

Back to School Tallies: Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools & Students, 2012-2013

January 2013

At the 20 year anniversary of the opening of the first charter school, the public charter school sector continues to grow. Over 500 new public charter schools opened their doors for the 2012-2013 school year. Compared with the 2011-2012 school year, an estimated additional 270,000 students are attending public charter schools in the 2012-2013 school year. With the addition of new charter schools and students, there are now approximately 6,000 public charter schools enrolling over 2.3 million students across the country. The 7 percent growth in the number of operating public charter schools and 13 percent growth in public charter school student enrollment are demonstrations of parents' demand for high quality educational options.

Roughly 150 public charter schools that were open in 2011-2012 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: 109 new schools and more than 70,000 additional students.
- Florida: 84 new schools and more than 32,500 additional students.
- Texas: 48 new schools (16 new schools, 32 new campuses) and more than 30,000 additional students.
- Michigan: 33 new schools and more than 15,000 additional students.
- New York: 27 new schools and more than 15,000 additional students.
- Wisconsin: 23 new schools and more than 2,000 additional students.
- Ohio: 20 new schools and more than 2,000 additional students.
- Arizona: 15 new schools and more than 10,000 additional students.
- Louisiana: 14 new schools and more than 5,000 additional students.
- Pennsylvania: 14 new schools and more than 12,500 additional students.
- New Mexico: 13 new schools and more than 2,500 additional students.
- Colorado: 12 new schools and more than 10,000 additional students.
- Illinois: 11 new schools (6 new schools, 5 new campuses) and more than 8,000 additional students.
- Indiana: 11 new schools and more than 6,000 additional students.

The states with the largest number of school closures include:

- California: 28 closed schools.
- Florida: 17 closed schools.
- Wisconsin: 16 closed schools.
- Arizona: 10 closed schools.
- Georgia: 10 closed schools.
- Louisiana: 10 closed schools.
- Michigan: 10 closed schools.

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS) promotes meeting the 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.

Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools & Students, 2012-2013

State	New Charters, Fall 2012	Closed Charters, Spring 2012	Net Gain Charters, 2012-13	Charter Schools, 2012-13 ⁱ	Charter Students, 2012-13 ⁱⁱ	Charter School Growth	Charter Student Growth
AK	0	0	0	27	6,208	0.0%	4.7%
AR	4	3	1	32	12,435	3.2%	9.1%
AZ	15	10	5	535	144,802	0.9%	7.5%
CA	109	28	81	1,065	484,083	8.2%	17.0%
CO	12	3	9	184	94,033	5.1%	12.6%
CT	0	0	0	17	6,808	0.0%	11.6%
DC	4	1 campus	3	57 (on 105 campuses)	35,000	2.9%	10.9%
DE	0	0	0	22	11,047	0.0%	7.0%
FL	84	17	67	583	213,651	13.0%	18.2%
GA	8	10	-2	109	60,547	-1.8%	3.5%
HI	1	0	1	32	9,933	3.2%	6.8%
IA	0	3	-3	3	295	-50.0%	-26.8%
ID	1	0	1	44	20,133	2.3%	13.1%
IL	6 (+ 5 campuses)	0	11	58 (on 134 campuses)	57,112	8.9%	16.3%
IN	11	1	10	75	35,118	15.4%	21.2%
KS	0	2	-2	15	3,247	-11.8%	2.9%
LA	14	10	4	103	49,946	4.0%	11.3%
MA	8	0	8	80	33,897	11.1%	10.8%
MD	2	0	2	52	20,717	4.0%	14.9%
ME	2	0	2	2	110	--	--
MI	33	10	23	280	134,896	8.9%	12.6%
MN	4	4	0	148	41,777	0.0%	6.7%
MO	2	5	-3	38	18,059	-7.3%	-14.6%
NC	8	1	7	107	50,215	7.0%	10.6%
NH	6	0	6	17	1,507	54.5%	28.9%
NJ	9	3	6	86	31,000	7.5%	22.3%
NM	13	1	12	96	19,772	14.3%	17.2%
NV	2	2	0	32	22,542	0.0%	19.4%
NY	27	2	25	209	79,128	13.6%	23.9%
OH	20	8	12	369	113,105	3.4%	2.3%
OK	4	1	3	24	11,116	14.3%	20.4%
OR	8	0	8	123	27,909	7.0%	15.3%
PA	14	1	13	175	118,414	8.0%	15.8%
RI	0	0	0	16	5,132	0.0%	10.1%
SC	8	0	8	55	23,900	17.0%	22.3%
TN	8	0	8	48	12,308	20.0%	31.7%
TX	16 (+ 32 campuses)	7	41	279 (on 623 campuses)	221,137	8.0%	15.8%
UT	7	0	7	88	50,785	8.6%	13.1%
VA	0	0	0	4	444	0.0%	13.0%
WI	23	16	7	243	43,951	3.0%	5.8%
WY	1	1	0	4	323	0.0%	5.6%
Total	531	150	381	6,004	2,326,542	6.8%	13.5%

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

ⁱ NAPCS 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 2011-2012 academic year and charter schools that plan to open in the fall of 2012. The numbers presented in this report are estimates. The 2012-2013 numbers will be updated when official fall enrollment membership counts are released by state departments of education.

ⁱⁱ To estimate 2012-2013 enrollment, NAPCS used enrollment data from seven previous school years. The estimation procedure followed these steps:

1. NAPCS calculated the average change in enrollment for each school over seven years and added the average change in enrollment to the school's 2011-2012 enrollment to estimate the 2012-2013 enrollment.
2. If a school was new in 2011-2012, we could not estimate the average change in enrollment from previous years. For these schools, NAPCS calculated the average change in enrollment for all charter schools in the state from the previous seven years and added that number to the school's 2011-2012 enrollment to estimate 2012-2013 enrollment.
3. For new schools in 2012-2013, NAPCS estimated the average enrollment of new schools in the district from the previous seven years. New schools in 2012-2013 were given this new enrollment number as the 2012-2013 estimate.
4. For new schools in 2012-2013 in districts that did not previously have a new school, NAPCS estimated the average enrollment of new schools for the entire state for the previous seven years and applied that number to the new school to estimate 2012-2013 enrollment.
5. NAPCS contacted state charter school associations and charter school resource centers to confirm our estimates of total charter school enrollment. Arizona, California, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Utah provided revised enrollment estimates.