

WHEREAS, charter schools, also called community schools, are public, nonprofit, nonreligious schools that receive state and federal funds but are independent of traditional school districts; and

WHEREAS, many charter schools are designed specifically to serve children from traditionally underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, charter schools have made significant gains in accelerating the closing of the achievement gap for underserved populations, increasing the graduation rate, and improving college readiness; and

WHEREAS, charter schools offer a variety of learning environments and themes, including college-preparedness, career-technical education, arts, and sciences; and

WHEREAS, Ohio passed its charter school law in 1997, and is celebrating 25 years; and

WHEREAS, today, there are 317 charter schools operating in Ohio serving more than 107,000 students; and

WHEREAS, on the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools ranking of state public charter school laws, Ohio jumped from No. 24 to No. 12 after making policy improvements in 2021, including removing geographic restrictions on where a charter school can be started; and

WHEREAS, to encourage growth of high-quality charter schools, the latest Ohio budget increased the Quality Community School Support Fund by \$24 million to \$54 million per year; and

WHEREAS, to access these funds, charter schools must meet academic, good-standing, and financial criteria; and

WHEREAS, National Charter Schools Week is celebrated by students, parents, educators, leaders, schools, and organizations to raise awareness of these unique public schools; and

NOW, THEREFORE, We, Mike DeWine and Jon Husted, Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize May 8-14, 2022, as

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

this 8^h day of May 2022.

Mike DeWine

Jon Husted Lieutenant Governor