

## THE CHARTER IDEA AS PARADIGM-CHANGE

The charter idea requires us to think about public education in a new way. It holds with the principles of public education; it breaks with its traditional institutional form.

The difference is critical. In its old institutional form the K-12 system is an inert system; with no imperative to put student performance first. The 'charter' idea makes it a dynamic system; creates an imperative to put student performance first.

These pairings of 'old' and 'new' define the difference:

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Attendance is mandatory	Attendance is mandatory
Public Standards apply	Public standards apply
The board has an exclusive	Another public body may sponsor
Only the district may operate a school	Others may operate
Teachers/parents have 'voice'	Teachers/parents have <u>leverage</u>
Board can safely stand pat	Board cannot risk standing pat
Change = what's 'possible'	Change = what's <u>necessary</u>
School is a part of the district	School is a legal entity
School is appropriated its revenue	School <u>earns</u> its revenue
Students are assigned	Students <u>choose</u> their school
Teachers must be employees	Teachers can be owners
Control is thru process	Control is thru performance
<i>Critics</i> <del>District</del> must prove poor results	School must prove good results
<i>demand</i> Improvement <del>means</del> new money	<i>requires</i> Improvement <del>means</del> 'reallocation'