



Charters Schools Serve Many Purposes

Since the first public charter school opened for students at-risk in Minneapolis in 1992, the charter school movement has expanded to include 5,000 public schools enrolling 1.6 million children. The charter school model is a flexible model of public education that is based on a detailed contract, with a renewal process that demands results.

Because it is flexible, the charter school model supports a wide variety of instructional approaches and curricular themes to address the needs of specific student populations and/or the needs of a particular community. A few examples are listed below.

1. Students At-risk

- a. **North Country Charter Academy**, Littleton and Lancaster, New Hampshire; 9-12
Regional cooperative; uses individualized learning plans for dropout prevention and recovery.
- b. **Maya Angelou Public CS**, Washington, D.C.; 9-12
Develops academic, social, and employment skills of students at risk of failure.
- c. **Spectrum Charter School**, Monroeville, Pennsylvania; 9-12+
Provides school-to-work transition instruction for students aged 14-21 with unique cognitive, communication, and sensory challenges, including students with autism spectrum disorders.
- d. **Success School**, Taylorsville, Utah; 7-12
As part of the Juvenile Probation System, serves students of all academic levels with the goal of instilling students with the desire to learn (includes traditional, vocational, and GED preparation programs).

2. Vocational

- a. **Academy for Career Education**, Reno, Nevada; 9-12
Comprehensive instruction in building trades
- b. **Academy of Communications and Technology**, Chicago, Illinois; 9-12
College-prep; connects academics to world of work through field experiences in communications careers.
- c. **Augsburg Academy for Health Careers**, Minneapolis, Minnesota; 9-12
Vocational education in healthcare, with mentoring and hands-on experience
- d. **Marriott Hospitality Public Charter School**, Washington, D.C.; 9-12
Preparation for continuing education and/or career in the hospitality industry; includes paid internships, industry related technology systems training, student learning projects and mentors.

3. Agricultural and Environmental

- a. **Louisiana High School for Agricultural Sciences**, Bunkie, Louisiana; 8-11
Alternative/GED, technical and college prep. Agri-science is a theme integrated across the curriculum to teach concepts through hands-on instruction.
- b. **Service Valley Charter Academy**, Parsons, Kansas; K-8
Enhances education with agriculture, horticulture, and technology
- c. **Black Forest School - Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning**, Falcon, Colorado; PreK-8
“Outward Bound” instruction; hands-on, learning expeditions.

4. Science, Math, and Technology

- a. **TEACH – Technology Enriched Accelerated Charter High School**, Alpharetta, Georgia; 9-12
Focus on state-of-the-art technology systems; college prep.
- b. **Gateway Science Academy**, St. Louis, Missouri; K-7; - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) focused.
- c. **Walipp Preparatory Academy for Boys**, Houston, Texas; 6-8
Activity-oriented lessons, a linked core curriculum, integration of technology with math and science, and a student court system for behavior management.

5. Native American Culture and Language

- a. **All Tribes American Indian Charter School**, Valley Center, California; 6-12
High degree of hands-on material that engages students; includes the Native American language “Luiseno” as a second language course.
- b. **Harvey Philip Alternative Charter School**, Waukesha, Wisconsin; 7-12
Core curriculum with a focus on the Native American Circle of Courage
- c. **Coeur d’Alene Charter Academy**, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; 6-12
Dedicated to providing a rigorous, content-rich, college-prep education; includes a Native American population.

6. Rural Communities

- a. **Paisley CS**, Paisley, Oregon, K-12
Core curriculum and technical courses
- b. **The Minnesota New Country School**, Henderson, Minnesota, 6-12
Student-centered, project-based, individualized learning
- c. **EdVisions Off-Campus High School**, Henderson, Minnesota, 9-12
Student-centered, project-based, individualized learning, and distance learning
- d. **Carbondale Community School**, Carbondale, Colorado; K-8
Progressive, experiential education; individualized learning; team teaching; outdoor education; mentoring, and internships

7. Visual & Performing Arts

- a. **Beacon Charter High School**, Woonsocket, Rhode Island; 9-12
Intensive training in visual and performing arts and artisanship
- b. **Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter HS**, South Hadley, Massachusetts; 7-12
Integrates core academics and performing arts; includes internship and mentoring programs
- c. **Public Academy for Performing Arts**, Albuquerque, New Mexico; 6-12
Core curriculum with emphasis on performing arts

For details and more listings, please visit the following websites:

www.edreform.org, www.uscharterschools.org, www.publiccharters.org.