

# Maryland Public Charter Schools

Education Article § 9-110

**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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## Background

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**The Maryland Public Charter School Program is governed by Title 9, Subtitle 1 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The statute requires the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to report annually to the Maryland General Assembly regarding any updates or amendments made to public charter school policies by local education agencies (LEAs), as well as the implementation of the Maryland Public Charter School Program on or before December 1 of each year.**

The Maryland General Assembly enacted the Maryland Charter School Program in 2003, “to establish an alternative means within the existing public school system in order to provide innovative learning opportunities and creative educational approaches to improve the education of students.” [Maryland Education Article 9-101 (b)]. The key provisions of the Maryland Charter School Law include the following:

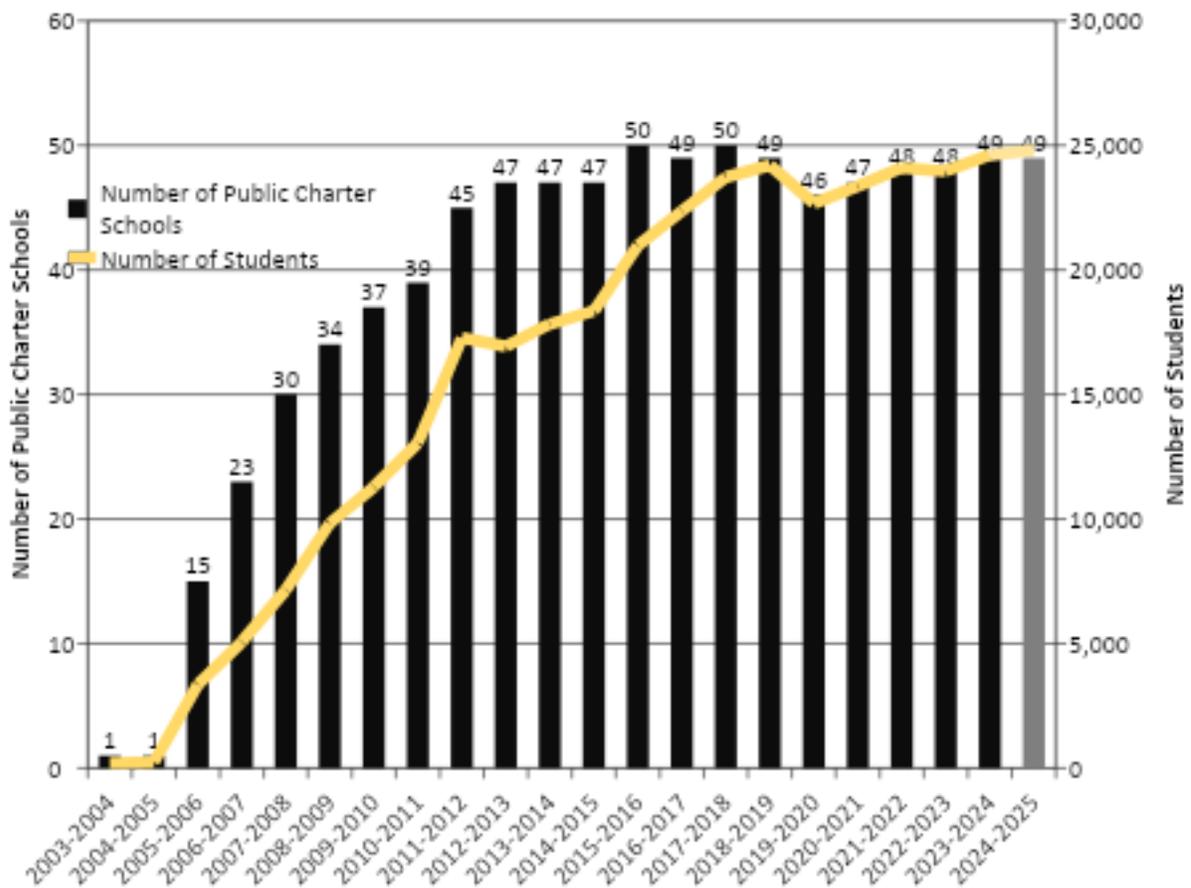
- Local School Boards are the authorizers of public charter schools;
- Public charter schools comply with all State and local education laws and policies, unless waived;
- Employees of public charter schools are employees of the LEA;
- Charter schools receive an amount of public funding that is commensurate with the amount of funding expended on behalf of all public school students; and
- Charter schools are open to all students. Admission is by lottery. Weighted lotteries are permitted in some circumstances.

# Overview of Maryland's Charter Schools

## NUMBERS AND GROWTH

In the 2023-2024 school year, 49 public charter schools served 24,613 Maryland public school students in six LEAs within Maryland. There are 31 public charter schools in Baltimore City, one in Baltimore County, nine public charter schools in Prince George’s County, four in Frederick County, two in Anne Arundel County, one in St. Mary’s County, and one in Charles County. Figure 1 shows the number of charter schools and charter school enrollment by year.

Figure 1: Maryland Public Charter School Growth 2002 through 2025



## CHARTER RENEWAL AND APPLICATIONS

During the 2023-2024 school year, eight public charter schools completed a contract renewal review with their local board of education. Six applications for new charter schools were received by LEAs in the 2023-2024 school year. Of these, four were approved.

**Activity by LEA:**

## Anne Arundel County

- One school was reviewed and approved for renewal:
  - Monarch Academy Glen Burnie was renewed for seven years.
- One application for a new charter school was reviewed:
  - New Village Academy Is approved to open in 2026.

## Baltimore City

- Three schools were reviewed for renewal. The outcomes are:
  - Baltimore International Academy West was renewed for three years
  - Green Street Academy was renewed for five years.
  - KIPP Harmony was renewed for three years.

## Baltimore County

- One school was reviewed and approved for renewal:
  - Watershed Public Charter School was renewed for five years.
- Two applications for new charter schools were reviewed
  - Puzzle Pieces Learning Academy was declined
  - Bilingual Citizens School was approved to open in 2025

## Garrett County

- One charter application was reviewed:
  - Swan Meadow Heritage School was approved as a conversion of an existing public school.

## Prince George's County

- Two schools were reviewed and approved for renewal. The outcomes are:
  - Imagine Leeland was renewed for five years.
  - Imagine Andrews was renewed for five years.
- Two applications for new charter schools were reviewed:
  - Imagine Foundations was declined
  - Friendship Aspire was approved.

## St. Mary's County

- St. Mary's County extended the charter of Chesapeake Charter School for one year.

**NEW CHARTER SCHOOLS**

- The MECCA Business Learning Institute (MBLI) was approved in 2022-2023 and is projected to open in Montgomery County in fall 2025. MBLI will open for students in grades 6 and 7 and will grow to serve grades 9 through 12.

- New Village Academy will open in Anne Arundel County in 2026 and serve high school students.
- Friendship Aspire will open in fall 2025 in Prince George's County and will serve elementary grades.
- Swan Meadow Heritage School was approved as a conversion of an existing public elementary school in Garrett County.
- Bilingual Citizens School was approved to open in Baltimore County in 2025.

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Maryland's public charter schools serve a diverse student body. Table 1 provides the percentages of students attending public charter schools who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMS), students with disabilities (SWD), multilingual learners, and eligible for services under Title I.

**Table 1. Percentage of students receiving selected special services for public charter schools and for all schools, 2023-2024**

"\*" indicates no students or fewer than 10 students in the category

School or LEA Name	Enrollment	FARMS Pct	Multi-lingual Learner Pct	Students with Disabilities Pct	Title I Pct
All Anne Arundel County Schools	84,844	43.8	10.5	11.8	14.9
Chesapeake Science Point	882	23.6	<= 5.0	6	*
Monarch Academy	665	38.3	<= 5.0	11.6	*
All Baltimore County Schools	111,196	55.9	11.5	14.5	31.7
Watershed Public Charter	302	40.1	*	15.2	*
All Charles County Schools	28,062	47.2	<= 5.0	11.3	19.4
Phoenix International School of the Arts	148	45.9	*	8.1	*
All Frederick County Schools	48,013	35.6	8	12	8.6
Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter	313	27.2	*	15	*
Frederick Classical Charter	374	26.5	*	5.9	*
Monocacy Valley Montessori	339	29.2	*	16.8	*
Sabillasville Environmental School	179	33.5	*	17.9	*
All Prince George's County Schools	132,794	62	25.7	10.9	39.6
Chesapeake Math and IT Public Charter	1,658	44.3	<= 5.0	9.1	*

School or LEA Name	Enrollment	FARMS Pct	Multi-lingual Learner Pct	Students with Disabilities Pct	Title I Pct
Chesapeake Math and IT South Public Charter	1,493	33.4	<= 5.0	6.4	*
College Park Academy	674	46.3	<= 5.0	5.8	*
Excel Academy Public Charter	400	54.5	<= 5.0	11.8	*
Imagine Andrews Public Charter	365	30.1	<= 5.0	7.4	*
Imagine Foundations at Leeland PCS	476	45.6	*	9	*
Imagine Foundations at Morningside PCS	354	61.9	*	9	*
Imagine Lincoln PCS	333	64.9	*	9.6	*
Legends Public Charter School	859	53	<= 5.0	5.9	*
All Saint Mary's County Schools	17,211	39.5	<= 5.0	11.8	13.2
Chesapeake Charter School	533	23.5	*	9.4	*
All Baltimore City Schools	75,711	71.6	14.2	14.6	74.3
Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys	262	76	*	17.2	>=95.0
Baltimore International Academy	674	67.7	<= 5.0	<= 5.0	>=95.0
Baltimore International Academy West	201	68.2	*	8	>=95.0
Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women	455	76.7	*	10.5	>=95.0
Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School	556	50.2	*	12.2	>=95.0
City Neighbors Charter School	225	50.7	*	20.4	>=95.0
City Neighbors Hamilton	233	33.9	*	23.6	*
City Neighbors High	411	66.7	*	28.5	*
City Springs Elementary/Middle	467	87.4	9	13.7	>=95.0
Clay Hill Public Charter School	282	59.6	51.1	14.9	>=95.0
ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School	496	86.1	*	31.7	>=95.0
Coppin Academy	379	75.5	*	18.5	*
Creative City Public Charter School	234	75.2	*	18.8	>=95.0
Empowerment Academy	302	73.8	*	12.9	>=95.0
Frederick Elementary	336	89.3	10.7	7.7	>=95.0
Furman Templeton Preparatory Academy	427	91.1	*	20.1	>=95.0

School or LEA Name	Enrollment	FARMS Pct	Multi-lingual Learner Pct	Students with Disabilities Pct	Title I Pct
Govans Elementary	405	70.4	<= 5.0	19	>=95.0
Green Street Academy	791	80.3	*	18	>=95.0
Hampstead Hill Academy	907	38.7	20.2	<= 5.0	*
KIPP Harmony Academy	1,355	80.2	*	11.8	>=95.0
Lillie May Carroll Jackson School	197	76.6	*	18.3	>=95.0
Midtown Academy	180	68.3	*	15	>=95.0
New Song Academy	179	81.6	*	12.3	>=95.0
Patterson Park Public Charter School	710	60.1	25.6	14.2	>=95.0
Pimlico Elementary/Middle	776	83.1	12	14.9	>=95.0
Southwest Baltimore Charter School	356	83.1	<= 5.0	20.2	>=95.0
The Belair-Edison School	935	87	*	18.2	>=95.0
The Crossroads School	160	71.3	13.8	16.9	>=95.0
The Green School of Baltimore	160	30.6	*	16.9	*
Tunbridge Public Charter School	489	38.9	*	16.8	*
Wolfe Street Academy	245	74.3	71	9.8	>=95.0
All Maryland Schools	895,501	50	13.1	12.7	26.7

## Summary Performance Data

**Table 2. Percent of All Students Scoring Proficient In the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program In English, Mathematics, and Algebra I In Charter Schools and LEAS with Charter Schools.**

"\*" indicates no students or fewer than 10 students in the category

"^" Indicates that the percentage is greater than that of the LEA.

"^^" Indicates that the percentage is greater than that of the State.

School Name	Percent Proficient Math All Grades	Percent Proficient Algebra I	Percent Proficient English/ Language Arts
All Anne Arundel County Schools	27.6	30.3	53.9
Chesapeake Science Point	45.8^^	75.6^^	77.7^^
Monarch Academy	27.9^^	52.9^^	51.2^^
All Baltimore County Schools	19.3	15.1	41.9
Watershed Public Charter	22.6^		42.1^
All Charles County Schools	15.0	9.9	39.2
Phoenix International School for the Arts	<=5.0		33.8
All Frederick County Schools	32.1	25.2	60.0
Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter	25.0^^	72.7^^	62.0^^
Frederick Classical Charter	46.0^^	85.7^^	76.4^^
Monocacy Valley Montessori	33.2^^	60.0^^	57.9^^
Sabillasville Environmental School	17.7		38.1
All Prince George's County Schools	10.8	8.8	36.1
Chesapeake Math and IT Public Charter	25.9^^	27.9^^	60.8^^
Chesapeake Math and IT South Public Charter	21.2^	26.3^^	60.2^^
College Park Academy	17.8^	15^	62.9^^
Excel Academy Public Charter	9.7		24.6
Imagine Lincoln Public Charter	7.8		36.1
Imagine Andrews Public Charter	27.0^^		46.1^
Imagine Foundations at Leeland PCS	8.4	*	42.3^
Imagine Foundations at Morningside PCS	9.8		34.7^
Legends Public Charter School	7.8		36.7^
All Saint Mary's County Schools	29.1	22.6	54.9
Chesapeake Charter School	43.9^^	62.2^^	72.9^^
All Baltimore City Schools	10.2	8.8	27.7
Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys	<= 5.0		10.0

School Name	Percent Proficient Math All Grades	Percent Proficient Algebra I	Percent Proficient English/ Language Arts
Baltimore International Academy	11.1 <sup>^</sup>	*	32.7 <sup>^</sup>
Baltimore International Academy West	5.9		19.6
Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women	<= 5.0	<= 5.0	26.9
Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School	13.7 <sup>^</sup>	14.3 <sup>^</sup>	29.0 <sup>^</sup>
City Neighbors Charter School	15.1 <sup>^</sup>	*	42.5 <sup>^</sup>
City Neighbors Hamilton	24.8 <sup>^^</sup>	9.1 <sup>^</sup>	50.3 <sup>^^</sup>
City Neighbors High	<= 5.0	<= 5.0	33.3 <sup>^</sup>
City Springs Elementary/Middle	7.5		23.9
Clay Hill Public Charter School	13.2 <sup>^</sup>		18.7
ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School	<= 5.0	<= 5.0	19.5
Coppin Academy	5.1	5.1	27.2
Creative City Public Charter School	7.6		17.6
Empowerment Academy	9.5	<= 5.0	36.3 <sup>^</sup>
Frederick Elementary	<= 5.0		8.1
Furman Templeton Preparatory Academy	<= 5.0		20.0
Govans Elementary	12.9 <sup>^</sup>		19.1
Green Street Academy	<= 5.0	<= 5.0	23.6
Hampstead Hill Academy	46.6 <sup>^^</sup>	74.6 <sup>^^</sup>	68.6 <sup>^^</sup>
KIPP Harmony Academy	13.1 <sup>^</sup>	80.0 <sup>^^</sup>	20.0
Lillie May Carroll Jackson School	<= 5.0	*	18.9
Midtown Academy	12.8 <sup>^</sup>		48.8 <sup>^^</sup>
New Song Academy	5.8		26.0
Patterson Park Public Charter School	9.3	<= 5.0	36.8 <sup>^</sup>
Pimlico Elementary/Middle	<= 5.0		15.1
Southwest Baltimore Charter School	<= 5.0		19.8
The Belair-Edison School	5.9		21.6

School Name	Percent Proficient Math All Grades	Percent Proficient Algebra I	Percent Proficient English/ Language Arts
The Crossroads School	9.4	7.1	39.4 <sup>^</sup>
The Green School of Baltimore	40.7 <sup>^^</sup>		53.1 <sup>^^</sup>
Tunbridge Public Charter School	34.4 <sup>^^</sup>	80.0 <sup>^</sup>	55.2 <sup>^^</sup>
Wolfe Street Academy	17.4 <sup>^</sup>		27.2
All Maryland Schools	24.1	20.0	48.4

**LOCAL CHARTER SCHOOL POLICIES [MARYLAND EDUCATION ARTICLE SECTION 9-110(A) AND (C)]**

State law requires that each LEA adopt a charter schools policy, post the policy to the LEA website, and provide the policy to MSDE. In addition, each LEA is to identify a charter school liaison. Each LEA charter school policy contains the key requirements of the statute, including a definition of a public charter school, eligibility requirements for operators of charter schools, an overview of the LEA process for evaluation of applications to operate charter schools, and the process for earning a renewal of the charter. The initial term of a charter contract is five years and renewal terms range from three to eight years. No initial contract terms have been longer than five years.

All LEAs have identified a charter liaison, who is the point of contact for updates and technical assistance from MSDE and serves as the point of contact for any inquiry from the public regarding public charter schools.

LEA	Date of Approval or most recent revision
Allegany County	1/11/2011
Anne Arundel County	5/5/2010
Baltimore City	7/28/2022
Baltimore County	10/8/2019
Calvert County	6/9/2022
Caroline County	9/2/2003
Carroll County	12/12/2012
Cecil County	10/9/2008
Charles County	10/17/2017
Dorchester County	5/16/2019
Frederick County	5/24/2017
Garrett County	10/14/23
Harford County	8/9/2010
Howard County	4/14/2016
Kent County	10/6/2004
Montgomery County	10/27/2003
Prince George's County	4/29/2010
Queen Anne's County	2/29/24
Somerset County	11/18/2008
St. Mary's County	5/25/2010
Talbot County	2/13/2013
Washington County	11/4/2014
Wicomico County	10/4/21
Worcester County	2/18/2020

## Summary

**Maryland's public charter schools operate as a part of the LEAs. Demographic data show that the charter schools are serving a diverse student body; however, there are still opportunities for growth to serve a student body that is more representative of the diversity of Maryland students. Performance data is mixed yet includes several examples of charter school students outperforming their peers in the LEA and the State.**

The charter school law has enabled the creation of models that have given families increased choices. Oversight of charter schools is the responsibility of LEA authorizers who set application timelines and standards of approval and renewal. Technical assistance support from MSDE has helped the LEA staff collaborate on the development of more uniform guidance.