



Estimated Charter Public School Enrollment, 2016-17

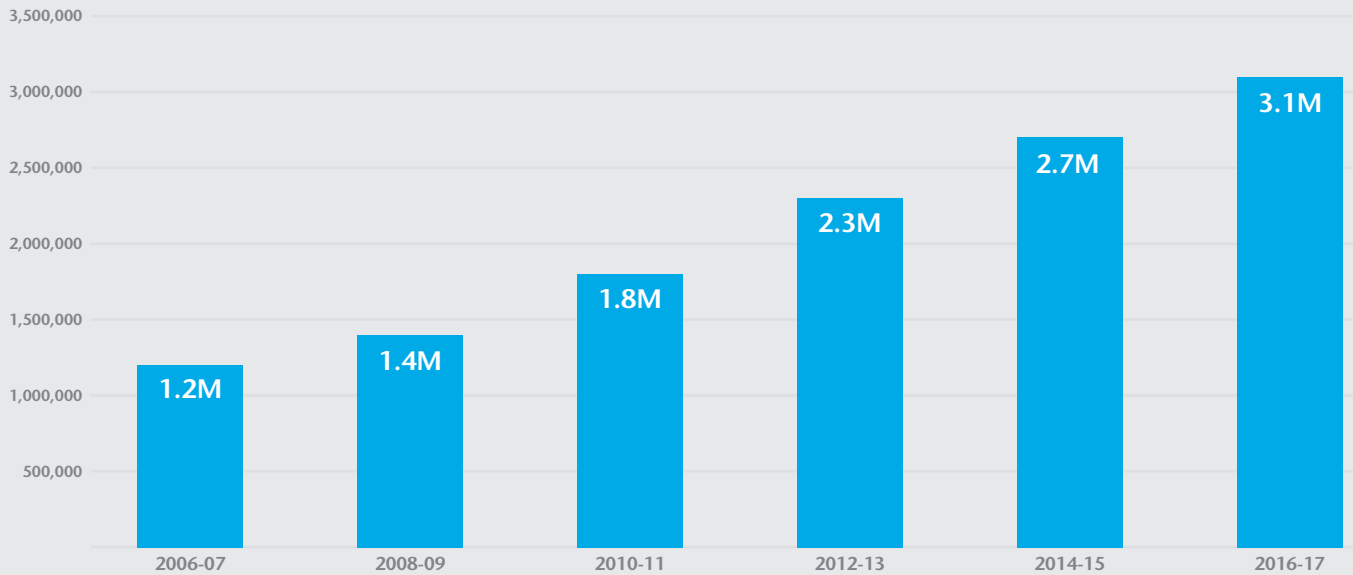
Charter School Enrollment Growth

Across the country, more than 300 new charter public schools opened in the fall of 2016. Charter schools are public schools that have flexibility to meet students' unique needs, while being held accountable for advancing student achievement. Every year, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (National Alliance) collects data on the number of charter schools that opened and closed in each state that has operating charter schools. This information is used to determine the current number of charter schools in each state, as well as to estimate total charter school enrollment at the state and national levels.

In 2016-17, there are more than 6,900 charter schools, enrolling an estimated 3.1 million students. Over the past 10 years, enrollment in charter schools has nearly tripled—from 1.2 million students in 2006-07 to an estimated 3.1 million in 2016-17. Between 2015-16 and 2016-17, estimated charter school enrollment increased by over 200,000 students. The estimated 7 percent growth in charter school enrollment between fall 2015 and fall 2016 demonstrates continued parental demand for high-quality educational options.

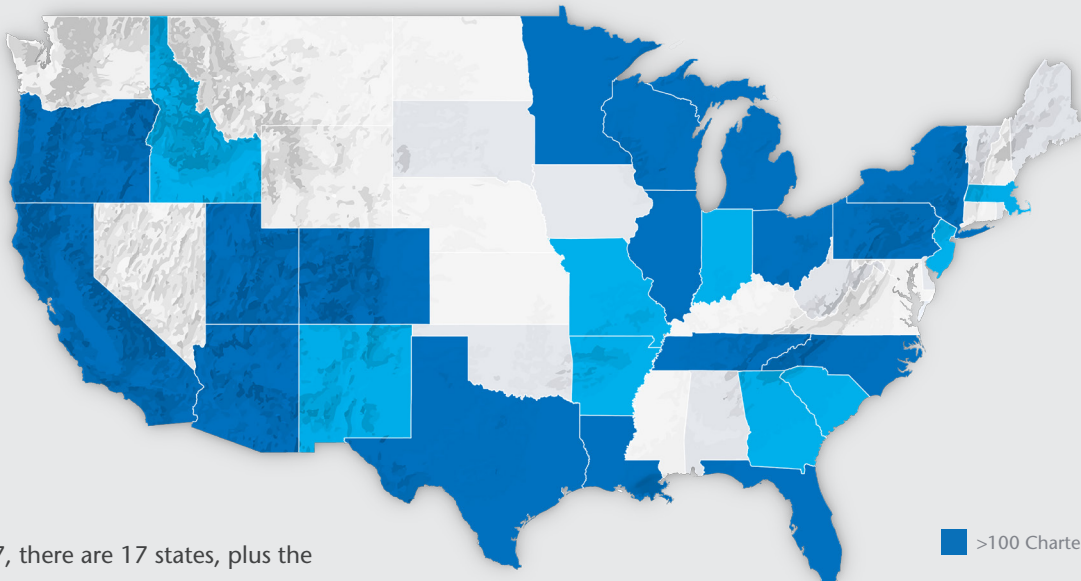
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National Enrollment in Charter Public Schools, 2006-07 to 2016-17



Source: Data for 2006-07 through 2014-15 are from the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey. Data for 2016-17 are estimated from prior year data and calculated average growth rates (see methodology).

The Number of Charter Public Schools Continues to Grow



In 2016-17, there are 17 states, plus the District of Columbia, that have **at least 100 charter schools** and 9 states have **between 50 and 99 charter schools**.

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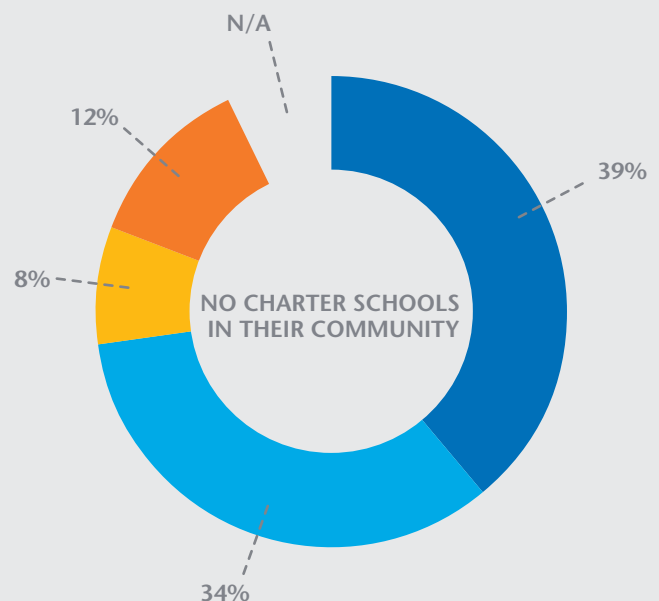
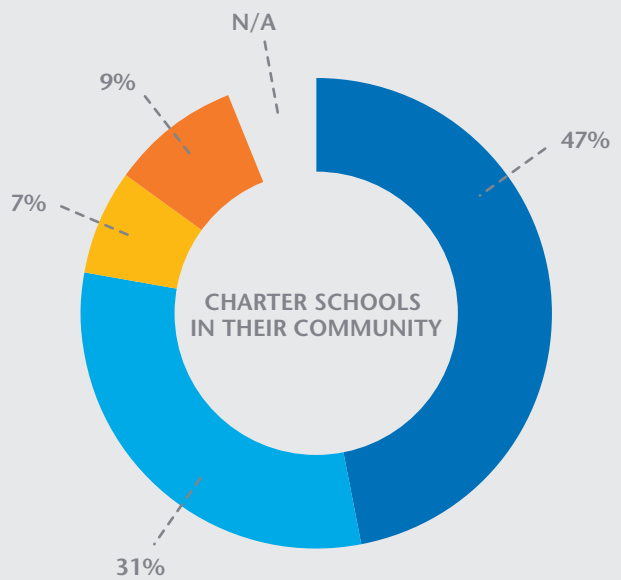
Unmet Charter School Demand

When families have public school options, they increasingly select charter schools over district-run schools. In fact, a recent national survey of 1,000 parents with school-age children, commissioned by the National Alliance, found that 73 percent favor increasing the number of charter schools so that more students could enroll in them. Further, 78 percent of parents who have charter schools in their community, and 73 percent of parents who do not, favor having one open in their neighborhood. This suggests that, while the charter school sector continues to grow, it would likely grow faster if more charter schools were able to open.

In addition, 10 percent of parents indicated that a charter school would be their first choice—meaning that there are at least 2 million additional students whose parents would enroll them in a charter school today if they could.

Would You Favor or Oppose a Charter School Opening in your Community or Neighborhood?

- Strongly Favor
- Somewhat Favor
- Somewhat Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- N/A



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Estimated Number of Charter Public Schools & Students, 2016-17

While the charter school movement saw many new schools open this year, there were also 211 charter schools that ceased operation. These schools closed for a variety of reasons, including low enrollment, financial concerns, and/or low academic performance. The charter model gives charter schools the freedom to be more innovative, while being held accountable for improving student achievement. School closures provide evidence that the accountability part of the charter model is being upheld.

The following states experienced the largest number of charter school closures:

- California: 30 schools closed
- Texas: 30 schools closed
- Florida: 25 schools closed
- Ohio: 22 schools closed
- Georgia: 17 schools closed

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools promotes meeting the demand for high-quality school options and encouraging well-planned school openings. We also support authorizers setting and enforcing high performance standards. The continued annual growth in both charter schools and charter students is positive evidence of a strong and growing movement as more than 300 new charter schools opened across the country.

The following states experienced the largest number of charter school openings:

- Texas: 64 schools opened
- California: 56 schools opened
- Florida: 26 schools opened
- Arizona: 18 schools opened
- New York: 16 schools opened

State	New Charters, Fall 2016	Closed Charters, Spring 2016	Net Gain Charters, 2016-17	Total Charter Schools, 2016-17	Charter School Growth %	Estimated Enrollment 2016-17	Charter School Student Growth %
AK	1	0	1	29	4%	6,600	4%
AR	9	2	7	73	11%	29,400	20%
AZ	18	11	7	547	1%	180,000	3%
CA	56	30	26	1,253	2%	604,700	6%
CO	13	1	12	238	5%	114,700	5%
CT	0	0	0	24	0%	9,700	6%
DC*	8	1	7	119	6%	42,400	9%
DE	0	2	-2	25	-7%	15,300	8%
FL	26	25	1	656	0%	291,200	8%
GA	8	17	-9	83	-10%	84,400	12%
HI	0	0	0	34	0%	10,900	5%
IA	0	0	0	3	0%	400	7%
ID	3	0	3	52	6%	21,400	5%
IL*	3	5	-2	143	-1%	65,500	2%
IN	9	3	6	95	7%	43,900	7%
KS	0	0	0	10	0%	3,800	16%
LA	8	1	7	146	5%	84,400	13%
MA	1	0	1	81	1%	44,200	10%
MD	1	4	-3	49	-6%	23,500	4%
ME	2	0	2	9	29%	2,000	32%
MI	7	8	-1	301	0%	146,100	0%
MN	7	5	2	167	1%	53,400	5%
MO	4	2	2	61	3%	23,000	6%
MS	1	0	1	3	50%	400	65%
NC	11	2	9	168	6%	91,800	11%
NH	0	0	0	26	0%	3,300	10%
NJ	4	5	-1	88	-1%	48,900	19%
NM	3	3	0	99	0%	25,400	6%
NV	2	0	2	39	5%	39,900	15%
NY	16	5	11	267	4%	132,100	14%
OH	8	22	-14	362	-4%	121,000	1%
OK	3	0	3	37	9%	22,300	12%
OR	0	0	0	126	0%	32,900	7%
PA	9	2	7	183	4%	138,400	4%
RI	1	0	1	30	3%	8,000	9%
SC	0	1	-1	66	-1%	31,700	9%
TN	10	6	4	107	4%	30,000	1%
TX*	64	30	34	761	5%	315,200	13%
UT	5	5	0	125	0%	71,500	5%
VA	1	0	1	9	13%	1,500	33%
WA	0	1	-1	7	-13%	1,300	10%
WI	7	12	-5	234	-2%	44,900	1%
WY	0	0	0	4	0%	500	2%
Total	329	211	118	6,939	2%	3,061,900	7%

* Data for DC, Illinois, and Texas represent campuses, rather than charters. In those states (and DC), a single charter can be held for multiple campuses.

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Methodology

Data for this report were collected by contacting state departments of education and charter support organizations in each state to determine how many new schools opened in fall 2016 and how many schools closed during or after the last school year (2015-16).

Enrollment estimates were determined by using two-year average charter school growth rates for schools that have been open for more than three years and using statewide two-year average charter school growth rates for schools that have been open for three years or less. For schools that have been open for three years or less, the average statewide growth rate was multiplied by 1.5 to reflect the typically higher rate of growth for newer schools as they add additional grades and students. Schools that opened in fall 2016 were assumed to be the same size as the average new charter school that opened in the previous two years in that state.

Enrollment data for North Carolina were based on preliminary numbers from the state department of education. The data for Colorado, Georgia, and Utah were based on official enrollment counts from their respective state departments of education. Enrollment data for Arizona, California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, and Tennessee were provided by the state charter support organizations – rather than estimated.