



A GAME-CHANGING YEAR FOR WASHINGTON CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Washington State Charter Schools Association
2018 Annual Report

OVERVIEW

2018 was a milestone year for charter public schools in Washington – free, high-quality, public schools that are changing the game in education.



Charters are designed to improve outcomes for all students, particularly those from systemically underserved communities. In Washington, they are distinguished by innovations in inclusive special education practices, individualized learning, college and career pathway preparation, and culturally responsive approaches.

The year was marked by big wins for students and the sector, including a historic state Supreme Court ruling affirming the state's charter law; a growing pipeline of diverse schools prepared to serve communities with wide opportunity gaps; a landmark special education study illuminating how charters are setting a high bar for serving students with disabilities; and promising academic results for systemically underserved students.

2018 showed us that Washington's charter public school sector is no longer in its infancy. The sector is home to an impressive group of high-performing, innovative, and diverse educational options that serve all students. This success is due to the tireless perseverance of families, students, teachers, and leaders willing to stop at nothing in order to build pathways for the next generation. With the constitutional threat no longer looming, thriving schools, and victories under foot, WA Charters ended 2018 with great momentum.



Charter public schools are changing futures - now.

Ashley, 12th grade (pictured above)

VICTORY FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

After six years of legal battles over Washington's charter law and four months of deliberation, the Washington Supreme Court issued its ruling on October 25, affirming the constitutionality of charters in Washington state once and for all.

Charter schools can continue to receive state funding, Washington's Supreme Court rules

The Seattle Times

Preserving charter schools great news for Tacoma

 **THE NEWS TRIBUNE**

After 24 years, Washington state charter school law stands

The Washington Post

Washington Supreme Court rules charter schools are constitutional



Charter schools are legal, can keep getting state funding, Washington state Supreme Court rules



Building up to the momentous ruling, on May 17, 2018, more than 1,500 charter school students, parents, teachers, founders, and supporters gathered at the state Supreme Court in Olympia to watch the oral arguments and support one another as their education futures were debated.



I am here to say that I am relevant. My school is relevant. Us kids, we are the future, and we deserve to have public school options that will help us succeed.”

Michelle, 5th grade

MORE HIGH-QUALITY OPTIONS FOR WASHINGTON FAMILIES

In 2018, 12 charter public schools served 3,400 students across Washington. These numbers include Washington's two newest charters that opened in August 2018—[Impact: Puget Sound Elementary](#) in Tukwila, and [Willow Public School](#), a middle school, in Walla Walla. Both schools take a design-thinking approach to education, integrating project-based learning into the school day in order to make learning real for students.

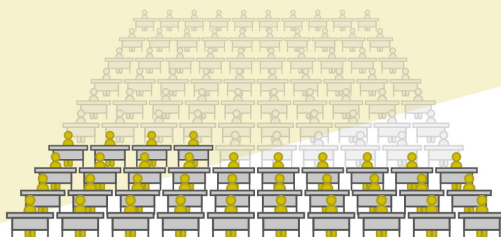
12 of 21 schools



On the road to 21 charter public schools by 2021



3,400 of 10,000 seats filled



On the road to 10,000 charter public school seats by 2021



INNOVATION IN SCHOOLS

Washington's charter public schools offer a variety of innovative approaches. Some hallmarks of these models include mentorship and socio-emotional supports, inclusive special education, project-based learning, and a focus on STEM and college- and career-readiness.

Explore the variety of models currently offered across the state, linked below, at <http://wacharters.org/schools/>.

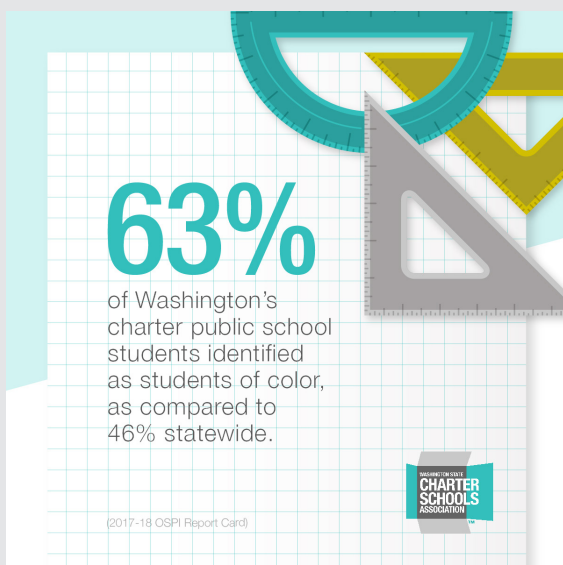


SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AND DESIGN PIPELINES

Great leaders and teachers are the cornerstone to effective schools. Through our [School Leadership and Design and Aspiring Leaders fellowships](#), WA Charters is investing in building a diverse, talented pipeline and facilitating the design, authorization and opening of high-quality charter public schools that meet the needs of systemically underserved students.

In 2018, [Ashé Preparatory Academy](#) was authorized to open a K-8 school in Skyway/West Hill, and several more are in the WA Charters incubation pipeline, partnering with communities to open schools in South King County, Bremerton, Whatcom County, Wenatchee, and Spokane.

WHO IS ATTENDING WASHINGTON'S CHARTERS?



Charter schools in Washington were specifically designed to create a more equitable education system by providing systemically underserved students with access to high-quality public school options.

Living up to their promise, Washington's charter public schools attract and serve higher-than-average percentages of students impacted by systemic inequities.

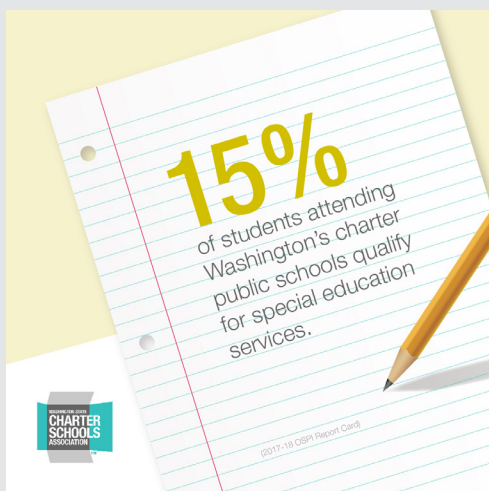
WHO'S TEACHING IN WASHINGTON'S CHARTERS?



Washington's charter public schools are leading the state in teacher diversity. Washington's charter public schools are intentionally building a diverse force of talented and mission-driven leaders and teachers.

SETTING A HIGHER BAR FOR INCLUSIVE SPECIAL EDUCATION

In July 2018, a [study](#) published by the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) showed how charter public schools are leading the way when it comes to serving students with special needs.



PROMISING RESULTS

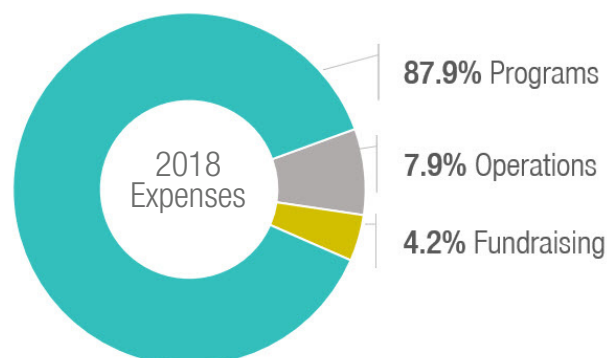
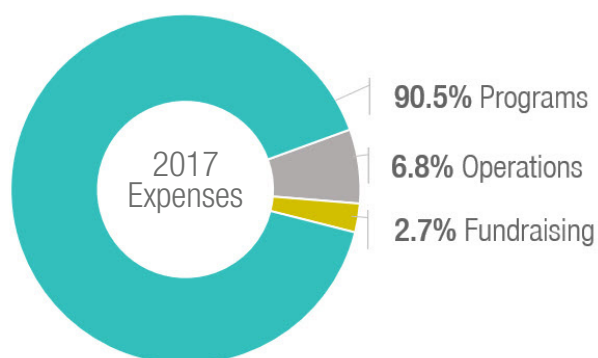
Charter public school students are making promising learning gains. In Spring 2018, all ten of the charter public schools then-operating in Washington administered SBAC tests to at least one grade level. Results showed [promising growth and proficiency trends](#) among Washington's charter public school students, with particularly bright trends among Black/African American students, students living in poverty, Hispanic/Latinx students, and English language learners.

Across Washington's charter public school sector:

- **Fifth graders from low-income households** met or exceeded grade level expectations on the SBAC math test at higher rates than peers in their local districts and statewide in the same subgroup.
- **Hispanic/Latinx sixth graders** met or exceeded grade level expectations at higher rates than their Hispanic/Latinx peers in local districts and statewide on both the ELA and math SBAC tests
- **Black/African American eighth graders** met or exceeded grade level expectations at higher rates than their Black/African American peers in local districts on the math SBAC test.
- **Students at Washington's charter public high schools** outperformed their peers in local districts and across the state by more than 10 percent on the 11th grade statewide science test (WCAS).

These results are promising – and they are just the beginning. We look forward to sharing more about the impact of our schools we have more data.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Statement of Financial Position (audited)

	2017	2018
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 4,677,534	\$ 6,451,554
Grants Receivable	5,511,359	-
Other Receivables	51,575	160,350
Other Current Assets	20,707	89,767
Total Assets	\$ 10,261,176	\$ 6,701,671
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ 1,617,369	\$ 2,200,492
Temporarily Restricted	6,671,589	3,014,099
Total Net Assets	\$ 8,288,958	\$ 5,214,591
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,972,218	\$ 1,487,080
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 10,261,176	\$ 6,701,671

Statement of Activities (audited)

	2017	2018
REVENUES	\$ 10,754,163	\$ 3,420,156
Contribution and Grants	10,651,295	3,290,315
Program Service Revenue	97,750	104,341
Investment Income	5,118	16,471
Other Income	-	9,029
EXPENSES	\$ 7,125,870	\$ 6,494,523
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 3,628,293	\$ (3,074,367)
Net Assets, Beginning of Period	4,660,665	8,288,958
NET ASSETS, END OF PERIOD	\$ 8,288,958	\$ 5,214,591



LEARN MORE

Washington State Charter Schools Association

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