State Charter School Board

- State Charter School Board serves as the authorizer to 104 charter LEAs (120 schools) that are either currently open or are approved to open. This is 90% of all charter LEAs in the state.
- According to the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA), the average staff-to-school ratio for authorizers is 1:7. The State Charter School Board staff-to-charter LEA ratio is 1:17 (when staffing is at planned capacity).
- In addition to serving as the authorizer for schools authorized by the State Charter School Board, the State Charter School Board serves all charter schools by serving as staff to the Charter School Finance Authority and the USBE Revolving Loan subcommittee, managing grants for all charters schools (Startup and Implementation, Early Intervention), providing technical assistance to other charter authorizers, and offering trainings and technical assistance to all charter schools.
- With appropriations provided since FY 2012-13, the State Charter School Board has:
  - Overseen the expansion of charter schools. Since FY 2012-13, the State Charter School Board opened 30 new LEA charter schools and 11 new satellite charter schools. Currently, the State Charter School Board authorizes 104 charter LEAs, (120 charter schools).
  - Increased diversity and innovation in public education by opening a variety of types of schools, including a school with an innovative schedule that allows winter athletes to train while receiving a rigorous education, a military school, a number of schools employing methodologies not previously available in Utah public education, and schools with varying approaches to blended and on-line learning.
  - Created a new charter agreement.
  - Strengthened the new school application process for increased rigor and to promote innovation.
  - Provide increased technical assistance to new schools through their preoperational and first operational years to increase likelihood of success.
  - Created performance standards and began assessing schools according to those standards.
  - Reviewed charter agreements and assessed fidelity to those agreements.
  - Closed three poor performing schools.
  - Transitioned a poor performing school to a high performing school through the Voluntary School Improvement Program.
  - Began building a web-based application to better communicate with schools, manage documents, and review school performance.
  - Performed data analyses to assess trends and the success of different school models.
  - Provided additional technical assistance to all charter schools in the development of additional trainings, resources, and school visits.
Utah Charter Schools

Charter school enrollment continues to rise and has been increasing at a faster pace than district enrollment.

A higher percentage of charter high schools earned an A, and its students are reading on grade level more consistently than district schools. In addition, graduation rates for charter schools continue to increase and they are closing that gap with district schools.

Charter schools have surpassed district schools on the percentage of ethnic minorities and students with disabilities they serve. In addition, SAGE test results show that charter school students who are English learners (EL), ethnic minority and students with disabilities outperform their peers in district schools.

For full report, see link: http://schools.utah.gov/charterschools/Annual-Reports.aspx