Right now, 12 different groups run schools in the city of Detroit.

That’s because Michigan state law allows all state universities to open a charter school anywhere in the state. All community colleges, intermediate school districts, and local school districts can also open charter schools anywhere in their districts.

A charter school is a state-funded public school run by a non-profit organization. The name “charter school” comes from the charter to operate that is granted by a public authorizing body (the state universities, community colleges, intermediate school districts, and local school districts) to the non-profit board.

Charter authorizers do not coordinate with each other, with the cities or traditional school districts where they are operating schools, nor are they accountable to the residents of those communities.

Note: This is 2014-2015 data