

Utah's Public Charter Schools

Report, January 2017

Expanding Our Public Education System



Utah Charter Schools



State Charter School Board
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Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

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Executive Director of Charter Schools

Report produced by the Utah State Charter School Board Staff, (801) 538-7958

Foreword

Kristin Elinkowski
Utah State Charter School Board Chair



Charter schools were introduced to the state of Utah in 1999 and since inception; the goal has been to ensure that students achieve their academic potential and become productive and responsible members of society. With strong support from our governors, our legislators, and the State Board of Education, the number of charter schools in Utah has seen continued growth. In fact, we currently have 127 schools in operation statewide as of school year 2017.

Our charter schools continue to emphasize quality, innovation, and creativity. They are increasing choices of learning opportunities for students and generating new and exciting opportunities for educators. Utah charter schools continue to experiment with new models of instruction and accountability as they focus on learning outcomes and student academic growth.

As the largest authorizer in Utah, the State Charter School Board is working hard to enhance the charter school movement in Utah and is moving in some exciting directions. Our board and staff bring an unwavering dedication to student achievement and an unyielding commitment to ethical and sound business practices. We stand by our values of integrity, autonomy, innovation, choice, accountability, excellence and collaboration. We are guided by our strategic plan, including a mission to provide for positive student outcomes by authorizing, overseeing and elevating successful public charter schools through a rigorous approval process, effective oversight and meaningful collaboration.

We are committed to building and maintaining positive relationships with our schools through improved communication, functionality and transparency. We are also committed to holding schools accountable to high quality standards and to annually evaluate the performance of the schools we authorize. As was the focus 25 years ago when this movement first began, we seek autonomy in exchange for accountability. Please join us in our vision of advancing public education in Utah.

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Utah State Charter School Board Profiles



Kristin Elinkowski, Board Chair. Mrs. Elinkowski is the owner of an Internet/direct response marketing company. She formerly served as the president of the Board of Directors at North Davis Preparatory Academy. Mrs. Elinkowski previously worked as a congressional staff assistant to Congressman James V. Hansen, and as a campaign manager for several local campaigns. Mrs. Elinkowski has served as the vice chair on the Layton City Planning Commission, and has volunteered on several committees in her community. She also is an Honorary Commander at the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base. She is a graduate of Weber State University and the proud parent, along with her husband Ron, of three great kids.



DeLaina Tonks, Board Vice Chair. Mrs. Tonks is currently the director at Mountain Heights Academy, an online public charter school. She previously taught high school French and Spanish, and worked as an online instructional designer in Upper Arlington, Ohio. Mrs. Tonks is a 2014 “Best of State – Principal” winner and she was also named as one of Utah Business's “30 Women to Watch.” She serves as a member of the national Association of American Educators Foundation Board, Argosy University's Educational Program Advisory Committee, President Holland's Community Advisory Council at UVU, and has enjoyed previous service as the Draper Youth Council Chair, Legislative District 27 Chair, and as a member of the Utah Immigration Commission, and the State Office of Education's Digital Literacy Task Force. Mrs. Tonks holds a BA in French and Spanish teaching from BYU, an MA in Second Language Acquisition from The Ohio State University, and is currently pursuing a PhD in Instructional Psychology and Technology at Brigham Young University. She and her husband, Paul, live on top of a mountain with their four fabulous children, three cats, two bettas, and one turtle.



Greg W. Haws. Mr. Haws is a lifelong resident of Hooper, Weber County, Utah. His prior public service includes 11 years as a member of the Utah State Board of Education. He also served 3 years as a member of the Utah State Board of Regents. He is a former Auditor/Clerk/Treasurer of Weber County and represented Weber County on the Utah Transient Authority for 3 years. He is a retired Certified Public Accountant and owner of several businesses. He has taught Accounting as an adjunct professor at Weber State University and Brigham Young University. He has a passion for education and has supported the Weber School District Foundation as a board member as well. He and his wife, Debi, are the parents of eight children and 34 grandchildren. He currently considers himself "a professional grandfather".



Dean Brockbank. Mr. Brockbank is legal counsel for the Greenfield Environmental Trust Group. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake for three years, and as Chairman of the School Community Council for Park Lane Elementary School for six years. Mr. Brockbank has served as a teacher-volunteer with Junior Achievement, as the executive sponsor for the United Way fundraiser campaign, and as a long-time volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America. He holds an accounting degree from Brigham Young University and a law degree from George Mason University. He speaks Spanish, French and Portuguese. He is married to Stephanie Brockbank, and they have five children. Governor Gary Herbert appointed Mr. Brockbank to the Utah State Charter School Board in 2010 and reappointed him in 2014.



Bruce Davis Ph.D. Dr. Davis serves as the Vice Provost and Dean of Continuing Education at Weber State University, where he teaches in the Goddard School of Business and Economics and the Dumke College of Health Professions. He has taught at Weber State for 33 years and serves on a number of other boards, including the boards of Intermountain McKay-Dee Hospital, the Davis Chamber of Commerce, Utah Certified Development Company, UTOPIA, and the NUAMES school board. He also serves on the Layton City Council. He and his wife Valerie are the parents of seven children and have 14 grandchildren.



Robert Enger. Mr. Enger, CPA, started with the Larry H. Miller Group of Companies in 2008. Before being named as the Chief Operating Officer for Total Care Auto in 2012, he worked as the controller and assistant general manager. Mr. Enger graduated with a BS from Westminster College. Prior to his role with the Larry H. Miller Group, he worked for 10 years as an audit manager for Larson & Company, a regional CPA firm. He is the former president of the Utah Chapter of the Insurance Accounting and Statistical Association and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants, and former board member for Providence Hall Charter School in Herriman, Utah. He is married to Melissa Enger, and together they have three boys.



Michelle Smith. Michelle Smith is passionate about charter schools. She was a grassroots education activist who worked closely with members of the legislature authorizing the establishment of permanent charter schools. She also helped found the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools and helped pass legislation establishing the Utah State Charter School Board. She has been a primary founder of both Timpanogos Academy and Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy and she was a founder of Freedom Academy in Provo and Summit Academy in Draper. She has assisted the founders of many other Utah charter schools including Odyssey, Lincoln, Mountainville, and Noah Webster Academies. Mrs. Smith has been married to serial entrepreneur and former Utah State Charter School Board member Eric Smith for twenty-six years. She is the mother of seven children ages nine to twenty three years old and the grandmother of a five month old. She enjoys international travel and speaks conversational Spanish and rudimentary French, Italian and Hebrew.

Charter School Distribution

By Charter School Authorizer

Cache District

InTech Collegiate High School

Davis Applied Technical College

Utah Career Path High School

Granite District

Utah International Charter School

Iron District

SUCCESS Academy

Jordan District

Real Salt Lake Academy High

Logan City District

Edith Bowen Laboratory School

Fast Forward High School

Salt Lake District

Salt Lake Center for Science Education

Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts

The Open Classroom

State Charter School Board

American Academy of Innovation

American International School of Utah

American Leadership Academy

American Preparatory Academy

AMES

Aristotle Academy

Ascent Academies of Utah

Athlos Academy of Utah

Bear River Charter School

Beehive Science & Technology Academy

Bonneville Academy

C.S. Lewis Academy

State Charter School Board (cont.)

Canyon Grove Academy

Canyon Rim Academy

Center for Creativity, Innovation & Discovery

Channing Hall

City Academy

DaVinci Academy of Science and the Arts

Dixie Montessori Academy

Dual Immersion Academy

East Hollywood High School

Endeavor Hall

Entheos Academy

Esperanza Elementary

Excelsior Academy

Franklin Discovery Academy

Freedom Preparatory Academy-Provo

Freedom Preparatory Academy-Vineyard

Gateway Preparatory Academy

George Washington Academy

Good Foundations Academy

GreenWood

Guadalupe School

Hawthorn Academy

HighMark Charter School

Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy

Itineris Early College High School

Ivy Preparatory Academy

Jefferson Academy

John Hancock Charter School

Kairos Academy

Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy

Lakeview Academy

Leadership Learning Academy

Leadership Learning Academy-Satellite #1

Legacy Preparatory Academy

Lincoln Academy

Lumen Scholar Academy

State Charter School Board (cont.)

Mana Academy
Maria Montessori Academy
Merit College Preparatory Academy
Moab Charter School
Monticello Academy
Mountain Heights Academy
Mountain West Montessori Academy
Mountainville Academy
Navigator Pointe Academy
Noah Webster Academy
North Davis Preparatory Academy
North Star Academy
NUAMES
Odyssey Charter School
Ogden Preparatory Academy
Pacific Heritage Academy
Paradigm High School
Pinnacle Canyon Academy
Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning
Providence Hall
Quest Academy
Renaissance Academy
Rockwell Charter High School
Ronald Reagan Academy
Roots Charter High School
Salt Lake Arts Academy
Scholar Academy
Soldier Hollow Charter School
Spectrum Academy

State Charter School Board (cont.)

St. George Academy
Summit Academy
Summit Academy High School
Syracuse Arts Academy
Terra Academy
The Early Light Academy
The Ranches Academy
Thomas Edison Charter Schools
Timpanogos Academy
Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts
Uintah River High School
Utah Connections Academy
Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS)
Utah Military Academy-Lehi
Utah Virtual Academy-Riverdale
Valley Academy
Vanguard Academy
Venture Academy
Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts and
Technology
Voyage Academy
Walden School of Liberal Arts
Wallace Stegner Academy
Wasatch Peak Academy
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School
Weilenmann School of Discovery
Winter Sports School'
Weber State University
Weber State University Charter Academy

By Utah State Board of Education District

District 1—Terryl Warner

Bear River Charter School
Center for Creativity, Innovation & Discovery
Edith Bowen Laboratory School
Fast Forward High School
InTech Collegiate High School
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning
Thomas Edison Charter Schools

District 2—Spencer F. Stokes

DaVinci Academy of Science and the Arts
GreenWood
Maria Montessori Academy
Ogden Preparatory Academy
Quest Academy
Venture Academy
Weber State University Charter Academy

District 3—Linda B. Hansen

APA—The Accelerated School
Bonneville Acadcmey
East Hollywood High School
Endeavor Hall
Entheos Academy—Magna
Esperanza Elementary
Excelsior Academy
Mana Academy
Monticello Academy
Scholar Academy
Vanguard Academy

District 4—Jennifer Graviet

Good Foundations Academy
HighMark Charter School
NUAMES
Syracuse Arts Academy – Antelope Campus
Syracuse Arts Academy – North Campus
Utah Military Academy – Riverdale
Voyage Academy

District 5—Laura C. Belnap

Ascent Academies of Utah—Farmington
Jefferson Academy
Legacy Preparatory Academy
North Davis Preparatory Academy
Pacific Heritage Academy
Salt Lake Center for Science Education
Spectrum Academy—NSL
Utah Career Path High School
Wallace Stegner Academy
Wasatch Peak Academy

District 6—Brittney Cummins

Ascent Academies of Utah—West Jordan
Entheos Academy—Kearns
Navigator Pointe Academy

District 7—Carol Lear

APA—School for New Americans
City Academy
Dual Immersion Academy
Guadalupe School
Kairos Academy
Leadership Learning Academy
Leadership Learning Academy-Satellite #1
Roots Charter High School
Salt Lake Arts Academy
Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts
The Open Classroom
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School
Weilenmann School of Discovery
Winter Sports School

District 8—Janet Cannon

AMES
American International School of Utah
Canyon Rim Academy
Ivy Preparatory Academy
Utah International Charter School

District 9—Joel Wright

Aristotle Academy
 Ascent Academy of Utah – Lehi
 Canyon Grove Academy
 C.S. Lewis Academy
 John Hancock Charter School
 Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy
 Lakeview Academy
 Lincoln Academy
 Mountainville Academy
 Odyssey Charter School
 Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts
 Renaissance Academy
 Rockwell Charter High School
 Spectrum Academy—Pleasant Grove
 Summit Academy – Bluffdale #2
 The Ranches Academy

District 10—Kathleen Riebe

APA—Draper #1
 Beehive Science & Technology Academy
 Channing Hall
 Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy
 Summit Academy—Draper

District 11—Lisa Cummins

American Academy of Innovation
 APA—Draper #2
 APA—Draper #3
 Athlos Academy of Utah
 Hawthorn Academy – West Jordan
 Itineris Early College High School
 Mountain West Montessori Academy
 North Star Academy
 Paradigm High School
 Providence Hall
 Summit Academy—Bluffdale
 Summit Academy High School
 The Early Light Academy

District 12—Alisa Ellis

Franklin Discovery Academy
 Freedom Preparatory Academy-Vineyard
 Noah Webster Academy
 Soldier Hollow Charter School
 Terra Academy
 Timpanogos Academy
 Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS)
 Uintah River High School
 Walden School of Liberal Arts

District 13—Soctt B. Neilson

American Leadership Academy
 Freedom Preparatory Academy-Provo
 Merit College Preparatory Academy
 Ronald Reagan Academy

District 14—Mark A. Huntsman

APA – Salem
 Moab Charter School
 Pinnacle Canyon Academy

District 15—Michelle Boulter

Dixie Montessori Academy
 Gateway Preparatory Academy
 George Washington Academy
 St. George Academy
 SUCCESS Academy—DSU
 SUCCESS Academy—SUU
 Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts
 Valley Academy
 Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts Tech

Statewide

Athenian eAcademy
 Leadership Academy of Utah
 Lumen Scholar Academy
 Mountain Heights Academy
 Utah Connections Academy
 Utah Virtual Academy

By Utah House District

House District 2—Rep. Jefferson Moss

Lakeview Academy
Rockwell Charter High School
The Ranches Academy

House District 3—Rep. Val K. Potter

Fast Forward High School
InTech Collegiate High School
Thomas Edison Charter School—North

House District 4—Rep. Edward H. Redd

Bear River Charter School
Edith Bowen Laboratory School

House District 5—Rep. R. Curt Webb

Center for Creativity, Innovation & Discovery
Thomas Edison Charter School—South

House District 6 – Rep. Cody Maloy

Ascent Academies – Lehi

House District 7—Rep. Justin Fawson

Maria Montessori Academy

House District 8 – Rep. Gage Froerer

GreenWood

House District 9—Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson

DaVinci Academy of Science and Arts
Ogden Preparatory Academy

House District 10—Rep. Dixon Pitcher

Weber State University Charter Academy

House District 11—Rep. Kelly B. Miles

Good Foundations Academy
HighMark Charter School
Utah Military Academy—Riverdale

House District 12—Rep. Mike Schultz

Quest Academy

House District 13—Rep. Paul Ray

Voyage Academy

House District 14 – Rep. Karianne Lisonbee

Syracuse Arts Academy – North Campus

House District 15—Rep. Brad R. Wilson

Jefferson Academy
North Davis Preparatory Academy
Syracuse Arts Academy – Antelope Campus

House District 16—Rep. Stephen G. Handy

Leadership Learning Academy
Leadership Learning Academy-Satellite #1
NUAMES

House District 17—Rep. Stewart Barlow

Utah Career Path High School

House District 18—Rep. Timothy Hawkes

Ascent Academies of Utah—Farmington
Wallace Stegner Academy

House District 20—Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards

Legacy Preparatory Academy
Spectrum Academy—NSL
Wasatch Peak Academy

House District 21—Rep. Doug Sagers

Scholar Academy

House District 22—Rep. Susan Duckworth

Entheos Academy—Magna

House District 23—Rep. Sandra Hollins

Guadalupe School
Pacific Heritage Academy
Salt Lake Center for Science Education

House District 24—Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck

City Academy
The Open Classroom

House District 26—Rep. Angela Romero

Dual Immersion Academy
Kairos Academy
Roots Charter High School
Salt Lake Arts Academy

House District 27—Rep. Michael S. Kennedy

Mountainville Academy

House District 28—Rep. Brian S. King
Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School
Weilenmann School of Discovery

House District 29—Rep. Lee B. Perry
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning
Venture Academy

House District 31—Rep. Elizabeth Weight
APA—The Accelerated School
APA—The School for New Americans
East Hollywood High School
Endeavor Hall
Esperanza Elementary
Mana Academy
Monticello Academy
Vanguard Academy

House District 35—Rep. Mark A. Wheatley
American International School of Utah
Utah International Charter School

House District 36—Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Canyon Rim Academy

House District 37—Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
AMES
Ivy Preparatory Academy

House District 38—Rep. Eric K. Hutchings
Entheos Academy—Kearns

House District 41—Rep. Daniel McCay
North Star Academy
Summit Academy—Bluffdale
Summit Academy High School

House District 42—Rep. Kim Coleman
Ascent Academies of Utah—West Jordan
American Academy of Innovation

House District 43—Rep. Adam Gardiner
Navigator Pointe Academy

House District 45—Rep. Steve Eliason
Beehive Science and Technology

House District 47—Rep. Ken Ivory
Hawthorn Academy – West Jordan
Itineris Early College High School

House District 48—Rep. Keven J. Stratton
Franklin Discovery Academy
Walden School of Liberal Arts

House District 50—Rep. Susan Pulsipher
Hawthorn Academy – South Jordan
Mountain West Montessori Academy
Paradigm High School

House District 51—Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
APA—Draper #1
APA—Draper #2
APA—Draper #3
Channing Hall
Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy
Summit Academy—Draper

House District 52—Rep. John Knotwell
Athlos Academy of Utah
Providence Hall
The Early Light Academy

House District 54—Rep. Tim Quinn
Soldier Hollow Charter School
Winter Sports School

House District 55—Rep. Scott Chew
Terra Academy
Uintah River High School

House District 56—Rep. Kay J. Christofferson
Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts
Renaissance Academy

House District 57—Rep. Brian M. Greene
Aristotle Academy
Canyon Grove Academy
John Hancock Charter School
Lincoln Academy
Odyssey Charter School

House District 59—Rep. Val L. Peterson
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy
Spectrum Academy—Pleasant Grove
Timpanogos Academy

House District 60—Rep. Brad Daw
Noah Webster Academy
Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS)
Freedom Preparatory Academy-Vineyard

House District 61—Rep. Keith Grover
Freedom Preparatory Academy – Provo

House District 62—Rep. Jon Standard
Dixie Montessori Academy

House District 64—Rep. Norm Thurston
Merit College Preparatory Academy
Ronald Reagan Academy

House District 66—Rep. Mike K. McKell
American Leadership Academy
APA – Salem

House District 67—Rep. Marc K. Roberts
C.S. Lewis Academy

House District 68—Rep. Merrill F. Nelson
Excelsior Academy
Bonneville Academy

House District 69—Rep. Christine F. Watkins
Pinnacle Canyon Academy

House District 70—Carl R. Albrecht
Moab Charter School

House District 71—Rep. Bradley G. Last
Gateway Preparatory Academy
George Washington Academy
Valley Academy

House District 72—Rep. John R. Westwood
SUCCESS Academy—SUU

House District 74—Rep. V. Lowry Snow
St. George Academy
Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts
Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts and
Technology

House District 75—Rep. Walt Brooks
SUCCESS Academy—DSU

Statewide

Athenian eAcademy
Leadership Learning of Utah
Lumen Scholar Academy
Mountain Heights Academy
Utah Connections Academy
Utah Virtual Academy



By Utah Senate District

Senate District 1 – Sen. Luz Escamilla

APA – The Accelerated School
Dual Immersion Academy
East Hollywood High School
Endeavor Hall
Esperanza Elementary
Guadalupe School
Mana Academy
Monticello Academy
Pacific Heritage Academy
Vanguard Academy

Senate District 2 – Sen. Jim Dabakis

City Academy
Salt Lake Arts Academy
The Open Classroom

Senate District 3 – Sen. Gene Davis

American International School of Utah
APA-School for New Americans
Roots Charter High School
Kairos Academy
Utah International Charter School

Senate District 4 – Sen. Jani Iwamoto

Canyon Rim Academy
Salt Lake School for Performing Arts
Wasatch Waldorf Charter School

Senate District 5 – Sen. Karen Mayne

Entheos Academy – Kearns

Senate District 6 – Sen. Wayne A. Harper

Hawthorn Academy – West Jordan
Itineris Early College High School

Senate District 7 – Sen. Deidre M. Henderson

American Leadership Academy
APA – Salem
Merit College Preparatory Academy

Senate District 8 – Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa

AMES
Ivy Preparatory Academy

Senate District 9 – Sen. Wayne L. Niederhauser

Beehive Science & Technology

Senate District 10 – Sen. Lincoln Fillmore

American Academy of Innovation
Ascent Academies of Utah – West Jordan
Athlos Academy of Utah
Hawthorn Academy – South Jordan
Mountain West Montessori Academy
Paradigm High School
The Early Light Academy

Senate District 11 – Sen. Howard A. Stephenson

APA – Draper #1
APA – Draper #2
APA – Draper #3
Channing Hall
Ignite Entrepreneurship Academy
North Star Academy
Summit Academy – Bluffdale
Summit Academy – Draper
Summit Academy High School

Senate District 12 – Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher

Entheos Academy – Magna
Navigator Pointe Academy
Scholar Academy

Senate District 13 – Sen. Jake Anderregg

Ascent Academies – Lehi
Lakeview Academy
Providence Hall
Renaissance Academy
Rockwell Charter High School
The Ranches Academy

Senate District 14 – Sen. Dan Hemmert

Aristotle Academy
Canyon Grove Academy
Franklin Discovery Academy
John Hancock Charter School
Lincoln Academy
Mountainville Academy
Odyssey Charter School
Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts

Senate District 15 – Sen. Margaret Dayton

Freedom Preparatory Academy-Provo
Freedom Preparatory Academy-Vineyard
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy
Noah Webster Academy
Spectrum Academy – Pleasant Grove
Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS)

Senate District 16 – Sen. Curtis S. Bramble

Walden School of Liberal Arts

Senate District 17 – Sen. Peter C. Knudson

Bonneville Academy
Excelsior Academy
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning
Thomas Edison Charter School—South

Senate District 18 – Sen. Ann Milner

DaVinci Academy of Science and the Arts
Good Foundations Academy
HighMark Charter School
Utah Military Academy – Riverdale
Weber State University Charter Academy

Senate District 19 – Sen. Allen M. Christensen

GreenWood
Maria Montessori Academy
Ogden Preparatory Academy
Weilenmann School of Discovery

Senate District 20 – Sen. Gregg Buxton

Quest Academy
Venture Academy
Voyage Academy

Senate District 21 – Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson

North Davis Preparatory Academy
NUAMES
Syracuse Arts Academy – Antelope Campus
Syracuse Arts Academy – North Campus

Senate District 22 – Sen. J. Stuart Adams

Ascent Academies of Utah – Farmington
Jefferson Academy
Leadership Learning Academy
Leadership Learning Academy-Satellite #1
Utah Career Path High School

Senate District 23 – Sen. Todd Weiler

Legacy Preparatory Academy
Salt Lake Center for Science Education
Spectrum Academy – NSL
Wallace Stegner Academy
Wasatch Peak Academy

Senate District 24 – Sen. Ralph Okerland

C.S. Lewis Academy

Senate District 25 – Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard

Bear River Charter School
Center for Creativity, Innovation & Discovery
Edith Bowen Laboratory School
Fast Forward High School
InTech Collegiate High School
Thomas Edison Charter School—North

Senate District 26 – Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell

Soldier Hollow Charter School
Terra Academy
Uintah River High School
Winter Sports School

Senate District 27 – Sen. David P. Hinkins

Moab Charter School
Pinnacle Canyon Academy
Ronald Reagan Academy

Senate District 28 – Sen. Evan J. Vickers

Dixie Montessori Academy
Gateway Preparatory Academy
SUCCESS Academy – SUU
Valley Academy

Senate District 29 – Sen. Don L. Ipson

George Washington Academy

St. George Academy

SUCCESS Academy - DSU

Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts

Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts and

Technology

Statewide

Athenian eAcademy

Leadership Academy of Utah

Lumen Scholar Academy

Mountain Heights Academy

Utah Connections Academy

Utah Virtual Academy



Introduction

Utah charter schools have come a long way since the Utah Legislature enacted the Utah Charter Schools Act of 1998. As of October 2016, (school year 2016-17), there are 108 charter LEAs and 127 charter schools serving 71,494 students. The combined total of the charter school population equals that of the second largest school district in the state. Even with 71,494 and strong growth, the demand outpaces the supply in many areas and thousands of students are wait-listed statewide every year.

Increasing enrollments and long waiting lists are not the only indicators of success. Charter school founders, board members, administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students have reason to celebrate the success of these schools and their contribution to our state's education system. While overall charter school performance is often on par with district schools, the data in this report shows that many charter schools perform well above state averages and other schools serving similar populations. The goal of charter schools is to provide additional educational options with quality outcomes for students and parents. Successful, quality charter schools are more than a gathering of excellent teachers and effective curricula. These schools also have sound policy, strong governance, capable academic leadership, robust fiscal responsibility, and active parent and community engagement. Utah public charter schools possess this level of quality. Some common trends seen among the most successful charter schools are strong professional development, one-on-one with students, effective use of data, smaller class sizes, and leveled learning.

While this report looks at charter schools as a whole, it is important to note that there is much variety among charter schools. Some schools focus on serving educationally disadvantaged students, while others target advanced students and offer strong college preparatory curriculum. Schools also vary in their focus (e.g., arts, STEM, classical education) and in their educational programs. There are many charter schools with impressive achievements. Those wishing to know more about individual charter schools are encouraged to access the Charter School Directory at <http://schools.utah.gov/charterschools/School-Directory.aspx> and the USOE Data Gateway at <http://schools.utah.gov/data/Data-Gateway.aspx>.

Charter schools may be authorized by different chartering entities, such as local school districts, institutions of higher education, and the seven-member, governor-appointed Utah State Charter School Board. The Utah State Charter School Board is the authorizer for 97% of charter schools.

This report celebrates the accomplishments of all charter schools and their students, and shares information and performance data for charter schools regardless of chartering entity.

Fast Facts

Charter Schools by the Numbers

In SY 2016-17 there are 127 operational charter schools serving 71,494 students.

Locations

One hundred and twenty-seven charter schools are located in 22 districts; six charter schools are online. Students who attend charter schools come from all 41 districts.

New School Applications and Approvals

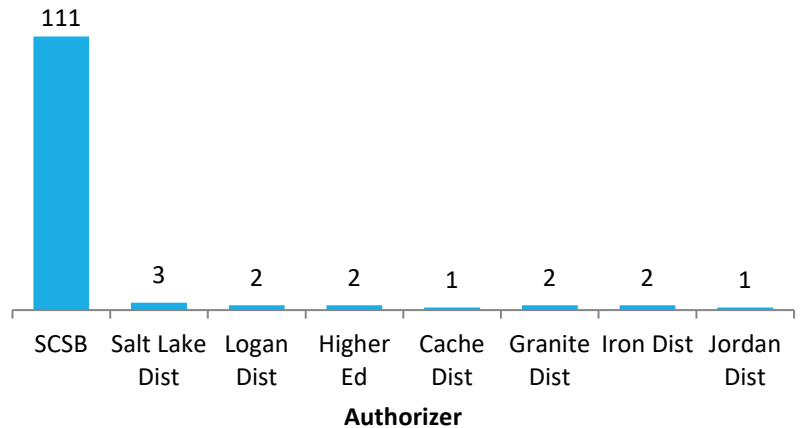
- 2009: 13 applications/5 approved
- 2010: 11 applications/4 approved
- 2011: 12 applications/6 approved
- 2012: 15 applications/7 approved
- 2013: 14 applications/7 approved
- 2014: 17 applications/6 approved
- 2015: 11 applications/6 approved
- 2016: 6 applications/2 pending approval

Grade Configurations

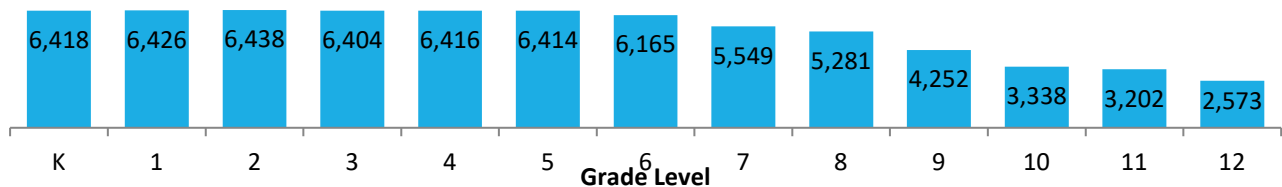
Charter schools also serve a wide range of grades and grade configurations, though charter schools serve more students in elementary and middle grades than in high school.

- 23 serve grades K-9
- 23 serve grades K-8
- 22 serve grades K-6
- 16 serve grades K-12
- 15 serve grades 9-12
- 9 serve grades 7-12
- 4 serve grades 10-12
- 7 serve other grade configurations

Charter School Authorizers



2016-17 Charter School Enrollment by Grade Level



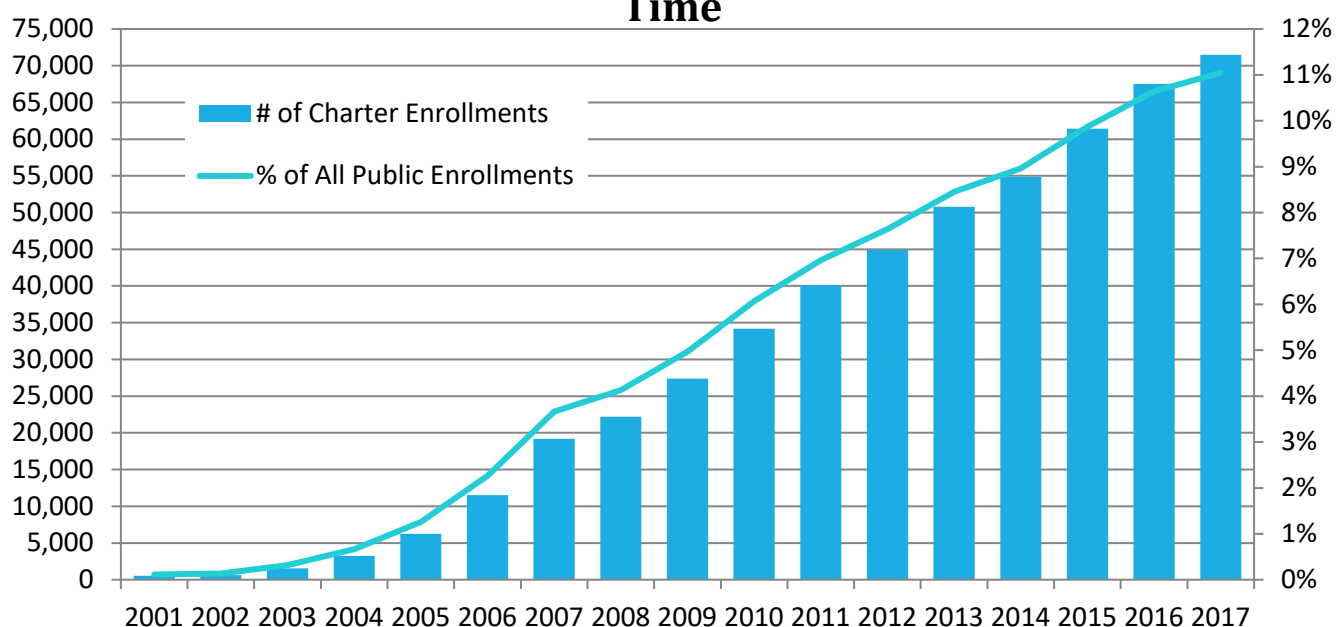
Enrollment and Engagement

Utah has long offered public school choice options through school district open enrollment and charter schools. People choose charter schools for various reasons, some of which include curricular focus, geographic location, school size, safety, and school culture.

Enrollment Longitudinally

Utah charter schools have always served a variety of students across the state, beginning with the first cohort of charter schools that opened in fall 1999 and continuing with the most recent cohort of charter schools that opened for the 2016-17 school year. As public schools, charter schools must accept students who apply to the school. Any time a charter school has more applications than seats available, it must conduct a lottery to fill the seats. Charter school enrollments continue to rise. While all public school student enrollments have been increasing, charter school enrollments have been increasing at a faster pace than district school enrollments. As can be seen, charter schools' percentage share of the whole Utah public school population has been steadily increasing, reaching 71,494 students and 11% of all enrollments in SY 2016-17. Just two years ago, in SY 2014-15, charter school enrollment was 9.9% of all enrollments. In SY 2009-10, it was 6.1% and in SY 2004-05, it was 1.3%.

Charter School Enrollments and Percentages Over Time



A large percentage of the enrollment increase from last year were in enrollments to new charter schools. These schools were largely able to fill their seats.



Transfer and Retention

While the overall enrollment of a charter school is important, the Utah State Charter School Board also recognizes the importance of student transfer rates (the percentage of students leaving the charter school during a school year) and student retention rates (the percentage of students reenrolling at the same charter school from one year to the next).

As a whole, charter schools had a transfer rate of 8.0% during SY 2015-16. This was a decrease from 7.4% during SY 2013-14. The transfer rates for individual charter schools ranged from less than a half a percent (0.4%) to 37.4%.

The majority of charter schools also retained most of their students from the end of SY 2015-16 to October 1, 2016. Overall, charter schools retained 80% of their students during that time period. However, as with the transfer rate, retention rates also vary by charter school.

Demographics

Compared to statewide demographic percentages, charter schools overall reported lower percentages of students who identified as low income and English learners (EL). However, charter schools have slightly surpassed district schools on the percentage of ethnic minority and students with disabilities (SWD) they serve.

2016-17 Charter School Student Demographics



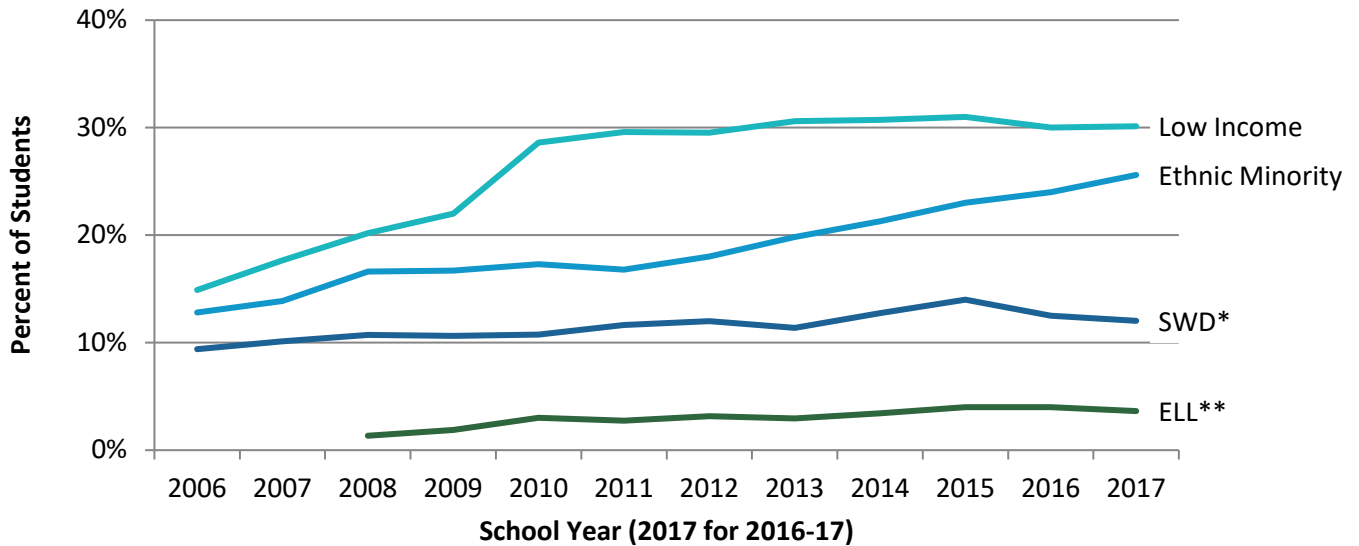
*SWD = Students with disabilities

** EL = English learners

Demographics Longitudinally

Utah charter schools have seen increases in some demographic subgroups. In particular, the percentage of ethnic minorities has shown a steady increase over time, from 14% in 2007 to 26% in October 2016 (SY 2016-17). Hispanics are the biggest ethnic group attending our charter schools, currently at 17%, followed by those identified as multiple race 3.1% and Asians 2.4%. The three schools with the highest attendance of Hispanic students are American Preparatory Academy Accelerated School with 817 students and Esperanza school with 476 students, both located in Granite School District, and Ogden Preparatory Academy with 575 students, located in Ogden City School District.

Charter School Demographics, Over Time



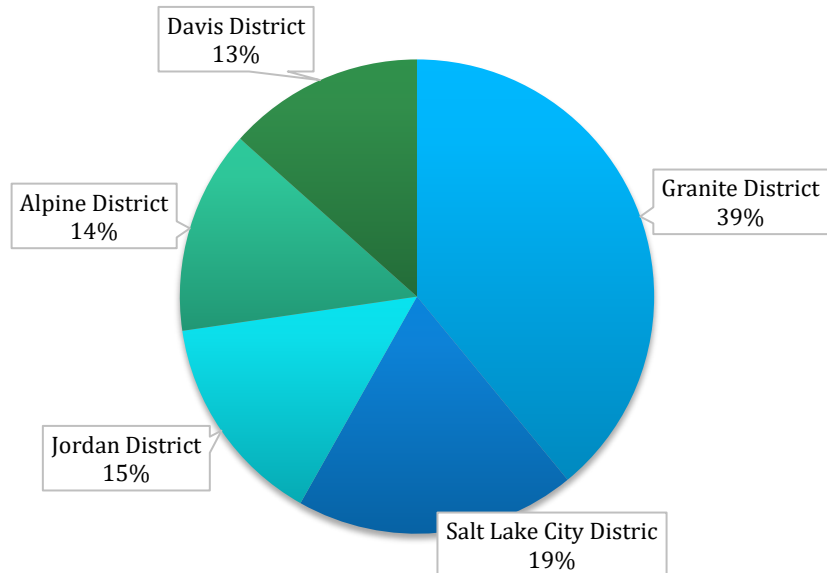
*SWD = Students with disabilities

** EL = English learners

Note: English learner designations changed in 2008; data prior to 2008 was not included for this subgroup.

Although there has been growth of ethnic minorities in the state attending charter schools, the biggest growth has been in Hispanic students. Granite, Salt Lake City, Jordan, Alpine and Davis districts have the highest concentration of Hispanic students attending charter schools in the state, currently 11%. Charter schools in Granite District are serving the highest count of Hispanic students in the state, currently 2,940.

Percentage of Hispanic Students in Charters by District

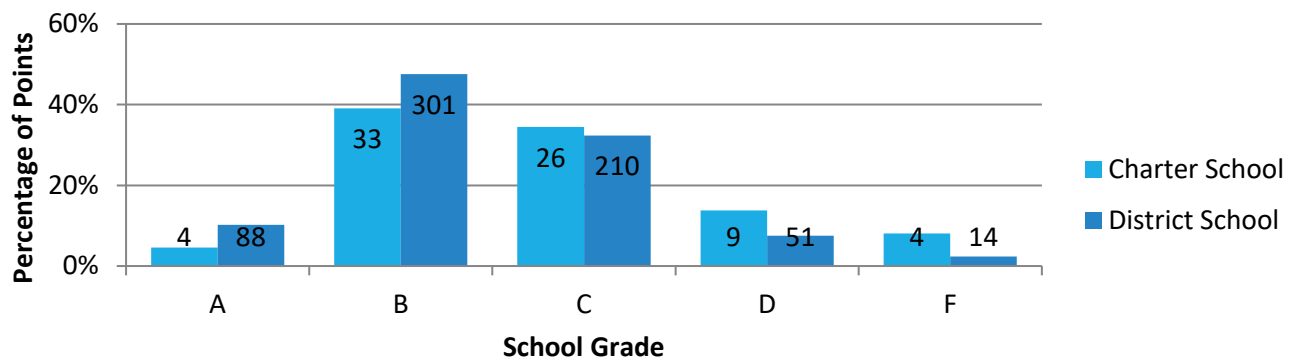


Academics

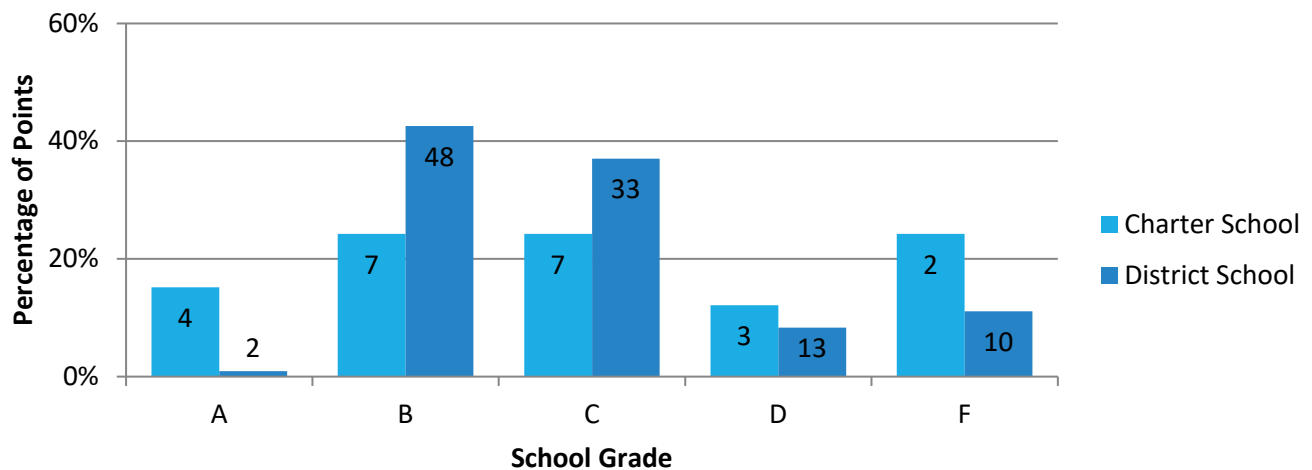
Grading Schools

Schools received a grade for the first time for the 2012-13 school year. Grades are assigned based on points awarded for the percentage of students reaching proficiency in language arts, mathematics, and science; the percentage of students reaching sufficient growth in those same subjects; ACT scores (for high schools only); and the percentage of students graduating within four years (for high schools only). In SY 2015-16, a higher percentage of charter high schools earned an A than district schools, but a lower percentage of charter elementary/middle schools earned an A than district schools. A similar trend was seen in prior years.

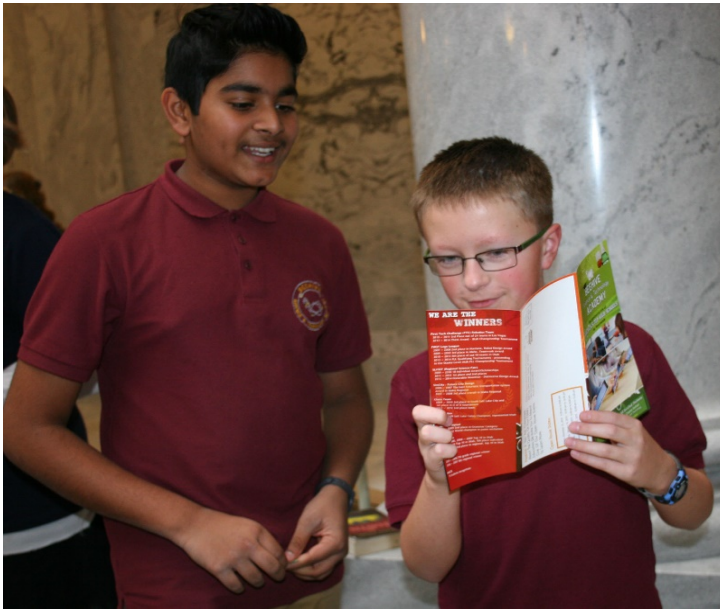
SY 2015-16 School Grades for Elementary Schools



SY 2015-16 School Grades for High Schools



Participation on End of Level Assessments



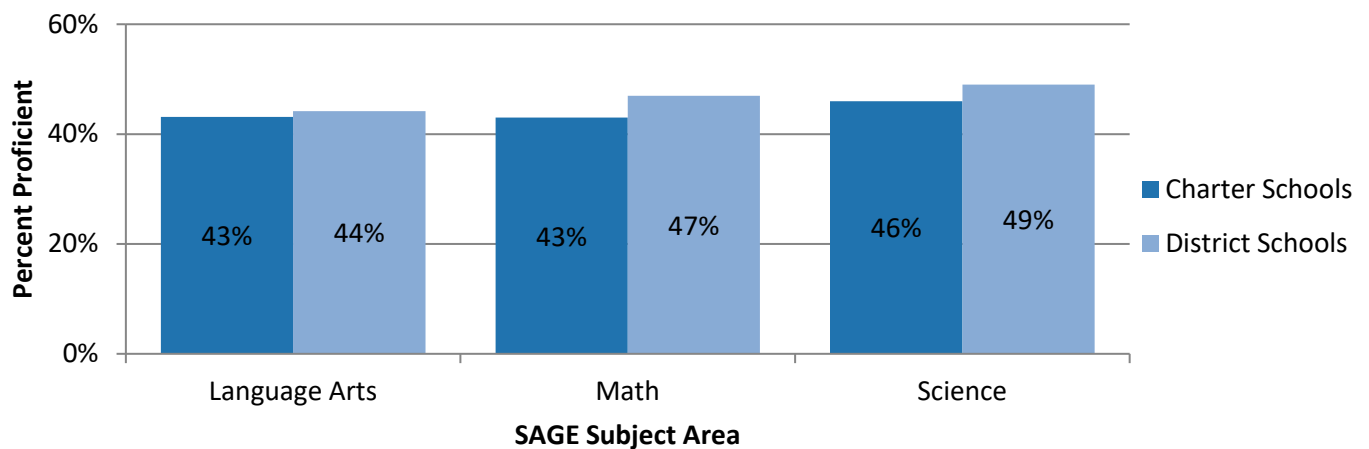
In 2016, Utah saw increases in the percentages of students who opted out of the end-of-year state assessment. While this happened statewide, some schools saw higher percentages of students opting out of the SAGE assessments than other schools. Charter schools were particularly affected. In 2016, 12.4% of students who attend charter schools opted out, while in district schools it was 4.2%. Both districts and charter schools have seen an increase of opt-out percentages since 2014. Charter schools opt-out rate increased by 2.5% over the previous year, district's opt-out rate increased by 1.8%. Data suggests that the

largest percentage of students opting out of SAGE, in both charter and district schools, are students who attend virtual schools.

Proficiency Rates

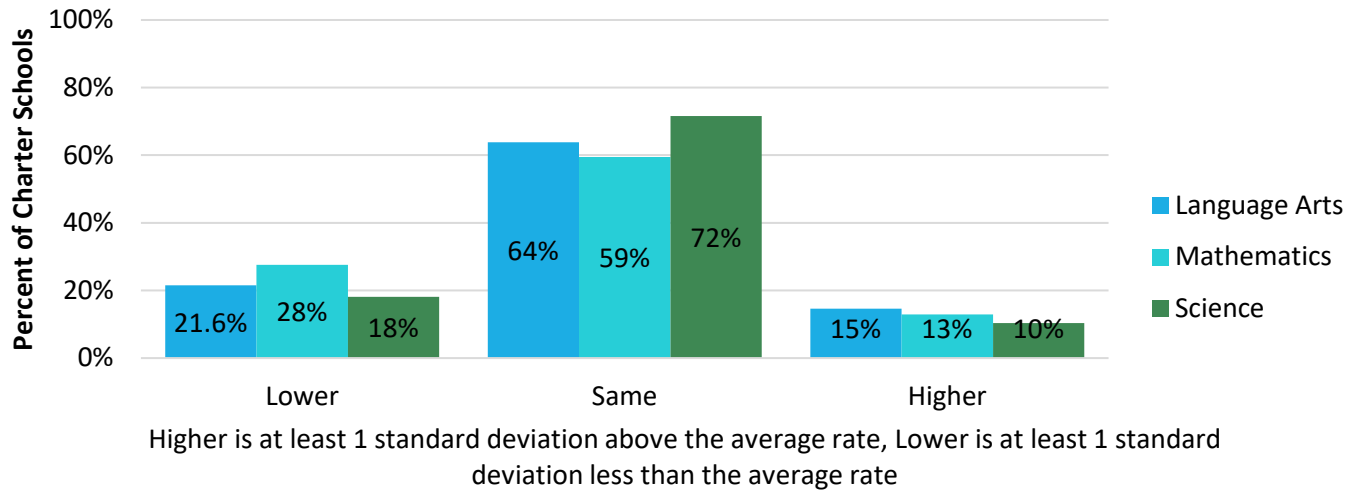
Overall, charter school 2016 SAGE proficiency rates show a continued increase in all three-subject areas when comparing the rates to those in 2014. However, we have seen the highest increase in both Mathematics and Science. In 2014, the percent proficiency of charter students in Mathematics was 38% and in 2016, it is 43%. Science proficiency rates were at 43% in 2014 and as of 2016, it is at 46%. Although there has been a steady increase in charter student's proficiency rates, the proficiency rates among charter school students continue to be lower than the proficiency rates among district school students.

2016 SAGE Proficiency Rates for Students at Charter and District Schools



There are some charter schools with comparatively high proficiency rates for example; five of the ten high schools with the highest Mathematics proficiency in the state were Charter schools. Overall, 15% of charter schools had higher language arts proficiency rates than the state. This is also true for 13% of charter schools for Mathematics and 10% of charter schools for science.

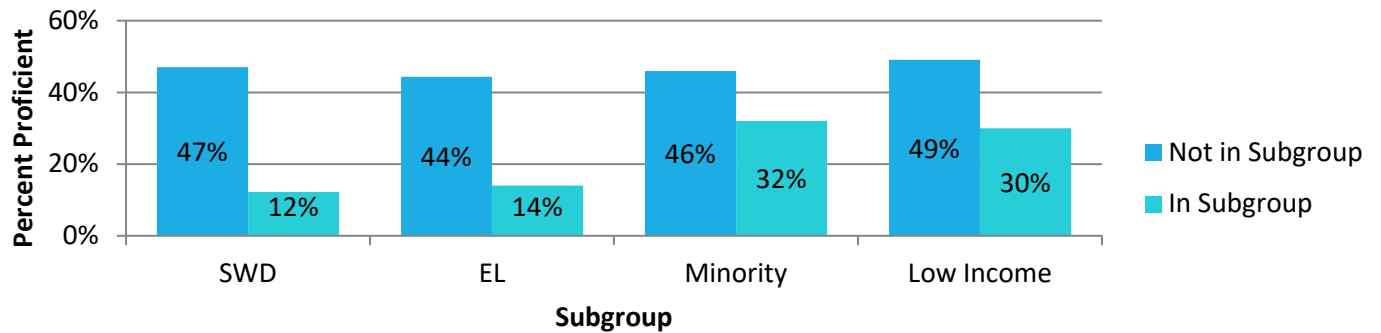
Charter School 2016 SAGE Proficiency Rates Comparison to Average State Proficiency Rates



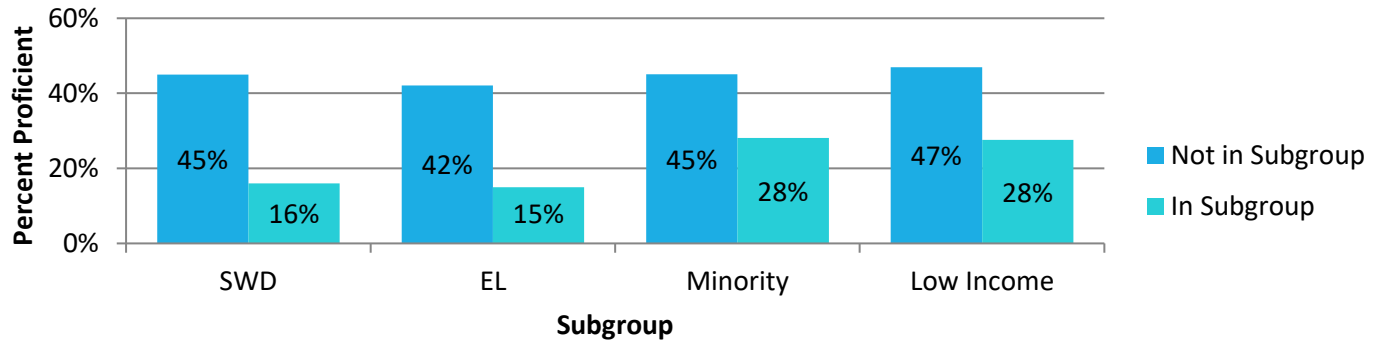
Demographics and SAGE Achievement

Statewide, there is a correlation between achievement and demographics where certain subgroups tend to have lower test scores than those not in the subgroups. This is also true for charter schools. In 2016, for all subject SAGE tests, charter school students with disabilities (SWD), English learners (ELs), ethnic or racial minorities, and low-income students had lower proficiency rates than charter school students not in those subgroups.

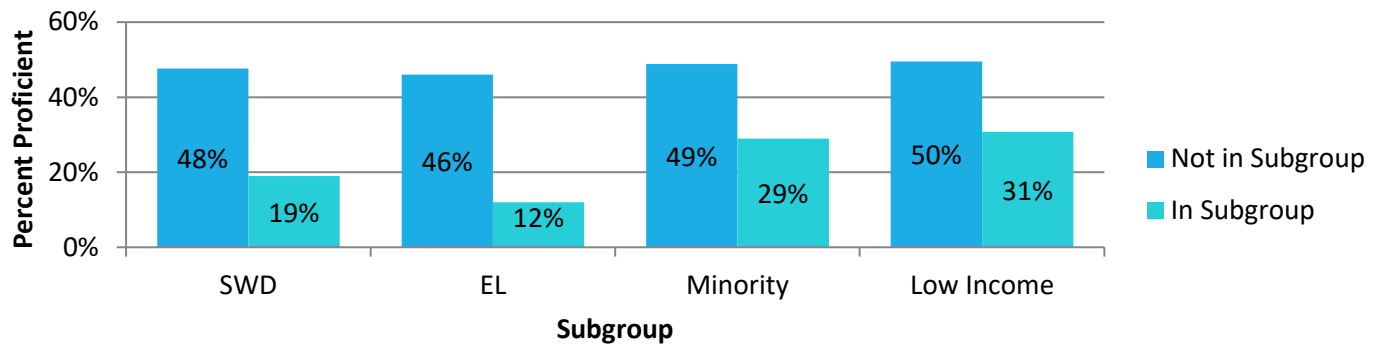
2016 Charter School SAGE Proficiency by Subgroup Language Arts



Mathematics

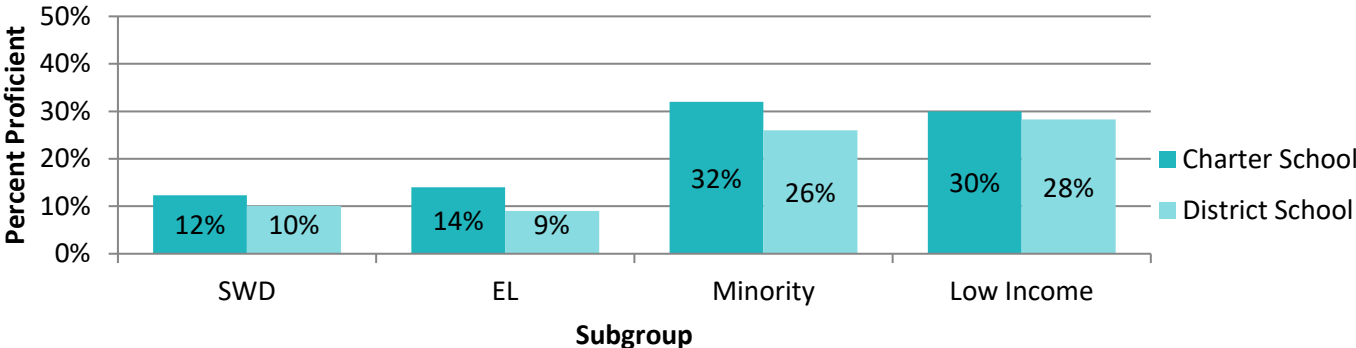


Science

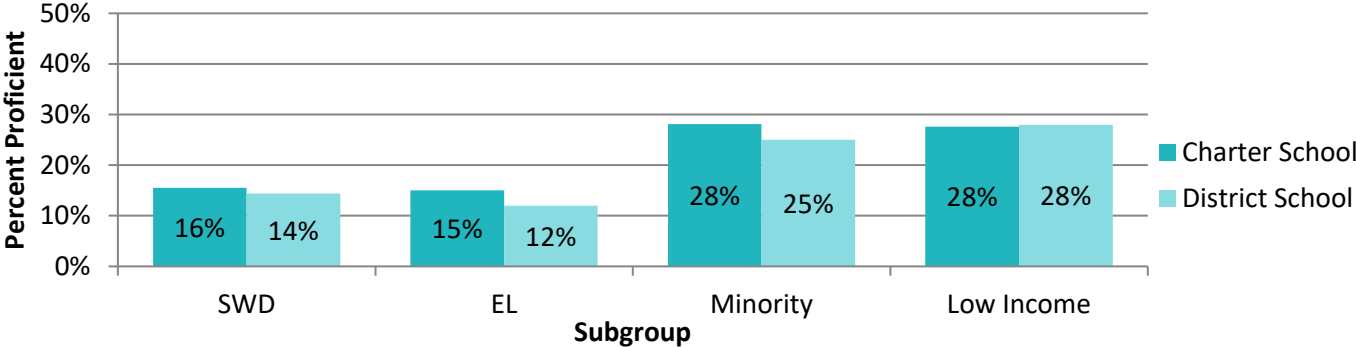


While there is an achievement gap within charter schools, charter schools as a whole do a comparatively good job in closing that gap. A number of charter schools serve high percentages of students in these subgroups and are able to raise these students’ proficiency rates. For every subgroup and in every subject on the 2016 SAGE test, the gap within charter schools was smaller than the gap within district schools. Further, except for Low Income students in Mathematics and Science, charter school students in subgroups had higher proficiency rates than district school students, as seen in the graphs below. Lastly, charter schools students, in all four subgroups, outperform, or are equal to, students in traditional district schools. However, impressive gains are being made with minority students, English learners, and students with disabilities.

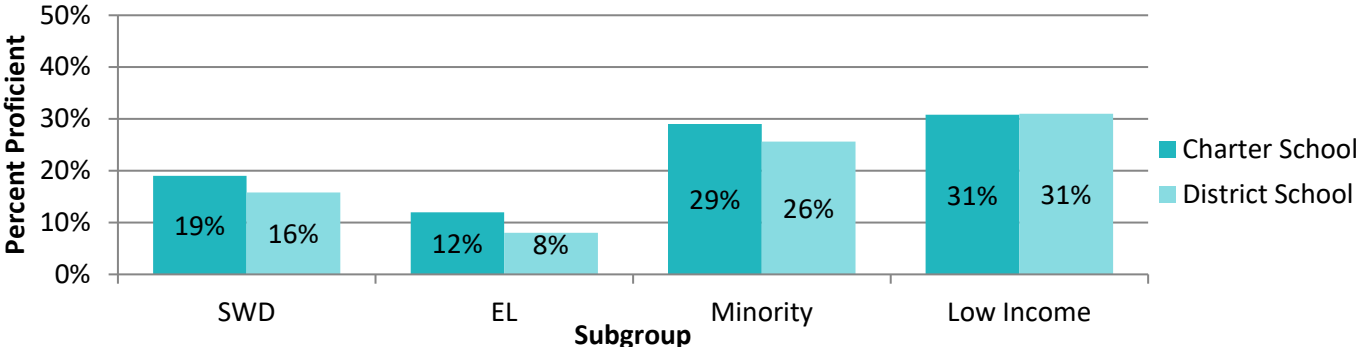
2016 SAGE Subgroup Proficiency Rates Language Arts



Mathematics



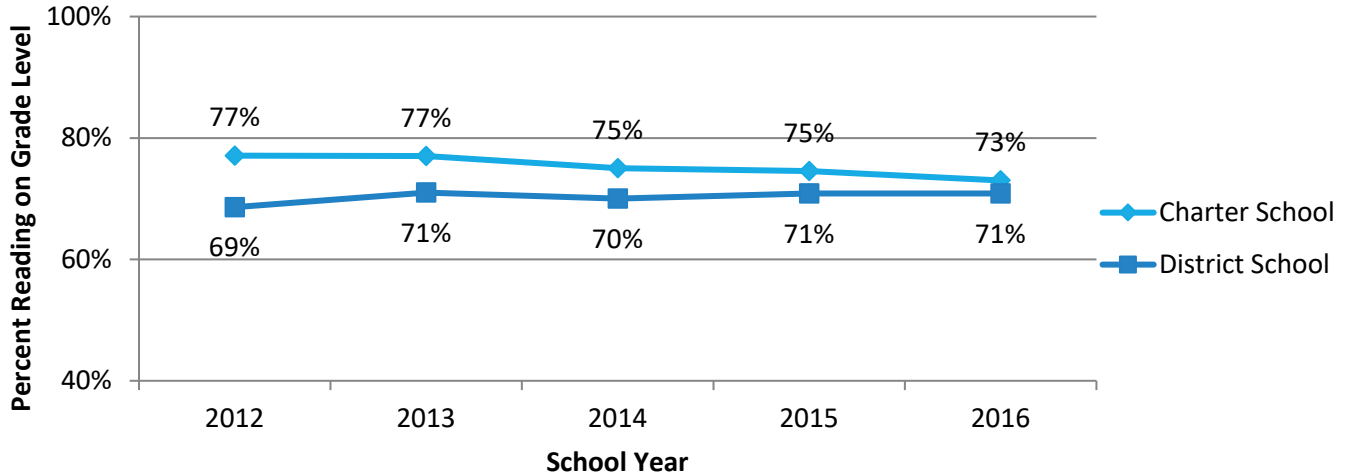
Science



Reading on Grade Level

Using the DIBELS mid-year reading assessment, schools report whether students in grades 1-3 are reading on grade level. Since 2012, a higher percentage of charter school students were reading on grade level than in district schools.

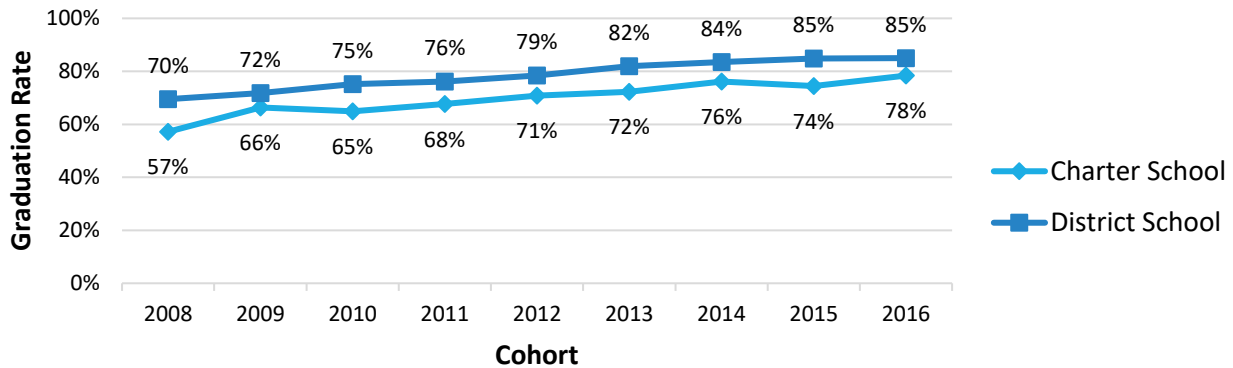
Mid-Year Reading on Grade Level, Over Time



Graduation Rates

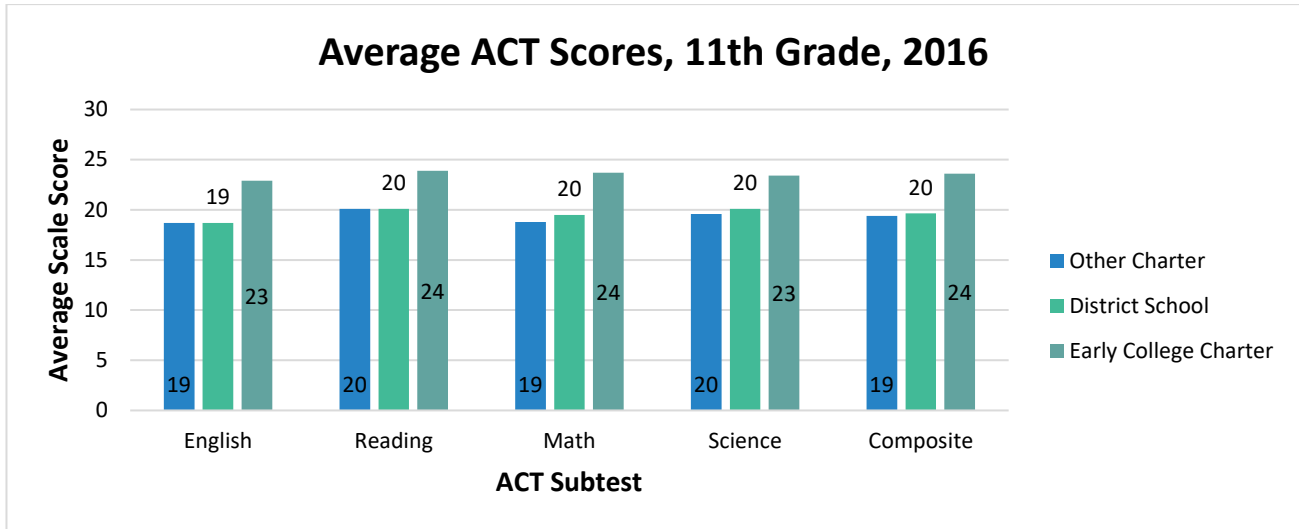
Using the federal definition of a four-year cohort graduation rate, the graduation rate for charter high school students has been historically lower than that for district high school students, but has been increasingly more rapidly, just about cutting the gap between the two types of schools in half over the last eight years (from 12.3 percentage points in 2008 to 6.6 in 2016). As with other data presented in this report, some charter schools have very high graduation rates. For the 2016 cohort, of charters with at least ten cohort members, three had a 100% graduation rate and another 13 had a rate of 90% or higher.

Graduation Rate Over Time



College Readiness (ACT)

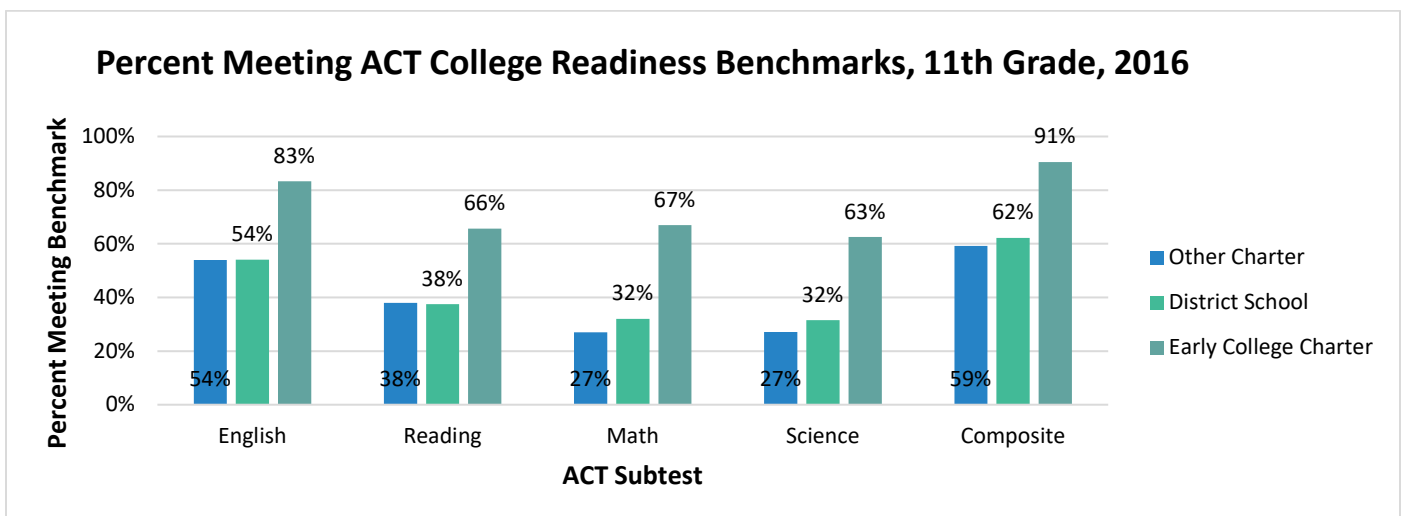
Beginning with SY 2013-14, the ACT was given to all eleventh grade students in a Utah public school. Our 2016 data suggests that charter school students are keeping on par with District students in English, Reading, Science, and only slightly below in Mathematics. However, in SY 2015-16, eleventh grade students enrolled in a Utah Early College charter school performed much better, based on the ACT composite scale score, than students enrolled in district schools: 46.5% to 19.7%.



The ACT sets College Readiness Benchmarks for each subtest. These benchmarks are indicators of being more likely than not of earning a B or higher in a corresponding college course. The benchmarks are as follows:

- English: 18
- Reading: 22
- Math: 22
- Science: 23

In SY 2015-16, 16.6% of eleventh grade students enrolled in a Utah charter school met all four ACT College Readiness Benchmarks and 19.7% of eleventh grade students enrolled in an Early College Utah charter school met all four.



Conclusion

The Utah charter school movement continues to grow. More students are enrolled in charter schools than ever before.

Charter schools are also becoming more diverse. In SY 2016-2017 charter schools surpassed district schools in the amount of ethnic minority and English learner students they serve. These students performance on the SAGE appears to demonstrate a closing of the achievement gap over those students attending a District school.

We continue to see our students grow and go onto achieve great success. We are very happy to see the growth and diversity in our charter schools and we are dedicated to make charter schools successful in the state of Utah. We will continue to work hard to help them grow and improve in all areas. We are eager to see what the future holds for charter schools across the state and as Nelson Mandela once said, *“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*

