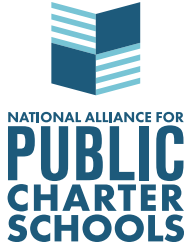


CHANGING COURSE

PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT SHIFTS
DURING THE PANDEMIC

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Introduction

In September 2021, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools published a report titled, “Voting with Their Feet: A State-Level Analysis of Public Charter School and District Public School Trends,” which found that, based on interim data from 2019–20 to 2020–21, the charter sector experienced an increase of nearly 240,000 students while district public schools lost more than 1.4 million students—making charter schools the only types of public schools that increased enrollment. Now that a complete data set is available from the 2020–21 school year, the total number of charter school students was recorded at 3.7 million.

The first full school year of the pandemic was a turbulent time for public school enrollment. But what happened during the second school year of the pandemic? The quick answer is that enrollment numbers basically stayed put. It seems most of those who left their district schools in the prior school year didn’t return, even after schools reopened, in-person instruction resumed, and the nation settled into the reality that COVID is not something that will be going away quickly. Put another way, there appears to be an “adjustment” in enrollment that occurred during the pandemic resulting in charter enrollment gains and district public school enrollment losses.

As schools returned to a “new normal” in the 2021–22 school year, the National Alliance set out to examine enrollment trends from the 2019–20 school year, when the pandemic began, through the 2021–22 school year. This report is based on interim data available as of September 2022. Further, it analyzes only the 41 states where charter schools exist and data were available for three consecutive school years. The major finding is that the pattern we saw during the first year of analysis held steady across the next two years. Charter schools showed an increase of nearly 240,000 students since the beginning of the pandemic—a 7% increase—while district public schools have experienced a loss of nearly 1.5 million students—almost 3.5%.

Public charter school enrollment from 2019–20 to 2021–22 grew in 39 out of 41 states included in our analysis. Two states, Illinois and Wyoming, saw modest charter enrollment decreases during the pandemic. During the same period, district public schools lost enrollment in 39 out of 41 states. Two states, Idaho and Utah, saw modest enrollment increases in district public schools. This year’s report does not include data for Alabama, Guam, Kansas, Puerto Rico, and Tennessee, or any states that do not have public charter schools.

The National Alliance deepened its analysis this year’s report, examining enrollment data for White, Black, and Hispanic students as well as comparing state-level population data to enrollment trends. We do not include data for other important subgroups due to data suppression. This deeper analysis found the following:

- ▶ **Enrollment increased** for charter schools for each group, with particularly high enrollment gains for Hispanic students.
- ▶ **District public schools** showed enrollment losses for each subgroup.
- ▶ **Charter school enrollment** growth, both overall and for White, Black, and Hispanic students, is outpacing school-aged (ages 5 to 17) population growth in most states included in our analysis.

The National Alliance was able to obtain robust and reliable subpopulation data for White, Black, and Hispanic students in 25 of the 41 states in our analysis. States were excluded from the subpopulation analysis if the number of students in a group was so small that data was subject to heavy suppression or was unavailable. For this analysis we looked at two questions: Did enrollment increase for the subpopulation of students? And did the subpopulation’s enrollment trend outperform or underperform the state’s enrollment trend by type of public school?

What do enrollment shifts look like by subpopulation?

In the 25 states we examined, we found that White student enrollment in charter schools increased by nearly 30,000 students, Black student enrollment increased by nearly 35,000 students, and Hispanic student enrollment increased by slightly more than 95,000 students. At the same time, the district sector lost more than 920,000 White students, nearly 180,000 Black students, and slightly more than 140,000 Hispanic students. In addition, our data seem to suggest that Hispanic students are a strong driver of charter enrollment increases in the 25 states we examined, and White students are a strong driver of district public school enrollment losses.

Are changes in charter school enrollment simply a function of population changes?

For the population vs. enrollment analysis, enrollment trends in both charter and district public schools were compared to shifts in each state's population. We know that population changes in many states are due to natural population growth as well as migration during COVID-19. To perform this analysis, we compared enrollment growth for charter and district public schools to population growth of school-aged children (ages 5 to 17) using data from the United States Census. In 34 out of 41 states, enrollment growth in charter schools outpaced state population trends. There were seven states (California, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Utah, and Wyoming) where charter enrollment growth was less than school-aged population growth. In 41 of 41 states, enrollment growth in district public schools underperformed state population trends. Both findings are unsurprising given the significant enrollment increases for charter schools and significant enrollment declines for district public schools that occurred during this period.

Listening to Parents

These data make one thing clear: the COVID-19 pandemic has opened the eyes of parents and families to other possible options for their children's education and with this new awareness they are

making different choices. In nearly every state, more families are choosing charter schools, homeschooling, and private school, while fewer are choosing district public schools. Our report, "Never Going Back," examines parent sentiment on education, with a specific lens on changes that took place during the pandemic. It is based on findings from a national survey of more than 5,000 parents conducted by The Harris Poll in May 2022. The survey findings provide more context for shifts in enrollment and helps explain the motivations behind the trends we are seeing. It tells us why and whether families switched the types of schools their children attend, and if they are happy with their decisions. Among the key findings:

- ▶ **Nearly 20%** of families switched the type of school their child attended from March 2020 to May 2022. Charter schools were a popular choice among school switchers both before and during the pandemic.
- ▶ **Eighty-nine percent** of parents whose children have switched school types report that they or their child experienced a positive change as a result of the switch.
- ▶ **Seventy-nine percent** report that they became more interested in how their child was being educated.
- ▶ **Seventy-eight percent** say they became more involved in their child's education because of what they saw of their children's education during the pandemic.
- ▶ **Even among those** who might not have chosen a charter school for their child, 84% agree that charter schools should be available to families who would choose them.
- ▶ **Seventy-four percent** would consider sending their child to a public charter school if one were available in their area.
- ▶ **Seventy-seven percent** agree that they want more public charter school offerings in their area, and 81% support expanding the number of slots in existing public charter schools in their area.

Many people both inside and outside of the charter school sector wondered: Will enrollment shifts that took place during the first two years of the pandemic persist? Will students who made the choice to switch from district public schools during the pandemic to charter public schools, homeschool, and private schools stay there, or will they return? Data in this report seem to suggest that this shift away from district public schools into charter schools and other innovative options has endured through the 2021–22 school year. Time will tell the ultimate truth, but the trends presented here seem to indicate enrollment in charter schools and other alternatives to district public schools will only continue to grow.

In the 2021 enrollment report, “Voting with Their Feet,” we acknowledged that some, but not most, of the enrollment growth in the charter sector was due to full-time virtual charter schools. As we

expected during 2021–22, the second school year of the pandemic, states like Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Utah with large full-time virtual charter school enrollment saw declines. This was likely due to the reopening of brick-and-mortar schools. Although many families decided to stay with full-time virtual schools because they are a good fit for their students, many others returned to in-person schools. We also continued to see year-over-year growth in other states like Florida, North Carolina, and Texas with a more traditional charter sector, which offset the shifts related to virtual enrollment.



Single-Year Enrollment Changes During the Pandemic

The National Alliance believes the most interesting and compelling part of this analysis is an examination of what we call “pandemic enrollment trends” or shifts in student enrollment from 2019–20 to 2021–22—the years that represent the start of the pandemic (2019–20), the first full year of the pandemic (2020–21), and this past school year (2021–22) when things began to return to normal. By examining the period from 2019–20 to 2021–22 we get a good sense of the true shifts that happened across public charter schools and public district schools.

However, it is also important to examine each year separately. When large enrollment shifts occurred from 2019–20 to 2020–21, many thought students would simply shift back the following year. When we

examine one-year trends, there was a large increase in charter enrollment and a large decrease in public district enrollment from 2019–20 to 2020–21 and relatively flat enrollment for both types of schools the next year. This means that the enrollment trends the National Alliance found in its report last year have generally held—charter schools gained nearly 240,000 students and public district schools lost nearly 1.5 million students.

Table 1 provides data examining trends from the 2019–20 to 2020–21 school year, and Table 2 provides data examining trends from the 2020–21 to 2021–22 school year. Key findings can be found below.

Findings: Single-Year Enrollment Analyses

CHARTER SCHOOLS GAINED STUDENTS DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC WHILE DISTRICT SCHOOLS LOST STUDENTS

During the first year of the pandemic, the charter school sector saw an increase in enrollment of 238,178 students (+7.12%) across the 41 states included in our analysis. During the same period, district public schools saw an enrollment decline of 1,464,197 students (-3.39%). Enrollment increased in the charter sector in 38 out of 41 states included in this analysis and declined for public district schools in 41 out of 41 states from 2019–20 to 2020–21.

ENROLLMENT FOR BOTH SECTORS WAS FLAT OVERALL DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC

During the second year of the pandemic, the results for both sectors was more mixed resulting in small enrollment losses for both sectors. Charter schools lost 1,436 students (-0.04%) and district public schools lost 33,308 students (-0.08%).

STATE-LEVEL ENROLLMENT TRENDS WERE MIXED FOR BOTH SECTORS IN 2020–21 TO 2021–22

During the second year of the pandemic, 26 of 41 states saw an increase in charter school enrollment ranging from an 11-student gain in Virginia to a gain of 20,013 students in Florida. Twenty-five of 41 states saw a public district enrollment increase ranging from a 33-student increase in Wyoming to 44,329 additional students in Texas.

GIVEN FLAT ENROLLMENT FROM 2020–21 TO 2021–22, PRIOR YEAR ENROLLMENT PATTERNS HELD STEADY

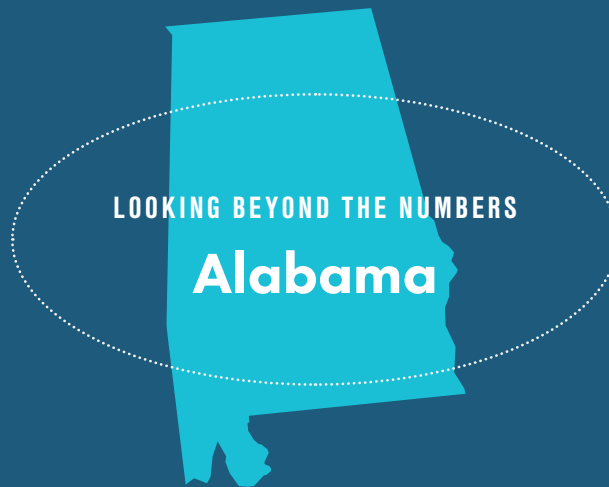
Since enrollment for both sectors was relatively flat from 2020–21 to 2021–22, the enrollment trend from 2019–20 to 2020–21 largely holds. More information on the two-year pandemic enrollment trends will be provided in the next section.

Table 1
State-Level Enrollment in Charter Schools and Non-Charter Public Schools:
SY 2019–20 to 2020–21 — Pandemic Year 1

State	2019–20 Charter Enrollment	2019–20 Non-Charter Public Enrollment	2020–21 Charter Enrollment	2020–21 Non-Charter Public Enrollment	2019–20 to 2020–21 Charter Change	2019–20 to 2020–21 Non-Charter Public Change	2019–20 to 2020–21 % Charter Change	2019–20 to 2020–21 % Non-Charter Public Change
Alaska	7,072	125,505	8,197	122,197	1,125	(3,308)	15.91%	-2.64%
Arizona	213,820	936,986	232,249	880,007	18,429	(56,979)	8.62%	-6.08%
Arkansas	35,115	444,317	41,849	431,155	6,734	(13,162)	19.18%	-2.96%
California	675,374	5,487,627	690,657	5,311,866	15,283	(175,761)	2.26%	-3.20%
Colorado	126,955	786,268	132,215	750,984	5,260	(35,284)	4.14%	-4.49%
Connecticut	10,806	512,857	10,940	498,123	134	(14,734)	1.24%	-2.87%
Delaware	16,366	124,485	16,910	121,513	544	(2,972)	3.32%	-2.39%
District of Columbia	43,518	51,037	43,942	49,890	424	(1,147)	0.97%	-2.25%
Florida	329,219	2,529,733	341,926	2,449,761	12,707	(79,972)	3.86%	-3.16%
Georgia	66,026	1,703,595	71,511	1,658,455	5,485	(45,140)	8.31%	-2.65%
Hawaii	11,877	167,454	12,213	162,491	336	(4,963)	2.83%	-2.96%
Idaho	25,364	286,627	31,576	279,077	6,212	(7,550)	24.49%	-2.63%
Illinois	63,462	1,855,362	62,760	1,785,991	(702)	(69,371)	-1.11%	-3.74%
Indiana	48,138	1,002,802	50,978	982,803	2,840	(19,999)	5.90%	-1.99%
Iowa	132	517,189	123	506,533	(9)	(10,656)	-6.82%	-2.06%
Louisiana	87,506	632,306	87,670	611,955	164	(20,351)	0.19%	-3.22%
Maine	2,497	173,054	2,662	165,102	165	(7,952)	6.61%	-4.60%
Maryland	22,290	887,124	23,366	859,172	1,076	(27,952)	4.83%	-3.15%
Massachusetts	47,978	900,850	48,578	862,887	600	(37,963)	1.25%	-4.21%
Michigan	147,339	1,304,599	149,478	1,256,281	2,139	(48,318)	1.45%	-3.70%
Minnesota	62,751	830,452	65,987	806,096	3,236	(24,356)	5.16%	-2.93%
Mississippi	2,128	463,466	2,674	439,861	546	(23,605)	25.66%	-5.09%
Missouri	24,213	893,349	25,113	892,175	900	(1,174)	3.72%	-0.13%
Nevada	57,894	442,966	61,690	424,943	3,796	(18,023)	6.56%	-4.07%
New Hampshire	4,228	171,942	4,545	163,364	317	(8,578)	7.50%	-4.99%
New Jersey	55,604	1,320,225	57,480	1,285,960	1,876	(34,265)	3.37%	-2.60%
New Mexico	27,437	304,887	29,364	288,417	1,927	(16,470)	7.02%	-5.40%
New York	159,214	2,479,735	170,509	2,388,655	11,295	(91,080)	7.09%	-3.67%
North Carolina	118,597	1,419,142	127,125	1,368,256	8,528	(50,886)	7.19%	-3.59%
Ohio	107,601	1,684,454	119,605	1,619,781	12,004	(64,673)	11.16%	-3.84%
Oklahoma	45,988	657,662	81,739	612,374	35,751	(45,288)	77.74%	-6.89%
Oregon	37,149	545,512	47,369	513,548	10,220	(31,964)	27.51%	-5.86%
Pennsylvania	146,556	1,627,193	169,252	1,575,473	22,696	(51,720)	15.49%	-3.18%
Rhode Island	9,899	133,658	10,543	128,641	644	(5,017)	6.51%	-3.75%
South Carolina	39,417	747,652	47,566	719,253	8,149	(28,399)	20.67%	-3.80%
Texas	336,900	5,157,026	365,930	5,005,633	29,030	(151,393)	8.62%	-2.94%
Utah	77,630	590,248	79,255	587,875	1,625	(2,373)	2.09%	-0.40%
Virginia	1,218	1,296,794	1,267	1,251,489	49	(45,305)	4.02%	-3.49%
Washington	3,162	1,141,550	3,669	1,088,510	507	(53,040)	16.03%	-4.65%
Wisconsin	44,703	810,256	50,861	779,074	6,158	(31,182)	13.78%	-3.85%
Wyoming	631	93,201	609	91,329	(22)	(1,872)	-3.49%	-2.01%
Total	3,343,774	43,241,147	3,581,952	41,776,950	238,178	(1,464,197)	7.12%	-3.39%

Table 2
State-Level Enrollment in Charter Schools and Non-Charter Public Schools:
SY 2020–21 to 2021–22—Pandemic Year 2

State	2020–21 Charter Enrollment	2020–21 Non-Charter Public Enrollment	2021–22 Charter Enrollment	2021–22 Non-Charter Public Enrollment	2020–21 to 2021–22 Charter Change	2020–21 to 2021–22 Non-Charter Public Change	2020–21 to 2021–22 % Charter Change	2020–21 to 2021–22 % Non-Charter Public Change
Alaska	8,197	122,197	7,626	122,816	(571)	619	-6.97%	0.51%
Arizona	232,249	880,007	230,816	902,183	(1,433)	22,176	-0.62%	2.52%
Arkansas	41,849	431,155	41,252	432,609	(597)	1,454	-1.43%	0.34%
California	690,657	5,311,866	678,057	5,214,183	(12,600)	(97,683)	-1.82%	-1.84%
Colorado	132,215	750,984	135,241	751,135	3,026	151	2.29%	0.02%
Connecticut	10,940	498,123	11,056	498,969	116	846	1.06%	0.17%
Delaware	16,910	121,513	17,201	123,062	291	1,549	1.72%	1.27%
District of Columbia	43,942	49,890	44,899	49,035	957	(855)	2.18%	-1.71%
Florida	341,926	2,449,761	361,939	2,471,240	20,013	21,479	5.85%	0.88%
Georgia	71,511	1,658,455	69,242	1,671,570	(2,269)	13,115	-3.17%	0.79%
Hawaii	12,213	162,491	12,097	159,503	(116)	(2,988)	-0.95%	-1.84%
Idaho	31,576	279,077	30,078	286,991	(1,498)	7,914	-4.74%	2.84%
Illinois	62,760	1,785,991	61,109	1,772,125	(1,651)	(13,866)	-2.63%	-0.78%
Indiana	50,978	982,803	51,213	985,567	235	2,764	0.46%	0.28%
Iowa	123	506,533	149	510,510	26	3,977	21.14%	0.79%
Louisiana	87,670	611,955	88,292	601,800	622	(10,155)	0.71%	-1.66%
Maine	2,662	165,102	2,733	165,875	71	773	2.67%	0.47%
Maryland	23,366	859,172	24,104	857,367	738	(1,805)	3.16%	-0.21%
Massachusetts	48,578	862,887	48,399	863,130	(179)	243	-0.37%	0.03%
Michigan	149,478	1,256,281	150,486	1,249,500	1,008	(6,781)	0.67%	-0.54%
Minnesota	65,987	806,096	66,595	803,911	608	(2,185)	0.92%	-0.27%
Mississippi	2,674	439,861	2,921	439,067	247	(794)	9.24%	-0.18%
Missouri	25,113	892,175	25,327	863,580	214	(28,595)	0.85%	-3.21%
Nevada	61,690	424,943	63,944	428,394	2,254	3,451	3.65%	0.81%
New Hampshire	4,545	163,364	4,938	163,682	393	318	8.65%	0.19%
New Jersey	57,480	1,285,960	58,777	1,280,627	1,297	(5,333)	2.26%	-0.41%
New Mexico	29,364	288,417	30,160	287,424	796	(993)	2.71%	-0.34%
New York	170,509	2,388,655	173,341	2,334,129	2,832	(54,526)	1.66%	-2.28%
North Carolina	127,125	1,368,256	132,909	1,370,859	5,784	2,603	4.55%	0.19%
Ohio	119,605	1,619,781	115,937	1,641,367	(3,668)	21,586	-3.07%	1.33%
Oklahoma	81,739	612,374	59,755	638,941	(21,984)	26,567	-26.90%	4.34%
Oregon	47,369	513,548	44,140	508,872	(3,229)	(4,676)	-6.82%	-0.91%
Pennsylvania	169,252	1,575,473	163,625	1,575,827	(5,627)	354	-3.32%	0.02%
Rhode Island	10,543	128,641	11,414	127,152	871	(1,489)	8.26%	-1.16%
South Carolina	47,566	719,253	49,410	731,821	1,844	12,568	3.88%	1.75%
Texas	365,930	5,005,633	377,320	5,049,962	11,390	44,329	3.11%	0.89%
Utah	79,255	587,875	77,786	598,173	(1,469)	10,298	-1.85%	1.75%
Virginia	1,267	1,251,489	1,278	1,250,692	11	(797)	0.87%	-0.06%
Washington	3,669	1,088,510	4,642	1,089,165	973	655	26.52%	0.06%
Wisconsin	50,861	779,074	49,678	779,465	(1,183)	391	-2.33%	0.05%
Wyoming	609	91,329	630	91,362	21	33	3.45%	0.04%
Total	3,581,952	41,776,950	3,580,516	41,743,642	(1,436)	(33,308)	-0.04%	-0.08%



Alabama enacted its charter school law in 2015, but the first charter school did not open until two years later in 2017. For several years after that, new charter school growth was slow. And then the pandemic hit and oddly enough, things really took off. Eight of the state’s 13 charter schools opened in 2021 and 2022. Together, these schools have the capacity to educate 4,100 students when fully enrolled.

Serving a predominantly Black community in the deep South, many of these schools offered in-person instruction when district public schools did not. They also offered culturally affirming educational environments, such as the Magic City Acceptance Academy, which boasts a community in which all learners are empowered to embrace education, achieve individual success, and take ownership of their future in a brave, LGBTQ-affirming learning environment.

Although Alabama enrollment data was not available for inclusion in this report, it is one of the fastest growing charter sectors in the nation. Numbers from Alabama alone are likely to have an impact on national enrollment data.

Parents like Katrina Merkerson were looking for something different and schools like Birmingham’s i3 Academy fit the bill perfectly. Ms. Merkerson’s son Evan said, “All my teachers were thinking outside the box and giving me new ways to learn.” This innovative charter school is a centerpiece of the broader Woodlawn community redevelopment effort. i3 emphasizes innovation through an academic model centered on STEAM education and project-based learning.

For such a relatively small charter sector, Alabama has an unusually high number of truly innovative school models, including a one that is focused on aviation and aerospace and another that emphasizes service-oriented and project-based learning.



LOOKING BEYOND THE NUMBERS

Tennessee

Due to the pandemic, assessment data across the nation was effectively halted in 2020. Even in 2021, waivers were granted to some states, and the result is a patchwork of emerging data.

This data doesn't tell the full story but hints at strong evidence of significant learning loss almost everywhere. Given that context, the story of Tennessee is particularly encouraging.

During the 2020–2021 school year, 974 new students enrolled in charter schools in Tennessee, bringing the total number of charter school students to 44,246. Enrollment data for Tennessee was not available from the state educational agency in time for inclusion in this report, though anecdotal data suggest a thriving charter sector that continued to grow during the pandemic and serve students well.

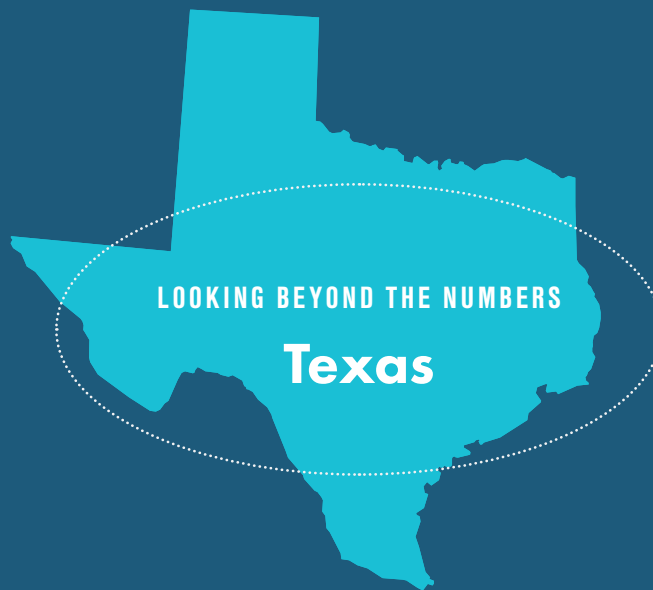
Tennessee charter schools are located in the Nashville area and in Memphis—two very different locales. Nashville has greater income and racial diversity and has seen a 20% population increase over the last decade, including a sizeable immigrant population. Nashville recently claimed the country's third highest increase of residents from January 2021 to March 2022.¹ Meanwhile, Memphis more closely resembles the old south before its population boom and serves a higher population of Black and low-income students.

Charter schools in Tennessee are serving students in both areas quite well. Statewide testing data for the 2021–22 school year show several charter schools that performed in the top 25% of all schools in the

state for increasing the percentage of students at their schools who are proficient from 2019 (pre-pandemic) to 2022. Given the challenges the pandemic presented, this is an even more significant feat.

Purpose Preparatory Academy educates students in kindergarten through 4th grade in Nashville. “We believe that every child regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or incoming academic level can and must achieve at a high level. Every child is capable of achieving. We model, teach, and hold all students to high expectations ensuring every child develops academic and character foundation to be set on the path to college,” said Purpose Prep founder and school leader, Lagra Newman.

In all, 17 Tennessee schools not only recovered pandemic learning losses, they also exceeded that bar. Looking at both growth and proficiency in math and English language arts, there was strong progress for students in both the Nashville/Antioch area and Memphis.



We've all heard the saying, "Everything is big in Texas." Well, that is true of the charter school sector there, too. In our report from last year, "Voting with Their Feet," we learned that during the first full school year of the pandemic, Texas posted the second largest year-over-year enrollment growth in the nation, adding almost 30,000 new students. Texas also held its place in 2021 as the state with the second largest number of total charter school students in the country, enrolling more than 11% of U.S. charter students.

The diverse communities across the Lone Star State represent a microcosm of America. Charter schools are located in urban, suburban, and rural communities, and as more people flocked to Texas during the pandemic, charter school enrollment outpaced the population growth of school-aged children. In the 2020–2021 school year, Texas saw a large bump in new school openings—with almost three times as many new charter schools opening as any other state. With 76 new charter schools or campuses opening in the 2020–21 school year, it's no wonder enrollment exploded. In fact, new charter schools in Texas accounted for about a quarter of all charter school openings nationally.

Many wondered if it was a fluke. Would enrollment numbers decline the following year when students returned to their district schools? Or would enrollment growth remain flat, like we've seen in most other states? The answer was no to both questions. Texas

kept growing, once again posting the nation's second highest enrollment growth during the next school year. Families in Texas seemed to know what they want: more charter schools.

Perhaps one of the best features about Texas charter schools is the wide variety of school options, from schools that focus on project-based learning, STEM, or the arts, to schools that offer a classical education or even a school like Essence Prep, which is dedicated to a college preparatory curriculum through the lens of public policy and equity. "We are compelled to offer a culturally competent curriculum," said the school's founder, Akeem Brown.

Dre Daniels, a parent, recalled that Brown "spoke about empowering people through knowing their race and their lineage." He added, "When the parents and the school can be on the same level, the learning never stops."²

Pandemic Enrollment Trends

As mentioned earlier, the National Alliance set out to better understand enrollment shifts—in both charter and district public schools—during the pandemic. In doing so, we developed three research questions to inform our analysis:

1. How did enrollment change during the pandemic (2019–20 to 2021–22) both nationally and at the state level?
2. How do enrollment trends differ for White, Black, and Hispanic students? Specifically, are there differences between sectors (charter and non-charter) and between states for different groups of students? Are there certain racial/ethnic subgroups driving enrollment changes nationally and/or at the state level?
3. How do shifts in enrollment for charters and for non-charter public schools compare to state population trends? Specifically, how does population growth for 5 to 17-year-olds compare to enrollment trends seen in charters and district public schools?

In this section of the report, we will move through a detailed analysis of each question and present related data. Our methodology can be found at the end of the report as well as in data notes for each state included in the analysis.



QUESTION 1

What Has Happened with Public School Enrollment Since 2019–20?

Table 3 presents state-level enrollment data for charter schools and all other public schools over three school years, from 2019–20 to 2021–22 for the 41 states included in our analysis. We did not include data for Alabama, Guam, Kansas, Puerto Rico, and Tennessee due to a lack of availability, or for any states that do not have charter schools.

Findings: Three-Year Enrollment Trends

Table 3 shows enrollment data for charter schools and all other public schools during the 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22 school years for 41 states. Key findings include:

CHARTERS GAINED STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC WHILE DISTRICTS LOST STUDENTS

From 2019–20 to 2021–22, charter schools saw 7.08% enrollment increase, gaining 236,742 students. During the same time, all other public schools saw a 3.46% enrollment decrease, losing 1,497,505 students.

NEARLY EVERY STATE GAINED CHARTER STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

From 2019–20 to 2021–22, 39 of 41 states included in our analysis had an increase in the number of students enrolling in charter schools. These enrollment increases ranged from 17 students in Iowa to 40,420 students in Texas. Sectors vary in size so looking at the percentage change, we see a range as well: from a 0.20% increase in Utah to a 46.81% increase in Washington State. Two states, Illinois (–2,353) and Wyoming (–1), saw charter enrollment decreases during the pandemic. However, in both instances the enrollment losses were substantially lower than those seen in all other public schools—a 3.71% enrollment loss for charters in Illinois compared to a 4.49% enrollment loss for district public schools and a 0.16% enrollment loss for charters in Wyoming compared to a 1.97% loss for district public schools.

ALL OTHER PUBLIC SCHOOLS (NON-CHARTERS) LOST STUDENTS IN NEARLY EVERY STATE

From 2019–20 to 2021–22, 39 out of 41 states included in our analysis lost students in the public non-charter sector. These enrollment losses ranged from 1,423 students in Delaware to 273,444 students in California. Sectors vary in size so looking at the percentage change, we see a range as well from a 1.14% loss in Delaware to a 6.72% loss in Oregon. Two states, Idaho (+364) and Utah (+7,925) saw enrollment increases in the public non-charter sector.

ENROLLMENT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS WAS FLAT FROM 2020–21 TO 2021–22

When looking at data from the 2020–21 and 2021–22 school years, both sectors, charter and all other public schools, show flat enrollment. From 2020–21 to 2021–22, charter schools lost 1,436 students (–0.04%) and all other public schools lost 33,308 students (–0.08%). A key difference however is that charter schools have seen an increase in student enrollment during the pandemic (2019–20 to 2021–22) compared to all other public schools which have seen a substantial decline.

Table 3
State-Level Enrollment in Charter Schools and Non-Charter Public Schools:
Three-Year Enrollment Trends (SY 2019–20, SY 2020–21, and 2021–22)

State	2019–20 Charter Enrollment	2019–20 Non- Charter Public Enrollment	2020–21 Charter Enrollment	2020–21 Non- Charter Public Enrollment	2021–22 Charter Enrollment	2021–22 Non- Charter Public Enrollment	Pandemic Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	Pandemic Non- Charter Public Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Non-Charter Public Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22
Alaska	7,072	125,505	8,197	122,197	7,626	122,816	554	(2,689)	7.83%	-2.14%
Arizona	213,820	936,986	232,249	880,007	230,816	902,183	16,996	(34,803)	7.95%	-3.71%
Arkansas	35,115	444,317	41,849	431,155	41,252	432,609	6,137	(11,708)	17.48%	-2.64%
California	675,374	5,487,627	690,657	5,311,866	678,057	5,214,183	2,683	(273,444)	0.40%	-4.98%
Colorado	126,955	786,268	132,215	750,984	135,241	751,135	8,286	(35,133)	6.53%	-4.47%
Connecticut	10,806	512,857	10,940	498,123	11,056	498,969	250	(13,888)	2.31%	-2.71%
Delaware	16,366	124,485	16,910	121,513	17,201	123,062	835	(1,423)	5.10%	-1.14%
District of Columbia	43,518	51,037	43,942	49,890	44,899	49,035	1,381	(2,002)	3.17%	-3.92%
Florida	329,219	2,529,733	341,926	2,449,761	361,939	2,471,240	32,720	(58,493)	9.94%	-2.31%
Georgia	66,026	1,703,595	71,511	1,658,455	69,242	1,671,570	3,216	(32,025)	4.87%	-1.88%
Hawaii	11,877	167,454	12,213	162,491	12,097	159,503	220	(7,951)	1.85%	-4.75%
Idaho	25,364	286,627	31,576	279,077	30,078	286,991	4,714	364	18.59%	0.13%
Illinois	63,462	1,855,362	62,760	1,785,991	61,109	1,772,125	(2,353)	(83,237)	-3.71%	-4.49%
Indiana	48,138	1,002,802	50,978	982,803	51,213	985,567	3,075	(17,235)	6.39%	-1.72%
Iowa	132	517,189	123	506,533	149	510,510	17	(6,679)	12.88%	-1.29%
Louisiana	87,506	632,306	87,670	611,955	88,292	601,800	786	(30,506)	0.90%	-4.82%
Maine	2,497	173,054	2,662	165,102	2,733	165,875	236	(7,179)	9.45%	-4.15%
Maryland	22,290	887,124	23,366	859,172	24,104	857,367	1,814	(29,757)	8.14%	-3.35%
Massachusetts	47,978	900,850	48,578	862,887	48,399	863,130	421	(37,720)	0.88%	-4.19%
Michigan	147,339	1,304,599	149,478	1,256,281	150,486	1,249,500	3,147	(55,099)	2.14%	-4.22%
Minnesota	62,751	830,452	65,987	806,096	66,595	803,911	3,844	(26,541)	6.13%	-3.20%
Mississippi	2,128	463,466	2,674	439,861	2,921	439,067	793	(24,399)	37.27%	-5.26%
Missouri	24,213	893,349	25,113	892,175	25,327	863,580	1,114	(29,769)	4.60%	-3.33%
Nevada	57,894	442,966	61,690	424,943	63,944	428,394	6,050	(14,572)	10.45%	-3.29%
New Hampshire	4,228	171,942	4,545	163,364	4,938	163,682	710	(8,260)	16.79%	-4.80%
New Jersey	55,604	1,320,225	57,480	1,285,960	58,777	1,280,627	3,173	(39,598)	5.71%	-3.00%
New Mexico	27,437	304,887	29,364	288,417	30,160	287,424	2,723	(17,463)	9.92%	-5.73%
New York	159,214	2,479,735	170,509	2,388,655	173,341	2,334,129	14,127	(145,606)	8.87%	-5.87%
North Carolina	118,597	1,419,142	127,125	1,368,256	132,909	1,370,859	14,312	(48,283)	12.07%	-3.40%
Ohio	107,601	1,684,454	119,605	1,619,781	115,937	1,641,367	8,336	(43,087)	7.75%	-2.56%
Oklahoma	45,988	657,662	81,739	612,374	59,755	638,941	13,767	(18,721)	29.94%	-2.85%
Oregon	37,149	545,512	47,369	513,548	44,140	508,872	6,991	(36,640)	18.82%	-6.72%
Pennsylvania	146,556	1,627,193	169,252	1,575,473	163,625	1,575,827	17,069	(51,366)	11.65%	-3.16%
Rhode Island	9,899	133,658	10,543	128,641	11,414	127,152	1,515	(6,506)	15.30%	-4.87%
South Carolina	39,417	747,652	47,566	719,253	49,410	731,821	9,993	(15,831)	25.35%	-2.12%
Texas	336,900	5,157,026	365,930	5,005,633	377,320	5,049,962	40,420	(107,064)	12.00%	-2.08%
Utah	77,630	590,248	79,255	587,875	77,786	598,173	156	7,925	0.20%	1.34%
Virginia	1,218	1,296,794	1,267	1,251,489	1,278	1,250,692	60	(46,102)	4.93%	-3.56%
Washington	3,162	1,141,550	3,669	1,088,510	4,642	1,089,165	1,480	(52,385)	46.81%	-4.59%
Wisconsin	44,703	810,256	50,861	779,074	49,678	779,465	4,975	(30,791)	11.13%	-3.80%
Wyoming	631	93,201	609	91,329	630	91,362	(1)	(1,839)	-0.16%	-1.97%
Total	3,343,774	43,241,147	3,581,952	41,776,950	3,580,516	41,743,642	236,742	(1,497,505)	7.08%	-3.46%

QUESTION 2

How Did Enrollment Trends Change for White, Black, and Hispanic Students?

As mentioned in the introduction, this year we were able to examine data for White, Black, and Hispanic students in 25 of 41 states included in our analysis. We were not able to include the other 16 states for two primary reasons: heavy data suppression due to too few students in racial categories, or the data source we obtained from the state education agency (SEA) did not include this information. Tables 4, 6, and 8 below present state-level enrollment data for White students, Black students, and Hispanic students respectively. Taken together, these racial groups account for approximately 90% of charter school students. Data collection for other racial groups was heavily suppressed due to the low numbers. Tables 5, 7, and 9 summarize the data and compare trends for each subgroup to the state's overall enrollment trend for charter and district public schools.



Table 4
State-Level Enrollment in Charter Schools and Non-Charter Public Schools for White Students (SY 2019–20 to 2021–22)

	2019–20 White Charter Enrollment	2019–20 White Non- Charter Public Enrollment	2020–21 White Charter Enrollment	2020–21 White Non- Charter Public Enrollment	2021–22 White Charter Enrollment	2021–22 White Non- Charter Public Enrollment	White Pandemic Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	White Pandemic Non-Charter Public Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% White Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% White Non- Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Non-Charter Public Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22
Alaska	4,582	57,775	5,324	56,117	4,936	56,756	354	(1,019)	7.73%	-1.76%	7.83%	-2.14%
Arizona	88,089	345,675	96,730	315,534	90,316	315,443	2,227	(30,232)	2.53%	-8.75%	7.95%	-3.71%
Arkansas	17,572	272,153	21,186	261,764	21,001	260,740	3,429	(11,413)	19.51%	-4.19%	17.48%	-2.64%
California	183,441	1,198,296	185,586	1,119,377	172,746	1,067,728	(10,695)	(130,568)	-5.83%	-10.90%	0.40%	-4.98%
Colorado	64,571	418,480	67,783	395,509	68,461	391,661	3,890	(26,819)	6.02%	-6.41%	6.53%	-4.47%
Connecticut	648	265,969	695	252,394	683	246,474	35	(19,495)	5.40%	-7.33%	2.31%	-2.71%
Florida	100,548	954,094	102,572	914,293	107,911	913,824	7,363	(40,270)	7.32%	-4.22%	9.94%	-2.31%
Georgia	23,759	655,261	24,264	624,925	22,726	616,987	(1,033)	(38,274)	-4.35%	-5.84%	4.87%	-1.88%
Illinois	2,070	911,595	1,897	864,662	1,824	850,779	(246)	(60,816)	-11.88%	-6.67%	-3.71%	-4.49%
Indiana	16,919	681,366	18,212	662,035	17,757	658,163	838	(23,203)	4.95%	-3.41%	6.39%	-1.72%
Louisiana	17,419	298,391	17,910	286,849	18,059	278,672	640	(19,719)	3.67%	-6.61%	0.90%	-4.82%
Maine	2,281	152,540	2,447	144,718	2,516	144,738	235	(7,802)	10.30%	-5.11%	9.45%	-4.15%
Massachusetts	12,619	536,014	12,452	503,736	12,236	495,359	(383)	(40,655)	-3.04%	-7.58%	0.88%	-4.19%
Michigan	47,889	903,980	49,796	865,039	48,953	854,314	1,064	(49,666)	2.22%	-5.49%	2.14%	-4.22%
Minnesota	23,941	554,572	25,003	530,583	24,418	524,819	477	(29,753)	1.99%	-5.37%	6.13%	-3.20%
Nevada	20,893	135,673	21,223	124,031	20,454	122,817	(439)	(12,856)	-2.10%	-9.48%	10.45%	-3.29%
New Jersey	3,827	574,232	3,976	547,259	3,991	532,594	164	(41,638)	4.29%	-7.25%	5.71%	-3.00%
New York	9,441	1,094,088	10,000	1,043,351	10,080	1,014,868	639	(79,220)	6.77%	-7.24%	8.87%	-5.87%
North Carolina	61,498	653,548	65,026	622,464	65,980	611,812	4,482	(41,736)	7.29%	-6.39%	12.07%	-3.40%
Oregon	27,880	330,377	35,360	303,168	31,858	298,136	3,978	(32,241)	14.27%	-9.76%	18.82%	-6.72%
Pennsylvania	45,927	1,090,218	59,106	1,046,760	53,363	1,036,786	7,436	(53,432)	16.19%	-4.90%	11.65%	-3.16%
South Carolina	23,777	367,248	28,091	346,098	27,825	350,306	4,048	(16,942)	17.02%	-4.61%	25.35%	-2.12%
Texas	43,768	1,438,286	46,589	1,376,163	46,357	1,379,019	2,589	(59,267)	5.92%	-4.12%	12.00%	-2.08%
Utah	54,565	437,844	54,471	434,194	51,996	437,472	(2,569)	(372)	-4.71%	-0.08%	0.20%	1.34%
Washington	1,154	599,290	1,486	554,137	1,783	545,335	629	(53,955)	54.51%	-9.00%	46.81%	-4.59%
Total	899,078	14,926,965	957,185	14,195,160	928,230	14,005,602	29,152	(921,363)	3.24%	-6.17%	7.08%	-3.46%

Note: Green shading in the table above represents instances where the percentage change for the subgroup outpaces the total statewide change. Orange shading represents instances where the percentage change for the subgroup underperforms the total statewide change.

Table 5
Summary of Enrollment Trends for White Students in Charters and District Public Schools

Datapoint	Why It Matters	Charters	Public Non-Charter
Overall enrollment change 2019–20 to 2021–22	Shows national student enrollment trends	+29,152 (+3.24%)	-921,363 (-6.17%)
Number of states with enrollment gain for White students	Provides a picture of enrollment trends by state	19 of 25 (losses in CA, GA, IL, MA, NV, UT)	None
Number of states where enrollment for White students outperforms the statewide trend	Provides information about where this subpopulation’s movement is driving enrollment gains or where losses are less severe than the statewide loss	7 of 25 (AR, CT, LA, ME, MI, PA, WA)	1 of 25 (AK)
Number of states where enrollment for White students underperforms the statewide trend	Provides information about where this subpopulation’s movement is driving enrollment losses or where enrollment gains are lower than the statewide average	18 of 25 (AK, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, IN, MA, MN, NV, NJ, NY, NC, OR, SC, TX, UT)	24 of 25 (AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IL, IN, LA, ME, MA, MI, MN, NV, NJ, NY, NC, OR, PA, SC, TX, UT, WA)

Findings: White Student Enrollment Trends in Public Schools

Table 4 shows enrollment data for White students in charter schools and all other public schools during the 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22 school years for 25 states. Table 5 provides a quick summary of the changes in enrollment for White students in both the charter and district sectors.

Key findings include:

MOST STATES GAINED WHITE STUDENTS IN THE CHARTER SECTOR

The number of White charter school students grew in 19 out of 25 states, while district public schools lost White students in 25 of 25 states.

CHARTERS GAINED WHITE STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC WHILE DISTRICTS LOST WHITE STUDENTS

The overall number of White students in charter schools in the 25 states in our analysis increased by 29,152 during the pandemic (+3.24%), while district public schools lost 921,363 White students (-6.17%).

WHITE STUDENTS DRIVE DISTRICT ENROLLMENT LOSSES

Based on our subpopulation analysis of 25 states, more than 920,000 White students left their district schools during the pandemic. This translates to nearly two-thirds of the total enrollment loss (1.5 million students) across all 41 states in our study. Clearly, White students are driving district enrollment losses. This also holds true at the state level. For example, during the pandemic, Arizona saw a 3.71% decline in district public school enrollment. During that same period, White student enrollment in Arizona district schools decreased by 8.75%.

WHITE STUDENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH IN CHARTERS IS LESS INTENSE THAN FOR OTHER GROUPS

Charter schools in the 25 states in our analysis gained nearly 30,000 White students during the pandemic. However, in most states, White student enrollment growth in charter schools underperformed statewide charter enrollment growth. For example, Texas charter schools saw an increase of 2,589 White students during the pandemic, an increase of 5.92%. During the same period, Texas’s overall charter enrollment for all groups grew by 12%. This means that while Texas charter schools saw an increase in White student enrollment, other subgroups saw a larger proportional increase. In the case of Texas, we see that Hispanic student enrollment in charter schools grew by 13.37%. Enrollment for both groups is increasing, but the percentage increase is larger for Hispanic students than for White students.

Table 6
State-Level Enrollment in Charter Schools and Non-Charter Public Schools for Black Students (SY 2019–20 to 2021–22)

	2019–20 Black Charter Enrollment	2019–20 Black Non- Charter Public Enrollment	2020–21 Black Charter Enrollment	2020–21 Black Non- Charter Public Enrollment	2021–22 Black Charter Enrollment	2021–22 Black Non- Charter Public Enrollment	Black Pandemic Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	Black Pandemic Non-Charter Public Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Black Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Black Non- Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Non-Charter Public Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22
Alaska	80	3,277	113	3,089	98	2,983	18	(294)	22.50%	-8.97%	7.83%	-2.14%
Arizona	12,617	49,136	13,578	44,114	15,030	49,153	2,413	17	19.12%	0.03%	7.95%	-3.71%
Arkansas	10,328	84,461	10,776	82,550	10,867	81,223	539	(3,238)	5.22%	-3.83%	17.48%	-2.64%
California	49,811	274,685	49,859	259,968	48,713	250,055	(1,098)	(24,630)	-2.20%	-8.97%	0.40%	-4.98%
Colorado	7,507	34,047	7,760	32,660	7,870	32,339	363	(1,708)	4.84%	-5.02%	6.53%	-4.47%
Connecticut	6,177	58,012	6,266	56,234	6,201	55,934	24	(2,078)	0.39%	-3.58%	2.31%	-2.71%
Florida	64,110	554,665	65,643	535,370	68,287	534,111	4,177	(20,554)	6.52%	-3.71%	9.94%	-2.31%
Georgia	30,492	612,786	33,933	597,040	33,761	600,584	3,269	(12,202)	10.72%	-1.99%	4.87%	-1.88%
Illinois	32,885	282,041	32,313	270,667	31,527	269,878	(1,358)	(12,163)	-4.13%	-4.31%	-3.71%	-4.49%
Indiana	20,116	113,816	20,578	112,339	20,509	113,792	393	(24)	1.95%	-0.02%	6.39%	-1.72%
Louisiana	58,906	247,693	57,859	238,713	57,121	233,168	(1,785)	(14,525)	-3.03%	-5.86%	0.90%	-4.82%
Maine	55	7,005	53	6,926	55	7,160	0	155	0.00%	2.21%	9.45%	-4.15%
Massachusetts	14,439	72,524	14,709	70,330	14,571	70,300	132	(2,224)	0.91%	-3.07%	0.88%	-4.19%
Michigan	72,986	183,979	71,709	176,462	72,447	175,942	(539)	(8,037)	-0.74%	-4.37%	2.14%	-4.22%
Minnesota	17,600	83,179	18,899	82,547	19,464	81,924	1,864	(1,255)	10.59%	-1.51%	6.13%	-3.20%
Nevada	6,997	50,573	7,470	50,227	8,025	52,357	1,028	1,784	14.69%	3.53%	10.45%	-3.29%
New Jersey	23,828	177,191	27,180	171,652	27,059	169,597	3,231	(7,594)	13.56%	-4.29%	5.71%	-3.00%
New York	82,498	356,450	86,830	335,007	86,585	319,232	4,087	(37,218)	4.95%	-10.44%	8.87%	-5.87%
North Carolina	30,969	345,189	34,030	339,614	35,407	338,585	4,438	(6,604)	14.33%	-1.91%	12.07%	-3.40%
Oregon	606	12,570	832	12,189	850	11,881	244	(689)	40.26%	-5.48%	18.82%	-6.72%
Pennsylvania	62,075	194,505	65,794	186,674	65,327	183,819	3,252	(10,686)	5.24%	-5.49%	11.65%	-3.16%
South Carolina	9,814	247,228	12,186	238,061	13,744	236,675	3,930	(10,553)	40.04%	-4.27%	25.35%	-2.12%
Texas	59,583	631,652	63,911	615,483	65,013	627,431	5,430	(4,221)	9.11%	-0.67%	12.00%	-2.08%
Utah	1,207	8,125	1,293	8,043	1,280	7,722	73	(403)	6.05%	-4.96%	0.20%	1.34%
Washington	984	49,832	966	49,441	1,240	50,030	256	198	26.02%	0.40%	46.81%	-4.59%
Total	676,670	4,734,621	704,540	4,575,400	711,051	4,555,875	34,381	(178,746)	5.08%	-3.78%	7.08%	-3.46%

Note: Green shading in the table above represents instances where the percentage change for the subgroup outpaces the total statewide change. Orange shading represents instances where the percentage change for the subgroup underperforms the total statewide change.

Table 7
Summary of Enrollment Trends for Black Students in Charters and District Public Schools

Datapoint	Why It Matters	Charters	Public Non-Charter
Overall enrollment change 2019–20 to 2021–22	Shows national student enrollment trends	+34,381 (+5.08%)	-178,746 (-3.78%)
Number of states with enrollment gain for Black students	Provides a picture of enrollment trends by state	21 of 25 (losses in CA, IL, LA, MI)	4 of 25 (gains in AZ, ME, NV, WA)
Number of states where enrollment trend for Black students outperforms the statewide trend	Provides information about where this subpopulation’s movement is driving enrollment gains or where losses are less severe than the statewide loss	11 of 25 (AK, AZ, GA, MA, MN, NV, NJ, NC, OR, SC, UT)	11 of 25 (AZ, IL, IN, ME, MA, MN, NV, NC, OR, TX, WA)
Number of states where enrollment trend for Black students underperforms the statewide trend	Provides information about where this subpopulation’s movement is driving enrollment losses or where enrollment gains are lower than the statewide average	14 of 25 (AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, IL, IN, LA, ME, MI, NY, PA, TX, WA)	14 of 25 (AK, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, LA, MI, NJ, NY, PA, SC, UT)

Findings: Black Student Enrollment Trends in Public Schools

Table 6 shows enrollment data for Black students in charter schools and all other public schools during the 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22 school years for 25 states. Table 7 provides a quick summary of changes for Black students in both the charter and district sectors. Key findings include:

CHARTERS GAINED BLACK STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC WHILE DISTRICTS LOST THEM

Based on our subpopulation analysis of 25 states, the overall number of Black students in charter schools increased by 34,381 during the pandemic (+5.08%), while district public schools in the same 25 states lost 178,746 Black students (-3.78%).

BLACK STUDENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH IN CHARTERS IS LESS INTENSE THAN FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS

Charter schools in the 25 states in our analysis gained nearly 35,000 Black students during the pandemic. Black students, proportionally, are bolstering charter enrollment growth at a higher rate than White students, but at a lower rate than Hispanic students. Black student outmigration from public district schools is proportionally less than for White students.

MOST STATES GAINED BLACK STUDENTS IN THE CHARTER SECTOR

Charter schools in 21 of 25 states gained Black students while district public schools lost Black students in 21 of 25 states.

Table 8
State-Level Enrollment in Charter Schools and Non-Charter Public Schools for Hispanic Students (SY 2019–20 to 2021–22)

	2019–20 Hispanic Charter Enrollment	2019–20 Hispanic Non- Charter Public Enrollment	2020–21 Hispanic Charter Enrollment	2020–21 Hispanic Non- Charter Public Enrollment	2021–22 Hispanic Charter Enrollment	2021–22 Hispanic Non- Charter Public Enrollment	Hispanic Pandemic Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	Hispanic Pandemic Non- Charter Public Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Hispanic Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Hispanic Non-Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Charter Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22	% Non-Charter Public Change from 2019–20 to 2021–22
Alaska	478	9,361	561	8,942	528	9,158	50	(203)	10.46%	-2.17%	7.83%	-2.14%
Arizona	85,290	437,171	89,520	415,786	96,142	436,619	10,852	(552)	12.72%	-0.13%	7.95%	-3.71%
Arkansas	4,647	59,901	6,463	58,119	6,066	59,844	1,419	(57)	30.54%	-0.10%	17.48%	-2.64%
California	352,306	3,028,892	361,695	2,958,605	360,439	2,930,821	8,133	(98,071)	2.31%	-3.24%	0.40%	-4.98%
Colorado	42,912	267,060	43,850	258,008	45,327	260,835	2,415	(6,225)	5.63%	-2.33%	6.53%	-4.47%
Connecticut	3,314	136,686	3,430	137,108	3,534	143,268	220	6,582	6.64%	4.82%	2.31%	-2.71%
Florida	143,849	843,016	151,794	823,653	162,134	842,300	18,285	(716)	12.71%	-0.08%	9.94%	-2.31%
Georgia	6,605	288,547	7,269	288,252	6,670	299,678	65	11,131	0.98%	3.86%	4.87%	-1.88%
Illinois	26,749	487,045	26,855	475,958	25,915	475,993	(834)	(11,052)	-3.12%	-2.27%	-3.71%	-4.49%
Indiana	7,448	126,871	8,402	127,095	8,759	130,730	1,311	3,859	17.60%	3.04%	6.39%	-1.72%
Louisiana	7,751	52,406	8,197	52,516	9,199	55,672	1,448	3,266	18.68%	6.23%	0.90%	-4.82%
Maine	51	4,446	50	4,468	58	4,822	7	376	13.73%	8.46%	9.45%	-4.15%
Massachusetts	16,849	188,118	17,211	186,034	17,274	193,271	425	5,153	2.52%	2.74%	0.88%	-4.19%
Michigan	14,218	104,377	14,693	103,326	15,212	105,700	994	1,323	6.99%	1.27%	2.14%	-4.22%
Minnesota	7,091	80,869	7,356	80,874	7,761	83,840	670	2,971	9.45%	3.67%	6.13%	-3.20%
Nevada	19,755	194,641	21,905	189,934	23,837	191,454	4,082	(3,187)	20.66%	-1.64%	10.45%	-3.29%
New Jersey	23,888	393,154	21,884	391,167	23,139	401,596	(749)	8,442	-3.14%	2.15%	5.71%	-3.00%
New York	58,513	684,236	63,402	665,939	65,558	658,260	7,045	(25,976)	12.04%	-3.80%	8.87%	-5.87%
North Carolina	13,626	273,262	15,238	270,627	16,806	280,766	3,180	7,504	23.34%	2.75%	12.07%	-3.40%
Oregon	4,814	133,459	6,084	131,017	6,130	131,982	1,316	(1,477)	27.34%	-1.11%	18.82%	-6.72%
Pennsylvania	26,357	197,291	30,133	196,917	30,492	206,287	4,135	8,996	15.69%	4.56%	11.65%	-3.16%
South Carolina	3,360	81,833	4,125	83,110	4,447	89,343	1,087	7,510	32.35%	9.18%	25.35%	-2.12%
Texas	208,233	2,685,879	227,412	2,604,901	236,071	2,616,756	27,838	(69,123)	13.37%	-2.57%	12.00%	-2.08%
Utah	15,354	102,232	16,466	103,110	17,409	109,190	2,055	6,958	13.38%	6.81%	0.20%	1.34%
Washington	529	274,091	629	269,455	808	275,810	279	1,719	52.74%	0.63%	46.81%	-4.59%
Total	1,093,987	11,134,844	1,154,624	10,884,921	1,189,715	10,993,995	95,728	(140,849)	8.75%	-1.26%	7.08%	-3.46%

Note: Green shading in the table above represents instances where the percentage change for the subgroup outpaces the total statewide change. Orange shading represents instances where the percentage change for the subgroup underperforms the total statewide change.

Table 9
Summary of Enrollment Trends for Hispanic Students in Charters and District Public Schools

Datapoint	Why It Matters	Charters	Public Non-Charter
Overall enrollment change 2019–20 to 2021–22	Shows national student enrollment trends	+95,728 (+8.75%)	-140,849 (-1.26%)
Number of states with enrollment gain for Hispanic students	Provides a picture of enrollment trends by state	23 of 25 (losses in IL, NJ)	14 of 25 (losses in AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, FL, IL, NV, NY, OR, TX)
Number of states where enrollment trend for Hispanic students outperforms the statewide trend	Provides information about where this subpopulation’s movement is driving enrollment gains or where losses are less severe than the statewide loss	22 of 25 (AK, AZ, AR, CA, CT, FL, IL, IN, LA, ME, MA, MI, MN, NV, NY, NC, OR, PA, SC, TX, UT, WA)	23 of 25 (AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, IL, IN, LA, ME, MA, MI, MN, NV, NJ, NY, NC, OR, PA, SC, UT, WA)
Number of states where enrollment trend for Hispanic students underperforms the statewide trend	Provides information about where this subpopulation’s movement is driving enrollment losses or where enrollment gains are lower than the statewide average	3 of 25 (CO, GA, NJ)	2 of 25 (AK, TX)

Findings: Hispanic Student Enrollment Trends in Public Schools

Table 8 shows enrollment data for Hispanic students in charter schools and all other public schools during the 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22 school years for 25 states. Table 9 provides a quick summary of the changes for Hispanic students in both the charter and district sectors.

Key findings include:

CHARTERS GAINED HISPANIC STUDENTS AT HIGH LEVELS DURING THE PANDEMIC WHILE DISTRICTS LOST THEM

Based on our subpopulation analysis of 25 states, the overall number of Hispanic students in charter schools increased by 95,728 during the pandemic (+8.75%), while district public schools lost 140,849 Hispanic students (-1.26%).

MOST STATES GAINED HISPANIC STUDENTS IN THE CHARTER SECTOR

Charter schools in 23 of 25 states gained Hispanic students. District public schools in just over half the states (14 of 25) included in our analysis gained Hispanic students.

HISPANIC STUDENT ENROLLMENT GROWTH IN CHARTERS IS MORE INTENSE COMPARED TO OTHER GROUPS

Charter schools in the 25 states in our analysis gained slightly more than 95,000 Hispanic students during the pandemic. In 22 of 25 states, Hispanic enrollment growth in charter schools outpaced the total statewide charter enrollment gain. For example, Texas charter schools saw a statewide increase of 27,838 Hispanic students (13.37%) during the pandemic. During the same period, the overall charter enrollment for all groups grew by 12% in Texas. This means Hispanic students are driving enrollment growth at a much higher rate than White and Black students in Texas. This is also true nationally; the charter sector saw an overall increase of 7.08% but an 8.75% increase for Hispanic students in our 25-state analysis.

DISTRICTS LOST PROPORTIONALLY FEWER HISPANIC STUDENTS COMPARED TO OTHER GROUPS

District public schools in the 25 states in our analysis lost more than 140,000 Hispanic students during the pandemic. However, districts are losing Hispanic students at a somewhat slower rate than White and Black students. For example, in Nevada, district public schools showed a 1.64% decline in Hispanic students during the pandemic. At the same time, district public schools showed a 3.29% decline in total enrollment. Hispanic students are leaving district public schools at a slower rate than White and Black students.

QUESTION 3

How Do Enrollment Trends Compare to Population Trends?

Our final analysis focuses on enrollment trends for charter schools and district public schools when compared to school-aged (5 to 17-year-olds) population trends. For this analysis, we begin by looking at all 41 states in our main analysis to examine how statewide population trends for school-aged children compared to enrollment shifts in charter schools and district public schools. Then, we look at the 25 states for which we have data for White, Black, and Hispanic students and examine population trends for these subgroups. Table 10 presents overall trends in each of the 41 states and Table 11 presents a look at trends for White, Black, and Hispanic students in those 25 states. Our population data for this portion of the report comes from the United States census.^{3 4 5}

Findings: Population Trends for School-Aged Children Compared to Enrollment Trends

Both findings are unsurprising given the enrollment increases for charter schools and enrollment declines for non-charter public schools that occurred during this time.

CHARTER ENROLLMENT GROWTH OUTPACES STATE POPULATION CHANGES IN MOST STATES

We began this portion of the analysis by comparing the change in each state's school-aged population (individuals age 5–17) from 2019 to 2021 to the charter and non-charter public enrollment change during the same period. In 34 out of 41 states, enrollment growth in charter schools outpaced state population trends. There were seven states (California, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Utah, and Wyoming) where charter enrollment growth was less than school-aged population growth.

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT UNDERPERFORMS STATE POPULATION CHANGES IN ALL STATES

In all 41 states, enrollment growth in district public schools underperformed state population trends.

Table 10
Population Trends for School-Aged Children
Compared to Enrollment Trends

State	2019 Population Ages 5–17	2020 Population Ages 5–17	2021 Population Ages 5–17	2019 to 2021 School-Aged Population Change	Charter Change	Public Non-Charter Change
Alaska	129,260	128,982	131,245	1.51%	7.83%	-2.14%
Arizona	1,212,617	1,221,668	1,212,132	-0.04%	7.95%	-3.71%
Arkansas	512,598	513,422	521,829	1.77%	17.48%	-2.64%
California	6,510,534	6,480,854	6,555,486	0.69%	0.40%	-4.98%
Colorado	927,448	925,452	930,296	0.31%	6.53%	-4.47%
Connecticut	545,495	539,361	551,499	1.09%	2.31%	-2.71%
Delaware	149,412	150,195	154,793	3.48%	5.10%	-1.14%
District of Columbia	82,937	85,288	85,076	2.51%	3.17%	-3.92%
Florida	3,093,827	3,115,727	3,185,486	2.88%	9.94%	-2.31%
Georgia	1,850,643	1,852,406	1,890,987	2.13%	4.87%	-1.88%
Hawaii	213,199	211,778	221,614	3.80%	1.85%	-4.75%
Idaho	332,850	337,195	354,702	6.16%	18.59%	0.13%
Illinois	2,071,657	2,050,449	2,096,603	1.19%	-3.71%	-4.49%
Indiana	1,150,105	1,151,021	1,178,697	2.43%	6.39%	-1.72%
Iowa	532,305	532,977	547,320	2.74%	12.88%	-1.29%
Louisiana	787,367	785,375	797,794	1.31%	0.90%	-4.82%
Maine	185,550	184,788	189,569	2.12%	9.45%	-4.15%
Maryland	974,588	975,040	1,008,716	3.38%	8.14%	-3.35%
Massachusetts	997,468	989,708	1,015,211	1.75%	0.88%	-4.19%
Michigan	1,577,769	1,567,674	1,605,024	1.70%	2.14%	-4.22%
Minnesota	952,481	955,228	980,063	2.81%	6.13%	-3.20%
Mississippi	515,315	511,470	515,944	0.12%	37.27%	-5.26%
Missouri	1,004,103	1,003,851	1,024,512	1.99%	4.60%	-3.33%
Nevada	508,810	512,924	520,671	2.28%	10.45%	-3.29%
New Hampshire	192,079	190,045	194,084	1.03%	16.79%	-4.80%
New Jersey	1,425,878	1,420,584	1,503,933	5.19%	5.71%	-3.00%
New Mexico	356,025	353,766	358,213	0.61%	9.92%	-5.73%
New York	2,902,357	2,880,029	3,014,261	3.71%	8.87%	-5.87%
North Carolina	1,694,774	1,699,579	1,712,040	1.01%	12.07%	-3.40%
Ohio	1,889,827	1,884,283	1,931,922	2.18%	7.75%	-2.56%
Oklahoma	697,217	700,004	715,161	2.51%	29.94%	-2.85%
Oregon	638,866	639,732	648,567	1.50%	18.82%	-6.72%
Pennsylvania	1,937,932	1,931,653	1,992,655	2.75%	11.65%	-3.16%
Rhode Island	149,441	148,087	155,277	3.76%	15.30%	-4.87%
South Carolina	820,243	826,629	834,128	1.66%	25.35%	-2.12%
Texas	5,415,221	5,466,225	5,569,991	2.78%	12.00%	-2.08%
Utah	684,369	687,543	710,009	3.61%	0.20%	1.34%
Virginia	1,360,259	1,362,955	1,394,018	2.42%	4.93%	-3.56%
Washington	1,206,319	1,215,831	1,242,105	2.88%	46.81%	-4.59%
Wisconsin	937,247	932,245	954,511	1.81%	11.13%	-3.80%
Wyoming	98,898	99,306	100,133	1.23%	-0.16%	-1.97%

Note: Green shading in the table above represents instances where the percentage change for enrollment outpaces the statewide change in school-aged population. Orange shading represents instances where the percentage change for enrollment underperforms the statewide change in school-aged population.



Findings: White, Black, and Hispanic School-Aged Population Trends Compared to Enrollment Trends

Charter school enrollment for each race outpaced school-aged population trends.

IN MOST STATES, ENROLLMENT FOR WHITE SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS OUTPACED THEIR POPULATION GROWTH

In 18 of 25 states, enrollment growth in charter schools outpaced state trends for the White school-aged population. There were seven states (California, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, and Utah) where charter enrollment growth was less than White school-aged population growth. In 25 of 25 states, enrollment growth in district public schools underperformed state population trends for the White school-aged population.

IN MOST STATES, ENROLLMENT FOR BLACK SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS OUTPACED THEIR POPULATION GROWTH

In 17 of 25 states, enrollment growth in charter schools outpaced state trends for the Black school-aged population. There were eight states (California, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, and Michigan) where charter enrollment growth was less than Black school-aged population growth. In 25 of 25 states, enrollment growth in district public schools underperformed state population trends for the Black school-aged population.

IN NEARLY EVERY STATE, ENROLLMENT FOR HISPANIC SCHOOL-AGED STUDENTS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS OUTPACED THEIR POPULATION GROWTH

In 21 of 25 states, enrollment growth in charter schools outpaced state population trends for the Hispanic school-aged population. There were four states (Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, and New Jersey) where charter enrollment growth was less than Hispanic school-aged population growth. In 23 of 25 states, enrollment growth in district public schools underperformed state population trends for the Hispanic school-aged population. In two states, South Carolina and Utah, district enrollment growth for Hispanic students outpaced population trends for the Hispanic school-aged population.

Table 11
Population Trends for School-Aged Children
Compared to Enrollment Trends

State	% White School-Aged Population Change 2019 to 2021	% White Charter Change	% White Non-Charter Change	% Black School-Aged Population Change 2019 to 2021	% Black Charter Change	% Black Non-Charter Change	% Hispanic School-Aged Population Change 2019 to 2021	% Hispanic Charter Change	% Hispanic Non-Charter Change
Alaska	0.97%	7.73%	-1.76%	-0.05%	22.50%	-8.97%	5.63%	10.46%	-2.17%
Arizona	-0.92%	2.53%	-8.75%	4.48%	19.12%	0.03%	0.76%	12.72%	-0.13%
Arkansas	1.41%	19.51%	-4.19%	0.87%	5.22%	-3.83%	4.87%	30.54%	-0.10%
California	-0.05%	-5.83%	-10.90%	-0.91%	-2.20%	-8.97%	1.16%	2.31%	-3.24%
Colorado	-0.27%	6.02%	-6.41%	2.48%	4.84%	-5.02%	1.15%	5.63%	-2.33%
Connecticut	0.02%	5.40%	-7.33%	3.57%	0.39%	-3.58%	5.86%	6.64%	4.82%
Florida	2.65%	7.32%	-4.22%	2.75%	6.52%	-3.71%	3.78%	12.71%	-0.08%
Georgia	1.13%	-4.35%	-5.84%	2.63%	10.72%	-1.99%	4.57%	0.98%	3.86%
Illinois	0.77%	-11.88%	-6.67%	1.50%	-4.13%	-4.31%	1.66%	-3.12%	-2.27%
Indiana	1.71%	4.95%	-3.41%	4.33%	1.95%	-0.02%	5.21%	17.60%	3.04%
Louisiana	1.30%	3.67%	-6.61%	0.66%	-3.03%	-5.86%	10.62%	18.68%	6.23%
Maine	1.91%	10.30%	-5.11%	4.83%	0.00%	2.21%	11.37%	13.73%	8.46%
Massachusetts	0.53%	-3.04%	-7.58%	5.25%	0.91%	-3.07%	5.45%	2.52%	2.74%
Michigan	1.20%	2.22%	-5.49%	2.92%	-0.74%	-4.37%	4.21%	6.99%	1.27%
Minnesota	1.67%	1.99%	-5.37%	8.49%	10.59%	-1.51%	4.65%	9.45%	3.67%
Nevada	0.62%	-2.10%	-9.48%	6.56%	14.69%	3.53%	2.76%	20.66%	-1.64%
New Jersey	4.37%	4.29%	-7.25%	6.76%	13.56%	-4.29%	9.34%	-3.14%	2.15%
New York	3.45%	6.77%	-7.24%	2.34%	4.95%	-10.44%	5.23%	12.04%	-3.80%
North Carolina	0.06%	7.29%	-6.39%	1.26%	14.33%	-1.91%	4.41%	23.34%	2.75%
Oregon	1.07%	14.27%	-9.76%	2.96%	40.26%	-5.48%	3.65%	27.34%	-1.11%
Pennsylvania	1.83%	16.19%	-4.90%	4.36%	5.24%	-5.49%	8.45%	15.69%	4.56%
South Carolina	1.83%	17.02%	-4.61%	0.29%	40.04%	-4.27%	7.04%	32.35%	9.18%
Texas	2.07%	5.92%	-4.12%	4.68%	9.11%	-0.67%	2.73%	13.37%	-2.57%
Utah	3.37%	-4.71%	-0.08%	4.02%	6.05%	-4.96%	5.83%	13.38%	6.81%
Washington	1.79%	54.51%	-9.00%	5.27%	26.02%	0.40%	5.51%	52.74%	0.63%

Note: Green shading in the table above represents instances where the percentage change for subgroup enrollment outpaces the statewide subgroup change in school-aged population. Orange shading represents instances where the percentage change for subgroup enrollment underperforms the statewide subgroup change in school-aged population.

Select State Data Deep Dives



Florida saw the nation's second highest charter sector growth during the pandemic with an increase of 12,707 students from 2019–20 to 2020–21 and 20,013 additional students from 2020–21 to 2021–22—a total of 32,720 additional students in charter schools since the beginning of the pandemic. This increase of students brings Florida's charter school enrollment from 329,219 to 361,939, a nearly 10% gain. Florida's enrollment increase represents 14% of the total enrollment increase experienced by the 41 states and territories included in our analysis. During the same period, traditional district schools in Florida lost 58,493 students and total enrollment in these schools went from 2,529,733 to 2,449,761 during the pandemic. Florida's traditional district enrollment loss was the fifth largest in the nation following California, New York, Texas, and Illinois.

Florida witnessed increased enrollment for White, Black, and Hispanic students. Of note however is the enrollment increase for Hispanic students. During the pandemic, Florida's charter schools gained 18,285 Hispanic students. This increase in Hispanic students in charters is second only to Texas. The increase in Hispanic enrollment in Florida's charter schools represents 56% of the total enrollment increase. This trend is noteworthy and demonstrates that there is something about charter schools that is resonant with the Hispanic community in Florida.

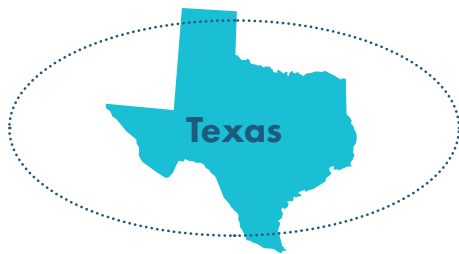
Finally, when examining population trends, Florida's school-aged population (ages 5 to 17) increased by 2.88% from 2019 to 2021. During the same period, Florida's charter school enrollment increased by 9.94%, more than triple the school-aged population growth. During the same period, Florida's traditional district enrollment decreased by 2.31%.



North Carolina saw the nation's fifth highest charter enrollment gain during the pandemic. Charter enrollment in North Carolina increased by 8,528 students from 2019–20 to 2020–21 and by 5,784 students from 2020–21 to 2021–22 for a total of 14,312 new students enrolled in charters during the pandemic. This enrollment increase brings North Carolina's charter enrollment from 118,597 students in 2019–20 to 132,909 students in 2021–22, a 12% gain. During the same period, traditional district schools in North Carolina lost 48,283 students, and total enrollment in these schools went from 1,419,142 to 1,370,859 during the pandemic. North Carolina's traditional district enrollment loss was the ninth largest in the nation.

North Carolina charter schools also saw increases in enrollment for White, Black, and Hispanic students. Of note, North Carolina's charter sector gained nearly as many Black students as White students during the pandemic, gaining 4,482 White students and 4,438 Black students. Enrollment increases for Black and Hispanic students are notable. Black student enrollment in charters increased from 30,969 to 35,407 during the pandemic, a 14.33% increase. Hispanic enrollment in charter schools increased by 23.34%, from 13,626 students in 2019–20 to 16,806 students in 2021–22.

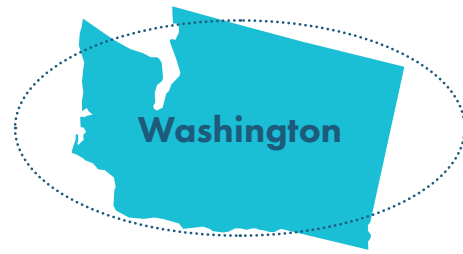
Finally, North Carolina's school-aged population (ages 5 to 17) increased by 1.01% from 2019 to 2021. During the same period, North Carolina's charter school enrollment increased by 12.07%, far outpacing school-age population growth. North Carolina's traditional district enrollment decreased by 3.4% during the same period.



Texas saw the nation's largest charter enrollment gain during the pandemic. Charter enrollment in Texas increased by 29,030 students from 2019–20 to 2020–21 and by 11,390 students from 2020–21 to 2021–22 for a total of 40,420 new students enrolled in charters during the pandemic. This increase brings Texas's charter school enrollment from 336,900 to 377,320 – a 12% gain. Texas's enrollment increase represents 17% of the total enrollment increase experienced by the 41 states and territories included in our analysis. During the same period, traditional district schools in Texas lost 107,064 students and total enrollment in these schools went from 5,157,026 to 5,049,962 during the pandemic. Texas's traditional district enrollment loss was the third largest in the nation, trailing only California and New York.

Texas charter schools saw increases in enrollment for White, Black, and Hispanic students. Texas's charter sector gained 2,589 White students and 5,430 Black students during the pandemic. A notable story that emerged from our data analysis this year was a boom in the number of Hispanic students enrolling in charter schools nationally. Our subpopulation analysis, which includes 25 out of 41 states from our main analysis, shows an increase of 95,728 Hispanic students in the charter sector. Notably, Texas's Hispanic enrollment gain in charter schools was 27,838, accounting for 29% of the total increase nationally in Hispanic students in charter schools. Texas provides an interesting place for further study regarding the increases in Hispanic enrollment in charter schools being witnessed across the country.

Finally, Texas's school-aged population (ages 5 to 17) increased by 2.78% from 2019 to 2021. During the same period, Texas's charter school enrollment increased by 12%, far outpacing school-aged population growth. Texas's traditional district enrollment decreased by 2.1% during that same period.



Though Washington did not have the large numbers of students enrolling in charter schools that Florida, North Carolina, and Texas did, it saw the largest percentage increase in charter school enrollment, with a 46.8% increase from 2019–20 to 2021–22. This increase reflects an additional 507 students from 2019–20 to 2020–21 and 973 students from 2020–21 to 2021–22 for a total of 1,480 students during the pandemic. This increase brings Washington's charter school enrollment from 3,162 to 4,642. During the same period, traditional district schools in Washington lost 52,385 students, and total enrollment in these schools went from 1,141,550 to 1,089,165, a 4.6% decline. Washington's traditional district enrollment loss was the seventh largest in the nation.

While all the subpopulation enrollment increases were small in magnitude given Washington's new and growing charter sector, meaningful increases were seen for White, Black, and Hispanic students, with an increase of 629 White students (a 54.5% increase), 256 Black students (a 26% increase), and 279 Hispanic students (a 52.7% increase).

Finally, Washington's school-aged population (ages 5 to 17) increased by 2.88% from 2019 to 2021. During the same period, Washington's charter school enrollment increased by 46.8%, far outpacing school-age population growth while Washington's traditional district enrollment decreased by 4.6%.

Conclusion

Much has changed across all facets of life during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving many wondering if these changes be permanent and what the “new normal” look like? When the National Alliance released a report examining public school enrollment last year, many within the education sector wondered if the enrollment shifts—from district public schools to charters, homeschooling, and private school—would be permanent or just a blip on the radar screen. Further, many conceded charter enrollment gains but were less convinced that these gains were widespread and perhaps in some cases were only due to population shifts.

Our analysis clearly demonstrates that enrollment gains in charter schools have persisted while enrollment losses for district public schools have remained. Our examination of data for White, Black, and Hispanic students reveals interesting information about White students driving district enrollment losses and Hispanic students bolstering charter growth. Finally, we find the charter sector outperforming population changes in many states. No matter how you examine the data, families from all walks of life are making different choices for their children following the pandemic and many of them are choosing charter schools.

The numbers in this report are more sobering than celebratory. Although the National Alliance advocates on behalf of charter schools, we too are part of the overall public school ecosystem. We take no joy in this mass exodus from district schools.

The point is not simply that parents prefer one type of public school over another. The bigger takeaway is that we are experiencing a parent revolution, spurred by the pandemic, and likely here to stay. In communities across America, families are clamoring for something other than the school their children are zoned to attend. In fact, a recent survey of more than 5,000 U.S. pre-K–12 parents conducted by The Harris Poll showed that only 38% were highly satisfied with their district school.

This report shows that we saw 1.5 million fewer students enrolled in district schools during the pandemic but only 240,000 of them moved to charter schools. That is a signal that the problem is much bigger than families having a preference for charter schools.

Public education is a public trust, and these enrollment numbers suggest that trust may have been shaken. During the pandemic school years, we searched for charter school enrollment patterns related to geography or race. The only clear pattern we could find is that charter school growth happened almost everywhere, as did growth in homeschooling and private schools. We saw it in urban, suburban, and rural communities. We saw it among Hispanic, Black, and White students.

In places like Washington, D.C., and Louisiana, charter school enrollment was relatively flat. Given the strong presence of charter schools in these markets, significant enrollment growth was likely not possible because there were so few available seats. We wondered whether flat enrollment numbers in those places masked parent demand. By contrast, states like Texas, Florida, and Washington had greater capacity for expansion, and posted significant year-over-year enrollment growth throughout the pandemic.

It is important that public schools—both district and charter—are able to flex to meet the changing needs of families. Parents are looking for individualized support, access to technology, and teachers’ flexibility and adaptability, in addition to academic outcomes.⁶ As unique public schools that sit outside the school district and are designed to meet the needs of communities, charter schools are designed to deliver what parents want.

The data show that attempts at stifling parent demand will not force families to keep their children in schools they don’t want them to attend. It will just make them leave public education altogether. Indeed, during the pandemic, many parents who couldn’t get their child

into a charter school or couldn't afford private school tuition decided to try homeschooling instead. They refused to keep doing something that just wasn't working, even if it meant trying to educate their children on their own. Nearly 20% of parents who chose to homeschool their children had less than a high school diploma.⁷

A strong public school sector needs more and better options that meet the needs of all families. Charter schools are an important part of the solution. There is room and demand for all types of public schools, so long as they are working well for students. Simply put, we just need more seats in excellent schools.

Most parents are not education experts, but they know a good school when they see one. They also know a not-so-great school when they see one. That's why a global health emergency might have been the impetus for making a change, but things will never go back to the "old normal." Families are not re-enrolling their children in schools that never really met their needs in the first place.



Data Methods

In June and July 2022, the National Alliance contacted state education agency (SEA) officials in all states and territories with charter schools to identify enrollment data for charter schools compared to other public, non-charter schools. As of the writing of this report, 41 states have been identified where there was data from the SEA to make a clear determination about the total statewide enrollment figures for charter schools compared to district public schools during the 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22 school years. At the time of this report, data was unavailable or incomplete for Alabama, Guam, Kansas, Puerto Rico, and Tennessee. Below are some important notes regarding the calculation of figures contained in this report.

- ▶ **Sourcing:** For each state, the source of the data, date the data was accessed, and any relevant notes regarding how statewide figures were calculated are provided in the Data Notes by State section, which follows this section. In this report, for the purposes of reliability and consistency, figures provided by SEAs were used. We also asked for all three years of data and made corrections to the data retroactively if any changes existed.
- ▶ **Fall Counts Preferred:** Processes for counting students vary from state to state. However, most states have a fall count in October, and this is the preferred count figure in instances where there were either spring or monthly counts. There are instances in the report where a yearly count or spring count is used. Information on specifics can be found in the Data Notes by State section.
- ▶ **District Public School Enrollment Figures:** In many instances, the National Alliance performed simple calculations to arrive at totals for public charter schools compared to all other public schools in the state (district public schools). Generally speaking, the calculations started with statewide public school enrollment totals, subtracted total charter school enrollment, and arrived at district school figures for each year. More details on the calculation methods can be found in the “data notes by state” section.
- ▶ **Cautionary Note:** As mentioned above, enrollment figures are calculated in many different ways. As such, other researchers, media outlets, and individuals may arrive at slightly different numbers based upon calculation methods. The National Alliance’s goal was to 1) source data from publicly available sources and make the sourcing transparent and 2) keep calculation methods simple so they could be reliable and easily understood.

Data Notes by State

ALASKA

“School Enrollment Totals for all Alaskan Schools” and “School Enrollment Totals by Ethnicity for all Alaskan Public Schools,” Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (ADEED), accessed July 11, 2022, <https://education.alaska.gov/data-center>.

The author contacted ADEED officials for clear and reliable lists of Alaska charter schools in 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22. ADEED officials responded on July 11, 2022 with this information. Using this information, the author was able to download school-level enrollment data, tag charter schools, and parse charter enrollment from all other non-charter public enrollment. Subgroup information was available in data files with no suppression.

ARIZONA

“Annual Enrollment Reports - Type by Grade Tab” and “Annual Enrollment Reports – Type by Ethnicity Tab,” Arizona Department of Education, accessed July 11, 2022, <https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research/data/>.

Files provide statewide enrollment as well as enrollment by school type and grade level. The author included the provided figures for charter schools and subtracted the charter figures from the Arizona total enrollment to arrive at a non-charter public school figure for 2019–20 and 2020–21. For the 2021–22 school year, the Arizona total enrollment figure was unavailable so the author summed all non-charter public school values for the non-charter total. These reports include the number of students enrolled on the October 1 reporting date. The “Type by Ethnicity” tab provided statewide totals for subgroups included in the analysis.

ARKANSAS

“Custom Data Report,” Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), accessed July 11, 2022, <https://myschoolinfo.arkansas.gov/>.

ADE officials referred the author to the ADE’s “MySchoolInfo” website where users can create custom data reports. The author was able to create a custom data report with charter and non-charter school flags as well as access robust data on subgroup enrollment.

CALIFORNIA

“Enrollment by Ethnicity for Charter and Non-Charter Schools,” California Department of Education Data Quest, accessed July 14, 2022, <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/EnrCharterEth.aspx?cde=00&agglevel=state&year=2021-22>.

This report displays the annual K–12 public school enrollment by student subgroup and for charter schools and district public schools overall for the selected report level (state, county, district, or school) and year. Annual enrollment consists of the number of students enrolled on Census Day (the first Wednesday in October).

COLORADO

“PK-12 Race/Ethnicity and Gender by Grade and School,” Colorado Department of Education, accessed July 14, 2022, <https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdereval/pupilcurrent>.

Officials from the Colorado Department of Education referred the author to the aforementioned data files as well as “Charter Schools by District” (<https://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/chartAuthDist.asp>) to identify charter schools and calculate enrollment totals. Data files contained robust subgroup data with no suppression.

CONNECTICUT

“Student Counts by School and Race/Ethnicity,” Connecticut Department of Education, accessed June 28, 2022, https://edsight.ct.gov/SASStoredProcess/guest?_year=2019-20&_district=All+Districts&_school=All+Schools&_subgroup=Race+&_program=%2FCTDOE%2FEducation%2FRelease%2FReporting%2FPublic%2FReports%2FStoredProcesses%2FEnrollmentReport_SiteCore&_select=Submit.

Enrollment files for Connecticut do not have a charter flag, however, charter schools have a school/district code that begins with 26, 27, 28, or 29. Using this assumption, which was confirmed by Connecticut partners, the author was able to calculate charter enrollment totals compared to non-charter public enrollment totals. Subgroup data was available in Connecticut and subject to minimal suppression (enrollments fewer than 5 for a given subgroup are suppressed) so data for Connecticut was included in the subpopulation analysis.

DELAWARE

"Annual Student Enrollment and Unit Allotment Reports," Delaware Department of Education, accessed July 15, 2022, <https://www.doe.k12.de.us/Page/1495>.

District public school and charter school summaries were used to calculate enrollment figures. The author combined regular education and special education totals in enrollment reports to arrive at total figure for each sector in each year. Statewide totals include Dover Air Force Base. Data for subgroups was not available in these reports.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

"School Year Enrollment Audit Report Data – District Summary Tab," District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent of Education, accessed July 15, 2022, <https://osse.dc.gov/enrollment>.

Data files provide both a charter school and district public school breakout. Audited public enrollment figures from fall count data were used in this calculation. Subgroup enrollment data were not available for all three years included in the author's analysis.

FLORIDA

"Survey 2: Fall Students Enrolled by Charter Status," Florida Department of Education EdStats Data Portal, accessed July 14, 2022, https://knowyourdatafl.org/views/PK12-Enrollment/ENROLLMENTMAP?showAppBanner=false&display_count=n&showVizHome=n&origin=viz_share_link&isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&embed=y.

The main map page contains data by year for statewide enrollment figures in charter and non-charter schools. The demographics tab provides robust subgroup data.

GEORGIA

"Data Request to the Georgia Department of Education," Georgia Department of Education, received July 15, 2022.

The author received enrollment data files directly from the Georgia Department of Education for both overall enrollment and for the subpopulation analysis. Publicly available files do not have a robust charter flag. Charter enrollment numbers for Georgia have shifted since our last report. This is due to a handful of charter schools reverting back to traditional public schools and a significant change in state policy that re-categorized some Georgia charter schools.

HAWAII

"Annual Enrollment Press Releases with Downloadable Statewide Enrollment Files," Hawaii State Department of Education, accessed July 15, 2022. 2019–20 data: <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/MediaRoom/PressReleases/Pages/2019-20-enrollment.aspx>. 2020–21 data: <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/MediaRoom/PressReleases/Pages/2020-21-enrollment.aspx>. 2021–22 data: <https://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ConnectWithUs/MediaRoom/PressReleases/Pages/2021-22-enrollment-figures-for-public-and-charter-schools.aspx#:~:text=Hawaii%20Public%20Schools&text=Enrollment%20at%20Hawaii's%20public%20and,%E2%80%94%20a%20difference%20of%201.7%25>.

Data files for each year contain charter school and district public school breakouts.

IDAHO

"Historical State by Grade Enrollment" (for statewide public totals) and "Charter School Historical Enrollment by Year" (for charter totals), Idaho State Department of Education, accessed July 15, 2022, <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/finance/#attendance>.

The author used statewide enrollment totals to calculate non-charter public figures.

ILLINOIS

"Data Request to the Illinois State Board of Education," Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), received July 12, 2022.

The author contacted ISBE for overall charter enrollment and subgroup charter enrollment. ISBE officials provided the author with customized data files for 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22. Files reflect fall enrollment counts for each school year.

INDIANA

"School Enrollment by Ethnicity and Free/Reduced Price Meal Status," Indiana Department of Education (IDOE), accessed July 12, 2022, <https://www.in.gov/doi/it/data-center-and-reports/>.

The author submitted a data request to IDOE. IDOE officials directed the the author to the aforementioned website and provided the following note on how to best identify charter schools in the dataset: "There isn't a charter flag in the file, but Charter Corp IDs would be those at the end of the file above 8665 (with the exception of 9100 which is Dept of Corrections, not a charter). There are also two charters below that number: 8635 and 8655."

IOWA

“Data Request to the Iowa Department of Education,” Iowa Department of Education (IDE), received on July 13, 2022.

The author contacted IDE for overall charter enrollment figures. IDE officials provided the author with customized data files for 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22.

LOUISIANA

“October Multi Stats,” Louisiana Department of Education, accessed on July 14, 2022, <https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/student-attributes>.

The author pulled October (fall) counts for each year and leveraged the “charter type” flag in the data to calculate a total for charters/non-charters. The author identified charter schools as any school that had a flag of Type 1–Type 5 (six total classifications). Files contained robust and unsuppressed subpopulation data for all three years of the analysis.

MAINE

“Data Request to the Maine Department of Education,” Maine Department of Education, received on July 13, 2022.

The author contacted the Maine Department of Education for overall and subgroup charter enrollment figures. MDE officials provided the author with customized data files for 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22.

MARYLAND

“Data Request to the Maryland State Department of Education,” Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), received on July 1, 2022.

The author submitted a data request to MSDE requesting charter and non-charter enrollment totals at the school-level for 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22. MSDE officials provided this information directly to the author. Subpopulation information was not provided.

MASSACHUSETTS

“Enrollment By Race/Gender Report (School),” Massachusetts Department of Education (MDE), accessed July 11, 2022, <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/enrollmentbyracegender.aspx>.

The author contacted MDE for charter / non-charter enrollment data. The MDE provided the author with a link to the aforementioned data files and a custom directory of schools that allowed the author to distinguish charter schools from all other public schools.

MICHIGAN

“Student Count Enrollment Files,” Michigan Department of Education, Michigan School Data Portal, accessed July 15, 2022, <https://www.mischooldata.org/k-12-data-files>.

Files contain a code for charter schools, which are called public school academies in Michigan. Total enrollment figures were calculated for public school academies, and this figure was then subtracted from statewide total enrollment to derive district public school figures.

MINNESOTA

“State/District/School/County Enrollment,” Minnesota Department of Education, accessed June 28, 2022, <https://public.education.mn.gov/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp?TOPICID=2>.

Per the Minnesota Department of Education, charter schools are categorized as a Type 07 district (<https://public.education.mn.gov/MDEAnalytics/Summary.jsp>). Using annual enrollment files, totals were calculated for all Type 07 districts (charter schools) and subtracted from statewide public school total to get district public school figures.

MISSISSIPPI

“Enrollment by Grade,” Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), accessed July 7, 2022, <https://newreports.mdek12.org/>.

The author contacted MDE requesting charter and non-charter enrollments. MDE directed the author to the link above noting that “the Charter Districts are (1425, 2505, 2515, 2525, 2535, 2545 and 4225).” Further, MDE noted that subgroup data would not be robust due to suppression therefore Mississippi is not included in that portion of the analysis.

MISSOURI

"Building Enrollment 1991–2021" and "Preliminary Enrollment Changes 2021–22," Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, accessed on July 22, 2022, <https://apps.dese.mo.gov/MCDS/home.aspx>.

The author reached out to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and officials directed the author to the files listed above. Further, officials noted that "the fourth digit of a charter's district code will be a 9" and the author used this information to parse charters from non-charters.

NEVADA

"Enrollment for Nevada Public Schools," Nevada Department of Education (NDE), accessed on July 5, 2022, <https://doe.nv.gov/DataCenter/Enrollment/>.

The author sent an official request to the Nevada Department of Education requesting enrollment data. NDE responded with the link referenced above and provided the author with school directory files to accurately identify charter schools. Nevada has both state-sponsored charters and LEA-sponsored charters. Both sets of charters are included in the charter total for the purposes of this analysis.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

"District Fall Enrollments," New Hampshire Department of Education, accessed July 6, 2022, <https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-and-analytic-resources/bureau-of-education-statistics/attendance-and-enrollment-reports>.

Data files contain a charter school breakout figure. Author calculated district public school enrollment using statewide public school totals.

NEW JERSEY

"Fall Enrollment Reports," New Jersey Department of Education, accessed July 15, 2022, <https://www.nj.gov/education/doedata/enr/>.

Data files separate charter schools from other LEAs. Author took charter school totals and subtracted from statewide public school enrollment to arrive at district public school figures.

NEW MEXICO

"Enrollment by District by Location by Grade," New Mexico Department of Education, accessed June 28, 2022, <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/information-technology/stars/>.

The author contacted the New Mexico Department of Education and was referred to files listed on the website above. Enrollment files provide a charter indicator, and the author calculated figures for charters and all other public non-charters to arrive at values for New Mexico.

NEW YORK

"School Enrollment – Race and Ethnic Origin," New York State Department of Education Information and Reporting Services, accessed July 14, 2022, <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/statistics/enroll-n-staff/home.html>.

Per the New York State Department of Education, 2019–20 and 2020–21 data are considered final, and 2021–22 data are considered preliminary.

NORTH CAROLINA

"Pupils in Membership by Race and Sex" and "Charter and Regional School Membership by Race and Sex," North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, accessed July 13, 2022, <http://apps.schools.nc.gov/ords/f?p=145:15::NO> and <http://apps.schools.nc.gov/ords/f?p=145:73::NO>.

The author reached out to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for enrollment information and was provided the two links above. The first link provided pupil membership information for all public non-charter schools and the second link provided similar information for charter schools.

OHIO

"Fall Enrollment Headcount: October Public District and Buildings," Ohio Department of Education, accessed July 14, 2022, <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Data/Frequently-Requested-Data/Enrollment-Data>.

Data files do not provide a total figure and contain heavy suppression across most reporting categories, so the author summed male and female student data to arrive at a total for both charter schools and district public schools. The author used the "fy22_hdcnt_cs" tab for 2022 charter school data and similar tabs for 2020 and 2021 data.

OKLAHOMA

“State Public Enrollment Totals: School Site Totals,” Oklahoma State Department of Education, accessed July 15, 2022, <https://sde.ok.gov/documents/state-student-public-enrollment>.

Data files include charter school specific data, and the author calculated district public school figures by subtracting charter school enrollment from total statewide public school enrollment. Note: At the time that data was collected for this report, the author was not able to re-verify 2019–20 enrollment figures for Oklahoma due to a lack of data availability. It is unlikely that the figures have changed, but important to note that this report uses 2019–20 enrollment figures from our 2021 data collection in this one instance for Oklahoma.

OREGON

“Fall Membership Enrollment Reports,” Oregon Department of Education (ODE), accessed July 19, 2022, <https://www.oregon.gov/ode/reports-and-data/students/Pages/Student-Enrollment-Reports.aspx>.

The author contacted ODE for enrollment data. ODE referred the author to the enrollment files listed above and provided the author with school directory files that allowed the author to identify charter schools in the dataset.

PENNSYLVANIA

“Public School Enrollment Reports,” Pennsylvania Department of Education, accessed July 14, 2022, <https://www.education.pa.gov/DataAndReporting/Enrollment/Pages/PublicSchEnrReports.aspx>.

Enrollment data files for Pennsylvania contain a flag for charter schools. The author calculated a district public school figure by subtracting the charter school total from statewide total in each year.

RHODE ISLAND

“Data Request to the Rhode Island Department of Education,” Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), received on July 1, 2022.

The author submitted a data request to RIDE requesting charter and non-charter enrollment totals at the school-level for 2019–20, 2020–21, and 2021–22. RIDE officials provided enrollment data files and a charter directory. Using this information, the author was able to construct files that allowed the author to parse charter and non-charter enrollment data.

SOUTH CAROLINA

“Active School Headcounts,” South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE), accessed on July 6, 2022, <https://ed.sc.gov/data/other/student-counts/active-student-headcounts/>.

The author submitted a formal data request to the SCDOE. In response, SCDOE directed the author to the link above containing enrollment data. In addition, SCDOE officials told the author that charter schools can be identified using the “School ID” column with the following information: “If the School ID starts with 4701 or 4801, or if the 5th digit is a 6 (e.g., 0405601), it is a charter school.” Using this information, the author identified charter and non-charter schools to construct enrollment counts.

TEXAS

“Texas Education Agency PEIMS Standard Reports Student Enrollment Report: Statewide District Totals by Gender” and “Texas Education Agency PEIMS Standard Reports Student Enrollment Report: Statewide District Totals by Ethnicity,” Texas Education Agency, accessed on July 14, 2022, <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/adhocrpt/adste.html>.

Texas data is subject to heavy suppression. To work around this, the author used statewide district totals by gender for overall charter / non-charter enrollment figures. For the subpopulation analysis, the author used a similar file but by ethnicity to ascertain subgroup data. Note: minor suppression existed in the data included in the author’s subgroup analysis, but data were available for nearly every school.

UTAH

“Fall Enrollment by Demographics and Grade Levels,” Utah State Board of Education, accessed July 14, 2022, <https://schools.utah.gov/data/reports?mid=1424&tid=4>.

Utah’s data has clear demarcation of charters versus non-charter public.

VIRGINIA

"Fall Membership Reports," Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), accessed July 18, 2022, <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/buildatable/fallmembership>.

The author contacted VDOE but did not receive a response. Last year, VDOE officials provided the author with a list of charter schools in Virginia. Using these lists as well as information available about 2021–22 charter schools in Virginia, the author manually identified charter schools in the dataset to construct enrollment figures.

WASHINGTON

"Data Request to the Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction," Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, received July 14, 2022.

The author received custom enrollment files from the superintendent's office in response to our request for charter and non-charter enrollment data.

WISCONSIN

"WISEdash Public Portal Enrollment Data" (for total public school enrollment) and "Charter Enrollment by School" (for total charter school enrollment), Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, accessed July 15, 2022. Total public enrollment: <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/18110>; total charter school enrollment: <https://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/charter-schools/current>.

The author used statewide public school totals to calculate a public charter school figure.

WYOMING

"Fall Enrollment Summary by School by Grade" and "Wyoming Charter Schools List," Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), accessed July 19, 2022, <https://edu.wyoming.gov/data/statisticalreports/series-2/> and <https://edu.wyoming.gov/for-district-leadership/school-programs/charterschools/>.

The author submitted a formal data request to WDE. WDE officials provided the link above for enrollment figures by year and shared with the author the names of the five charter schools currently operating in Wyoming.



Endnotes

- 1 “Where Are People Moving to in 2022? Pods Moving Trends to Watch.” Alex Keight. Pods blog, April 27, 2022. <https://www.pods.com/blog/2022/04/moving-trends/>.
- 2 “A proposed Texas charter school promised to be antiracist. Then it got caught up in the critical race theory fight.” Matt Barnum. Chalkbeat, Jan 6, 2022. <https://www.chalkbeat.org/2022/1/6/22867364/texas-critical-race-theory-law-charter-school>.
- 3 “Annual Estimates of the Civilian Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States and States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2020,” United States Census Bureau, accessed on August 11, 2022. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-state-detail.html>.
- 4 “Annual State Resident Population Estimates for 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and Two or More Races) by Age, Sex, and Hispanic Origin: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019; April 1, 2020; and July 1, 2020,” United States Census Bureau, accessed on August 11, 2022. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-state-detail.html>.
- 5 “2021 Population Estimates Overall and by Racial / Ethnic Categories,” United States Census Bureau, accessed on August 11, 2022. <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2020-2021/state/asrh/>.
- 6 Debbie Veney “Parents are looking for individualized support, access to technology, and teachers’ flexibility and adaptability, in addition to academic outcomes” in Never Going Back: An Analysis of Parent Sentiment on Education.
- 7 Debbie Veney, “Nearly 20% of parents who chose to homeschool their children had less than a high school diploma,” Never Going Back: An Analysis of Parent Sentiment on Education.

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