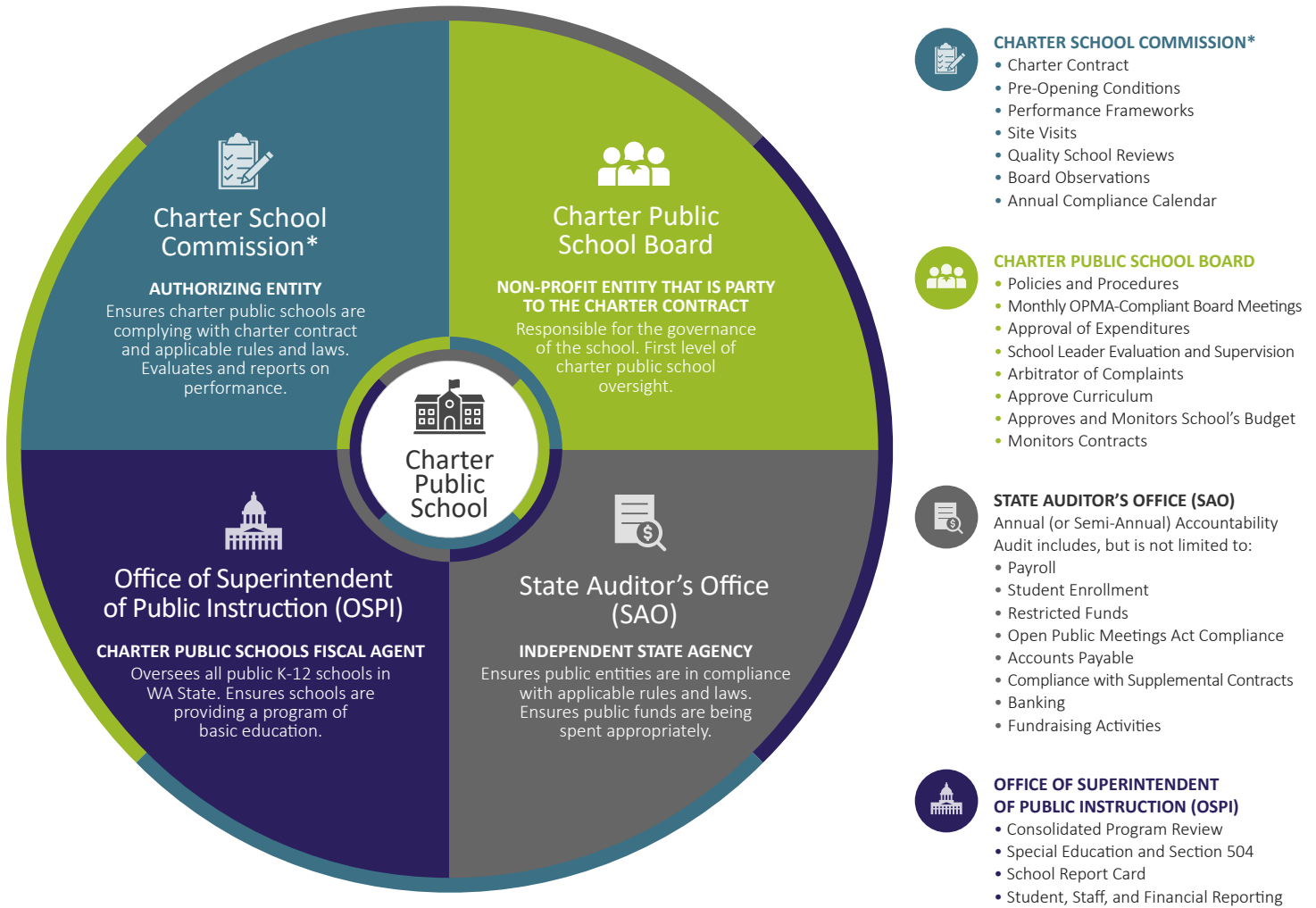


The Washington Charter School Commission* is the authorizing entity that ensures tuition-free charter public schools are complying with the charter contract and applicable rules and laws. The eleven-member commission oversees the work of seven agency staff that both report on charter public school performance and exercise its oversight responsibility in partnership with other state agencies, each charter public schools' board and school staff.



Washington voters approved the creation of charter public schools in 2012 and the Commission was established in April 2013. Today, 16 charter public schools across our state provide another education choice for the communities where they operate; 14 are authorized by the Commission and two are authorized by Spokane Public Schools.

WASHINGTON'S CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE:

- **Public Schools.** Like all public schools, they are open to all students, tuition-free, publicly-funded, staffed by certified teachers, and held accountable to state and national standards.
- **Non-religious and non-sectarian** in their practices.
- **Committed to meeting specific academic goals set by the Commission** but are free to take their own decisions about how to achieve those goals. If the goals are not met, the charter may be revoked, and the school closed.
- **Contracted to follow an approved performance framework**, which codifies the expectations of the Commission and is monitored for compliance with state and federal laws as well as other state agencies such as the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

*In addition to the Charter School Commission, Spokane Public Schools is a school district Authorizing Entity for its boundary area.

Want to learn more? Commissioners are available for sharing information about charter public schools and answering questions from the community. Please contact charterschoolinfo@k12.wa.us or visit CharterSchool.Wa.Gov for next steps.