

2014-15 New California Charter Schools Fact Sheet

California Charter School Movement Grows, Serving Over Half A Million Students

The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) announced that an estimated 547,800 students are enrolled in charter public schools across the state for the 2014-15 school year. An additional 87 new charter schools opened their doors, bringing the total number of charter schools in California to 1,184.

Charter enrollment grew by an estimated 33,525 increase, or 7%, for a total of over 547,800 students in charters. California maintains its position as the state in the nation with the highest number of charter schools and charter school students.

This school year, the Los Angeles region had the largest charter school growth with 33 new charters opening. The second largest growth area is in the Northeast and Central Valley region (22 schools), including 5 new charters in San Joaquin county and 3 new charters in Sacramento county.

Despite this growth, there is still an overwhelming unmet parental demand for quality school options in California, with approximately 91,000 students on charter school waiting lists.

Charter School Growth in CA: 1998-2014

- 1998-99: 177 charter schools
- 1999-00: 235 charter schools
- 2000-01: 299 charter schools
- 2001-02: 349 charter schools
- 2002-03: 408 charter schools
- 2003-04: 443 charter schools
- 2004-05: 502 charter schools
- 2005-06: 560 charter schools
- 2006-07: 585 charter schools
- 2007-08: 682 charter schools
- 2008-09: 746 charter schools
- 2009-10: 809 charter schools
- 2010-11: 912 charter schools
- 2011-12: 982 charter schools
- 2012-13: 1,063 charter schools
- 2013-14: 1,130 charter schools
- 2014-15: 1,184 charter schools

By the Numbers

- **1,184**: Total number of charter schools existing in California.
- **87**: Number of new charter schools opening in 2014-15 school year.
- **California**: State with the most charter schools anywhere in the country.
- **547,800**: Estimated number of students attending charters statewide as of 2014-15.
- **7%**: Estimated percentage by which charter school student enrollment grew in 2014-15.
- **33,525**: Estimated number of new charter school students in 2014-15.
- **Los Angeles**: Region with highest growth in new charter schools.
- **33**: Number of charters opening in Los Angeles region.
- **Northeast and Central Valley**: Region with second highest growth in CA, with 22 new charter schools opening.
- **91,000**: Estimated number of students currently on charter school waiting lists in CA.
- **34**: Number of schools that closed in 2013-14.

- California approved the Charter Schools Act in 1992.
- California was the second state in the nation to pass a charter school law—after Minnesota.
- California has the most charter schools and charter school students in the U.S.