THOMAS B. FORDHAM INSTITUTE
ADVANCING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

BASIC FACTS ON OHIO'S CHARTER SCHOOLS AND CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

Note: authorizers in Ohio are also referred to as "sponsors."

At the end of the 2012-13 school year Ohio had 370 schools serving about 130,000 students across the state.

In 2012-13 there were 66 approved charter school authorizers in Ohio.

The following entities can authorize charter schools in Ohio:
- The board of education of the school district in which the school is located;
- The board of education of any joint vocational school district with territory in the county in which is located the majority of the territory of the district in which the school is proposed to be located;
- The board of education of any other city, local or exempted village school district operating in the same county in which is located the majority of the territory of the district in which the school is proposed to be located;
- The governing board of any educational service center (with some limitations);
- A sponsoring authority designated by the board of trustees of any of the 13 state universities;
- Any qualified tax-exempt entity under section 501(c)3 of the IRS code as long as the following conditions are satisfied:
  - The entity has been in operation for at least five years prior to applying to be a community school sponsor.
  - The entity has assets of at least $500,000 and a demonstrated record of financial responsibility.
  - The Ohio department of education has determined that the entity is an education-oriented entity.
- In 2013-14, the Mayor of Columbus can serve as a charter school authorizer.

Ohio's Largest Authorizers by number of schools (2012-13)

Authorizer	Type	Number of Schools Authorized
ESC of Lake Erie West	ESC	60 schools
St. Aloysius Orphanage	501(c)3	44 schools
Buckeye Community Hope Foundation	501(c)3	42 schools
Ohio Council of Community Schools	501(c)3	42 schools
Educational Resource Consultant of Ohio	501(c)3	24 schools
Richland Academy	501(c)3	11 schools
Thomas B. Fordham Foundation	501(c)3	10 schools
Kids Count of Dayton	501(c)3	9 schools
North Central Ohio ESC	ESC	8 schools
Ohio Department of Education	State department	8 schools
ESC of Central Ohio	ESC	8 schools
Portage County ESC	ESC	8 schools
Cleveland Municipal School District	District	8 schools
Reynoldsburg City School District	District	5 schools

Data come from the Ohio Department of Education: http://webapp1.ode.state.oh.us/school_options/F2013/Default.asp