



FLORIDA'S PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS TODAY...

THE REAL STORY

What are public charter schools?

Charter schools are non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations that have a contract or charter to provide the same educational services to students as district public schools. They are nonsectarian public schools that operate with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. Charter schools must hire Florida certified teachers and students must take all Florida statewide assessments, just like traditional district schools.

What types of students attend charter schools?

Parents of every economic, social and ethnic group choose to send their children to local charter schools. Florida charter schools serve a diverse population of students similar to that of district public schools.

How are charter schools funded?

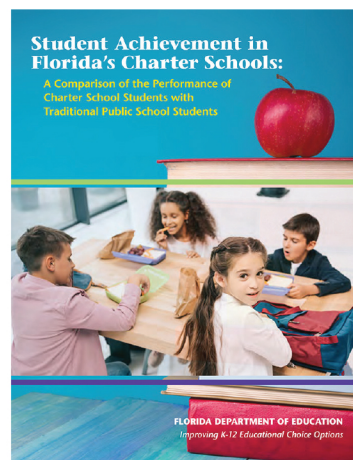
Charter schools receive funding from the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) using the same FTE formula applied to district schools. Charter schools must also pay an administrative fee to their district sponsors that cannot exceed 5% of their total FTE funding.

Report shows that most students do better in Florida's charter schools.

In its annual report on charter school student achievement, the Florida Department of Education found that charter school students outperformed their peers in traditional public schools in almost all subject areas.*

- A higher percentage of charter school students scored a level three or above on the statewide assessments in English Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- A higher percentage of charter school students made learning gains than students in traditional public schools.
- Charter schools were shown to be more successful than traditional public schools in closing the achievement gap between white and African American students, and between white and Hispanic students in nearly all grade levels.

**Florida Department of Education, Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools: A Comparison of the Performance of Charter School Students with Traditional Public School Students, March 2019.*



Florida's Public Charter Schools by the Numbers

683	341,926	47	1996	12%
Operating charter schools	Students enrolled	Florida counties where charter schools operate	The first Florida charter school opened in Miami.	Percentage of Florida's public school students attending charter schools.