

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation (CLF)?

The Chesapeake Lighthouse Foundation operates four (4) charter schools in the state of Maryland. The Foundation is made up of a GOVERNING BOARD that consists of 9 members. It is the duties and responsibilities of the board to oversee the daily operations and business practices at each of the four schools. In partnership with the Anne Arundel and Prince George's County school districts, CLF operates each charter school by providing a rigorous and technology-integrated education for K-12 students with an emphasis on mathematics, science, and information technologies.

2. Who sits on the board of directors?

Chair – Spear Lancaster (Chair)
Vice Chair – Lutfi On (Vice Chair)
Treasurer – Murat Cil
Secretary – Salih Mirasyedi
Member – Neil Mazuranic
Member – Alicia Joseph
Member – Michelle Taylor

3. How many charter schools does CLF operate?

CLF operates one charter school in Anne Arundel County, MD called Chesapeake Science Point. The following charter schools are operated in Prince George's County: Chesapeake Math and IT Academy (CMIT) in Laurel, MD; (2) Chesapeake Math and IT Academy South in District Heights, MD; and (3) Chesapeake Math and IT Elementary in Laurel, MD.

4. Does CLF operate charter schools in other states besides Maryland?

Not at this time.

5. What is CLF's relationship to Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS)?

The Anne Arundel and Prince George's County Public Schools offer alternative means within the existing public school system to provide innovative learning opportunities and creative approaches to fulfill educational objectives for students. Charter and Specialty Programs provide a range of unique learning subjects, activities and/or learning opportunities as an enhancement of choice for the community. Charter schools may implement instructional programs and curriculum standards that may be different than other traditional public schools. The CLF school model sets their charter schools apart from the rest with its unique,

hands-on, and innovative STEM curriculum. CLF schools provide rigorous programs that begin developing STEM proficient students from elementary through high school matriculation in accordance with a written Charter Agreement executed between the local board of education and CLF. Just as any other public school, a public charter school is subject to federal, state and local laws prohibiting discrimination and must comply with all applicable health and safety laws.

6. What is CLF's mission and vision for its charter schools?

In partnership with students, parents and the community, CLF's mission is to attain educational excellence by providing a rigorous Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum. CLF's vision is to provide multiple opportunities for students to prepare for post-secondary education in a variety of fields of studies in order to pursue professional careers. CLF charter schools enable all students to achieve their maximum potential by equipping and empowering them with analytical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills.

7. How is CLF different from other public specialty and charter schools?

CLF charter schools separate themselves from other public specialty and charter schools by their unique and replicable school model that offers a rigorous, technology-integrated education for K – 12 students in the state of Maryland. Students attending CLF charter schools have scored higher on standardized tests than their District and State colleagues in past school years. With a proven model that works, CLF schools have a 100% graduation rate and a 100% college acceptance rate to date.

8. How does the lottery process work?

Due to space limitations, a charter school requires that admission to the school be governed by a random placement lottery. This process is overseen by the County in which the School will be operating. It is not the responsibility of the school or CLF. Lottery placement provides the strongest guarantee of equity in access. The computerized lottery system will assign a random number to each application. Applications are sorted based on this randomly assigned number and assigned a sequential number. The lowest random number gets number one, the next lowest number two, and so forth. Applications are then sorted by program. Program/school assignments are based upon space availability. Availability differs by grade level and specialty program. All applications are given a waiting list number based on their Specialty Program choice, grade level, and sequence number. Openings are limited in all Specialty Programs.

Submission of an application is not a guarantee of placement. The application form permits multiple Specialty Program choices per student. If more than one Specialty Program choice is selected, each choice will be treated equally and placement will be made according to the first available opening. Placement is granted for one specialty program choice only.

9. How does CLF receive funds to operate the charter schools?

The local board of education will disburse to public charter schools an amount of county, state and federal money that is commensurate with the amount disbursed to other public schools in the local jurisdiction. Additionally, surplus educational materials, supplies, furniture and other equipment may be given to the public charter school by the state or local board of education.