

# Research Brief

## MPS Charter Students Outscore City, UWM

In its annual analysis of Milwaukee charter schools, the Forum found that MPS charter school students substantially outperform UWM and City charter school students, especially at the elementary school level. A striking illustration of this is that students at Siefert Elementary, an MPS charter school, scored the lowest of any other MPS charter school on both the third grade reading test and the fourth grade Knowledge and Concepts exam (46.3% at or above proficiency and 39.2 average national percentile score respectively). However, these relatively low scores were higher than the scores at each of the City and UWM-chartered schools.

Charter schools are gaining momentum in the City of Milwaukee. From a modest beginning of fewer than 200 students in three schools in the 1998-1999 school year they have grown in five years to include 11,497 students in 31 different schools. Statewide 19,005 students are enrolled in 129 different charter schools. Of this total 60% are charter school students in Milwaukee.

The pace of charter school growth is evidenced by the addition of seven new charter schools this fall and 2,055 students. Today charter school enrollment surpasses the enrollment in Milwaukee's private school voucher program by 816 students, the Chapter 220 program by 6,813 students and the open enrollment program by 10,265. Part of this growth is attributed to the unique situation charter school operators are offered in Milwaukee. Three entities other than the school district are allowed to charter schools. They are the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Area Technical College. Another reason for this growth is the conversion of private voucher schools to charter status. Since 1998 six voucher schools have become charter schools.

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### The Charter School Bargain

When charter schools came onto the education scene in the early 1990s they were viewed as a reform that could turn traditional public schooling on its head. A charter school was given freedom to operate independent of the burdensome regulations and lack of parental choice of traditional public schools. In exchange, the schools promised to offer innovative educational opportunities, improved educational performance and parental choice. If a charter school did not meet the obligations of the charter, the contract would be revoked and the school closed.

It was this carrot/stick approach that made charter schools so appealing. Mediocrity and poor quality in schooling would not be tolerated. Most charters are for five year terms; after this time period, decisions are made whether to renew a school's charter.

Three Milwaukee charter schools have reached or surpassed their five-year anniversary, and another three are in their fourth year. The rest are midway or in the early years of their contracts. Of those schools that have reached the five-year mark, one school chartered by the City has standardized test scores for eighth grade proficiency that are below traditional MPS schools and 36 points below the state. Of the three schools that are in their fourth year as charter schools, two schools chartered by the City have third grade test scores between 24 and 27 percentage points lower than traditional MPS schools, and fourth grade test scores between 19 and 29 points lower than traditional MPS schools.

In discussions over contract renewal, this poor performance should be addressed. That is the strength of the charter school law. It will be important to note if this happens in Milwaukee.

#### *Sponsorship*

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## The Number of Charter Schools Continues to Grow

The charter school movement continues to gain momentum across the country as the number of charter schools grows each year. According to the Center for Education Reform, 393 charter schools opened in time for the 2002-03 school year, bringing the total number of charter schools in the United States to 2,700. This pattern of growth is also true in Milwaukee, the home of nearly a quarter of the State of Wisconsin's 129 charter schools. In 2002-03, seven new charter schools opened in Milwaukee, bringing the total number of city charter schools to 31.

Also, this year, the Milwaukee Public Schools continues its dominance of the city's charter schools. Of the seven new charter schools that opened in the city in 2002-03, four are chartered by MPS, two by UWM, and one by the City of Milwaukee. MPS now charters almost three-quarters of charter schools in the city, a sharp contrast to the 1999-00 school year, when MPS chartered only two of the six schools in the city. Since the 2000-01 school year, MPS has chartered 18 of the 24 schools that have opened.

### Milwaukee Charter Schools

School	Chartering Agency	School Year Opened as Charter	Total In Each Year
Highland Community School	MPS	1996-97	1
Downtown Montessori	City	1997-98	1
Khamit Institute	City	1998-99	1
Central City Cyberschool	City	1999-00	3
Fritsche Middle School	MPS	1999-00	
YW Global Career Academy	City	1999-00	5
Bruce Guadalupe Community School	MPS	2000-01	
Milwaukee Academy of Science	UWM	2000-01	
Walker International Middle School	MPS	2000-01	
Westside Academy I/II	MPS	2000-01	
Wisconsin Career Academy	MPS	2000-01	12
Audubon Technology & Communication Center	MPS	2001-02	
Fairview School	MPS	2001-02	
I.D.E.A.L. Charter School	MPS	2001-02	
Juneau Business Charter High School	MPS	2001-02	
Learning Enterprise Vocational & Training Institute	MPS	2001-02	
Milwaukee Leadership Training Center	MPS	2001-02	
Milwaukee Urban League Academy	UWM	2001-02	
Phoenix High School	MPS	2001-02	
School for Early Development & Achievement	UWM	2001-02	
Siefert Elementary School	MPS	2001-02	
Veritas High School	MPS	2001-02	7
Whittier Elementary School	MPS	2001-02	
Afro Urban Institute	MPS	2002-03	
DLH Academy	City	2002-03	
Malcolm X Academy	MPS	2002-03	
Marva Collins Preparatory School	UWM	2002-03	
Northern Star School	MPS	2002-03	
Wings Academy	MPS	2002-03	
YMCA Youth Leadership Academy	UWM	2002-03	

Table 1



## Milwaukee Charter School Enrollment Continues to Increase

There are 11,497 students enrolled in Milwaukee charter schools in 2002-03, a 21.8% increase from the 9,442 students that attended charter schools in 2001-02. Almost 90% of this one-year increase is as a result of seven new schools opening. However, there was also significant growth in existing charter school enrollment, with 15 of the 24 schools experiencing one-year increases.

The largest percent increase was at The School for Development and Achievement where enrollment nearly doubled, going from 16 students to 31 students. The most substantial one-year decrease was at the Learning Enterprise Institute where enrollment decreased 45%. In raw numbers, the great-

est increase was in the Milwaukee Urban League, which gained 116 students this year, followed by Wisconsin Career Academy, which gained 98 students. Westside Academy I and II experienced enrollment losses of 47 and 41 students respectively.

The total Milwaukee charter school enrollment has increased every year since the program was initiated. Most of this growth has been as a result of the expansion in the number of charter schools. For example, there were only three charter schools in the 1998-99 school year, with a total enrollment of 186 students. Now there are 31 charter schools; their total enrollment of 11,497 represents a more than 6,000% increase from the 1998-99 enrollment.

### Percent Change in Milwaukee Charter School Enrollment

School	1999-00 Enrollment	2000-01 Enrollment	2001-02 Enrollment	2002-03 Enrollment	One-Year Change	% Change from 1st Yr to Present*
Afro Urban Institute				59	n/a	n/a
Audubon Technology & Communication Center			946	956	1.06%	1.06%
Bruce Guadalupe		545	581	624	7.40%	14.50%
Central City Cyberschool	38	379	331	346	4.53%	810.53%
DLH Academy				227	n/a	n/a
Downtown Montessori	29	66	91	80	-12.09%	175.86%
Fairview School			628	631	0.48%	0.48%
Fritsche Middle School	1,041	1,042	1,040	1,076	3.46%	3.36%
Highland Community School	65	92	82	95	15.85%	46.15%
.D.E.A.L. Charter School			190	192	1.05%	1.05%
Juneau Business Charter High School			851	880	3.41%	3.41%
Khamit Institute	66	92	84	83	-1.19%	25.76%
Learning Enterprise Vocational & Training Institute			91	50	-45.05%	-45.05%
Malcolm X Academy				536	n/a	n/a
Marva Collins Preparatory School				410	n/a	n/a
Milwaukee Academy of Science		917	901	878	-2.55%	-4.25%
Milwaukee Leadership Training Center			61	58	-4.92%	-4.92%
Milwaukee Urban League Academy			566	682	20.49%	20.49%
Northern Star School				37	n/a	n/a
Phoenix High School			131	132	0.76%	0.76%
School for Early Development & Achievement			16	31	93.75%	93.75%
Siefert Elementary School			498	483	-3.01%	-3.01%
Veritas High School			135	164	21.48%	21.48%
Walker International Middle School		773	814	793	-2.58%	2.59%
Westside Academy I		457	463	416	-10.15%	-8.97%
Westside Academy II		411	429	387	-9.79%	-5.84%
Whittier Elementary School			212	217	2.36%	2.36%
Wings Academy				50	n/a	n/a
Wisconsin Career Academy		112	192	290	51.04%	158.93%
YMCA Youth Leadership Academy				505	n/a	n/a
YW Global Career Academy	n/a	136	109	129	18.35%	n/a
<b>Total Charter School</b>	<b>1,239</b>	<b>5,022</b>	<b>9,442</b>	<b>11,497</b>	<b>21.76%</b>	<b>827.93%</b>

\* 1999-00 was the first year data were available.

Table 2



## African American Enrollment is Highest in Charter Schools

In order to prevent charter schools from selecting only certain students to attend their schools, state statutes require that charter schools' racial and ethnic composition mirrors that of the district wherein the charter school is located. As Table 3 illustrates, Milwaukee charter schools as a whole seem to be doing a good job at meeting this requirement.

MPS is a majority minority district, as are the charter schools; this year, 18% of MPS' enrollment is white compared to 19% in the charter schools. The charter schools' white composition is lower than last year, when 22% of their students were white.

African American students dominate both MPS' and the charter schools' enrollments; 60% of MPS'

student population is black, while 61% of the charter schools' students are black. Hispanic students make up a significant portion of MPS' and the charter schools' enrollments, 17% and 16% respectively. Four percent of MPS' enrollment and 3% of the charter schools' enrollment is Asian, while Native American students account for 1% of enrollment in both MPS and the charter schools.

In terms of individual charter schools, four have enrollments that are 100% African American. Fifteen additional schools have majority African American populations, while one school, Bruce Guadalupe, is majority Hispanic, and five schools are majority white. Interestingly, 20% of MPS charter schools are majority white compared to 8% of MPS non-charter schools.

### 2002-2003 Milwaukee Charter School Enrollment by Race

School	% Asian	% Black	% Hispanic	% Indian	% White	Total
Afro Urban Institute	0.0%	88.1%	3.4%	1.7%	6.8%	59
Audubon Technology & Communication Center	6.9%	26.6%	30.1%	1.3%	35.1%	956
Bruce Guadalupe Community School	0.0%	1.0%	95.0%	1.0%	3.0%	624
Central City Cyberschool	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	346
DLH Academy	0.0%	99.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	227
Downtown Montessori	5.0%	31.3%	11.3%	0.0%	52.5%	80
Fairview School	2.2%	15.2%	11.3%	1.1%	70.2%	631
Fritsche Middle School	5.8%	26.4%	21.5%	2.3%	44.1%	1,076
Highland Community School	2.1%	73.7%	2.1%	0.0%	22.1%	95
.D.E.A.L. Charter School	3.1%	24.5%	17.7%	1.6%	53.1%	192
Juneau Business Charter High School	6.1%	67.2%	5.3%	0.8%	20.6%	880
Khamit Institute	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	83
Learning Enterprise Vocational & Training Institute	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50
Malcolm X Academy	0.0%	98.5%	0.6%	0.2%	0.7%	536
Marva Collins Preparatory School	0.0%	99.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.5%	410
Milwaukee Academy of Science	0.0%	98.2%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%	878
Milwaukee Leadership Training Center	0.0%	44.8%	37.9%	1.7%	15.5%	58
Milwaukee Urban League Academy of Business and Economics	0.0%	99.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.1%	682
Northern Star School	0.0%	75.7%	16.2%	0.0%	8.1%	37
Phoenix High School	0.0%	85.6%	6.8%	0.0%	7.6%	132
School for Early Development & Achievement	6.5%	74.2%	0.0%	0.0%	19.4%	31
Siefert Elementary School	1.2%	94.8%	1.2%	0.4%	2.3%	483
Veritas High School	0.6%	16.5%	30.5%	1.8%	50.6%	164
Walker International Middle School	6.8%	30.5%	45.0%	4.3%	13.4%	793
Westside Academy I	5.5%	88.2%	2.2%	0.0%	4.1%	416
Westside Academy II	8.3%	89.4%	0.8%	0.3%	1.3%	387
Whittier Elementary School	1.4%	8.8%	6.5%	0.9%	82.5%	217
Wings Academy	0.0%	46.0%	18.0%	4.0%	32.0%	50
Wisconsin Career Academy	2.8%	46.6%	17.9%	2.4%	30.3%	290
YMCA Youth Leadership Academy	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	505
YW Global Career Academy	0.0%	94.6%	3.1%	0.0%	2.3%	129
<b>Total Charter School</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>61.2%</b>	<b>15.9%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>11,497</b>
<b>MPS</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>59.7%</b>	<b>17.1%</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>17.9%</b>	<b>97,293</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>3.3%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>5.4%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>79.5%</b>	<b>881,231</b>

Table 3



## MPS Charter Schools Score Better than UWM and City Charter Schools

Table 4 shows each of the Milwaukee charter schools and their standardized test scores as provided to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The data are somewhat limited due to the fact that not all schools have taken the tests yet and some schools have very small samples of students taking the tests.

As was noted last year, for the most part, MPS charter schools are continuing to score better on the standardized tests. On average, MPS charter schools scored better than MPS schools, the City charter schools, and UWM charter schools on the third grade Reading and Comprehension Test and on the fourth and eighth grade Knowledge and Concepts Exams. The difference is especially striking

at the elementary school level. Almost 70% of MPS charter school students scored at or above proficiency on the third grade reading test, compared to 20.6% and 27.7% for their City and UWM counterparts respectively. The numbers were about the same for the fourth grade exams. The City and UWM charter school students scored in the 19.3 and 19.6 national percentile rankings respectively, while the MPS charter students scored 56.3.

Students at traditional MPS schools scored slightly better on the tenth grade exam than their MPS charter school peers. However, traditional MPS students and Milwaukee charter school students scored below the Wisconsin average on all tests.

**2001-2002 Milwaukee Charter School Standardized Test Scores**

School	Chartering Agency	Percent 3rd Graders Tested	Percent Tested on 4th; 8th; 10th Gr. Exams**	3rd Graders At/Above Proficiency	Rank	Avg. 4th Grade National Percentile	Rank	Avg. 8th Grade National Percentile	Rank	Avg. 10th Grade National Percentile	Rank
Audubon Tech. & Comm. Ctr.	MPS		94%					41.4	5		
Bruce Guadalupe	MPS	98%	*,*	67.3%	4	50.6	4	54.0	2		
Central City Cyberschool	City	100%	100%;97%	23.5%	11	24.2	7	34.6	7		
Downtown Montessori	City	100%		*	13						
Fairview School	MPS	83%	98%	64.0%	6	77.8	1				
Fritsche Middle School	MPS		95%					48.2	3		
Highland Community School	MPS	89%		77.8%	2						
I.D.E.A.L. Charter School	MPS	89%	100%;100%	72.2%	3	60.4	3	66.2	1		
Juneau Business High School	MPS		74%							36.0	3
Khamit Institute	City	100%	*,100%	*	13	0.0	11	30.6	9		
Malcolm X Academy	MPS		95%					20.6	11		
Milwaukee Academy of Science	UWM	98%	97%;80%	33.3%	9	23.8	8	24.0	10		
Milwaukee Leadership Training Ctr	MPS		79%;*					16.2	12		
Milwaukee Urban League Academy	UWM	88%	86%	23.3%	12	15.4	9				
Phoenix High School	MPS		85%							28.2	4
Siefert Elementary School	MPS	94%	100%	46.3%	8	39.2	6				
Veritas High School	MPS		91%							47.8	2
Walker International Middle School	MPS		96%					47.6	4		
Westside Academy I	MPS	86%		58.6%	7						
Westside Academy II	MPS	100%	99%;94%	100.0%	1	40.0	5	33.6	8		
Whittier Elementary School	MPS	100%	100%	66.7%	5	69.8	2				
Wisconsin Career Academy	MPS		98%;100%					35.2	6	50.6	1
YW Global Career Academy	City	100%	100%	26.3%	10	14.4	10				
<b>MPS</b>		<b>87%</b>	<b>97%;91%;77%</b>	<b>50.4%</b>		<b>43.8</b>		<b>36.4</b>		<b>43.0</b>	
<b>State</b>		<b>94%</b>	<b>99%;98%;95%</b>	<b>74.1%</b>		<b>65.6</b>		<b>66.4</b>		<b>70.2</b>	

\*Group of five or less tested

\*\*Where two or more percentages are shown, they represent the percent of students tested by grade in ascending order.

Note: Third Grade Scores are from the Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (WRCT).

Note: Fourth, eighth, and tenth grade scores are from the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Exams. The scores are average national percentile rankings: a score in the 50th percentile indicates that the student scored better than half and worse than half the nation's students.





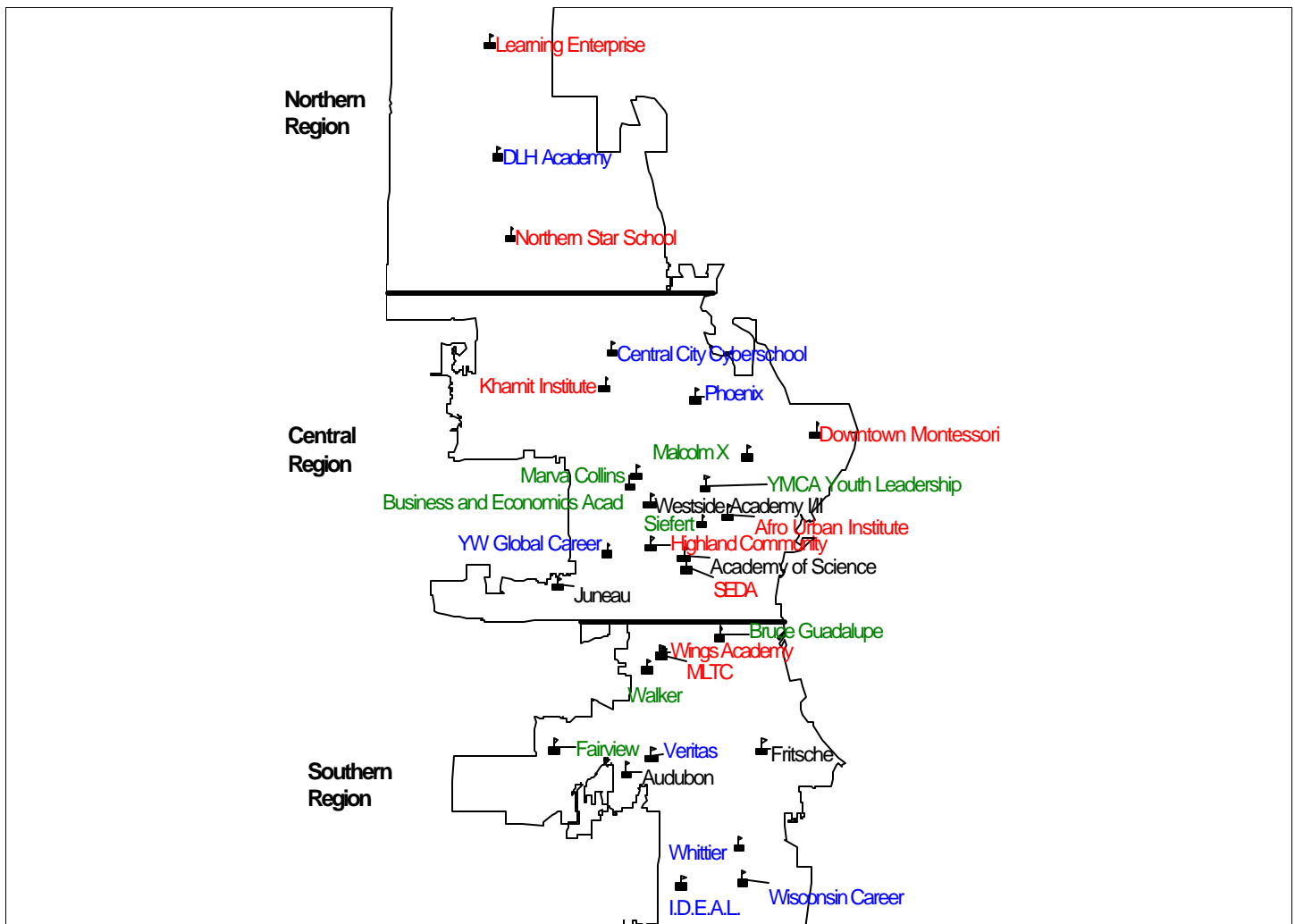
## 2002-2003 Milwaukee Charter School Directory

School	Contact Person	Address	Zip	Phone	Grades Offered
Afro Urban Institute	Elder Franklin Atwater Sr.	600 W. Walnut St., Suite 39	53201	562-6969	9-12
Audubon Technology & Communication Center	Katrice Cotton	3300 S. 39th St.	53215	902-7800	6-8
Bruce Guadalupe Community School	Pascual Rodriguez	1028 S. 9th St.	53224	643-6441	K4-8
Central City Cyberschool	Christine Faltz	4301 N. 44th St.	53216	444-2330	K4-8
DLH Academy	Barbara P. Horton	7151 N. 86th St.	53224	358-3542	K-5
Downtown Montessori	Virginia Flynn	2319 E. Kenwood Ave.	53211	332-8214	K3-4
Fairview School	Jacquelyn Scudder	6500 W. Kinnickinnic River Pkwy	53219	546-7700	K-7
Fritsche Middle School	Robin Kitzrow	2969 S. Howell Ave.	53207	294-1000	6-8
Highland Community School	Ann Bowe	3030 W. Highland Blvd	53208	342-1412	K3-3
I.D.E.A.L. Charter School	Barbara Ernest	4965 S. 20th St.	53221	304-6200	K4-8
Juneau Business Charter High School	Melanie Moore	6415 W. Mount Vernon Ave.	53213	256-8200	9-12
Khamit Institute	Yakini Shabaka	4714 W. Fond du Lac Ave.	53216	445-0602	K4-8
Learning Enterprise Vocational & Training Institute	Kathy A. Harrell-Patterson	8920 W. Brown Deer Rd.	53224	362-9710	11-12
Malcolm X Academy	Lonnice Anderson	2760 N. 1st St.	53212	267-8600	6-9
Marva Collins Preparatory School	Robert Rauh	2449 N. 36th St.	53210	445-8020	K4-8
Milwaukee Academy of Science	Tracey Sparrow	2000 W. Kilbourn Ave.	53233	933-0302	E5-8
Milwaukee Leadership Training Center	Leslie A. Seib	1501 S. Layton Blvd Rm. 17	53215	384-8081	5-12
Milwaukee Urban League Academy	David DeBerry	3814 W. North Ave.	53208	615-3915	K4-6
Northern Star School	Valerie Benton-Davis	8135 W. Florist Ave.	53218	393-6183	6-8
Phoenix High School	Michael Endress	3620 N. 18th St.	53206	640-8412	9-12
School for Early Development & Achievement	Cindy Dennis	1905 W. Wisconsin Ave.	53233	342-4008	E3-1
Siefert Elementary School	Janel Howard	1547 N. 14th St.	53205	935-1500	HD-5
Veritas High School	Marcia Spector	3025 W. Oklahoma Ave.	53215	672-3430	9-12
Walker International Middle School	Hector Perez LaBoy	1712 S. 32nd St.	53215	902-7500	6-8
Westside Academy I/II	James Sonnenberg	1945 N. 31st St./1940 N. 36th St.	53208	934-5000	HD-3/4-8
Whittier Elementary School	Darrell Williams	4382 S. 3rd St.	53207	294-1400	K4-5
Wings Academy	Dani LaPorte	1501 S. Layton Blvd.	53215	431-1356	6-10
Wisconsin Career Academy	Ibrahim Duyar	4801 S. 2nd St.	53207	483-2117	6-12
YMCA Youth Leadership Academy	Ronn Johnson	1350 W. North Avenue St.	53212	374-9400	K4-8
YW Global Career Academy	Michelle Buckingham	4610 W. State St.	53208	607-1100	K4-5

Table 5



## Most Charter School Enrollment in Central City



In order to determine whether the geographic distribution of charter schools matches the density of school-age children in the city, the Forum separated the city into three areas as defined by MPS for transportation purposes. The northern region is everything north of Hampton Avenue, while the central region is between Hampton and I-94, and the southern region is south of I-94.

The above map reveals that more Milwaukee charter schools are located in the central part of the city (16) than in either the north (three) or south (11) regions. Additionally, the majority of students enrolled in Milwaukee charter schools (53.3%) attend schools that are located in the central region of the city, while 43.9% attend schools in the southern re-

gion, and only 2.7% are enrolled in northern region schools.

According to MPS attendance data, half of MPS students in the city live in the central region, while 30.6% live in the southern region, and 19.4% live in the northern region. Therefore, it makes sense that the central region has the most charter schools and the highest charter school enrollment in the city. However, the southern region has a significantly higher percentage of charter school enrollment than would be expected from the MPS student population distribution, while the northern region has a lower charter school enrollment than would be expected.



# 2002-2003 Charter Schools

## A Snapshot of Milwaukee Charter Schools

- Seven new charter schools opened in Milwaukee in the 2002-03 school year, bringing the total number of charter schools to 31, 21 of which are chartered by the Milwaukee Public Schools, five by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and five by the City of Milwaukee.
- Enrollment in charter schools continued to increase in 2002-03, mostly due to the additional schools, but also as a result of enrollment growth in existing schools. There are currently 11,497 students in Milwaukee's charter schools, up 22% from the 2001-02 school year.
- Since 1998, six former voucher schools have converted to charter status. In 2002-03 1,519, or 13%, of all charter school students are enrolled in these voucher/charter conversion schools.
- The racial and ethnic breakdown of Milwaukee's charter schools closely mirrors that of MPS; both are majority minority, and African American students make up the most substantial percentage of enrollment.
- Students that attend schools that are chartered by MPS significantly outperform those that attend UWM- and City-chartered schools. This is especially true at the elementary school level.
- More charter schools are located in the central part of the city than either the northern or southern regions, which makes sense since most MPS students also live in the central region.

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