

Back to School Tallies: Estimated Number of Public Charter Schools, 2011-2012

November 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. There are now approximately 5,600 public charter schools. The 7 percent growth in charter schools is a demonstration of parents' demand for high quality educational options.

Roughly 150 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 include:

- California: 100 new schools
- Florida: 76 new schools
- Arizona: 35 new schools
- Ohio: 33 new schools
- Wisconsin: 30 new schools
- Texas: 14 new schools and 22 new campuses
- Michigan: 20 new schools
- Pennsylvania: 17 new schools
- New York: 16 new schools
- Georgia: 15 new schools
- Louisiana: 12 new schools
- Colorado: 11 new schools
- Tennessee: 11 new schools
- Oregon: 10 new schools

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, 2011-2012

State	New Charters, Fall 2011	Closed Charters, Spring 2011	Charter Schools, 2011-12 ⁱ	Charter School Growth
AK	0	0	27	0.0%
AR	4	3	31	3.3%
AZ	35	22	519	2.6%
CA	100	34	983	7.2%
CO	11	1	177	6.0%
CT	0	1	17	-5.6%
DC	4 (+ 6 campuses)	3	53 (on 105 campuses)	3.1%
DE	3	0	22	15.8%
FL	76	18	520	12.6%
GA	15	8	104	7.2%
HI	0	0	31	0.0%
IA	0	2	6	-25.0%
ID	4	1	43	7.5%
IL	2 (+ 4 campuses)	0	48 (on 122 campuses)	3.4%
IN	1	0	63	1.6%
KS	0	8	18	-30.8%
LA	12	3	99	10.0%
MA	9	0	72	14.3%
MD	8	0	52	18.2%
MI	20	3	259	7.0%
MN	6	8	148	-1.3%
MO	6	1	41	13.9%
NC	1	0	99	1.0%
NH	1	0	11	10.0%
NJ	9	2	80	9.6%
NM	3	0	84	3.7%
NV	4	0	31	14.8%
NY	16	2	184	8.2%
OH	33	14	360	5.6%
OK	2	0	20	11.1%
OR	10	2	116	7.4%
PA	17	0	164	11.6%
RI	2	0	18	12.5%
SC	3	0	47	6.8%
TN	11	0	40	37.9%
TX	14 (+ 22 campuses)	4	284 (on 607 campuses)	3.1%
UT	4	1	81	3.8%
VA	0	0	4	0.0%
WI	30	11	225	9.2%
WY	1	0	4	33.3%
Total	509	152	5,634	6.8%

ⁱ 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.