



Advancing Quality  
Improving Achievement

## **IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FACT SHEET**

*How many charter schools are there in Idaho and how many students do they serve?*

There are 48 charter schools serving about 19,600 students.

*How many students are on charter school wait lists?*

There are about 11,000 students on wait lists to get into a public charter school?

*Are public charter schools free and open to anyone?*

Public charter schools are free and open to anyone who applies. Charter schools with waiting lists have a lottery process for new students.

*How many charter schools have closes since the program's inception in 1998?*

Nine schools have closed since 1998 and most for financial reasons.

*What percentage of the charter school population is considered in poverty?*

According to the Office of Performance Evaluation, the statewide average poverty rate for charter schools in 2011-12 was 46 percent, while the statewide average for traditional schools was 50 percent. These numbers have probably inched up for each sector in recent years.

*What is the percentage of charter school students receiving special education services?*

According to the Office of Performance Evaluation, students receiving special education services in charter schools average eight percent, while the district average is 10 percent.

*How many Idaho charter schools are "for profit?"*

Idaho has four schools – all online models – run by "for profit" school management companies.

*How do charter school students perform academically compared to students in traditional Idaho public schools?*

Overall, Idaho's charter school students perform well in comparison to other Idaho public school students. On the 2014 "SAT" five of the top six scoring high schools were charters. Idaho charter school students as a group perform better on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading and math assessments than their traditional district school peers. In 2013, fourth and eighth grade charter students outpaced their district peers in both reading and math. But not all charters are high-flyers academically. Some of the state's lowest graduation rates are found in charter schools.

*Who governs Idaho charter schools?*

Charter schools are started and governed by parents, educators, or school innovators, but to operate a charter school, a governing board needs to get approval from a charter school authorizer. In Idaho, school districts, the Idaho Charter School Commission and state and private (non-denominational) universities and colleges are the only organizations that may authorize public charter schools.