



## The Changing Roles of School Leaders: Charter Schools

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U.S. Department of Education

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## Office of Parental Options and Information (POI)

Oversees Department activities that support educational choice programs and that support community organizations that effectively inform parents of their options.

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## Program Appropriations Annually

Charter Schools – SEA	\$ 186,999,310
Magnet Assistance Program	\$ 104,829,073
Parent Information Resource Centers	\$ 38,908,188
Public Voluntary School Choice	\$ 25,818,923
DC Opportunity Scholarship	\$ 14,800,000
Charter Schools - State Facilities Incentive	\$ 12,731,000
Credit Enhancement	\$ 8,300,000
High-Quality SES and After-School Partnerships	\$ 5,000,000
Full Service Community Schools	\$ 4,912,650
Charter Schools - non-SEA	\$ 3,000,431

Over \$400 million invested annually to expand educational choice for children attending low performing public schools and to inform parents about their choice options.

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### Charter School Program Goal

Support the creation and development of a large number of high-quality charter schools that are free from State or local rules that inhibit flexible operation, are held accountable for enabling students to reach challenging State performance standards, and are open to all students.

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### Charter School Program Goal

- Provide financial assistance for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools
  - Dissemination of information on charter schools
- The CSP provides:**
- Grants on a competitive basis to State Educational Agencies (SEA) in those states that have charter school laws
  - SEAs in turn make subgrants to developers of charter schools who have applied for a charter.

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### Charter School Facts

- There are currently more than 1.3 million students attending over 4,600 public charters schools in 40 states and the District of Columbia.
- In the 2008-2009 school year 426 new public charter schools opened.
- Public charter schools comprise 3% of all public schools (based on student population) in the United States.
- Among all states, Arizona has the highest market share of students in public charter schools at 9%.
- Among all cities, New Orleans has the highest market share of students in public charter schools at 55%. Other cities include Washington DC, Phoenix Union High School District (AZ), Dayton (OH), Pontiac (MI) and Kansas City, MO

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### Charter School Facts

- There are limits or caps on the number of charter schools that may exist in 26 states.
- Minority students make up 60% of all students in public charter schools (2006-2007).
- Public charter schools are often short-changed on public funding. Nationally, they receive only 78% in average per-pupil funding of school district average per-pupil funding.
- School choice, fundamental to the public charter school concept has strong public support. A recent national poll (April 2008) revealed that 77% of registered voters favor giving parents more options when choosing a public schools for their children.

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### Charter School Facts

- A 2004 report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education found that charter schools are smaller than conventional public schools and serve a disproportionate and increasing number of poor and minority students.
- A 2003 national report by the Brookings Institution shows that test scores at charter schools are "rising sharply" and out-gaining conventional schools.

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### Charter School Facts

- A December 2004 Harvard University study finds that charter school students are more likely to be proficient in reading and math than students in neighboring conventional schools. The greatest achievement gains can be seen among African American, Hispanic, or low-income students.
- Charter schools that have been open for significant periods of time boast even higher achievement rates; Harvard found that charter schools that have been operating for more than 5 years outpace conventional schools by as much as 15 percent.

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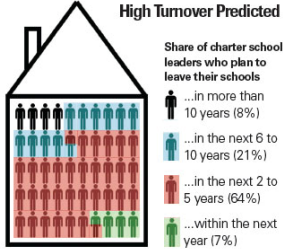
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### Charter School Leadership Challenge



SOURCE: Survey of charter leaders in Arizona, California, Hawaii, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Texas, National Charter School Research Project

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### Leading for Learning 2008

Education Week's fifth annual *Leading for Learning* report, funded by The Wallace Foundation, examines the leadership challenges facing the nation's rapidly growing charter school sector. It includes new research on the characteristics of charter school principals, and the pressing issues they face, from the National Charter Schools Research Project at the University of Washington in Seattle.



[http://elan.wallacefoundation.org/TR/KnowledgeCategories/Developing%20Leaders/Pre-Service%20Training/Pages/Pre%20service\\_2008.aspx](http://elan.wallacefoundation.org/TR/KnowledgeCategories/Developing%20Leaders/Pre-Service%20Training/Pages/Pre%20service_2008.aspx)

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### Charter Schools Programs

#### Charter Schools Program

[www.ed.gov/programs/charter/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/charter/index.html)

#### Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities

[www.ed.gov/programs/charterfacilities/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/charterfacilities/index.html)

#### State Charter School Facilities Incentive Grants Program

[www.ed.gov/programs/statecharter/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/statecharter/index.html)

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### Charter School Program Resources

#### K-8 Charter Schools Closing the Achievement Gap

This publication looks at seven K-8 charter schools that are dispelling the myth that some students cannot achieve to high standards. These schools are closing the achievement gap through challenging curriculum, high expectations, and the proper support that all students need to succeed.



<http://preview.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/charterk-8/index.html>

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### Charter School Program Resources

#### Charter High Schools Closing the Achievement Gap

This publication shows how eight diverse schools are using innovative instructional approaches to close the achievement gap between the highest and the lowest performing students.



<http://preview.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/charterhs/index.html>

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### Charter School Program Resources

#### Supporting Charter School Excellence Through Quality Authorizing

Featuring eight charter authorizers that share a commitment to quality and remain focused on improving and expanding the education options in their area, this guide is designed to help policymakers at the state and national levels and to help current and potential authorizers replicate these successful models and practices.



<http://preview.ed.gov/nclb/choice/charter/authorizing/index.html>

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### Charter School Program Resources

#### Making Charter School Facilities More Affordable: State-driven Policy Approaches

This guide showcases charter school facility laws and practices that have been developed to tackle the facilities challenge in eight states and Washington, D.C.



<http://preview.ed.gov/admins/comm/choice/charterfacilities/index.html>

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### Charter School Program Resources

National Alliance of Public Charter Schools  
[www.publiccharters.org](http://www.publiccharters.org)

Center for Education Reform  
[www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com)

National Association of Charter School Authorizers  
[www.charterauthorizers.org](http://www.charterauthorizers.org)

Nat'l Assoc. of State Dir. of Special Education  
[www.nasdse.org](http://www.nasdse.org)

USCharterschools  
[www.uscharterschools.org](http://www.uscharterschools.org)

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### Office of Innovation and Improvement Publications

*Creating Strong District School Choice Programs*

*Creating Strong Supplemental Educational Service Programs*

*Successful Charter Schools*

*Creating Successful Magnet Schools Programs*

*Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification*

*Innovative Pathways to School Leadership*

[www.ed.gov/about/pubs/intro/innovations.html](http://www.ed.gov/about/pubs/intro/innovations.html)

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