



2017-2018 SBE Charter School Report

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The State Board of Education's Statutory* Duties re: Charter Schools

1. Include all charter schools in its public school system oversight, including accountability measures, to the same extent as other public schools.
2. SBE chair, or designee, serve as a member of the Charter School Commission.
3. Screen, approve, contract with, and oversee the performance and effectiveness of school districts that authorize charter schools within their boundaries.
4. Establish a statewide formula for an authorizer oversight fee.

***RCW 28A.710**



The State Board of Education's Statutory* Duties re: Charter Schools (con't)

5. Certify charter school applications approved by CSC or a district authorizer between approval and contract ratification (to ensure “room” within the 40 maximum allowed by law).
6. Petitions for charter contract transfers (review and determine whether to grant).
7. Create annual charter school report for Governor, Legislature, public at large.

***RCW 28A.710**



Annual Report on Charter Schools

RCW 28A.710.250 directs the State Board of Education, in collaboration with the Charter School Commission, to issue an annual report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the public. This is the second annual report. The annual report must include:

- I. The performance of the state's charter schools during the preceding school year, including a comparison of the performance of charter school students with the performance of academically, ethnically, and economically comparable groups of students in other public schools;
- II. SBE's assessment of the successes, challenges, and areas for improvement in meeting the purposes of the Washington Charter Public Schools Act (RCW 28A.710), including the board's assessment of the sufficiency of funding for charter schools, the efficacy of the formula for authorizer funding; and
- III. Any suggested changes in state law or policy necessary to strengthen the state's charter schools.



Annual Report on Charter Schools (cont.)

The annual report must be based on (per RCW 28A.710.250(2)):

- The reports submitted by each authorizer (due to SBE by Nov 1st)
- Any additional relevant data compiled by the state board of education

SBE submitted the first annual charter school report 12/1/17. The second annual report was s due 12/1/18; SBE will issue in January due to timeframe of data receipt and release of other pertinent charter school reports.

2017-2018 Operating Charter Schools

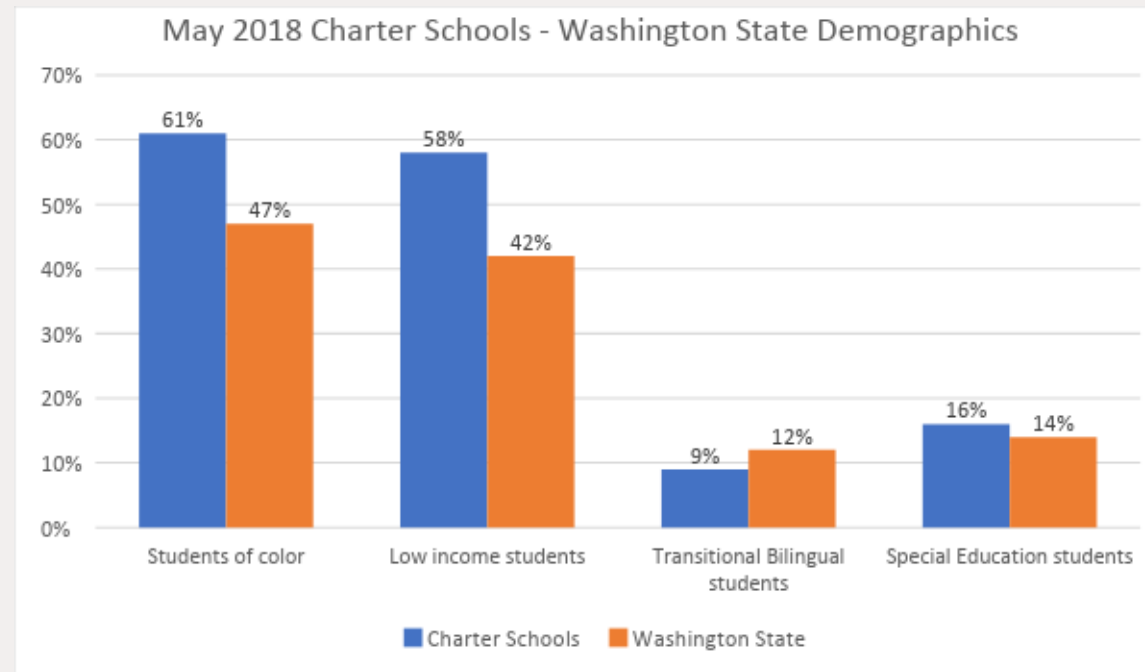


School Name	Authorizer	Location	Grades Served	Enrollment
Green Dot Excel	State Charter School Commission	Kent	7-9	169
Green Dot Destiny	State Charter School Commission	Tacoma	6-8	239
Green Dot Rainier Valley Leadership Academy (RVLA)	State Charter School Commission	Seattle	6	103
PRIDE Prep	Spokane Public Schools	Spokane	6-9	396
Rainer Prep	State Charter School Commission	Seattle	5-8	322
SOAR	State Charter School Commission	Tacoma	K-3	139
Spokane International Academy	Spokane Public Schools	Spokane	K-8	406
Summit Atlas	State Charter School Commission	Seattle	6 and 9	156
Summit Olympus	State Charter School Commission	Tacoma	9-11	142
Summit Sierra	State Charter School Commission	Seattle	9-11	280



Student demographics

- Charter public schools enrolled 2,352 Washington students K-12 in 2017-18 (an increase of 455 students). This represents approximately one fifth of one percent (0.2%) of the total 1,116,599 K-12 public school students enrolled in Washington's public schools in 2017-18.
- Per OSPI's Report Card:



See detailed student demographics on page 9 of the draft report.

2017-2018 Charter School Student Demographics



	American Indian/ Alaskan Native	Asian	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	White	Two or More Races		English Learners	FRPL Eligible	Students with IEPs
Rainier Prep	0.3	9.0	35.5	28.1	0.9	18.5	7.8		28.3	77.3	10.6
Highline SD	0.9	14.5	14.1	38.5	4.0	22.0	6.1		27.9	62.5	15.9
Excel	0.0	6.2	44.7	8.7	0.6	32.3	7.5		12.6	51.5	15.0
Kent SD	0.3	19.1	11.9	22.6	2.6	33.7	9.7		21.1	48.8	11.4
Atlas	0.0	3.3	30.9	17.1	0.0	35.4	13.3		7.5	47.8	16.0
Rainier Valley	0.9	2.8	76.6	5.6	0.0	10.3	3.7		20.2	68.3	14.4
Sierra	1.7	10.4	40.7	8.8	0.0	26.3	12.1		7.8	41.8	17.5
Seattle SD	0.5	14.1	14.9	12.1	0.5	47.1	10.8		12.5	31.8	15.1
Pride Prep	5.8	1.8	9.6	2.5	1.3	72.5	6.6		0.0	48.9	15.1
SIA	0.5	1.7	2.0	10.8	0.0	69.7	15.3		1.8	38.1	10.6
Spokane SD	1.2	2.6	3.3	10.3	1.6	67.9	13.0		6.4	55.7	17.4
Destiny	2.2	1.8	26.3	23.7	5.4	22.3	18.3		7.4	71.1	21.1
Olympus	1.8	3.6	19.2	29.3	2.4	30.5	13.2		7.3	70.9	19.8
SOAR	1.7	0.6	31.1	17.2	2.2	19.4	27.8		6.4	70.7	17.1
Tacoma SD	1.2	9.4	14.9	20.3	3.0	39.3	11.9		11.2	56.1	15.1
Washington	1.4	7.7	4.4	23.1	1.1	54.4	8.0		11.5	42.4	14.1

Note: School values exceeding district average values are highlighted in bold text.



Part I: Student performance: key findings

- 1) Five charter schools posted results that were similar to or better than the statewide average performance in Washington.
- 2) Seven charter schools posted results that were similar to or better than the home school district.
- 3) Statewide charter school students perform about the same as demographically similar non-charter students on the ELA, math, and science assessments.
- 4) At nearly every grade level and in ELA, math, and science, charter school students perform about the same as demographically similar non-charter school students.
- 5) Statewide, charter school students posted student growth percentiles similar to or higher than the non-charter school students in all grades for both ELA and math.



Part I: Charter public school performance

Charter School	Demographics Charter School vs. Home District	Average Scale Scores Charter School vs. Home District	Average Scale Scores Charter School vs. Washington	Overall
Green Dot Destiny	Higher percentages of students of color and students in poverty	Destiny Performed Lower	Destiny Performed Lower	
Green Dot Excel	Higher percentages of students of color; similar percentages of students in poverty	Excel Performed Similar	Excel Performed Lower	x
Green Dot Rainier Valley	Higher percentages of students of color and students in poverty	Rainier Valley Performed Lower	Rainier Valley Performed Lower	
Pride Prep	Similar Demographics	Mixed* Results	Pride Prep Performed Lower	x
Rainier Prep	Higher percentages of students of color and students in poverty	Rainier Prep Performed Higher	Rainier Prep Performed Higher	x
SOAR	Higher percentages of students of color and students in poverty	SOAR Performed Lower	SOAR Performed Lower	
Spokane International Academy	Similar Demographics	Spokane International Performed Higher	Spokane International Performed Higher	x
Summit Atlas	Higher percentages of students of color and students in poverty	Atlas Performed Similar	Atlas Performed Higher	x
Summit Olympus	Higher percentages of students of color and students in poverty	Olympus Performed Similar	Mixed Results	x
Summit Sierra	Higher percentages of students of color and students in poverty	Mixed Results	Sierra Performed Higher	x



Part I: Charter public school performance (Scale Scores)

Scale Score Comparison Charter School Students with Non-Charter School Students.

Assessment	Students	Mean Scale Score Comparison Group Charter Students	Mean Scale Score Control Group Non-Charter Students	Mean Scale Score Difference*
ELA	1405	2543.3	2545.6	2.25
Math	1405	2531.7	2532.8	1.08
Science	470	684.7	678.1	-6.52

*Note: the mean difference is reported as the value for the non-charter school group minus the value for the charter school group. A negative mean difference indicates that the mean scale score for the comparison group (charter school students) was higher than the mean scale score for the control group (non-charter school students). A positive mean difference indicates that the mean scale score for the comparison group (charter school students) was lower than the mean scale score for the control group (non-charter school students).



Part I: Charter public school performance (Student Growth Percentiles)

Scale Score Comparison Charter School Students with Non-Charter School Students

Assessment	Students* (N)	Mean SGP Comparison Group Charter Students	Mean SGP Control Group Non-Charter Students	Mean SGP Difference
ELA	1091/1019	52.5	51.8	-0.72
Math**	1091/1018	52.1	48.4	-3.67

*Note: shows the number of student records for the control/comparison group.

**Note: the double asterisk denotes the assessments where the group performances were statistically different.



Other concurrent charter school reports

- In late November, 2018, SAO released its “Performance Audit Charter School Accountability and Opportunities for Collaboration”
- CREDO is slated to release its report on WA Charter Schools 2012-2017 (commissioned by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation) in January, 2019.



Part I: Wrap-Up

- Questions, clarification, and discussion re Part I (Charter School Academic Performance)

Part II: Meeting the purposes of Washington's Charter Schools Act (RCW 28A.710)



Successes:

- 1) The fact that the State Supreme Court has found Washington's Charter School Act constitutional is a testament to the strong law the Legislature has created.
- 2) Charter schools are serving the students who the law intends to serve, particularly students with IEPs and students of color.
- 3) Charter public school authorizers and other state agencies (SAO, OSPI, SBE) have established comprehensive academic, financial, and organizational frameworks and protocols for high levels of charter public school accountability. This system allows for swift interventions and corrective action.
- 4) The True Measure Collaborative (TMC) - collaboration between the Washington State Charter Schools Association, Seneca Family of Agencies, and the Puget Sound Educational Service District. TMC includes all 10 charter public schools and offers robust, centralized expertise and supports that promote compliant, effective, and innovative practices for meeting the needs of students faced with barriers to academic achievement, including those with disabilities.

Part II: Meeting the purposes of Washington's Charter Schools Act (RCW 28A.710)



Challenges:

- 1) Financial – the current funding model jeopardizes the schools' sustainability.
- 2) Facilities – lack of access to capital funding necessitates Washington charter schools spending approximately ten percent of their basic education state funding on facilities.
- 3) Special education – the funding model for students with Individualized Education Plans and the dearth of high-quality SPED teachers in our state present challenges for all public schools in our state, including charter schools.



Part II: Funding Sufficiency for Charter Schools

- Students in WA charter public schools receive basic education funds, but are not entitled to local levy or capital/facility funds.
- In 2017-2018 the per student funding gap between Washington students in charter public schools and students in traditional public schools was as high as **\$4,206**.
- In 2018-2019 the gap is projected to be between **\$2,220 and \$3,400** per charter school student.

Part II: Efficacy of the funding for charter school authorizers (p 13 of draft report)



Per RCW 28A.710.110, SBE has, through rule-making, established a statewide formula for an authorizer oversight fee, with a sliding scale based on number of schools authorized, not to exceed *four percent of each charter school's annual funding* ([WAC 180-19-060](#)).

- Spokane Public Schools' authorizer rate is 4% (as it authorizes fewer than 10 schools) and the CS Commission's authorizer rate is 3% (as it authorizes 10+ schools)
- Authorizers must use its oversight fee exclusively for the purpose of fulfilling its charter school authorizing duties (under RCW [28A.710.100](#)), per RCW [28A.710.110](#)(4).
- In 2017-2018, Spokane Public Schools collected a total of \$291,785 in authorizing fees; spent \$238,050, leaving an “un-spendable” balance of **\$53,735**. The district defers such balances to the subsequent fiscal year to be used only for allowable authorizer expenses.
- Issues to explore:
 - Other possibilities for authorizer ending-year balance would be worthwhile.
 - Basing authorizer fee structure on number of students (vs schools).
- For both of these reasons, SBE will, during the 2018-2019 school year, review the adequacy and efficiency of the authorizer oversight fee for the purpose of determining whether the formula should be adjusted in order to ensure fulfilling the purposes of chapter [28A.710](#) RCW, in accordance with RCW 28A.710.110(2), and to make any adjustments through rule-making.



Part III: Recommended legal changes

The Charter School Commission has identified a number of statutory changes it would like to see, through a combination of its annual authorizer report and current advocacy platform, specifically:

- **Special Education:** Increase the per-student state funding for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- **Charter School Act Improvements:** Make changes to the Charter School Act (RCW 28A.710) to clarify language and align the Act to the state's updated accountability system.
- **Charter School Facility Support:** Allocate state resources and develop a clear and transparent process to support charter public school facility acquisition and improvements.
- **CS Commission Agency Administration:** Provide for a statutory executive director.
- **28A.710.050(3):** Change approval (of an admission policy) “by the commission” to “by the authorizer” (since the Commission is not the only authorizer).
- **28A.710.250(1):** Change annual report dates – from November 1st (authorizers' reports to SBE) and December 1st (SBE's report to the Governor and Legislature) – to later dates that allow authorizers and the SBE to access and utilize financial and academic performance data, and enables SBE to incorporate them into one comprehensive annual charter schools report that addresses all information required by RCW 28A.710.250(2).



Part III: Recommended legal changes

Spokane Public Schools has also identified, in its annual report to SBE, potential changes to RCW 28A.710 that the district believes would strengthen the state's charter schools and authorizing practices.

- 28A.710.050(3): Change, “approved by the commission” to “approved by the authorizer,” which appears to be the intent of the provision, since the Commission is not the only authorizer.
- 28A.710.100(b): In “The academic and financial performance of all operating charter schools,” insert “organizational.” Adding organizational will better align this statute to the “board performance and stewardship” in .170(2)(h) and creates consistency with NACSA’s Principles & Standards (required in this section) and with current practice.
- 28A.710.150(3): Amend (3) to eliminate the "race to the finish line" for notice to SBE by authorizers of approved charters for certification. Change "If the board receives simultaneous notification" to "if the board receives notification in any year."
- 28A.710.250(1): Change “By December 1st of each year” to a later date to enable the authorizer annual reports and the SBE annual report to include graduation and WaSIF data.



Part III: Recommended legal changes

- **SBE staff recommend further exploration of these** issues, along with the issues specified in Section II related to both charter school and authorizer funding and others related to strengthening RCW 28A.710 and its implementation.
- **SBE staff also recommend exploring alternative language for “at risk”** which is used throughout the charter school act to denote “the types of students” charter schools must prioritize. ““At risk student” connotes that students have deficiencies, which is a deficit approach to people rather than an asset-based approach. SBE would contend that the educational system has deficits, not the students in the system, and the systemic defects result in predictable and disparate access to opportunities and academic outcomes for students with certain characteristics.

Parts II and III: Discussion / Wrap-Up

- Successes
- Challenges
- Funding sufficiency for charter public schools
- Efficacy of authorizer funding
- Recommended changes to law to strengthen charter schools





Pipeline?

NOI deadline for this year was 11/30/18.

CSC received **12** NOIs:

Number	Name of School/Non-Profit	Proposed Location	Proposed Grades
1	Academy of Empowerment	Federal Way	TK-8
2	CAM Charter Schools	Battle Ground	K-12
3	Cascade Public Schools	South King County	9-12
4	Catalyst Public Schools	Bremerton	K-8
5	Fursan School	King County	K-5
6	Green Dot Destiny	Tacoma	K-8
7	Impact Public Schools Salish Sea Elementary	South Puget Sound	K-5
8	Whatcom Intergenerational High School	Whatcom County	9-12
9	The Whole Elephant Institute Inc.	Seattle	K-12
10	Tri Cities Learning Academy	Tri Cities	PK-12
11	Youth Empowerment School & Leadership Development	Seattle	9-12
12	Camino Journey LLC	Seattle	5-12

Spokane Public Schools received **one** NOI, from Spokane Collegiate Academy.



SBE's District Authorization Timeline

Action	WAC	Deadline
Last date for school district notice of intent to submit authorizer application	180-19-020	June 15
Last date for a district to submit an authorizer application	180-19-030	October 15
Last date for SBE to approve or deny an authorizer application	180-19-040	February 1



District's CS Authorizing Timeline

Last date for all authorizers to issue RFPs for charter applications	180-19-070	March 1
Last date for SBE to execute an authorizing contract with an approved district	180-19-050	March 1
Last date to submit charter applications to authorizers	180-19-080	June 1
Last date for authorizers to approve or deny charter applications	180-19-080	September 1
Last date for authorizers to report approval or denial of charter applications to SBE	189-19-080	10 days after approval or denial action



Contact Information

Frequently Asked Questions:

<http://sbe.wa.gov/faqs/charter>

For additional information:

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