

Details from the Dashboard: Charter Schools by Geographic Region

While a majority of charter schools nationwide operate in urban and suburban areas, charter schools exist in all corners of the nation, and are expanding into all types of communities. This *Details from the Dashboard* report presents statistics on the number of charter schools and students enrolled in charter schools by the four geographic regions that are defined by the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data¹: urban, suburban, towns and rural areas.

Table 1 shows that the number of charter schools in all four geographic regions grew in the five year period from the 2005-2006 school year to the 2009-2010 school year. The number of charter schools in rural areas and towns had the largest percentages of growth (45.6 percent and 44.1 percent, respectively).

Growth in the number of students enrolled in charter schools experienced even larger percentages of growth. Enrollment in charter schools in all four regions experienced greater growth than the traditional public schools. Enrollment in traditional public schools in cities and suburbs declined. As a share of the total number of charter schools and their subsequent students enrollment, charter schools in rural areas and towns increased, while charters schools in cities and suburbs decreased.

Table 1: Number of Schools and Students by Geographic Region

	2005-2006		2009-2010		5 Year Growth
<i>Total number of charter schools</i>					
City	1,934	(52.7%)	2,574	(52.3%)	32.5%
Rural	539	(14.6%)	785	(16.0%)	45.6%
Suburb	905	(24.5%)	1,011	(20.6%)	11.7%
Town	213	(5.8%)	381	(7.8%)	44.1%
<i>Total number of traditional public schools</i>					
City	23,057	(25.1%)	22,817	(24.5%)	-1.0%
Rural	29,066	(31.6%)	30,848	(33.1%)	6.1%
Suburb	30,622	(33.3%)	25,765	(27.7%)	-15.9%
Town	9,140	(9.9%)	13,402	(14.4%)	46.6%
<i>Total number of students enrolled in charter schools</i>					
City	576,736	(56.6%)	901,662	(55.4%)	56.3%
Rural	123,779	(12.1%)	251,507	(15.5%)	103.2%
Suburb	285,485	(28.0%)	382,985	(23.5%)	34.2%
Town	32,436	(3.2%)	89,013	(5.5%)	174.4%
<i>Total number of students enrolled in traditional public schools</i>					
City	14,160,849	(29.5%)	13,572,890	(28.5%)	-4.2%
Rural	10,494,737	(21.9%)	11,723,441	(24.7%)	11.7%
Suburb	19,571,853	(40.8%)	16,527,293	(34.8%)	-15.6%
Town	3,957,636	(8.2%)	5,850,786	(12.3%)	47.8%

Table 2 presents the top ten states by the percentage of charter schools in each geographic region. (See Appendix A for geographical region breakouts for schools and students in both charter schools and traditional public schools.) Interestingly, the states with the highest percentage of charter schools located in cities each have over 70 percent of charter schools there.

¹ We used the [National Center for Education Statistic's Common Core of Data](#) to code the geographic location of charter schools in our database. We collapsed the following categories to have four main categories:

- City: city, large; city, mid-size; city, small
- Suburb: suburb, large; suburb, mid-size; suburb, small
- Town: town, fringe; town, distant; town, remote
- Rural: rural, fringe; rural, distant; rural, remote

Except for several instances in the other three geographical region categories, states rarely have more than 50 percent of charter schools located in one region. States with high percentages of charter schools in one specific geographical region, such as the states with high percentages of charters in urban areas, are states where policy has dictated or incentivized charter school openings to serve particular student populations.

Table 2: States with the Largest Percentage of Charter Schools by Geographic Region, 2009-2010

City	Rural	Suburb	Town
1. District of Columbia (100%)	1. Wyoming (100%)	1. New Jersey (51.5%)	1. Alaska (34.6%)
2. Oklahoma (94.4%)	2. Iowa (75.0%)	2. Rhode Island (46.2%)	2. Kansas (30.6%)
3. New York (93.6%)	3. Kansas (52.8%)	3. Florida (45.5%)	3. New Hampshire (27.3%)
4. Louisiana (87.0%)	4. Hawaii (51.6%)	4. Utah (36.1%)	4. Idaho (25.0%)
5. Connecticut (83.3%)	5. New Hampshire (45.5%)	5. Massachusetts (33.9%)	5. Oregon (21.6%)
6. Maryland (77.8%)	6. Oregon (38.2%)	6. Delaware, Virginia (33.3%)	6. Wisconsin (19.9%)
7. Indiana (74.1%)	7. Utah (34.7%)	7. Michigan (31.7%)	7. Hawaii (19.4%)
8. Tennessee (72.7%)	8. Arkansas (31.0%)	8. Georgia (31.5%)	8. North Carolina (17.7%)
9. Ohio (72.0%)	9. Alaska (30.8%)	9. South Carolina (28.9%)	9. South Carolina (13.2%)
10. Texas (69.8%)	10. Idaho (30.6%)	10. Colorado (25.9%)	10. Iowa (12.5%)

Table 3 presents a variety of information about charter schools in the four geographic regions. As of the 2009-2010 school year:

- Roughly 30 percent of charter schools located in cities and suburbs are operated by either a CMO or an EMO. In rural areas and towns, the percentage of schools operated by CMOs and EMOs is less than 20 percent.
- Local school districts authorize the greatest percentage of charter schools in each of the four geographic regions.
- The U.S. Census West² Region includes the largest number of charter schools in each of the four geographic region categories.
- Charter schools located in towns have the highest percentage of collective bargaining agreements, followed by charter schools in rural areas (23.1 percent and 16.3 percent, respectively).
- A larger percentage of charter schools in rural areas made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in 2009-2010 than charter schools in other geographic regions.
- In cities, charter schools enroll a larger percentage of Black and Hispanic students. In suburbs, towns, and rural areas, charter schools enroll a larger percentage of White students.
- A larger percentage of students enrolled in charter schools in cities are eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

² See Methodological Notes for a list of the states included in the U.S. Census Regions.

Table 3: Charter School Demographics by Geographic Region, 2009-2010

	City		Suburb		Town		Rural		
<i>Charter School Status</i>									
Start-up	2,359	(91.7%)	943	(93.3%)	335	(87.9%)	693	(88.3%)	
Conversion	215	(8.4%)	68	(6.7%)	46	(12.1%)	68	(6.7%)	
<i>Charter Management Organization</i>									
CMO	511	(19.9%)	119	(11.8%)	42	(11.0%)	58	(7.4%)	
EMO	322	(12.5%)	182	(18.0%)	10	(2.6%)	90	(11.5%)	
Freestanding	1,741	(67.6%)	710	(70.2%)	329	(86.4%)	637	(81.2%)	
<i>Authorizer</i>									
State Board	587	(22.8%)	207	(20.5%)	84	(22.1%)	190	(24.2%)	
Independent Charter Board	380	(14.8%)	86	(8.5%)	54	(14.2%)	85	(10.8%)	
School District	1,174	(45.6%)	583	(57.7%)	224	(58.8%)	432	(55.0%)	
Government Municipality	23	(0.9%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	
University	199	(7.7%)	74	(7.3%)	10	(2.6%)	41	(5.2%)	
Non-Profit Organization	182	(7.1%)	34	(3.4%)	6	(1.6%)	18	(2.3%)	
State Board / School District	29	(1.1%)	26	(2.6%)	3	(0.8%)	19	(2.4%)	
<i>U.S. Census Regions</i>									
West	870	(33.8%)	397	(39.3%)	193	(50.7%)	374	(47.6%)	
Midwest	570	(22.1%)	191	(18.9%)	101	(26.5%)	156	(19.9%)	
Northeast	297	(11.5%)	104	(10.3%)	10	(2.6%)	34	(4.3%)	
South	837	(32.5%)	319	(31.5%)	77	(20.2%)	221	(28.2%)	
<i>Unionized Charter Schools</i>	273	(10.6%)	107	(10.6%)	88	(23.1%)	128	(16.3%)	
<i>School Performance</i>									
2005-06	AYP Met	1,010	(59.6%)	530	(67.0%)	141	(73.4%)	356	(72.1%)
	AYP Not Met	686	(40.5%)	261	(33.0%)	51	(26.6%)	138	(27.9%)
2006-07	AYP Met	1,107	(59.6%)	512	(66.2%)	217	(72.1%)	414	(75.0%)
	AYP Not Met	749	(40.4%)	262	(33.9%)	84	(27.9%)	138	(25.0%)
2007-08	AYP Met	1,228	(58.5%)	543	(63.4%)	206	(62.1%)	406	(67.7%)
	AYP Not Met	871	(41.5%)	313	(36.6%)	126	(38.0%)	194	(32.3%)
2008-09	AYP Met	1,327	(60.0%)	549	(63.0%)	216	(65.7%)	460	(70.0%)
	AYP Not Met	885	(40.0%)	323	(37.0%)	113	(34.4%)	197	(30.0%)
2009-10	AYP Met	1,324	(57.7%)	502	(56.3%)	187	(59.6%)	450	(65.5%)
	AYP Not Met	971	(42.3%)	390	(43.7%)	127	(40.5%)	237	(34.5%)
<i>Student Race/Ethnicity</i>									
White	211,004	(23.5%)	172,419	(45.1%)	61,668	(69.6%)	155,779	(62.1%)	
Black	366,063	(40.7%)	84,328	(22.1%)	6,918	(7.8%)	27,301	(10.9%)	
Hispanic	266,399	(29.6%)	91,659	(24.0%)	13,708	(15.5%)	44,801	(17.9%)	
Asian	27,226	(3.0%)	16,473	(4.3%)	2,349	(2.6%)	9,970	(4.0%)	
Other	27,819	(3.1%)	17,261	(4.5%)	4,015	(4.5%)	12,974	(5.2%)	
<i>Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch</i>	570,866	(63.3%)	157,552	(41.1%)	30,493	(34.3%)	85,853	(34.1%)	
<i>Average Student Enrollment</i>	334		370		231		315		

Note: Data for 2009-10 school year, unless otherwise indicated; Percentages may not add up to 100 percent.

Appendix A: Total Number of Schools and Students by State and Geographic Region, 2009-2010

State		Charter Schools				Traditional Public Schools			
		Schools		Students		Schools		Students	
AK	City	7	(26.9%)	2,178	(40.6%)	86	(17.9%)	42,907	(34.0%)
	Rural	8	(30.8%)	1,131	(21.1%)	305	(63.4%)	49,073	(38.9%)
	Suburb	2	(7.7%)	328	(6.1%)	8	(1.7%)	5,250	(4.2%)
	Town	9	(34.6%)	1,728	(32.2%)	82	(17.0%)	29,066	(23.0%)
AL	City					370	(23.6%)	159,208	(21.3%)
	Rural					761	(48.5%)	355,077	(47.4%)
	Suburb					213	(13.6%)	127,538	(17.0%)
	Town					226	(14.4%)	107,013	(14.3%)
AR	City	9	(31.0%)	3,733	(43.2%)	209	(19.3%)	119,023	(25.2%)
	Rural	9	(31.0%)	2,307	(26.7%)	579	(53.6%)	199,167	(42.2%)
	Suburb	2	(6.9%)	908	(10.5%)	74	(6.8%)	45,158	(9.6%)
	Town	3	(10.3%)	1,693	(19.6%)	219	(20.3%)	108,570	(23.0%)
AZ	City	290	(57.1%)	67,523	(58.6%)	718	(41.2%)	420,513	(43.8%)
	Rural	85	(16.7%)	16,694	(14.5%)	493	(28.3%)	239,335	(24.9%)
	Suburb	79	(15.6%)	21,737	(18.9%)	267	(15.3%)	201,869	(21.0%)
	Town	54	(10.6%)	9,183	(8.0%)	264	(15.2%)	99,376	(10.3%)
CA	City	413	(51.1%)	158,445	(49.9%)	3,537	(38.3%)	2,568,326	(43.8%)
	Rural	121	(15.0%)	52,103	(16.4%)	1,538	(16.7%)	580,247	(9.9%)
	Suburb	208	(25.7%)	89,188	(28.1%)	3,295	(35.7%)	2,340,502	(39.9%)
	Town	64	(7.9%)	17,265	(5.4%)	843	(9.1%)	369,895	(6.3%)
CO	City	58	(36.7%)	20,042	(30.0%)	453	(27.7%)	258,593	(33.8%)
	Rural	45	(28.5%)	19,750	(29.6%)	540	(33.0%)	172,723	(22.6%)
	Suburb	41	(25.9%)	23,622	(35.3%)	427	(26.1%)	246,330	(32.2%)
	Town	14	(8.9%)	3,412	(5.1%)	215	(13.1%)	87,434	(11.4%)
CT	City	15	(83.3%)	4,652	(89.2%)	309	(27.2%)	150,055	(26.9%)
	Rural	1	(5.6%)	80	(1.5%)	180	(15.9%)	78,762	(14.1%)
	Suburb	2	(11.1%)	483	(9.3%)	585	(51.6%)	304,776	(54.6%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	60	(5.3%)	24,993	(4.5%)
DC	City	96	(100.0%)	27,660	(100.0%)	129	(100.0%)	45,051	(100.0%)
	Rural	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)
	Suburb	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)
DE	City	9	(50.0%)	4,109	(44.8%)	27	(13.8%)	12,135	(10.5%)
	Rural	3	(16.7%)	1,689	(18.4%)	46	(23.5%)	29,114	(25.2%)
	Suburb	6	(33.3%)	3,375	(36.8%)	88	(44.9%)	54,606	(47.2%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	35	(17.9%)	19,781	(17.1%)
FL	City	131	(31.9%)	35,012	(25.4%)	931	(26.7%)	598,741	(24.0%)
	Rural	79	(19.2%)	37,272	(27.1%)	676	(19.4%)	472,812	(18.9%)
	Suburb	187	(45.5%)	61,647	(44.7%)	1,615	(46.4%)	1,289,869	(51.7%)
	Town	14	(3.4%)	3,857	(2.8%)	262	(7.5%)	135,312	(5.4%)
GA	City	26	(29.2%)	14,463	(31.6%)	378	(17.1%)	213,691	(13.2%)
	Rural	20	(22.5%)	13,526	(29.6%)	846	(38.3%)	590,425	(36.4%)
	Suburb	28	(31.5%)	15,764	(34.5%)	714	(32.3%)	634,786	(39.1%)
	Town	4	(4.5%)	1,033	(2.3%)	272	(12.3%)	180,329	(11.1%)
HI	City	6	(19.4%)	1,930	(24.5%)	66	(25.8%)	39,732	(23.1%)
	Rural	16	(51.6%)	3,949	(50.2%)	36	(14.1%)	18,491	(10.7%)
	Suburb	3	(9.7%)	963	(12.2%)	89	(34.8%)	71,035	(41.2%)
	Town	6	(19.4%)	1,027	(13.1%)	65	(25.4%)	43,069	(25.0%)

State		Charter Schools				Traditional Public Schools			
		Schools		Students		Schools		Students	
IA	City	1	(12.5%)	266	(31.1%)	249	(17.1%)	132,575	(27.5%)
	Rural	6	(75.0%)	588	(68.9%)	762	(52.2%)	178,257	(37.0%)
	Suburb	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	79	(5.4%)	41,651	(8.7%)
	Town	1	(12.5%)	0	(0.0%)	369	(25.3%)	128,786	(26.8%)
ID	City	9	(25.0%)	3,653	(25.1%)	153	(21.7%)	73,768	(28.2%)
	Rural	11	(30.6%)	4,385	(30.1%)	328	(46.5%)	93,090	(35.6%)
	Suburb	7	(19.4%)	4,443	(30.5%)	70	(9.9%)	38,178	(14.6%)
	Town	9	(25.0%)	2,101	(14.4%)	151	(21.4%)	56,665	(21.7%)
IL ⁱ	City	22	(21.8%)	34,521	(96.3%)	1,060	(24.4%)	622,722	(30.2%)
	Rural	2	(2.0%)	746	(2.1%)	1,054	(24.2%)	301,261	(14.6%)
	Suburb	3	(3.0%)	544	(1.5%)	1,587	(36.5%)	916,170	(44.5%)
	Town	1	(1.0%)	25	(0.1%)	645	(14.8%)	220,487	(10.7%)
IN	City	40	(74.1%)	15,461	(83.1%)	454	(24.2%)	279,632	(27.2%)
	Rural	5	(9.3%)	745	(4.0%)	715	(38.1%)	332,694	(32.4%)
	Suburb	7	(13.0%)	1,959	(10.5%)	366	(19.5%)	244,140	(23.7%)
	Town	2	(3.7%)	445	(2.4%)	341	(18.2%)	171,585	(16.7%)
KS	City	4	(11.1%)	1,382	(26.3%)	233	(16.9%)	114,125	(24.6%)
	Rural	19	(52.8%)	3,238	(61.7%)	681	(49.5%)	156,915	(33.8%)
	Suburb	2	(5.6%)	78	(1.5%)	125	(9.1%)	66,490	(14.3%)
	Town	11	(30.6%)	552	(10.5%)	338	(24.5%)	126,513	(27.3%)
KY	City					248	(16.7%)	132,812	(19.6%)
	Rural					718	(48.4%)	293,216	(43.4%)
	Suburb					183	(12.3%)	98,707	(14.6%)
	Town					335	(22.6%)	151,551	(22.4%)
LA	City	67	(87.0%)	27,408	(86.9%)	335	(23.8%)	170,009	(25.8%)
	Rural	7	(9.1%)	3,152	(10.0%)	500	(35.6%)	207,623	(31.5%)
	Suburb	2	(2.6%)	305	(1.0%)	269	(19.1%)	156,008	(23.7%)
	Town	1	(1.3%)	684	(2.2%)	302	(21.5%)	125,552	(19.0%)
MA	City	30	(48.4%)	13,661	(49.9%)	372	(21.0%)	186,634	(20.1%)
	Rural	10	(16.1%)	2,634	(9.6%)	224	(12.7%)	110,459	(11.9%)
	Suburb	21	(33.9%)	10,882	(39.7%)	1,118	(63.2%)	613,593	(66.0%)
	Town	1	(1.6%)	216	(0.8%)	55	(3.1%)	18,974	(2.0%)
MD	City	28	(77.8%)	8,655	(77.5%)	255	(18.4%)	136,805	(16.3%)
	Rural	2	(5.6%)	448	(4.0%)	269	(19.4%)	151,103	(18.0%)
	Suburb	6	(16.7%)	2,064	(18.5%)	787	(56.9%)	506,331	(60.5%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	73	(5.3%)	43,006	(5.1%)
ME	City					54	(8.3%)	23,051	(12.5%)
	Rural					440	(67.8%)	104,213	(56.6%)
	Suburb					57	(8.8%)	22,215	(12.1%)
	Town					98	(15.1%)	34,753	(18.9%)
MI	City	85	(35.4%)	58,878	(52.8%)	732	(20.7%)	340,128	(22.6%)
	Rural	35	(14.6%)	12,805	(11.5%)	1,107	(31.3%)	370,150	(24.6%)
	Suburb	76	(31.7%)	36,848	(33.0%)	1,160	(32.8%)	606,249	(40.2%)
	Town	8	(3.3%)	2,948	(2.6%)	501	(14.2%)	190,174	(12.6%)
MN	City	67	(43.8%)	20,789	(58.8%)	421	(18.8%)	155,356	(19.4%)
	Rural	32	(20.9%)	5,085	(14.4%)	785	(35.1%)	238,367	(29.7%)
	Suburb	27	(17.6%)	6,970	(19.7%)	531	(23.7%)	243,988	(30.4%)
	Town	13	(8.5%)	2,531	(7.2%)	500	(22.4%)	163,850	(20.4%)
MO ⁱ	City	22	(66.7%)	18,418	(100.0%)	360	(15.3%)	141,539	(15.8%)
	Rural	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	1,080	(45.8%)	300,941	(33.5%)
	Suburb	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	489	(20.7%)	277,630	(30.9%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	430	(18.2%)	178,456	(19.9%)

State		Charter Schools				Traditional Public Schools			
		Schools		Students		Schools		Students	
MS ⁱⁱ	City					117 (10.8%)	51,247 (10.4%)		
	Rural					546 (50.3%)	251,359 (51.0%)		
	Suburb					75 (6.9%)	42,561 (8.6%)		
	Town					347 (32.0%)	147,314 (29.9%)		
MT	City					62 (7.5%)	32,218 (22.7%)		
	Rural					616 (74.4%)	53,974 (38.1%)		
	Suburb					11 (1.3%)	3,943 (2.8%)		
	Town					139 (16.8%)	51,672 (36.4%)		
NC	City	41 (42.7%)	13,648 (35.2%)	598 (24.4%)	368,662 (25.6%)				
	Rural	29 (30.2%)	12,821 (33.0%)	1,203 (49.0%)	678,605 (47.2%)				
	Suburb	9 (9.4%)	4,494 (11.6%)	300 (12.2%)	210,886 (14.7%)				
	Town	17 (17.7%)	7,845 (20.2%)	353 (14.4%)	180,393 (12.5%)				
ND	City					56 (11.4%)	25,791 (27.1%)		
	Rural					352 (71.7%)	42,034 (44.2%)		
	Suburb					16 (3.3%)	8,003 (8.4%)		
	Town					67 (13.6%)	19,245 (20.2%)		
NE	City					215 (19.2%)	99,464 (33.7%)		
	Rural					610 (54.5%)	90,481 (30.6%)		
	Suburb					67 (6.0%)	34,790 (11.8%)		
	Town					228 (20.4%)	70,633 (23.9%)		
NH	City	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	41 (8.7%)	28,136 (14.3%)				
	Rural	5 (45.5%)	401 (49.1%)	247 (52.7%)	73,244 (37.3%)				
	Suburb	1 (9.1%)	295 (36.2%)	99 (21.1%)	61,344 (31.2%)				
	Town	3 (27.3%)	67 (8.2%)	82 (17.5%)	33,441 (17.0%)				
NJ	City	30 (44.1%)	11,055 (50.9%)	240 (9.5%)	128,274 (9.4%)				
	Rural	3 (4.4%)	541 (2.5%)	279 (11.1%)	141,396 (10.4%)				
	Suburb	35 (51.5%)	10,133 (46.6%)	1,932 (76.7%)	1,069,388 (78.3%)				
	Town	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	68 (2.7%)	26,309 (1.9%)				
NM	City	38 (52.8%)	7,469 (57.1%)	171 (21.8%)	102,256 (32.0%)				
	Rural	18 (25.0%)	2,680 (20.5%)	326 (41.6%)	91,503 (28.6%)				
	Suburb	8 (11.1%)	1,928 (14.7%)	57 (7.3%)	35,160 (11.0%)				
	Town	8 (11.1%)	1,013 (7.7%)	229 (29.2%)	90,575 (28.3%)				
NV	City	12 (42.9%)	8,480 (67.1%)	208 (34.6%)	161,664 (38.8%)				
	Rural	3 (10.7%)	659 (5.2%)	176 (29.3%)	86,166 (20.7%)				
	Suburb	4 (14.3%)	3,246 (25.7%)	152 (25.3%)	137,342 (33.0%)				
	Town	2 (7.1%)	261 (2.1%)	65 (10.8%)	31,129 (7.5%)				
NY	City	131 (93.6%)	40,547 (91.1%)	1,849 (40.7%)	1,202,891 (44.2%)				
	Rural	4 (2.9%)	2,257 (5.1%)	817 (18.0%)	362,468 (13.3%)				
	Suburb	5 (3.6%)	1,719 (3.9%)	1,459 (32.1%)	955,449 (35.1%)				
	Town	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	422 (9.3%)	200,721 (7.4%)				
OH	City	231 (72.0%)	67,862 (73.3%)	623 (18.0%)	285,016 (17.1%)				
	Rural	15 (4.7%)	9,044 (9.8%)	1,095 (31.6%)	458,396 (27.5%)				
	Suburb	51 (15.9%)	9,314 (10.1%)	1,216 (35.1%)	686,699 (41.1%)				
	Town	24 (7.5%)	6,348 (6.9%)	531 (15.3%)	239,636 (14.4%)				
OK	City	17 (94.4%)	5,865 (92.9%)	250 (14.1%)	137,025 (21.1%)				
	Rural	1 (5.6%)	450 (7.1%)	969 (54.5%)	230,643 (35.6%)				
	Suburb	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	181 (10.2%)	124,774 (19.2%)				
	Town	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	377 (21.2%)	156,045 (24.1%)				
OR	City	21 (20.6%)	3,029 (16.4%)	309 (25.8%)	177,133 (33.1%)				
	Rural	39 (38.2%)	7,918 (42.9%)	356 (29.7%)	90,973 (17.0%)				
	Suburb	19 (18.6%)	3,333 (18.1%)	215 (17.9%)	125,385 (23.4%)				
	Town	22 (21.6%)	4,181 (22.6%)	318 (26.5%)	141,894 (26.5%)				

State		Charter Schools				Traditional Public Schools			
		Schools		Students		Schools		Students	
PA	City	86	(63.7%)	40,258	(50.6%)	528	(17.0%)	301,039	(17.9%)
	Rural	9	(6.7%)	2,013	(2.5%)	894	(28.7%)	392,969	(23.4%)
	Suburb	34	(25.2%)	27,742	(34.9%)	1,269	(40.8%)	773,233	(46.0%)
	Town	6	(4.4%)	9,522	(12.0%)	419	(13.5%)	215,084	(12.8%)
RI	City	5	(38.5%)	1,886	(54.6%)	100	(33.0%)	44,135	(31.5%)
	Rural	2	(15.4%)	331	(9.6%)	40	(13.2%)	17,825	(12.7%)
	Suburb	6	(46.2%)	1,235	(35.8%)	156	(51.5%)	74,873	(53.4%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	7	(2.3%)	3,389	(2.4%)
SC	City	16	(42.1%)	7,776	(59.7%)	169	(14.6%)	109,925	(15.5%)
	Rural	6	(15.8%)	946	(7.3%)	565	(48.8%)	321,268	(45.2%)
	Suburb	11	(28.9%)	3,504	(26.9%)	242	(20.9%)	174,693	(24.6%)
	Town	5	(13.2%)	806	(6.2%)	182	(15.7%)	104,224	(14.7%)
SD	City					73	(10.3%)	30,977	(25.0%)
	Rural					537	(75.4%)	57,825	(46.7%)
	Suburb					2	(0.3%)	902	(0.7%)
	Town					100	(14.0%)	34,005	(27.5%)
TN	City	16	(72.7%)	4,074	(79.0%)	517	(29.5%)	282,846	(29.2%)
	Rural	1	(4.5%)	199	(3.9%)	742	(42.4%)	385,119	(39.8%)
	Suburb	1	(4.5%)	54	(1.0%)	223	(12.7%)	156,930	(16.2%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	269	(15.4%)	140,011	(14.5%)
TX	City	379	(69.8%)	116,532	(78.2%)	2,776	(34.3%)	1,885,622	(40.1%)
	Rural	64	(11.8%)	11,731	(7.9%)	2,603	(32.2%)	1,129,065	(24.0%)
	Suburb	66	(12.2%)	17,083	(11.5%)	1,528	(18.9%)	1,172,068	(24.9%)
	Town	33	(6.1%)	3,724	(2.5%)	1,175	(14.5%)	514,178	(10.9%)
UT	City	16	(22.2%)	5,614	(16.4%)	173	(17.8%)	92,151	(16.8%)
	Rural	25	(34.7%)	13,439	(39.3%)	232	(23.8%)	83,887	(15.3%)
	Suburb	26	(36.1%)	13,036	(38.2%)	425	(43.6%)	298,864	(54.5%)
	Town	5	(6.9%)	2,077	(6.1%)	144	(14.8%)	73,725	(13.4%)
VA	City	2	(66.7%)	121	(67.6%)	442	(22.8%)	285,711	(22.9%)
	Rural	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	718	(37.1%)	387,554	(31.1%)
	Suburb	1	(33.3%)	58	(32.4%)	605	(31.3%)	482,112	(38.7%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	171	(8.8%)	89,729	(7.2%)
VT	City					15	(4.6%)	5,969	(6.9%)
	Rural					230	(71.2%)	49,075	(57.0%)
	Suburb					21	(6.5%)	8,896	(10.3%)
	Town					57	(17.6%)	22,197	(25.8%)
WA	City					561	(24.2%)	282,411	(27.3%)
	Rural					601	(25.9%)	181,017	(17.5%)
	Suburb					836	(36.1%)	441,620	(42.7%)
	Town					319	(13.8%)	130,299	(12.6%)
WI	City	98	(47.6%)	24,607	(67.8%)	447	(22.0%)	215,138	(25.7%)
	Rural	42	(20.4%)	3,489	(9.6%)	824	(40.6%)	240,054	(28.7%)
	Suburb	25	(12.1%)	3,703	(10.2%)	373	(18.4%)	204,307	(24.4%)
	Town	41	(19.9%)	4,469	(12.3%)	388	(19.1%)	176,554	(21.1%)
WV	City					90	(11.9%)	37,541	(13.3%)
	Rural					411	(54.2%)	132,630	(46.9%)
	Suburb					103	(13.6%)	46,941	(16.6%)
	Town					155	(20.4%)	65,549	(23.2%)
WY	City	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	48	(13.3%)	21,085	(24.0%)
	Rural	3	(100.0%)	261	(100.0%)	196	(54.4%)	28,964	(33.0%)
	Suburb	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	6	(1.7%)	1,629	(1.9%)
	Town	0	(0.0%)	0	(0.0%)	110	(30.6%)	36,213	(41.2%)

Methodological Notes

Data and statistics in this report come from information the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools collected for the [Public Charter Schools Dashboard](#).

Charter School Demographics

Geographic Location. We used the [National Center for Education Statistic's Common Core of Data](#) to code the geographic location of charter schools in our database. We collapsed the following categories to have four main categories:

- City: city, large; city, mid-size; city, small
- Suburb: suburb, large; suburb, mid-size; suburb, small
- Town: town, fringe; town, distant; town, remote
- Rural: rural, fringe; rural, distant; rural, remote

CCD codes the geographic location of virtual charter schools and virtual traditional public schools. Hence, we do not exclude the enrollment of virtual schools from the categories in this report.

Enrollment, Race/Ethnicity, Eligibility for Free or Reduced Price Lunch. We collected school-level enrollment, race/ethnicity enrollment breakouts, and eligibility for free or reduced price lunch from official state department of education fall membership files. While some states report enrollment at multiple points during the academic year, we collected the demographic data from the fall count files to maintain consistency across states.

School Performance. We collected school-level performance data from state department of education websites. The percent of schools making AYP is out of the total number of charter schools in the category with AYP data. Schools that have been open for two or less years and some schools that serve alternative student populations do not have AYP data.

Charter Management Organizations (CMOs) and Education Management Organizations (EMOs). We coded charter schools in our school-level database for the 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10 school years as CMO or EMO based on the following reports:

- 2007-08: [CMO](#) & [EMO](#)
- 2008-09: [CMO](#) & [EMO](#)
- 2009-10: [CMO](#) & [EMO](#)

Several schools in the National Education Policy Center (NECP) reports were miscoded as charter schools and some charters in our database were missing from the reports. In these cases we had to investigate the EMO/CMO/freestanding status of the missing schools. As a result, the count of charter schools in this report may differ from the numbers presented in the NECP reports.

Start-up & Conversion. Start-up and conversion status refer to whether the charter schools are brand new schools or schools that converted from a traditional public school or a private school. We collected this information from state departments of education, charter school support organizations and resource centers, and individual schools.

Authorizer. We collected information on each school's authorizer from state departments of education, charter school support organizations, and individual authorizers. We followed the categorization of authorizer type set forth by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA).

Unionized Charter Schools. We define a charter school as unionized if it had a collective bargaining agreement with a teachers' union or association. There were additional charter schools without collective bargaining agreements that hired teachers who were members of a teachers' union. These schools were not counted as being unionized. We collected union data for every charter school nationwide from the following sources: state departments of education, charter school support organizations and resource centers, charter school authorizers, national union organizations, and local affiliates of the national union organizations.

U.S. Census Regions. States included in each of the regions:

- West: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.
- Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.
- Northeast: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- South: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

¹ The percentages may not add up to 100 percent. For example, campuses of charter schools located in Illinois are not included in the National Center for Education Statistics' Common Core of Data. Consequently, we were unable to code the campuses by the geographic regions and the school percentages will not equal 100 percent.

ⁱⁱ The charter school law in Mississippi was overturned in 2009 and the one charter school at that time converted to a traditional public school. In 2010, the MS state legislature passed a new charter school law. However, there are no charter schools operating in MS.