



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Massachusetts Charter Schools Fact Sheet

Massachusetts Charter School: A charter school is a public school that is managed by a board of trustees and operates independently of any school committee under a five-year charter granted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. It has the freedom to organize around a core mission, curriculum, theme, and/or teaching method and to control its own budget and hire (and fire) teachers and staff. In return for this freedom, a charter school must attract students and produce positive results within five years or its charter will not be

There are two types of charter schools: *Commonwealth* and *Horace Mann*. They operate under the same set of rules as described above, with the following exceptions. First, a Horace Mann charter school must have its charter application approved by the local school committee and the local teacher's union in addition to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Second, to the extent provided by their charters, Horace Mann charter schools may be exempt from certain provisions in local collective bargaining agreements. Third, employees of a Horace Mann charter school remain members of the local collective bargaining unit; continue to accrue seniority; and receive, at a minimum, the salary and benefits established by the local collective bargaining agreement.

2009-2010 Operating Status	#
Operating Commonwealth charter schools in 2009-2010:	55
Operating Horace Mann charter schools in 2009-2010:	7
Charters approved but not yet open:	1
Charters granted but closed or never opened since 1994:	13
Total currently operating charter schools:	62
Total active charters granted by BOE Since 1994:	63
Total charters granted by BOE Since 1994:	76

School Type	#
Elementary	6
Elementary-Middle	13
Middle	8
Middle-High	20
High	7
K-12	8
Operating Total	62

Historical Accountability Status	#
Closed: Pre-Opening Surrender	4
Closed: Post-Opening Surrender	4
Closed: Revocation during 1st Charter	2
Closed: Non-renewal	2
Operating: 5-Year Renewal Only	17
Operating: 5- and 10-Year Renewal	35
Operating or Planning: Less than 5-years old	12
Total Charters Granted by BOE Since 1994:	76

Location Type	#
Boston	16
Urban-not-Boston	26
Suburb	7
Rural	5
Resort	8
Operating Total	62

Summary Statistics	#
Maximum enrollment allowed by currently authorized charters	30,765
# of students attending charter schools in 2008-2009 on Oct. 1, 2008	26,384
# of students on charter school waiting lists for 2009-2010 as of March 2009	24,066
% of 2008-2009 PK-12 public school population enrolled in charter schools	2.8%
# of charter schools that can operate in Massachusetts	120
# of charter applications received since 1994	350

School Size at Maximum	#
Less than 100:	1
100-300:	18
301-500:	25
501-1000:	13
More than 1000:	5
Operating Total	62

Educational Management	#
Operating for-profit management	2
Former for-profit management	10

Regional	#
Yes	23
No	39
Operating Total	62

2008-2009 Demographics	Charters	State
First Language Not English	16.0%	15%
Limited English Proficient	4.0%	5.9%
Special Education	11.9%	17%
Low Income	45.8%	30.7%
African-American	26.4%	8.2%
Asian	4.3%	5.1%
Hispanic	22.9%	14.3%
White	43.5%	69.9%
Native-American	0.3%	0.3%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	2.6%	2.0%
Males	48.6%	51.4%
Females	51.4%	48.6%

School/Fiscal Year	Operating Schools	Total Enrollment
1995-1996	15	2,613
1996-1997	22	5,311
1997-1998	24	6,607
1998-1999	34	9,828
1999-2000	39	12,440
2000-2001	40	13,712
2001-2002	42	14,381
2002-2003	46	15,805
2003-2004	50	17,869
2004-2005	56	20,259
2005-2006	57	21,866
2006-2007	59	23,500
2007-2008	61	25,034
2008-2009	61	26,384
2009-2010 projected*	62	27,254

* - Based on 97.3% (SY08-09 pre-enro to SIMS yield) of 28,010 pre-enrolled in March 2009.

Last updated on 9/30/2009