



Office of English Language Acquisition

English Learners in Charter Schools

This fact sheet reports data from the 2017–18 [Civil Rights Data Collection](#) (CRDC), a biennial survey of nearly all public schools and school districts, including charter schools, in the United States. This fact sheet explores information about identified English learners (ELs) who attended charter schools in school year (SY) 2017–18. Visit the [National Charter School Resource Center](#) to learn more about charter schools.

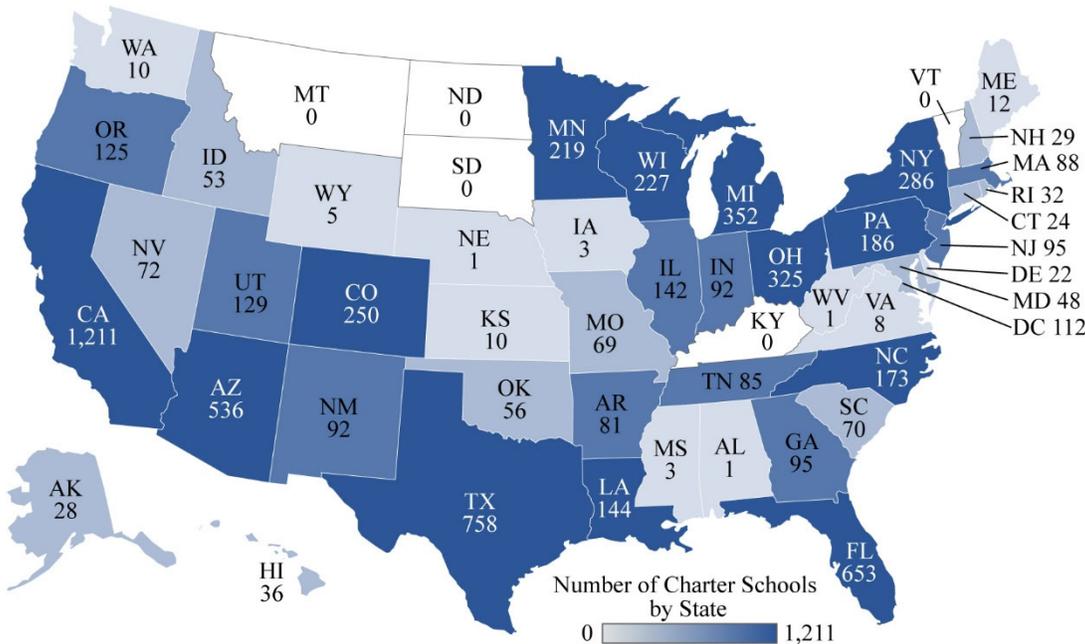
11%

Percentage of students enrolled in charter schools in SY 2017–18 who were ELs

344,067

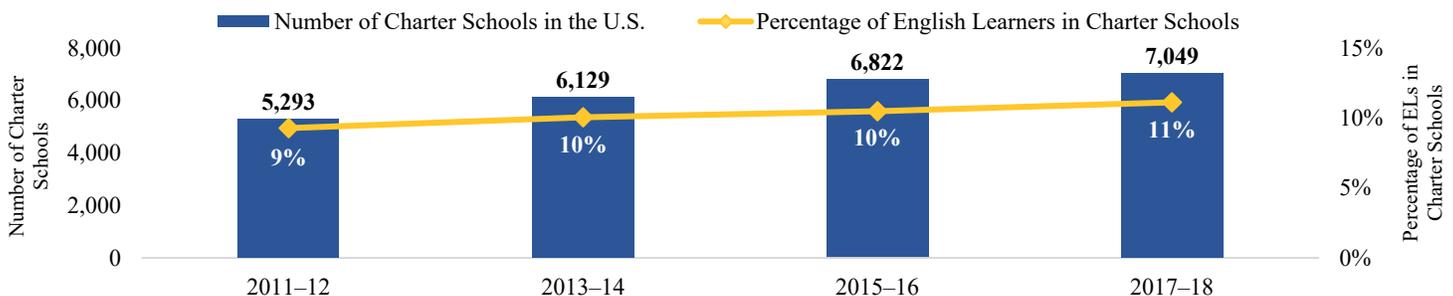
Number of students enrolled in charter schools in SY 2017–18 who were ELs

Number of Charter Schools by State Educational Agency: School Year 2017–18



In SY 2017–18, there were 7,049 charter schools in the United States. The number of charter schools varied by state educational agency (SEA). While California, Texas, and Florida had the largest number of charter schools (1,211, 758, and 653, respectively), some SEAs, such as Alabama, Mississippi, and South Dakota, reported very few to no charter schools in SY 2017–18.¹

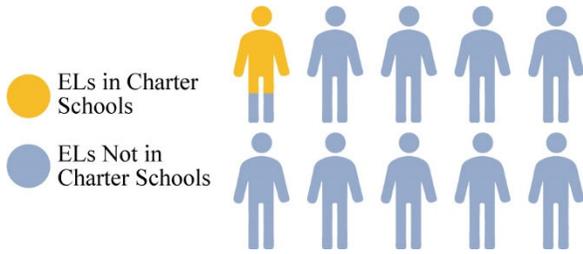
Number of Charter Schools and Percentage of Students Enrolled in Charter Schools Who Are Identified as English Learners: School Years 2011–12 to 2017–18



The number of charter schools in the U.S. increased by more than 1,700 from SY 2011–12 to SY 2017–18. EL enrollment in charter schools also increased by 2 percentage points, from 9% in SY 2011–12 to 11% in SY 2017–18.

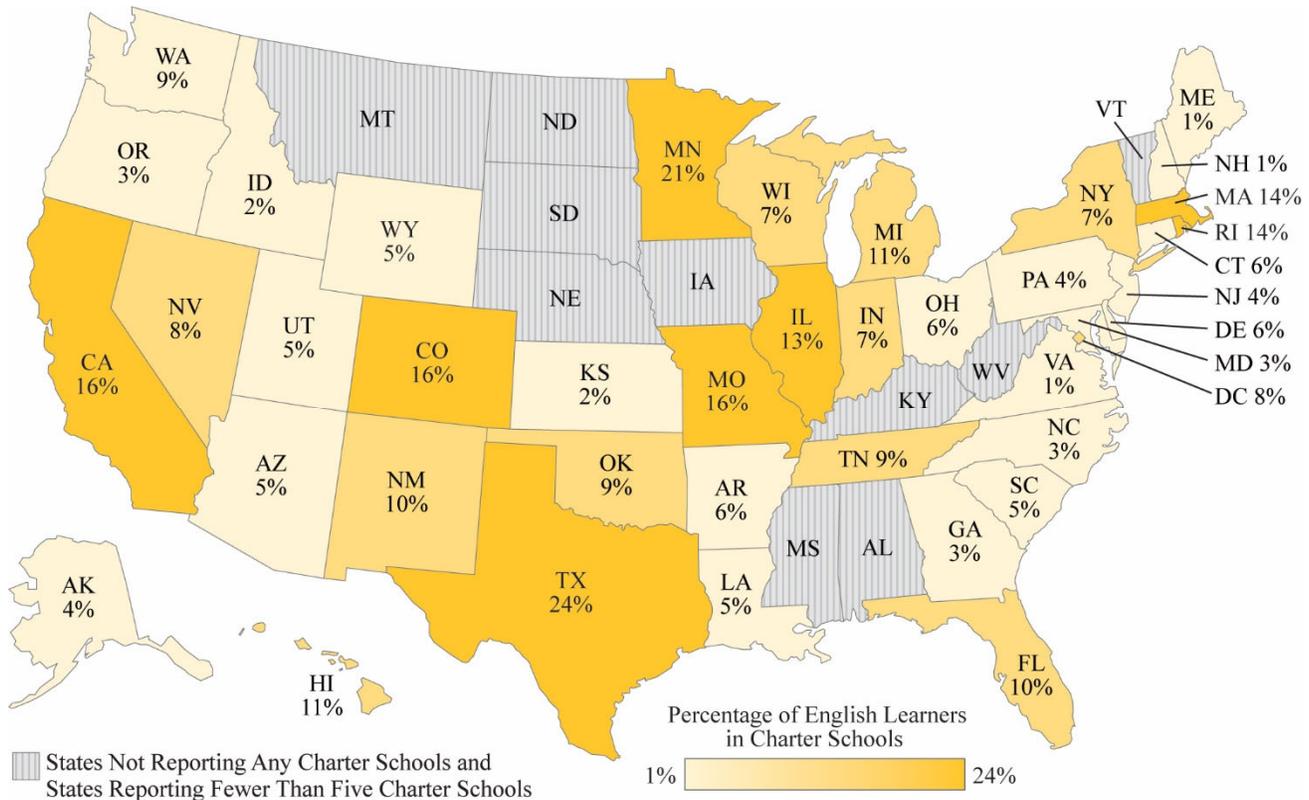
¹ Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Vermont did not report any charter schools in SY 2017–18.

Percentage of English Learners Enrolled in Charter Schools Out of All Identified English Learners: School Year 2017–18



Of the 5,000,000 identified ELs in the U.S., **fewer than 1 in 10 (6.5% or 344,067 ELs) were enrolled in charter schools in SY 2017–18.**

Percentage of English Learners Enrolled in Charter Schools Out of All Students Enrolled in Charter Schools by State Educational Agency: School Year 2017–18



Across all SEAs, more than 3,000,000 students attended charter schools in SY 2017–18. Texas, Minnesota, California, Colorado, and Missouri had the five highest percentages of ELs enrolled in charter schools (24%, 21%, and 16%, respectively). While California and Texas had the two highest percentages of identified K–12 ELs enrolled in both charter and non-charter schools in SY 2017–18, Colorado, Minnesota, and Missouri ranked 7th, 19th, and 39th, respectively.

Note: Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Vermont did not report any charter schools in SY 2017–18.

Sources: National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD). (2020, November). Local education agency universe survey, 2000–01 through 2018–19. *Digest of education statistics*. U.S. Department of Education. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d20/tables/dt20_204.20.asp; National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD). (2019, December). State nonfiscal survey of public elementary/secondary education, 1990–91 through 2017–18; and state public elementary and secondary enrollment projection model, 1980 through 2029. *Digest of education statistics*. U.S. Department of Education. https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d19/tables/dt19_203.20.asp; Office for Civil Rights. (2020). *Civil Rights Data Collection, 2017–18*. U.S. Department of Education. <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/data.html>