



Charter School Report Update

Washington State Board of Education
January 20, 2022

Fast Facts

- 24 schools approved by two authorizers
- 22 have opened
- 5 have closed prior to the 2021-22 school year
- 1 opted to not reopen as a charter after being an ALE
- In 2020-21 school year
 - 12 schools operated
 - 3,700 (approx.) students were enrolled
- 16 schools are open for the 2021-22 school year
- Authority to authorize new schools ended in April 2021
- 2021-22 enrollment has not yet been reported on the Report Card

Charter Schools – Enrollment and Completions

Grade Level	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
KG	117	98	93	214	168	369
1	106	99	91	148	189	248
2	16	89	95	81	124	207
3	20	0	92	94	47	139
4	17	0	0	86	46	69
5	85	77	154	151	136	157
6	505	385	512	559	437	363
7	138	470	393	629	479	405
8	0	133	397	386	465	456
9	212	128	353	383	374	427
10	0	196	142	335	322	334
11	0	0	180	132	264	295
12	0	0	0	165	114	243
All Grades	1216	1675	2502	3363	3165	3712
Grads/Cohort	0	0	0	152/190	*33/38	*151/159

*Note: the numbers of 2020 and 2021 graduates do not reflect all of the charter schools due to the suppression of graduation data for one charter school in 2020 and two charter schools in 2021.

Reporting Requirements

- The performance of the state's charter schools during the preceding school year, which includes a comparison of the **performance of charter school students** with the performance of academically, ethnically, and economically comparable groups of students in traditional public schools,
- The SBE's assessment of the successes, challenges, and areas for improvement in meeting the purposes of the Washington Charter Public Schools Act (RCW 28A.710), including the Board's assessment of the **sufficiency of funding** for charter schools, the efficacy of the formula for authorizer funding, and
- Any suggested changes in state law or policy necessary to strengthen the state's charter schools.

This is the fifth annual report on the performance of the charter schools. RCW 28A.710.250 **requires that the SBE**, in collaboration with the Charter School Commission, **include a recommendation regarding whether the legislature should authorize the establishment of additional charter public schools.**

Overview of Findings

- Charter schools tend to serve **higher percentages** of systemically marginalized students as compared to their home school districts.
- Charter schools employ a **higher percentage** of educators who are people of color, but
 - Tend to have **less** teaching experience, and
 - Are **more likely** to be teaching out of endorsement
- Students attending Washington charter schools perform **similar to or a little better** than similar students attending traditional public schools.
- When one-time grant monies are removed from the analysis, charter schools generally receive **lower revenues** than the home school districts.

Academic Performance

Overall, students attending Washington charter schools perform similar to or a little better than similar students attending traditional public schools.

- On average, the charter schools' Washington School Improvement Framework (WSIF) score is **similar to or a little higher** than the average winter 2020 WSIF score for the state.
- Graduation rates were reportable for only three charter schools.
 - The rates for two charter schools were **similar** to the state average, and
 - The rate for the other charter school were a **little lower** than the state average.
- On the most recent assessments, charter school students performed **higher** than their matched peer group on nearly all assessment and growth measures.
- Charter school students identifying as Hispanic/Latinx, students who are English learners, and students who qualify for FRL (low-income) **consistently outperform** their matched peer groups.

Other Measures of Success

Overall and on other measures of success using the OSPI COVID truncated datasets, students at charter schools perform similar to or a little lower than their home school district.

- The percentage of charter school students regularly attending school is **similar to or a little lower** than the rate for the students in the home school districts.
- The percentage of 9th grade charter school students who earned credit for all courses attempted (9th Graders On-Track) is a **little lower** than the rate for the students in the home school districts.
- The percentage of students not experiencing an exclusionary discipline event for the charter school students is **similar** to the rate for the students in the home school districts.

Funding Sufficiency

When one-time grant monies are removed from the analysis, charter schools generally receive lower revenues than the home school districts.

- The average total salary for charter school instructional staff is substantially lower than the salary allocation from the state.
- The average total salary for charter school instructional staff is substantially lower than the average total salary paid by the home school district.
- The state apportionment is similar for the charter school LEAs and the home school districts, but one-half of the charter school LEAs receive a lower state apportionment than the home school district.
- The average support from the Local and Other revenue source is approximately \$2,400 per student for the home school districts and is approximately \$105 per student for the charter school LEAs.

These data are from the 2019-20 OSPI fiscal reporting. The 2020-21 fiscal reporting will be available in February "at the earliest."

Draft Recommendations

- **Draft Recommendation 1:** The SBE and the Charter School Commission recommend that the window for authorization be extended to allow additional charter schools, up to 40 total, to operate in Washington.
- **Draft Recommendation 2:** The SBE recommends a close examination of the sufficiency of charter school funding and approaches used in other states in order to bring about equitable educational funding for all students.
- **Draft Recommendation 3:** Explore options to create more flexibility in the use of authorizer fees and/or direct appropriation to cover charter school oversight costs.

Timeline and Next Steps

- Authorizer report drafts will be delivered to SBE on or around January 21 and finalized by February 4.
- SBE report will be updated with the following:
 - Relevant information from the authorizer reports
 - Fall 2021 statewide assessment data (if available)
 - Updated graduation data for two charter schools
 - Updated fiscal data as time permits
- Sent to the Charter School Commission and Spokane PS for review
- Finalize in late February
- Submit to the Governor and the Legislature in early March

Discussion Regarding the Draft Recommendations

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