

Charter School Fact Sheet

Are charter school teachers certified?

Yes. Teachers employed by or under contract with a charter school must be certified like those working in a district-run school.

Are charter schools making a difference?

Yes. Florida's charter schools are helping students achieve academically. According to a Florida Department of Education's report: Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools - A Comparison of the Performance of Charter School Students with District-run Public School Students (April 2017):

- In 65 of the 77 comparisons, students enrolled in charter schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance (scoring a level three or above on the statewide assessment).
- The percentage of students making learning gains was higher in charter schools in 82 of the 96 comparisons.
- In 22 separate comparisons, the achievement gap - used to analyze the learning gap between white students and African-American students, and white student and Hispanic students - was lower for charter school students in 20 of the comparisons.

The country's major charter school networks are seeing students finish college at a rate 3 - 5 times greater as the national average for low-income students in district-run schools, according a new Richard Whitmire series, "The Alumni."

Charter School Students Graduating from College at 3 to 5 Times National Average



Charter schools are focusing on getting their students through college - ensuring they earn a four-year bachelor's degree within six years of graduating from high school. (<http://thealumni.the74million.org>)

How are charter schools held accountable?

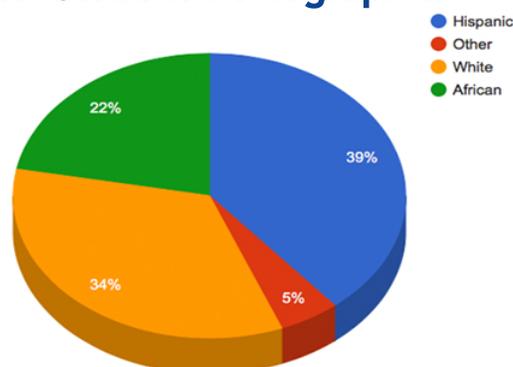
Charter schools are held accountable to the authorizer / school district that grants the charter, the parents who choose them, the students they serve, and the public that funds them. First and central to charter school accountability is the charter or contract between the school and their authorizer, usually the school district. The district may close a charter school if the school fails to meet the student performance outcomes agreed upon in the charter, fails to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management, violates the law, or shows other good cause. Florida's charter schools are very diverse and reflect the population in the state.



When Charter Schools Open, Neighboring Schools Get Better

The closer a charter school is to a district-run public school, the stronger its positive impact says a 2017 Temple University study.

Charter Student Demographics



How Are Public Charter Schools Funded?

Like district-run public schools, charter schools receive per-student funding from the state through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). Facilities funding is provided through Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) from the state or local capital mileage.

Statutory Reference 1002 1002.33, Florida Statutes, Charter schools
1003 1002.331, Florida Statutes, High-performing charter schools
1004 1013.62, Florida Statutes, Charter schools capital outlay funding
1005 218.39(1), Florida Statutes, Annual financial audit reports



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