

## **Back to School Tallies: Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools & Students, 2011-2012**

**December 2011**

As the public charter schools movement approaches the 20 year anniversary of the opening of the first charter school, the sector continues to grow. Over 500 new public charter schools opened their doors for the 2011-2012 school year. Compared with the 2010-2011 school year, an estimated additional 200,000 students are attending public charter schools in the 2011-2012 school year. With the addition of new charter schools and students, there are now approximately 5,600 public charter schools enrolling over 2 million students across the country. The 7 percent growth in charter schools and 13 percent growth in students are demonstrations of parents' demand for high quality educational options.

Roughly 157 public charter schools that were open in 2010-2011 did not open their doors to students this fall. These schools closed for a variety of reasons, including low enrollment, financial concerns, and low academic performance. The closures provide evidence that the charter school bargain works—schools that do not meet the needs of their students should be closed.

State leaders in the number of new schools and additional students served include:

- California: 100 new schools and more than 47,000 additional students.
- Florida: 76 new schools and more than 23,500 additional students.
- Wisconsin: 40 new schools, and more than 4,000 additional students.
- Arizona: 35 new schools and more than 10,500 additional students.
- Ohio: 33 new schools and more than 12,000 additional students.
- Texas: 14 new schools, 22 new campuses, and more than 22,000 additional students.
- Michigan: 20 new schools, and more than 9,000 additional students.
- Pennsylvania: 17 new schools and more than 11,500 additional students.
- New York: 16 new schools and more than 9,500 additional students.
- Georgia: 15 new schools and more than 7,000 additional students.
- Colorado: 13 new schools and more than 8,500 additional students.
- Louisiana: 12 new schools and more than 6,000 additional students.
- Tennessee: 11 new schools and more than 2,500 additional students.
- Oregon: 10 new schools and more than 3,000 additional students.

The states with the largest number of school closures include:

- California: 34 closed schools.
- Arizona: 22 closed schools.
- Florida: 18 closed schools.
- Ohio: 14 closed schools.
- Wisconsin: 11 closed schools.

NAPCS promotes meeting demand for high quality school options and encouraging well-planned school openings, as well as authorizers setting and enforcing high performance standards. The failure to meet these standards must conclude with school closure to ensure the sector is providing the best options to families across the country.

Public charter school data can be found on the **Public Charter School Dashboard:**  
<http://dashboard.publiccharters.org>.

## Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools & Students, 2011-2012

State	New Charters, Fall 2011	Closed Charters, Spring 2011	Charter Schools, 2011-12 <sup>i</sup>	Charter Students, 2011-12 <sup>ii</sup>	Charter School Growth	Charter Student Growth
AK	0	0	27	5,964	0.0%	3.7%
AR	4	3	31	10,934	3.3%	7.5%
AZ	35	22	524	135,930	2.6%	8.5%
CA	100	34	983	412,417	7.2%	12.9%
CO	13	1	179	82,206	7.2%	11.9%
CT	0	1	17	6,065	-5.6%	6.0%
DC	4 (+ 6 campuses)	3	53 (on 100 campuses)	32,009	7.1%	9.0%
DE	3	0	22	10,322	15.8%	8.4%
FL	76	18	520	178,856	12.6%	15.2%
GA	15	8	104	55,708	7.2%	15.1%
HI	0	0	31	8,523	0.0%	2.8%
IA	0	2	6	312	-25.0%	4.7%
ID	4	1	43	18,664	7.5%	16.0%
IL	2 (+ 4 campuses)	0	48 (on 122 campuses)	49,197	5.2%	17.9%
IN	1	0	63	25,529	1.6%	13.3%
KS	0	8	18	4,483	-30.8%	-1.4%
LA	12	3	99	43,451	10.0%	17.3%
MA	9	0	72	31,663	14.3%	11.4%
MD	7	1	50	17,588	13.6%	19.9%
MI	20	3	259	122,727	7.0%	8.1%
MN	6	8	147	40,325	-1.3%	8.2%
MO	6	1	41	21,529	13.9%	7.9%
NC	1	0	100	45,397	1.0%	7.9%
NH	1	0	11	1,178	10.0%	19.8%
NJ	9	2	80	25,510	9.6%	9.3%
NM	3	0	84	16,887	3.7%	10.7%
NV	6	0	33	17,338	22.2%	22.2%
NY	16	2	184	64,247	8.2%	17.8%
OH	33	14	360	126,416	5.6%	10.6%
OK	2	0	20	7,414	11.1%	12.6%
OR	10	2	116	23,245	7.4%	15.0%
PA	17	0	164	102,513	11.6%	12.7%
RI	1	0	16	4,617	6.7%	16.3%
SC	3	0	47	19,738	6.8%	20.4%
TN	11	0	40	9,583	37.9%	38.2%
TX	14 (+ 22 campuses)	8	280 (on 600 campuses)	187,777	4.9%	13.5%
UT	4	1	81	44,892	3.8%	11.9%
VA	0	0	4	361	0.0%	3.7%
WI	40	11	235	41,418	14.1%	12.0%
WY	1	0	4	328	33.3%	27.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>5,637</b>	<b>2,053,261</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>12.4%</b>

<sup>i</sup>We contacted state departments of education, charter school associations, and charter school resource centers to obtain lists of charter schools that had closed during or after the 2010-2011 academic year and charter schools that plan to open in the fall of 2011. The numbers presented in this report are estimates. The 2011-2012 numbers will be updated when official fall enrollment membership counts are released by state departments of education.

<sup>ii</sup> To estimate 2011-2012 enrollment, we used enrollment data from six previous school years. The estimation procedure followed these steps:

1. We calculated the average change in enrollment for each school over six years and added the average change in enrollment to the school's 2010-2011 enrollment to estimate the 2011-2012 enrollment.
2. If a school was new in 2010-2011, we could not estimate the average change in enrollment from previous years. For these schools, we calculated the average change in enrollment for all charter schools in the state from the previous six years and added that number to the school's 2010-2011 enrollment to estimate 2011-2012 enrollment.
3. For new schools in 2011-2012, we estimated the average enrollment of new schools in the district from the previous six years. New schools in 2011-2012 were given this new enrollment number as the 2011-2012 estimate.
4. For new schools in 2011-2012 in districts that did not previously have a new school, we estimated the average enrollment of new schools for the entire state for the previous six years and applied that number to the new school to estimate 2011-2012 enrollment.
5. We contacted state charter school associations and charter school resource centers to confirm our estimates of total charter school enrollment. We received revised enrollment estimates from California, the District of Columbia, Delaware, Missouri, New York, Rhode Island, and Utah.