



NATIONAL
CHARTER SCHOOL
RESOURCE CENTER
AT SAFAL PARTNERS

The CSO Role in New School Development

September 6, 2018

About the National Charter School Resource Center

- Funded through the **U.S. Department of Education.**
- Makes accessible **high-quality resources** to support the charter school sector.

Please visit the [National Charter School Resource Center](https://charterschoolcenter.ed.gov) (charterschoolcenter.ed.gov) for news, resources and information on charter schools.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the National Charter School Resource Center. At the top left is the logo with the text "NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER AT SAFAL PARTNERS". To the right is a search bar and social media icons for a book, Twitter, and Facebook. Below the logo is a teal navigation bar with menu items: FOCUS AREAS, AUDIENCE, PUBLICATIONS, VIDEOS, FUNDING, EVENTS, and FAQs. On the right side of this bar are links for LOGIN, CMO, CSO, and SEA. Below the navigation bar is a search prompt: "What would you like to know about Charter Schools?" followed by a "Select Your Topic" dropdown menu and a "BEGIN YOUR SEARCH" button. The main content area features a large image of diverse children with a semi-transparent overlay box containing the text: "Report: Charter School Discipline: Examples of Policies and School Climate Efforts from the Field" and a "Click here to access this report" link with a right-pointing arrow. Below this image are three circular icons in teal: a house, a folder, and a briefcase. Under each icon is a heading and a short paragraph of text. The first icon is titled "What Are Charter Schools?" and the text below it states: "Charter schools are in 42 states, nearly 25 years old, and over 7% of k-12 students in the US are enrolled in one. Here is an explanation of this important trend". The second icon is titled "State Resources for Charters" and the text below it states: "Need help finding information about charter schools in your state? Click above for a map that will guide you to resources and contact information for each state". The third icon is titled "Most Popular Charter Resources" and the text below it states: "Click above for a list of our top resources. These resources include everything from reports on special education to documentaries on successful charters".

Agenda

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Reflections from a Career of New School Development
- ▶ Updates from Arizona's New School Development Program
- ▶ Updates from Colorado's New School Development Program
- ▶ Information & Resources from the NCSRC
- ▶ Discussion

Moderator

Alex Medler, National Charter School Resource Center

Presenters

- **Linda Brown**, Building Excellent Schools
- **Damon Norris**, Arizona Charter Schools Association
- **Yvonne Watterson**, Arizona Charter Schools Association
- **Kathy Zlomke**, Colorado League of Charter Schools

Agenda

- Introductions
- **Reflections from a Career of New School Development: Linda Brown and Building Excellent Schools**
- Updates from Arizona's New School Development Program
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START STRONG
Found a High-Performing School



STAY STRONG
Grow and Develop Your Leadership

Building Excellent Schools

Celebrating 25 Years





MISSION

Building Excellent Schools trains high-capacity individuals to take on the demanding and urgent work of leading high-achieving, college preparatory urban charter schools.



**BUILDING
EXCELLENT
SCHOOLS**

Agenda

- Introductions
- Reflections from a Career of New School Development
- **Updates from Arizona's New School Development Program: Yvonne Watterson and Damon Norris**
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AZ Charter Sector - by the Numbers

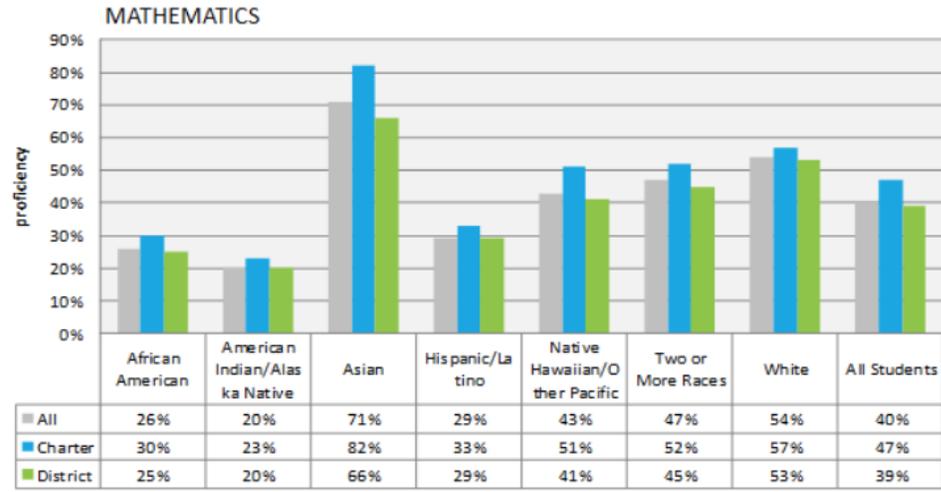
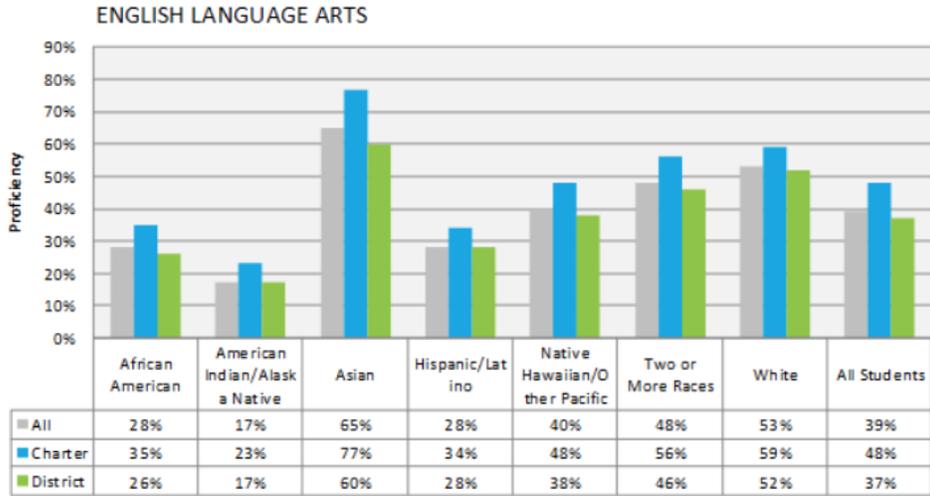
Arizona Public School Enrollment

School Year		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Charter	Enrollment	145,273	155,545	163,673	175,535	185,900
	Percent Growth		7.1%	5.2%	7.2%	5.9%
District	Enrollment	950,747	946,323	952,217	948,970	941,686
	Percent Growth		-0.5%	0.6%	-0.3%	-0.8%

Source: Arizona Department of Education, October 1 Enrollment

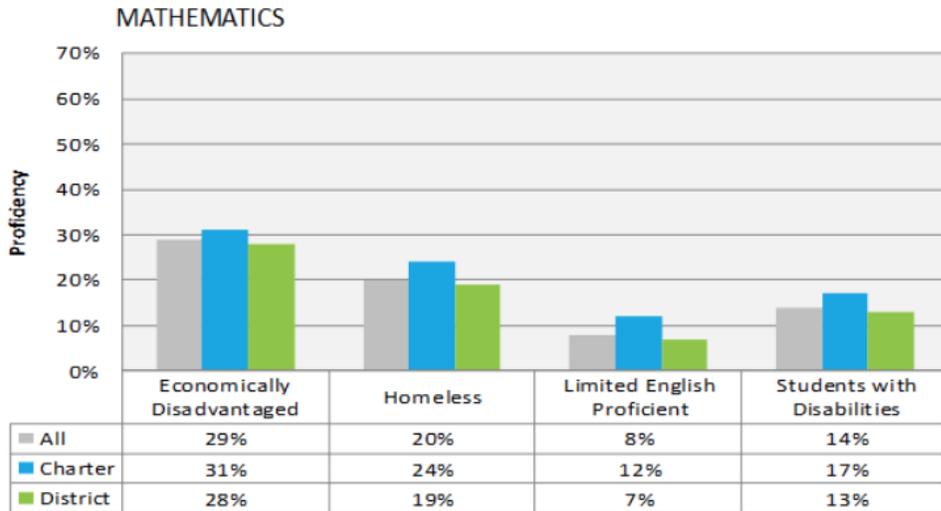
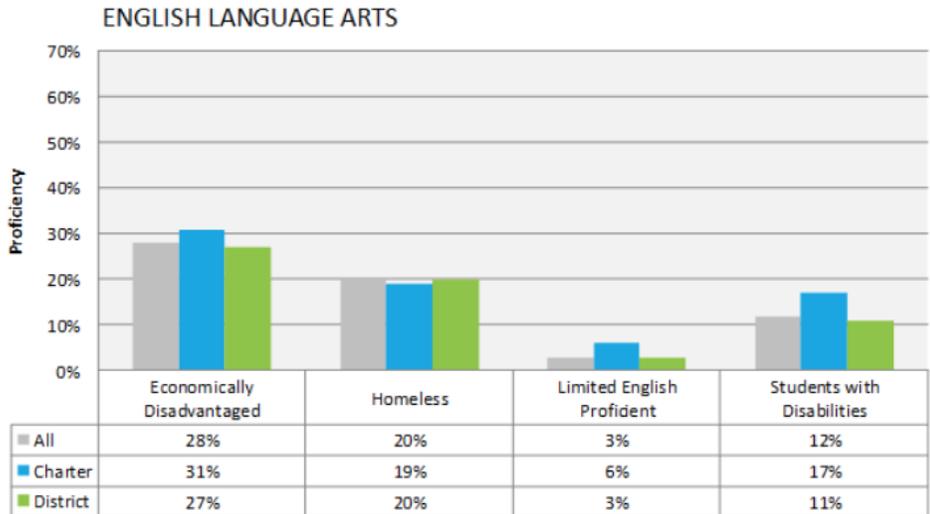
- 554 charter schools in Arizona
- 185, 900 students attended 2016-2017 school year (17% of public schools)
- Charters serve a majority minority student population – non-white students comprise 55%

2017 AzMERIT Performance by Racial/Ethnic Group



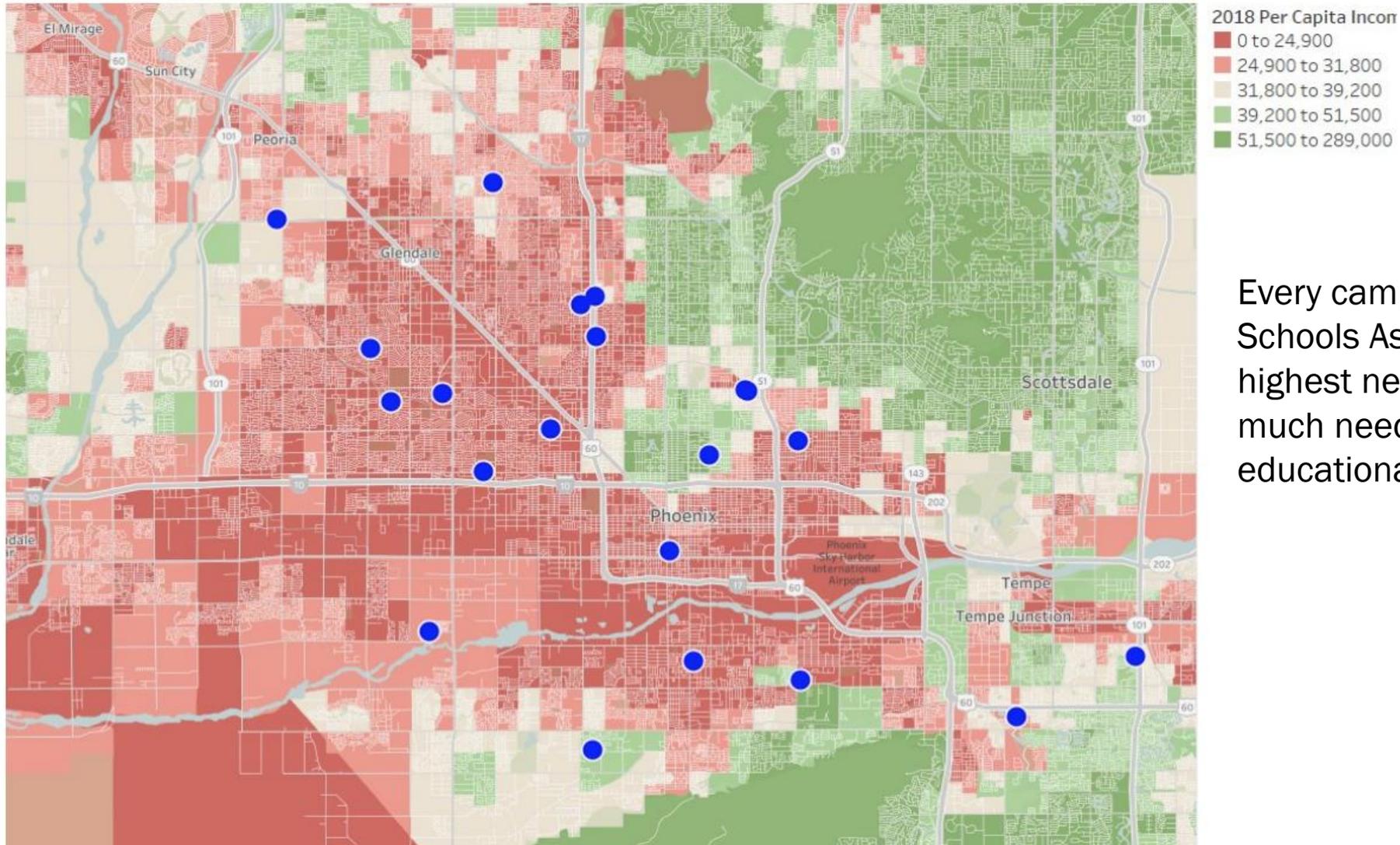
Charter performance
AzMERIT state
Assessment

2017 AzMERIT Performance by Subgroup



2015-2017 AzMERIT Performance by All Demographic Subgroups

Where are the Charters?



Every campus supported by AZ Charter Schools Association touches some of the highest need areas of Phoenix, bringing much needed access to quality educational options.

Start Smart, Stay Smart

- In 2018, we launched a “Charter Smarter” orientation and “Start Smart, Stay Smart” professional development series to guide prospective and new charter school operators through the process of starting a charter school.
- Seven school leaders participated in the inaugural training series which, grounded in our Quality Standards address:
 - budget and financial management
 - charter application support
 - maintenance and operations
 - best practices in starting a charter school.

Governance Matters

- School founding committees often transition to public school governing board without any training
- Law does not require charter governing boards to undergo training
- Collaborated with authorizer to design and deliver Governance Week training in 2018
 - From Founding Committee to Public School Governing Board Member
 - Why Charter Boards Fail
 - Finding, Recruiting, and Retaining Quality Board Members
 - Ensuring Quality, Compliant Board Meetings
 - Support and Evaluation of the School Leader
 - Data-Driven Governance
- 60 participants attended, representing new and existing charters

New AZ Charter Schools

- Fall 2018: 5 new schools
- Fall 2019 (TBD): 13 applications, 7 received support from AZCSA
- In 2018 – 8 schools received CSP grants to support expansion. AZCSA supported 5 schools with consulting, professional development workshops, site visits

For Questions and Follow-up with AZ Charter Schools Association

Yvonne Watterson
Director of Education Innovation
yvonne@azcharters.org

Damon Norris
Director Membership and Business
damon@azcharters.org

Website: www.azcharters.org/school-development/

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Impacting Colorado School Quality

Standards and Supports

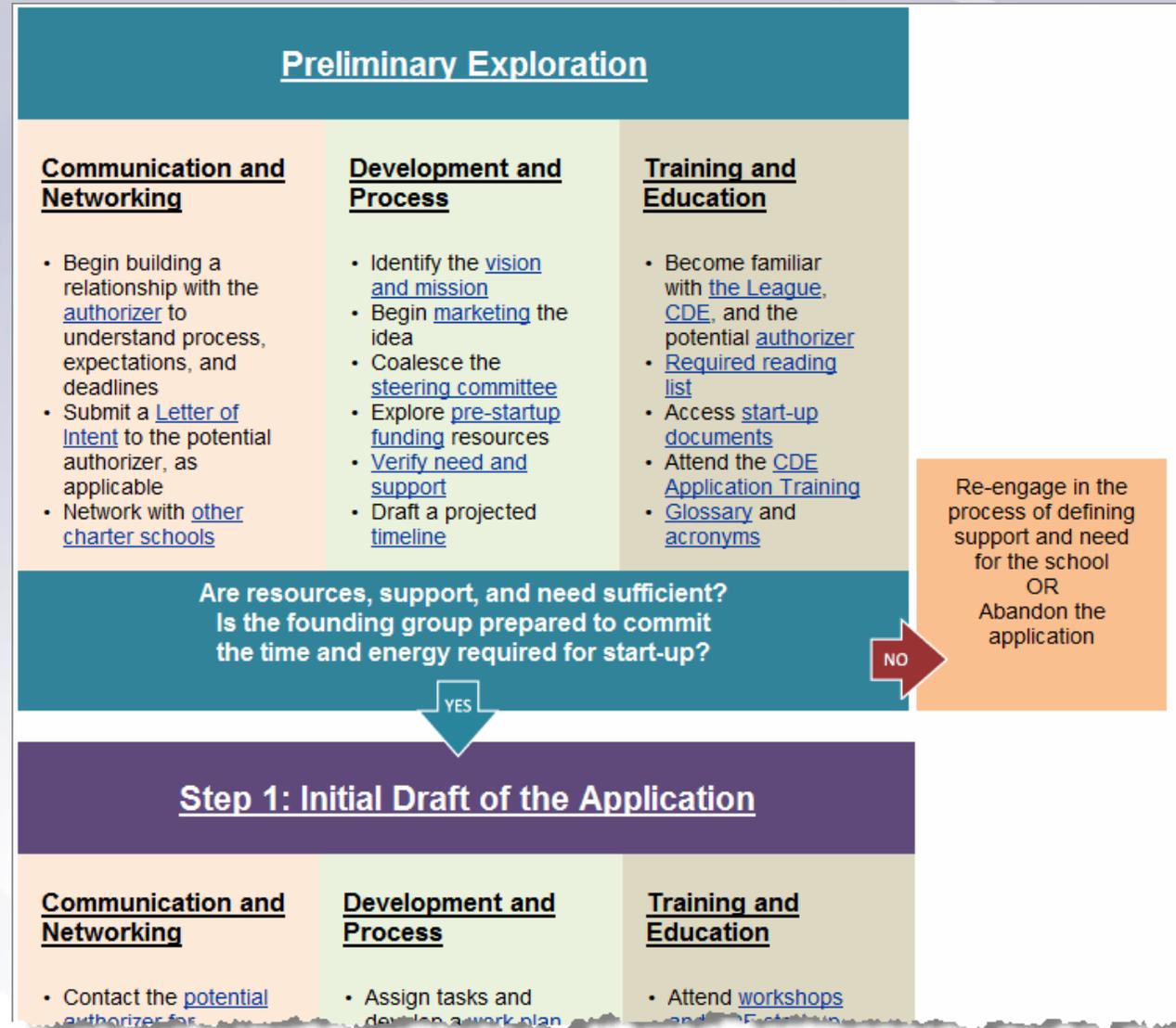
- The League - Quality Standards for Developing Charter Schools - Soup to nuts checklist style document with over 100 hyperlinks to guide entirety of application writing
<http://www.coloradoleague.org>
- Quality Authorizers - Influencing Authorizer Quality - Through Authorizer outreach and State Department of Ed. Collaboration
- New School Development (NSD) added a third teammate for the first time in the history of the department/league
- Process Flowchart

<http://www.start charter colorado.org/>



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Application Process Flowchart



Re-engage in the process of defining support and need for the school
OR
Abandon the application



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Revised Initial Contact-Readiness Probes

- Follow-up to initial contact with email “thinking about starting a charter school” that includes probing questions
- Follow-up with a phone call to go over responses with their team
- Determine capacity-customize path



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Set Planning Grants Gateways

New Schools Department operational grants pass-through funds:

- Provide schools with hard to find planning funds
- Invite to apply with links to webinars
- Questions asked and reviewed post-webinar
- Determination made if developer ready to move forward prior to sending grant application
- Grant process designed to help applicants write charter application sections with feedback



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Welcome to the Charter School Community

- Congratulations email sent out to all approved New Schools
- Attachments relevant to startup included
- Onboarding-provide training for nearly/newly approved schools and meet the League office hours connecting developers with colleagues
- Also provide continuing referrals, resources and Technical Assistance throughout year 0 startup



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Starting Strong Initiative Started

- Leveraging the whole League to support strong foundations from application development through operating
- Created a suite of business, governance, academic and outreach structures to systematically support new schools from inception through year three
- School Services team offers school visits, trainings, supports year 1 and beyond



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Colorado Charter Results to Date

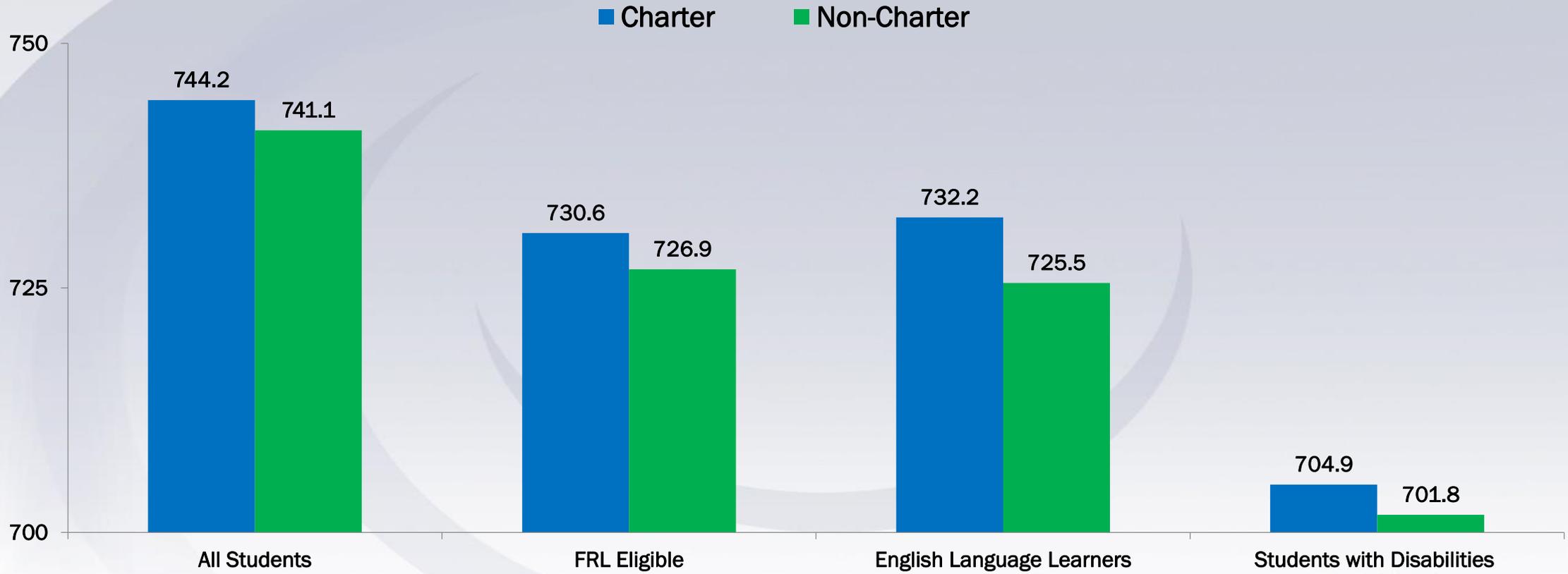
- Over 120,000 students attend 225 Colorado charter schools
- Represents 13% of total K-12 public school enrollment last year
- If charter schools combined into a single district, it would be the largest school district in the state.
- 10-15 new charter schools open in Colorado each year
- Colorado charter schools are enrolling students of color and English Language Learners (ELLs) at higher rates than the state's non-charter schools.
- Charter school students — including those considered to be educationally disadvantaged — outperform peers in non-charter schools on state performance measures



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Colorado Charter Performance (cont.)

2017 CMAS ELA Mean Scale Scores



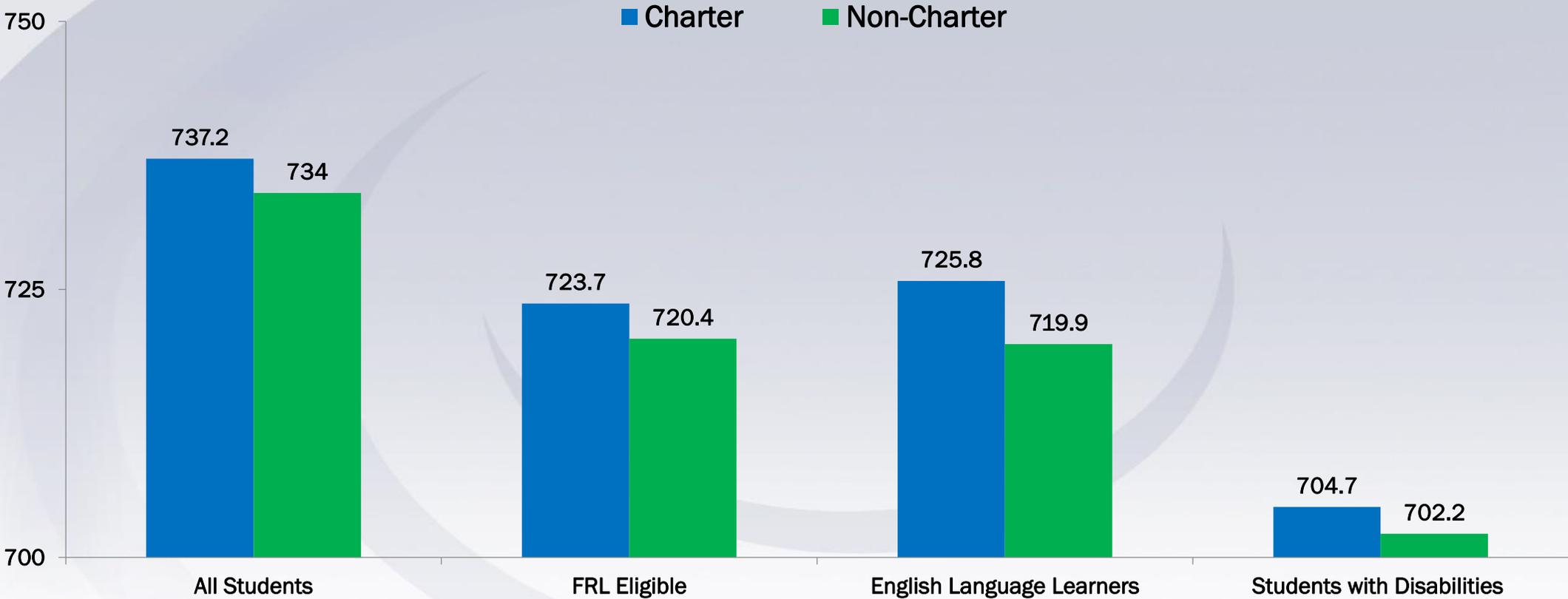
CMAS English Language Arts and Math Mean Scale Score Guide



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Colorado Charter Performance (cont.)

2017 CMAS Math Mean Scale Scores



CMAS English Language Arts and Math Mean Scale Score Guide



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League's New School Development Team for Questions/Follow-Up

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Opening & Expanding Focus Area on NCSRC Website

FOCUS AREAS | AUDIENCE | PUBLICATIONS | VIDEOS | FUNDING | EVENTS | FAQs | LOGIN | SEARCH |

FILTER Focus area Type State Audience DATE RANGE Start End APPLY FILTER

HOME / Focus Area

Opening & Expanding

If you are looking for a toolkit to open a school in your state, please click [here](#) and find your state's CSO (Charter Support Organization).

Featured Opening & Expanding Resources

Bridging the District-Charter Divide to Help More Students Succeed
Animosity between school districts and charter schools has been the...
Reports | 01 Jan, 2017

Starting a Charter School Model

A Cost Estimation Tool for Charter Schools

District-Charter Collaboration: A User's Guide

Master Class: Closing Low-Performing Public Charter Schools Webinar: State Level Strategies

All Opening & Expanding Resources

2018 Texas Charter Schools Conference
EVENT | 24 OCT, 2018 TO 26 OCT, 2018

The Texas Charter Schools Conference, TCSACon, is the place for charter leaders and innovators to meet to discuss trends and best practices with colleagues from across all sectors of the... [READ MORE](#)

[View resource](#) [Starting a Charter School, Texas Charter Schools, Educators, Charter School Family and Community, Opening & Expanding](#) [back to top](#)

ED Soliciting Comments on Grants to Charter Management Organizations
NEWSLETTERS | 14 AUG, 2018

The U.S. Department of Education's Charter Schools Program (CSP) recently released a notice of proposed priorities, requirements, definitions, and selection criteria for the CSP's CMO... [READ MORE](#)

[View resource](#) [Starting a Charter School, Charter School Management Organizations, Policy Maker](#) [back to top](#)

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Featured Publications

- An Analysis of the Charter School Facility Landscape in Delaware
REPORTS | 05 JAN, 2018
- An Analysis of the Charter School Facility Landscape in Albuquerque
REPORTS | 18 OCT, 2017
- Students with Disabilities Resources
REPORTS | 30 JAN, 2017
- English Learner Resources
REPORTS | 30 JAN, 2017
- National Best Practices: Teacher Recruitment and Pipelines
REPORTS | 21 NOV, 2016

Featured Events

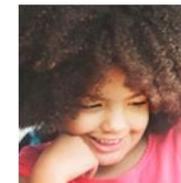
- 2019 California Charter Schools Conference**
SACRAMENTO, CA | 11 MAR, 2019 TO 14 MAR, 2019
Registration is now open for the 2019 California Charter Schools Conference put on by the California Charter Schools...
- 2018 Illinois Charter School Conference**
CHICAGO, IL | 15 NOV, 2018
Join educators, administrators, community members, and public school advocates on November 15 for the Illinois Network...
- 2018 Texas Charter Schools Conference**
HOUSTON, TX | 24 OCT, 2018 TO 26 OCT, 2018
The Texas Charter Schools Conference, TCSACon, is the place for charter leaders and innovators to meet to discuss...
- NACSA Leadership Conference 2018**
ORLANDO, FL | 22 OCT, 2018 TO 25 OCT, 2018
Join us in Orlando for the 2018 National Association of Charter School Authorizers Leadership Conference! Expect More ...

<https://charterschoolcenter.ed.gov/category/focus-areas/opening-expanding>

New School Development: A Toolkit for Charter Support Organizations and Charter School Founders

[NCSRC toolkit](#) focuses on supporting founding groups during the planning and start-up phases of a charter school's life cycle. Founding groups can use this toolkit to:

- **Research** CSO new school development (NSD) services
- **Find advice** from charter school founders
- **Explore NSD resources** to strengthen their understanding of what it takes to open a new charter school



New School Development

A Toolkit for Charter Support Organizations & Charter School Founders

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