel Comfortable in Here" Girls-Only Baltimore Charter School Seeing Success](#) (Sept. CBS Baltimore)
- [Baltimore Rhythm Festival Enlivens Greenmount West](#) (Sept. Johns Hopkins Newsletter)

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## National Alliance of Public Charter Schools Updates!

### Elected Official Charter School Visits

Several schools across Maryland were identified to host their US Representative this fall. We are so proud of Frederick Classical Charter School, Chesapeake Public Charter School, Chesapeake Math & It Academy, and Chesapeake Science Point. We look forward to seeing the impact they leave! Also, we will be working to schedule local and state elected official visits with all of our charter schools throughout the year. Please continue to look for photos, updates, and information on our social media.

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### EdNext Poll Shows Rising Support for Charter Schools

Education Next (EdNext) released the 2019 EdNext Poll, its 13th annual nationwide survey of public opinion on a range of issues affecting students, education spending, schools, and teachers. Support for charter schools jumped to 48 percent this year, up four percentage points from last year and nine percentage points from a low in 2017. See the entire poll [here](#).

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### Charter School Facilities Update

The Charter School Facility Center at the National Alliance released a new report, [State Policy Snapshot: Facilities Funding for Public Charter Schools](#) that looks at how states are enacting policies to help offset the cost of

leasing, purchasing, and maintaining public charter school facilities. Out of the 45 states with charter school laws, 31 have at least one charter school facilities funding policy in place. Education Week used data from our report to produce an [interactive map of state funding policies](#) that support charter school facilities. Be sure to check it out!

### Marylander Publishes Piece on Charter History

Charter School Hall of Famer Checker Finn recently published an article on the [history of the Charter Schools Program](#) that is valuable reading for anyone looking for a deeper understanding of the policy and politics of this vital program.

## New MAPCS Offerings for Charter School Operators



### Share your Strengths. Fill a Need.

Attention Public Charter Schools! You can apply to create a peer to peer learning session with both your public charter school and traditional school colleagues. Applications for the first round of stipends are now being accepted.

MAPCS is offering a Governance Workshop tailored to existing Maryland charter schools. Each school/and or operator is encouraged to send a team comprised of their Executive Director/School Leader, their Board Chair/President and a Governance Committee Chair or other board member.

The workshop will be held on Saturday, November 9th from 9am - 12pm.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY](#)

[SHARE THE FLYER](#)

[Maryland Charter School Operators- Register Here](#)

## Offerings for Charter School Founding Groups



***Intro to Maryland Charter Schools Webinar - On-Demand Webinar!***

The first step in the Charter Starter workshop series. This hour-long webinar will answer basic questions about the Maryland Charter School law, provide an overview of the movement, explain how charter schools are authorized in Maryland, provide a roadmap for creating a charter school, and provide an update the availability of the MSDE Charter School Grant.

### [Charter Starter Workshop](#)

**October 19, 2019 9am-12pm**

The second step in the Charter Starter workshop series. This FREE intensive three (3) hour training is designed to give school developers foundational knowledge about chartering in Maryland.

### [Charter Design Workshop](#)

**November 2 & 16, 2019**

The Charter School Design Workshop Series are comprised of two evening workshops, plus an all-day workshop, providing over 12 hours of content rich material for charter starters. This is the last workshop in the series.

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## In case you missed it! - CREDO Study

The Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stanford University, released a study on Maryland Public Charter Schools on July 11, 2019. The report uses data (obtained from MSDE) from 2013/14 school year through the 2016/17 school year to analyze the growth and achievement of Maryland public charter schools to Maryland traditional public schools. It also uses a "virtual twin analysis" to compare the exact same individual student profiles across the two types of schools.

The findings were overall positive for Maryland charter schools and their students. While we already know Maryland public charter schools predominantly serve low-income and/or minority students, it is encouraging to see these students are growing and achieving at a higher rate than their traditional public school counterparts. Across the state of Maryland, in a year's time (180 days), charter students in Maryland experience higher academic progress than their TPS peers to the equivalent of 30 additional days of learning in reading and about 35 additional days of learning in math. The advantages of charter school students in 2016-2017 translate to approximately 47 additional days of learning in reading and about 59 additional days of learning in math. The study references many more positive outcomes for public charter schools and students, which creates the overwhelmingly encouraging report.

You can review the full report [here](#).

**Let's Connect!**

