

Maryland Public Charter Schools

Education Article § 9-110(c)

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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Table of Contents

Background	3
Overview of Maryland's Charter Schools	4
Summary Performance Data	8
Summary	12

Background

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:

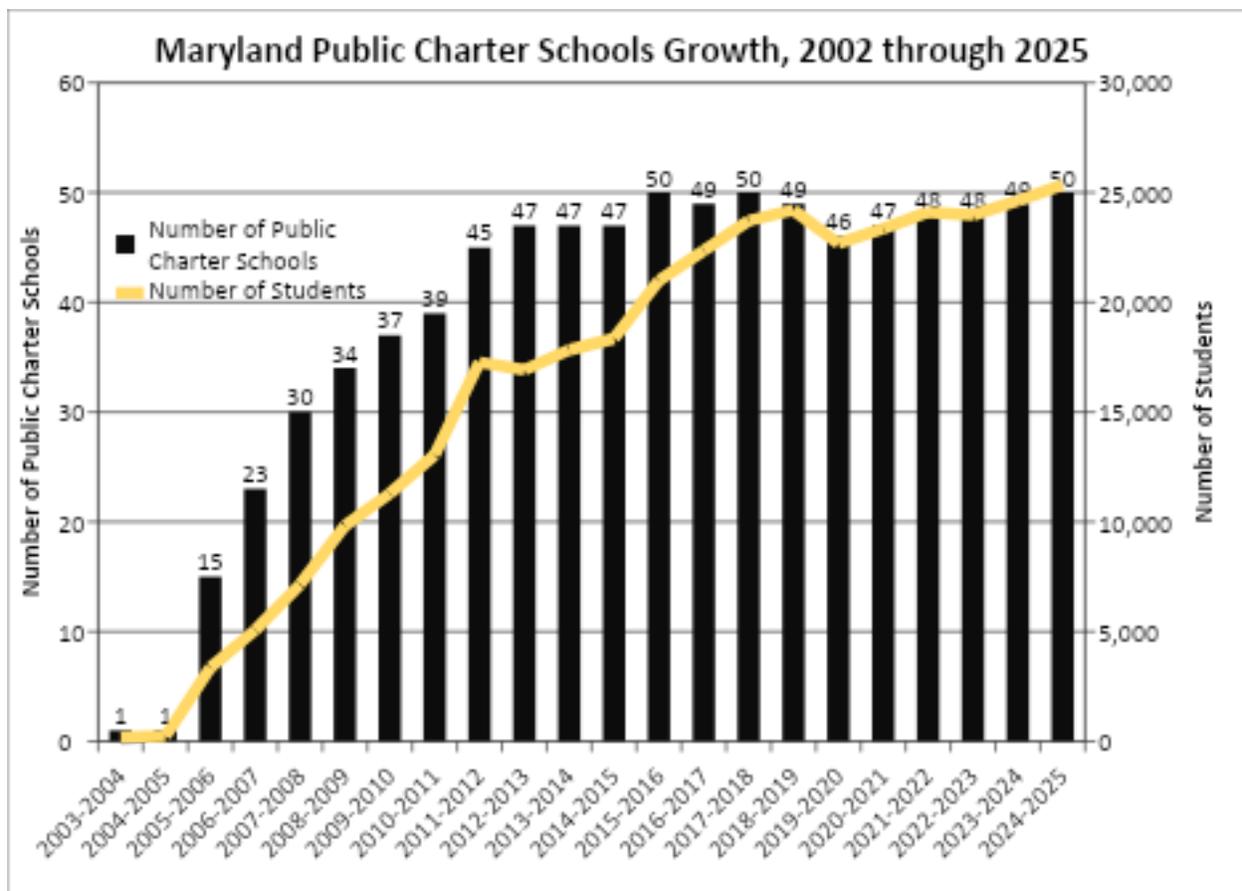
- Local School Boards are the authorizers of public charter schools;
- Public charter schools comply with all State and local education laws and policies, unless waived;
- Employees of public charter schools are employees of the LEA;
- Charter schools receive an amount of public funding that is commensurate 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 2024-2025 school year, 50 public charter schools served 25,351 Maryland public school students in seven LEAs within Maryland. There are 31 public charter schools in Baltimore City, one in Baltimore County, ten 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 2024-2025 school year, 18 public charter schools completed a contract renewal review with their local board of education. Five applications for new charter schools were received by LEAs in the 2024-2025 school year. Of these, two were approved.

Activity by LEA:

Anne Arundel County

- One school was reviewed and approved for renewal:
 - Chesapeake Science Point was renewed for seven years.

Baltimore City

- Fourteen schools were reviewed for renewal. The outcomes are:
 - Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School was renewed for three years
 - The Belair Edison School was renewed for three years.
 - City Neighbors Charter School was renewed for three years.
 - City Neighbors Hamilton was renewed for five years.
 - City Neighbors High School was renewed for eight years.
 - City Springs Elementary/Middle School was renewed for three years.
 - ConneXions Academy was renewed for three years.
 - Creative City Charter school was not renewed and closed at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
 - Frederick Elementary Schools was renewed for three years.
 - Furman Templeton was renewed for five years.
 - Govans Elementary was renewed for three years.
 - Southwest Baltimore charter school was not renewed and closed at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
 - The Green School of Baltimore was renewed for three years.
 - The Tunbridge School was renewed for eight years.
- Three applications for a new charter school was reviewed.
 - Dream Academy Charter School was approved to open in Fall 2026.
 - Charm City Montessori was declined.
 - Catalyst Academy was declined.

Carroll County

- One application for a new charter school was review
 - The Carroll Learning Alliance application for Carroll Classical Charter was approved.

Prince George's County

- Three schools were reviewed and approved for renewal. The outcomes are:
 - Legends was renewed for three years.
 - Chesapeake math and IT was renewed for five years.
 - College Park Academy was renewed for five years.
- At the start of the 2025-2026 school year, Excel Academy relinquished its charter

Queen Anne's County

- One application for a new charter school was reviewed
 - Queen Anne's Classical Charter was declined.

NEW CHARTER SCHOOLS

- The MECCA Business Learning Institute (MBLI) opened in Montgomery County in fall 2025 for students in grades 6 and 7 and will grow to serve grades 6 through 12.
- Bilingual Citizens School opened In Baltimore County in 2025.
- New Village Academy will open in Anne Arundel County in 2026 and serve high school students.
- Dream Academy Charter school will be a conversion of Thomas Jefferson Elementary Middle school in Baltimore City, effective in fall 2026.

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), economically disadvantaged, multilingual learners, and students with disabilities (SWD).

Table 1. Percentage of students receiving selected special services for public charter schools and for all schools, 2024-2025

“*” indicates no students or fewer than 10 students in the category

School or LEA Name	Enrollment	FARMS Pct	Econ. Disadv. Pct	Multi-lingual Learner Pct	Students with Disabilities Pct
All Anne Arundel County Schools	85,235	43.0	32.8	10.8	12.2
Chesapeake Science Point	1050	23.7	15.4	<= 5.0	7.5
Monarch Academy	677	40.0	28.7	<= 5.0	10
All Baltimore County Schools	110,382	57.2	56.9	12.5	14.7
Watershed Public Charter	326	36	36	*	15.7
All Charles County Schools	28,187	47.2	37.8	5.1	11.5
Phoenix International School of the Arts	221	40.3	32.6	*	9.5
All Frederick County Schools	48,244	35.5	28.8	8.2	12.3
Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter	314	22.3	16.9	*	15
Frederick Classical Charter	375	25.3	21.3	*	6.7
Monocacy Valley Montessori	360	26.9	22.5	<=5.0	15
Sabillasville Environmental School	193	32.1	25.9	*	16.6
All Prince George's County Schools	133,427	61	54.4	26.3	11.6
Chesapeake Math and IT Public Charter	1,659	44.4	32.4	<= 5.0	10.1

School or LEA Name	Enrollment	FARMS Pct	Econ. Disadv. Pct	Multi-lingual Learner Pct	Students with Disabilities Pct
Chesapeake Math and IT South Public Charter	1,487	36.4	26.4	<= 5.0	7.2
College Park Academy	676	50.9	36.5	5.5	7
Excel Academy Public Charter	425	50.6	43.8	<= 5.0	8.7
Friendship Aspire	138	37.7	32.6	*	9.4
Imagine Andrews Public Charter	332	27.1	13	<= 5.0	6.9
Imagine Foundations at Leeland PCS	474	46.8	34	*	10.8
Imagine Foundations at Morningside PCS	354	55.9	50.3	*	9
Imagine Lincoln PCS	346	65	54.3	*	11.6
Legends Public Charter School	875	63.3	49.1	5.1	6.9
All Saint Mary's County Schools	16,906	39.6	33.3	<= 5.0	12
Chesapeake Charter School	535	26.4	19.8	*	9
All Baltimore City Schools	76,267	>=95.0	69.9	15.2	14.9
Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys	286	>=95.0	73.4	*	14.7
Baltimore International Academy	732	>=95.0	66.1	8.3	5.1
Baltimore International Academy West	227	>=95.0	71.8	*	11.5
Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women	435	>=95.0	72.4	*	11.5
Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School	587	>=95.0	47	*	12.9
City Neighbors Charter School	221	>=95.0	47.1	*	19.9
City Neighbors Hamilton	246	>=95.0	33.7	*	23.6
City Neighbors High	403	>=95.0	63.5	*	29.5
City Springs Elementary/Middle	498	>=95.0	85.3	10	14.1
Clay Hill Public Charter School	327	>=95.0	62.7	49.2	13.8
ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School	486	>=95.0	83.3	*	30
Coppin Academy	416	>=95.0	74.3	*	19
Creative City Public Charter School	199	>=95.0	75.4	*	17.1
Empowerment Academy	331	>=95.0	76.7	*	11.8
Frederick Elementary	335	>=95.0	86	17.6	9.3

School or LEA Name	Enrollment	FARMS Pct	Econ. Disadv. Pct	Multi-lingual Learner Pct	Students with Disabilities Pct
Furman Templeton Preparatory Academy	428	>=95.0	89.3	*	23.4
Govans Elementary	383	>=95.0	65.5	<= 5.0	16.7
Green Street Academy	767	>=95.0	80.4	*	18.6
Hampstead Hill Academy	945	>=95.0	38.5	21.3	<= 5.0
KIPP Harmony Academy	1,343	>=95.0	76.4	*	12.9
Lillie May Carroll Jackson School	195	>=95.0	77.9	*	18.5
Midtown Academy	177	>=95.0	67.2	*	18.1
New Song Academy	179	>=95.0	77.1	*	12.8
Patterson Park Public Charter School	710	>=95.0	60.1	25.1	15.1
Pimlico Elementary/Middle	727	>=95.0	79.2	13.9	14.4
Southwest Baltimore Charter School	346	>=95.0	77.5	<= 5.0	21.7
The Belair-Edison School	921	>=95.0	82.3	<= 5.0	7.4
The Crossroads School	158	>=95.0	66.5	12	13.3
The Green School of Baltimore	162	>=95.0	28.4	*	14.2
Tunbridge Public Charter School	489	>=95.0	37.2	*	16.8
Wolfe Street Academy	245	>=95.0	71.4	66.5	10.2
All Maryland Schools	893,991	52.3	44.2	13.6	13.1

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 the LEA average.

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

School Name	Percent Proficient Math All Grades	Percent Proficient Algebra I	Percent Proficient English/ Language Arts
All Anne Arundel County Schools	28.8	22.0	56.3
Anne Arundel County Charter Schools	40.4^^	67.2^^	66.3^^
Chesapeake Science Point	52.9^^	63.7^^	75.4^^
Monarch Academy	27.9^^	83.3^^	56.9^^
All Baltimore County Schools	20.7	11.0	45.0
Watershed Public Charter	22.3^	10.0	54.1^^
All Charles County Schools	16.9	9.1	43.8
Phoenix International School for the Arts	3.7	0.0	30.1
All Frederick County Schools	36.8	31.1	63.0
Frederick County Charter Schools	37.1^^	47.8^^	65.9^^
Carroll Creek Montessori Public Charter	27.7^^	92.3^^	67^^
Frederick Classical Charter	56.4^^	80.0^^	76.1^^
Monocacy Valley Montessori	31.3^^	20.8	62.3^^
Sabillasville Environmental School	22.8	33.3^^	49.2
All Prince George's County Schools	13.1	21.0	38.3
Prince George's County Charter Schools	19.1^	34.8^^	53.6^^
Chesapeake Math and IT Public Charter	26.3^	74.4^^	65.5^^
Chesapeake Math and IT South Public Charter	23.4^	26.9^^	60.9^^
College Park Academy	20.0^	25.9^^	61.2^^
Excel Academy Public Charter	6.6		35.8
Imagine Lincoln Public Charter	7.5		39.3^
Imagine Andrews Public Charter	29.8^^		50.4^
Imagine Foundations at Leeland PCS	11.9		54.6^^
Imagine Foundations at Morningside PCS	18.6^		41.3^
Legends Public Charter School	9.9		38.8^
All Saint Mary's County Schools	35	26.1	57.3

School Name	Percent Proficient Math All Grades	Percent Proficient Algebra I	Percent Proficient English/ Language Arts
Chesapeake Charter School	45.8^^	58.3^^	69.1^^
All Baltimore City Schools	12.6	11.6	31.2
Baltimore City Charter Schools	13.5^	14.7^	32.4^
Baltimore Collegiate School for Boys	1.1		14.4
Baltimore International Academy	12.8^		31.2^
Baltimore International Academy West	11.1		20.6
Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women	.8	1.5	29.3
Baltimore Montessori Public Charter School	14.4^	13.3^	34^
City Neighbors Charter School	16.3^	33.3^^	43.8^
City Neighbors Hamilton	29^^	42.9^^	50.6^
City Neighbors High	<= 5.0	<= 5.0	50.5^
City Springs Elementary/Middle	9.8		27.5
Clay Hill Public Charter School	21.3^		31.1
ConneXions: A Community Based Arts School	<= 5.0	<= 5.0	17.6
Coppin Academy	5.9	5.9	43.1^
Creative City Public Charter School	9.4		26.4
Empowerment Academy	10.8	9.1	39.7^
Frederick Elementary	<= 5.0		8.3
Furman Templeton Preparatory Academy	10.6		23.9
Govans Elementary	12.9^		26.2
Green Street Academy	<= 5.0	<= 5.0	21.5
Hampstead Hill Academy	50.5^^	70.6^^	69.8^^
KIPP Harmony Academy	15.9^	53.1^^	24.9
Lillie May Carroll Jackson School	<= 5.0		26.2
Midtown Academy	12.3		37.7^
New Song Academy	6.7		20

School Name	Percent Proficient Math All Grades	Percent Proficient Algebra I	Percent Proficient English/ Language Arts
Patterson Park Public Charter School	12.7 [^]	10.7	36.7 [^]
Pimlico Elementary/Middle	5.5		19.7
Southwest Baltimore Charter School	5.5		20
The Belair-Edison School	5.6	*	20.5
The Crossroads School	8.3	8.3	43.9 [^]
The Green School of Baltimore	34.6 ^{^^}		55.6 ^{^^}
Tunbridge Public Charter School	30.5 ^{^^}	80.0 ^{^^}	60.1 ^{^^}
Wolfe Street Academy	15.6 [^]		27.6
All Maryland Schools	26.5	21.4	50.8
Maryland Charter Schools	18.8	28.2 ^{^^}	43.6

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	5/28/2024
Baltimore County	10/8/2019
Calvert County	8/7/2025
Caroline County	9/2/2003
Carroll County	12/12/2012
Cecil County	10/1/2019
Charles County	10/17/2017
Dorchester County	5/16/2019
Frederick County	12/30/2024
Garrett County	10/14/2023
Harford County	8/9/2010
Howard County	4/13/2023
Kent County	10/6/2004
Montgomery County	10/27/2003
Prince George's County	10/26/2023
Queen Anne's County	6/5/2024
Somerset County	11/18/2008
St. Mary's County	5/25/2010
Talbot County	2/13/2013
Washington County	11/4/2014
Wicomico County	6/24/2024
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.