

February 2015

Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools & Students, 2014-2015

During the 2014-15 school year, almost 500 new public charter schools opened. An estimated 348,000 additional students are attending public charter schools in the 2014-15 school year compared with the previous school year. With the addition of new charter schools and students, there are now more than 6,700 public charter schools enrolling about 2.9 million students throughout the country. The four percent growth in the number of operating public charter schools and 14 percent growth in public charter school student enrollment from the 2013-14 to 2014-15 school years demonstrates parents' demand for high-quality educational options.

While the public charter school movement saw many new schools open, there were also more than 200 charter schools that ceased operation. These schools closed for a variety of reasons, including low enrollment, financial concerns, and low academic performance. The public charter school model gives charters the freedom to be more innovative while being held accountable for improving student achievement. Charter schools that do not meet the needs of its students should be closed. The school closures during this school year provide evidence that the accountability part of the charter school model is being upheld. To calculate the number of public charter schools and the students they enroll, the

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools contacts state departments of education and state charter school associations each year to gather information about the public charter schools that opened and closed during the academic year. The numbers presented in this report are estimates.

The 15 states with the highest number of new public charter schools and additional students served in 2014-15 include:

| State | New Charter Schools | Additional Students |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| California | 88 | 34,500 |
| Florida | 56 | 46,000 |
| Texas | 55 (2 charters, 53 campuses) | 42,400 |
| Arizona | 31 | 38,000 |
| North Carolina | 25 | 12,600 |
| Wisconsin | 22 | 2,900 |
| Louisiana | 18 | 15,000 |
| Michigan | 17 | 21,700 |
| New York | 17 | 15,300 |
| Colorado | 16 | 4,900 |
| Utah | 15 | 10,500 |
| Tennessee | 14 | 8,800 |
| Georgia | 11 | 11,100 |
| Ohio | 11 | 21,800 |
| Minnesota | 10 | 4,700 |

The states with the largest number of public charter school closures include:

- California: 36 closed schools
- Florida: 28 closed schools
- Ohio: 27 closed schools
- Texas: 25 closed schools (7 charters, 18 campuses)
- Wisconsin: 23 closed schools

The National Alliance promotes meeting the demand for high-quality school options and encouraging well-planned school openings, as well as authorizers setting and enforcing high performance standards. The failure to meet these standards must conclude with school closure to ensure that the sector is providing the best options to families.

Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools & Students, 2014-15

| State | New Charters, Fall 2014 | Closed Charters, Spring 2014 | Net Gain Charters, 2014-15 | Total Charter Schools, 2014-15 ⁱ | Charter School Growth | Estimated Enrollment, 2014-15 ⁱⁱ | Charter Enrollment Growth |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| AK | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0% | 6,300 | 2% |
| AR | 6 | 0 | 6 | 45 | 15% | 23,100 | 41% |
| AZ | 31 | 13 | 18 | 623 | 3% | 225,000 | 20% |
| CA | 88 | 36 | 52 | 1,184 | 5% | 547,800 | 7% |
| CO | 16 | 2 | 14 | 214 | 7% | 98,000 | 5% |
| CT | 4 | 0 | 4 | 22 | 22% | 8,200 | 17% |
| DC | 5 (+2 campuses) | 4 (+2 campuses) | 0 | 61 (on 112 Campuses) ⁱⁱⁱ | 0% | 35,300 | 16% |
| DE | 3 | 0 | 3 | 24 | 14% | 12,500 | 13% |
| FL | 56 | 28 | 28 | 653 | 4% | 275,000 | 20% |
| GA | 11 | 4 | 7 | 103 | 7% | 80,600 | 16% |
| HI | 1 | 0 | 1 | 34 | 3% | 10,400 | 6% |
| IA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0% | 300 | -4% |
| ID | 3 | 2 | 1 | 48 | 2% | 19,600 | -4% |
| IL | 3 (+2 campuses) | 2 | 2 | 66 (on 148 campuses) ⁱⁱⁱ | 3% | 63,000 | 6% |
| IN | 6 | 2 | 4 | 79 | 5% | 44,300 | 25% |
| KS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0% | 2,700 | 6% |
| LA | 18 | 6 | 12 | 129 | 10% | 74,000 | 25% |
| MA | 3 | 6 | -3 | 78 | -4% | 35,700 | 3% |
| MD | 3 | 2 | 1 | 53 ^v | 2% | 18,600 | 5% |
| ME | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 20% | 900 | 135% |

Public charter school data can be found on the Public Charter School Dashboard:
<http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/home>

| State | New Charters, Fall 2014 | Closed Charters, Spring 2014 | Net Gain Charters, 2014-15 | Total Charter Schools, 2014-15 ⁱ | Charter School Growth | Estimated Enrollment, 2014-15 ⁱⁱ | Charter Enrollment Growth |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| MI | 17 | 7 | 10 | 307 | 3% | 159,000 | 16% |
| MN | 10 | 1 | 9 | 158 | 6% | 47,900 | 11% |
| MO | 2 | 1 | 1 | 51 | 2% | 20,000 | 8% |
| NC | 25 | 1 | 24 | 151 | 19% | 70,800 | 22% |
| NH | 4 | 0 | 4 | 23 | 21% | 3,000 | 43% |
| NJ | 5 | 5 | 0 | 87 | 0% | 41,000 | 27% |
| NM | 4 | 2 | 2 | 97 | 2% | 24,400 | 14% |
| NV | 4 | 0 | 4 | 38 | 12% | 28,200 | 15% |
| NY | 17 | 2 | 15 | 248 | 6% | 106,000 | 17% |
| OH | 11 | 27 | -16 | 384 | -4% | 146,000 | 18% |
| OK | 3 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 8% | 18,700 | 40% |
| OR | 2 | 1 | 1 | 125 | 1% | 32,000 | 12% |
| PA | 4 | 4 | 0 | 176 | 0% | 128,000 | -1% |
| RI | 3 | 0 | 3 | 21 | 17% | 7,100 | 19% |
| SC | 10 | 3 | 7 | 66 | 12% | 27,400 | 18% |
| TN | 14 | 5 | 9 | 80 | 13% | 20,900 | 72% |
| TX | 2 (+53 campuses) | 7 (+18 campuses) | 35 | 275 (on 721 campuses) ⁱⁱⁱ | 15% | 280,000 | 18% |
| UT | 15 | 0 | 15 | 110 | 16% | 65,400 | 19% |
| VA | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 17% | 2,300 | 8% |
| WA | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | 45 | |
| WI | 22 | 22 | 0 | 245 ^{viii} | 0% | 46,800 | 7% |
| WY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0% | 600 | 27% |
| Total | 491 | 216 | 278 | 6,724 | 4% | 2,890,000 | 14% |

ⁱ The National Alliance contacted state departments of education, charter school associations, and charter school resource centers to obtain lists of charter schools that closed during or after the 2013-14 academic year and charter schools that planned to open in fall 2014. The numbers presented in this report are estimates. The 2014-15 numbers will be updated when official fall enrollment membership counts are released by state departments of education.

ⁱⁱ See methodology (pg. 4)

ⁱⁱⁱ The National Alliance counts charter campuses in the District of Columbia, Illinois, and Texas in the official count of charter schools.

^{iv} Georgia charter schools: 103 charter schools, 21s college and career academies.

^v Maryland charter schools: 47 charter schools, 6 transformation charter schools.

^{vi} Texas charter schools: 634 open enrollment charter schools, 66 in-district charter schools.

^{vii} Washington enacted a charter school law in 2012, and the first charter schools were authorized to open for the 2014-15 school year.

^{viii} Wisconsin charter schools: 188 instrumentality charter schools, 33 non-instrumentality charter schools, 23 2R charter schools.

Methodology

To estimate 2014-15 enrollment, the National Alliance used enrollment data from three previous school years. The National Alliance contacted state charter associations and charter school resource centers to confirm the estimates of total charter school enrollment. California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee provided revised estimates. For states that did not provide estimates, the estimation procedure followed these steps:

1. The National Alliance calculated the average change in enrollment for each school over three years and added the average change in enrollment to the school's 2013-14 enrollment to estimate the 2014-15 enrollment.
2. For new schools in 2012-13, the National Alliance calculated the average change in enrollment for each school over two years and added the average change in enrollment to the schools 2013-14 enrollment to estimate the 2014-15 enrollment.
3. For new schools in 2013-14, the National Alliance could not estimate the average change in enrollment from previous years. For these schools, the average change in enrollment was calculated for all charter schools in the state from the previous three years and added that number to the school's 2013-14 enrollment to estimate 2014-15 enrollment.
4. For new schools in 2014-15, the National Alliance estimated the average enrollment of new schools for the state in which they opened for the previous three years and used that number as the estimated 2014-15 enrollment.