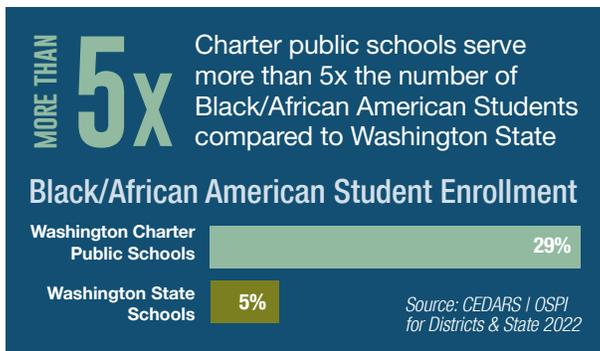


WASHINGTON STATE
CHARTER SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION

Ensuring Student-Centered, Anti-Racist, Community-Rooted Public School Options for Washington Students

Washington’s charter public schools are free, open to all, overseen by public agencies and are an important part of our public school system. Charter public schools provide families with access to high-quality public school options, respecting that **one size doesn’t fit all** when it

comes to student learning. Designed to expand opportunities for systemically underserved students, the charter public school law empowers schools designed to disrupt cycles of poverty and injustice and that focus on serving low-income families and Global Majority students.

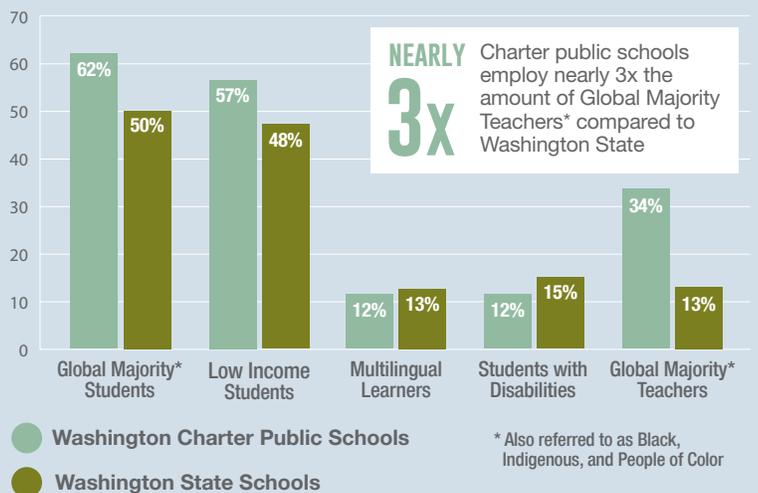


4,800 Number of students currently attending charter public schools in Washington
Source: SY 22-23 October CEDARS Report

16 Number of operating charter public schools in Washington

Student and Teacher Demographics

Source: SY 21-22 OSPI Report Card



ENCOURAGING ACADEMIC RESULTS

 According to a 2021 State Board of Education report, **charter public school students performed higher than their traditional public school peers on 7 of 8 academic measures** on statewide assessments.

 On the most recent 2022 statewide academic assessments, **low-income, Black, and Latinx students** in charter public schools **outperformed their traditional public school peers** in all tested subjects (ELA, Math, and Science).

 Nearly a third of the **class of 2022** in charter public schools were first generation high school graduates, all graduated college ready, and **70% of them applied to and were accepted into 4-year colleges.**

Rigorous Oversight and Accountability

Compared to other public schools, Washington's charters are given more school-level autonomy to customize instruction but are **held to higher levels of accountability**.

Charter public schools operate within a **heavily regulated system**, as they are overseen by their charter school board, the state Charter School Commission or a local school district, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and are subject to regular audits by the State Auditor.

If a Washington Charter public school is not meeting its academic, fiscal, or legal obligations, the law details explicit processes, procedures, support mechanisms, and compliance requirements to help the school address any identified areas of improvement.

OUR TOP ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Funding Equity

Washington's charter public schools attract and serve disproportionately high percentages of Global Majority students (i.e., students of color) and students from low-income households. However, charter public schools are not entitled to local property tax levies, creating **a funding gap of between \$1,500 to \$3,000 per student**.



Between lack of access to local enrichment levies and lack of dedicated facilities funding, the average student at a Washington Charter public school receives 25% less in ongoing funding than a student at a traditional public school. **Because charter public schools educate a higher percentage of systemically underserved students, this funding gap means fewer resources for students who need that funding most.**

More Time to Open New Schools

State law allows for up to 40 charter public schools to be established over five years. The five-year window closed in 2021, and we need the legislature to extend it.



There are currently 18 authorized and operating schools.

Extending the five-year authorizing window would provide additional time to fulfill the intent of the legislature and the voters, and would expand opportunities for systemically underserved students.

Facilities Funding

Unlike traditional public schools, Washington's charters do not have dedicated funding for facilities. As a result, about 10% of charter budgets, **intended to support teaching and learning**, go to facilities.

Special Education

Together with other public education advocates, **we are passionate about improving special education services** for all students in our state who qualify for them.

LEARN MORE

[DYNAMIC DASHBOARD](#)

Explore enrollment, demographic, and academic data on the WA Charters Data Dashboard

[DOWNLOAD FULL REPORT](#)

Download our one-pager on Charter Public School Accountability

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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ABOUT US

We are the Washington State Charter Schools Association (WA Charters), a statewide nonprofit organization that advocates and supports innovative and equity-driven charter public schools.