# Charter School Accountability Cycle

By design, public charter schools are independent of the local school system. Instead, they are directly accountable to the state Department and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Independent national studies have ranked Massachusetts' application, performance, and oversight practices as the toughest in the nation. Charters must be renewed every five years and are subject to annual inspections by the state. **If they don't succeed, they can be closed.** 

### YEAR 5

- Renewal Inspection
- · Vote on Renewal
- · Annual Report
- Financial Audit

#### YEAR 1

- Account Plan
  approved by DESE
- Annual Report
- Financial Audit
- 1st Year Visit (if applicable)



#### YEAR 4

- Potential Check-in or Targeted Site Visits
- Annual Report
- Application for Renewal
- Financial Audit



## Accountability Cycle

#### YFAR 2

- Full Site Visit for Charters in 1st Term
- Potential Full, Check-in or Targeted Visits for Charters in other Terms
- Annual Report
- Financial Audit



#### YEAR 3



- Full Site Visit by DESE for Charters in 1st term
- Potential Full, Check-in or Targeted Visits for Charters in Other Terms
- Annual Report
- Financial Audit





