

Washington's Charter Schools: Free, Public, Open to All

Every student in Washington state deserves a public education that puts them on a path to a successful future, but one size does not fit all, and many students do not get fair opportunities. To provide students with the opportunities they deserve, all communities should have equitably funded public schools that are held to high standards and have the flexibility to meet their students' needs.

Washington's charter public schools are **free, open to all, deliver proven results, and are an important part of a public school system** that meets the needs of all students in Washington state.

Charter Public Schools Advance Educational Equity

There are currently

18

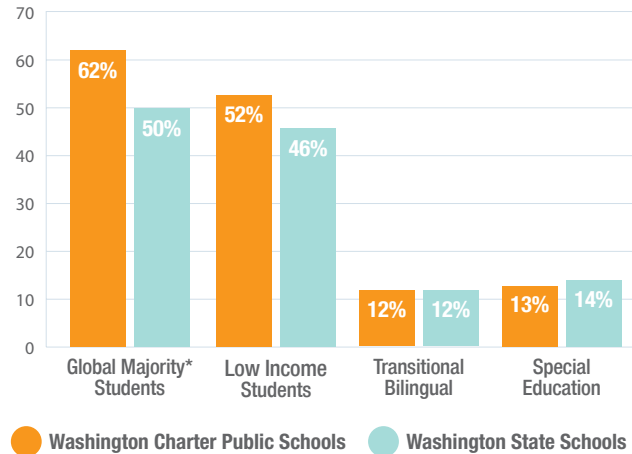
charter public schools in Washington state serving approximately

5,000

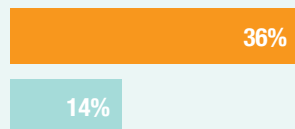
students

Charter public schools enroll **higher rates of Global Majority* and low-income students** than traditional public schools

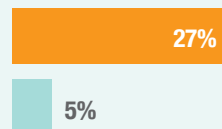
Source: 2021-22 Cedars and OSPI report card data * Black, Indigenous, and People of Color



Washington state charter public schools employ **over double the number of Global Majority* teachers** as compared to the statewide average.



Charter public schools serve **over five times the rate Black/African American students** compared to traditional public schools.



● Washington Charter Public Schools ● Washington State Schools

* Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

Early Academic Results Are Encouraging

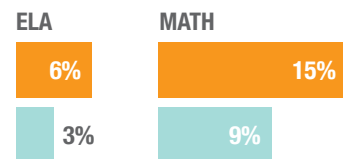
SBAC Performance

For the second year in a row, Black, Latinx, and low-income students in charter public schools **outperformed their traditional public school peers** in all tested subjects (ELA, Math, and Science).

Academic Recovery

Charter public school students are returning to pre-COVID levels of achievement more quickly than their traditional public school peers.

Percentage increase in proficiency



● Washington Charter Public Schools ● Washington State Schools



IN THE NEWS: The 74 | Oct 2023

[Washington Charter School Students See Big Gains on State Math Tests](#)

ACADEMIC DATA
DASHBOARD

wacharters.org/data



Charter Public Schools Are Not Funded Equitably

Students deserve long-term equitable funding

Washington state charter public school students **receive \$0.75 for every dollar spent** on students at traditional public schools



Charter schools are not entitled to local property tax levies and lack access to dedicated funding for facilities. As a result, **charter public school students receive 25% less public funding** than their peers in traditional public schools, on average.

Given that charter public schools enroll disproportionately **more systemically underserved students**, the gap in per-pupil funding between charter and district schools **perpetuates systemic inequity** and means substantially **less funding for children who need that funding the most.**



IN THE NEWS: The Seattle Times | February 2023
[WA charter school funding perpetuates systemic inequality](#)

Charter Public Schools have Fewer Sources of Public Funding

Funding source	TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL	CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Federal	✓	✓
State basic education	✓	✓
Local enrichment levies	✓	
State levy equalization	✓	
State school facilities	✓	
Local school facilities	✓	

For more information, please contact:

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CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATE WITH RIGOROUS OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Flexibility & Accountability

Charter public schools have the flexibility to meet the needs of their students while still being held to Washington state's high standards

Multi-Layered Oversight

Oversight from a charter public school authorizer, the State Board of Education, OSPI, a non-profit school board, and the State Auditor ensure transparency and regulatory compliance



Scan or click for more information

About Us

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

wacharters.org

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