



What are Charter Schools?

- Charter schools are public schools that have more freedom to innovate because they are exempt from many (but not all) policies that govern traditional public schools. There are more than 200 public charter schools in Wisconsin and two in Madison.
- Charter schools employ fully qualified teachers and participate in statewide testing programs just like traditional public schools do.
- Wisconsin has two kinds of charter schools: instrumentality (staff employed by a school district) and non-instrumentality (staff not employed by a school district, but by a nonprofit organization).
- Charter schools exist under a “contract” with an authoritative public body (such as a school board) – this contract holds schools (including students, teachers, and parents) accountable for improving student achievement.
- Charter schools provide families with more options for how their children are educated.
- Charter schools serve as a “testing ground” for new curriculums and teaching methods. These methods are modified and developed into successful models that are then rolled out to conventional (non-charter) public schools.

What is Madison Preparatory Academy for Young Men?

- A small, all-male public secondary (grades 6-12), planned to open in the fall of 2012, within the boundaries of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) by the Urban League of Greater Madison.
- Madison Prep will start with 90 young men in grades 6 & 7 and add one grade per year until it adds a 12th grade and reaches full capacity at 315 students in 2017.
- Madison Prep will offer a liberal arts, college-preparatory curriculum that emphasizes science, technology, and communications.
- Madison Prep teachers will be mentors and coaches to students.
- Madison Prep will have a longer school year (215 days vs. 192 days) and a longer school day (8am - 5pm vs. 8am - 3/3:30pm)
- Madison Prep will have a racially diverse student body, but is being established as a school where young men of color will achieve as much academic success as their white male peers. It is not a school for black males only.
- Madison Prep will be a non-instrumentality charter school so it can offer an extended school day and year, have the freedom to innovate as necessary, and serve as a demonstration college preparatory school for males that MMSD and area school systems can learn from.