

# A Different Way for Mayors to Engage in Education



ANDY SMARICK



# K-12 and Community Empowerment



- Public education as a way of distributing power to families, educators, and community-based organizations
- Build an education strategy that's part of a broader citywide strategy for building up your communities

# Traditional District-Oriented Approach



- **“District Takeover”**
  - Put the school district under the mayor
  - School board goes away
  - Mayor gets to hire the superintendent
  
- **Allies on the school board**
  - Develop a slate of candidates
  - Get involved in the campaigns
  - Mayor has philosophically aligned board and superintendent

# A Better Way?



- Don't tie the mayor's hands
  - Taking over the existing system gives all of the system's problems to the mayor: politics, giant central offices, bureaucratic mindset, countless rules, union contracts, etc.
- Instead, lead public education *outside* of the district

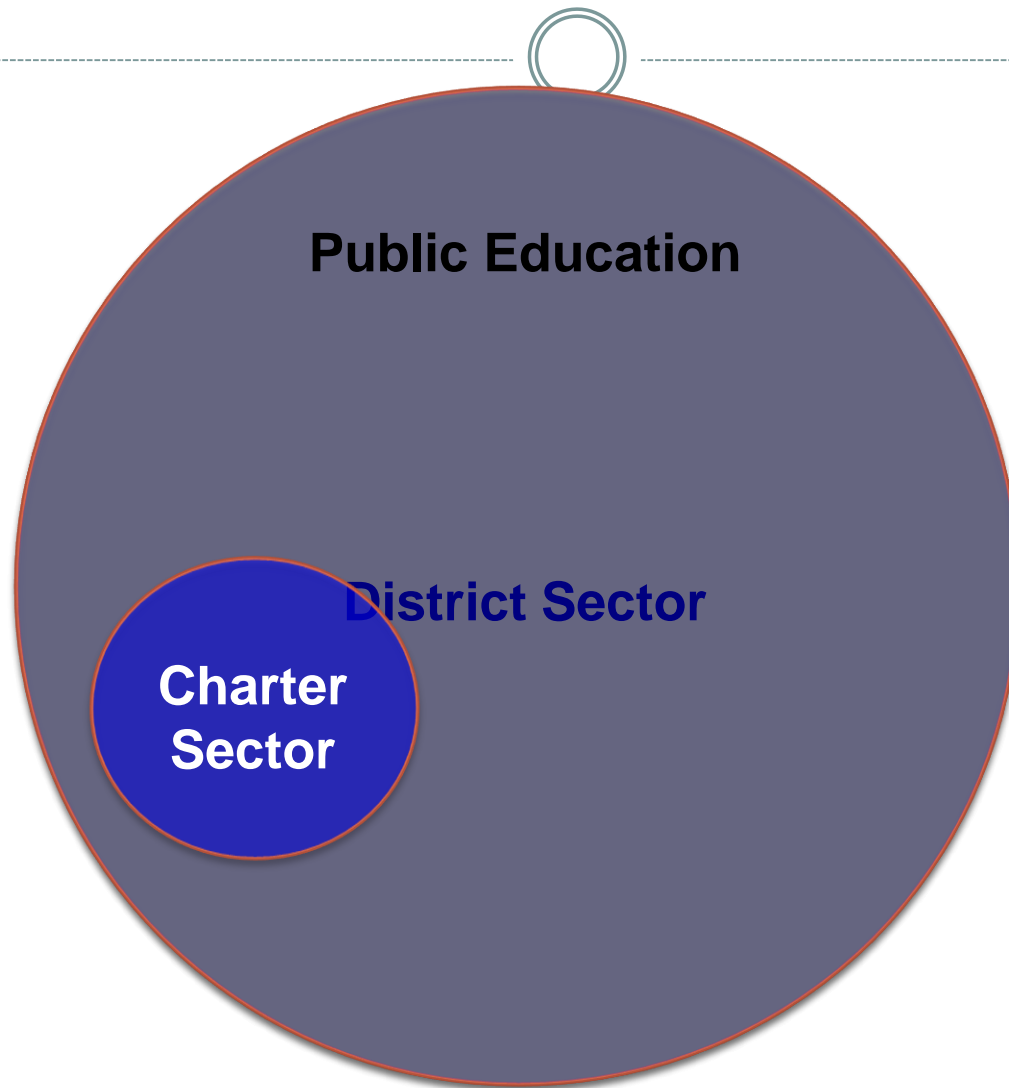
# Are “Public Education” & “District” Synonymous?



**Public Education**

**The District**

# A New Sector of Public Education



**Public Education**

**District Sector**

**Charter  
Sector**

# Distributing Power to the Community



- New sector shifts power away from the central administrative office to the community
  - Families get power (where their kids go to school)
  - Teachers get power (where to teach, whether to start a school)
  - Community-based organizations get power (what kind of school to run, whether to expand successful schools)
- This education strategy serves as a community-empowerment strategy

# Possible Next Steps



1. Become a charter-school authorizer
2. Help incubate new schools
3. Create a “Mayor’s Report Card”
  - What % of families are choosing their schools?
  - What % of educators are teaching in schools they chose?
  - How many different options are available to HS students?
  - How many local CBOs are operating schools?
  - What % of parents are satisfied with their kids’ schools?