

An Analysis of The Charter Schools Facility Landscape in California

“An Analysis of The Charter Schools Facility Landscape in California,” offers insight into the facilities issues charter schools face throughout the state of California and synthesizes comprehensive data collected and analyzed in 2014 from schools across the state that detail the facilities challenges of both classroom-based and nonclassroom-based charters.

Based on its objective findings, the report suggests that policy changes are critical to changing the landscape for charter public schools in the state.

Recognizing that facilities challenges remain the number one issue for charter schools in California, CCSA is sponsoring two pieces of legislation in the 2015-16 legislative year that will help alleviate some of the challenges schools face.

AB 1198 (Dababneh) creates the California Credit Enhancement Program within the California School Finance Authority and, if passed, will provide lower cost alternatives for charter school facility financing through a leveraged public-private partnership program.

AB 1344 (Jones) will require local school districts to hear charter school zoning waiver requests and creates an appeal mechanism for charter schools that are denied those zoning exemptions by their local district board. CCSA is also actively supporting the additional \$50 million in charter school facilities funding Governor Jerry Brown has included in his proposed 2015-16 state budget.

The report is a collaborative effort by the **National Charter School Resource Center (NCSRC)**, The **Charter School Facilities Initiative** (developed and managed by the Colorado League of Charter Schools), the **National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (Alliance)** and the **California Charter Schools Association (CCSA)**.

Summary

- California charter schools spend significant amounts of their per-pupil revenue on facilities above and beyond the facility funds they receive from the state.
- More charter schools that lease facilities need access to the state reimbursement program and at a higher rate.
- Three-fourths of charter schools located on district space through Proposition 39 are satisfied with their school facility, but less than half of all charter schools have access to school district facilities statewide.
- Charter schools that own their facility pay, on average, the largest portion of their per pupil revenue for their facility.
- Nonclassroom-based charter schools incur similar facilities expenses to classroom-based charter schools, yet lack access to facilities funding programs.

[Read the full report.](#)

[Learn more about the Charter School Facilities Initiative.](#)

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