

Charter schools are the school choice of choice.

Charter schools are experiencing consistent, nationwide growth, adding over half a million students over the last six years (+15%) even as the overall school-age population shrinks. According to state agency data – which is reliable, timely, and transparent – district schools lost nearly 2 million students (-4.4%) during the same time period.

The number of students at charter schools skyrocketed during the pandemic, and even with growth of other educational options like the number of Education Savings Account (ESA) programs, enrollment at charter schools defies expectations by continuing to grow. Today, families expect choices and they expect excellent public schools. Charter schools deliver.

Across the country, demand for charters is as strong as ever before. In 41 of 43 states, charters gained students over the last six years, often outpacing demographic trends and signaling that families continue to choose charter schools in record numbers.

Most recent year: Charters added +111,349 students, while districts lost -221,729.

Widespread momentum: 39 out of 43 state charter sectors saw growth over the last year.

Changing landscape:

- 42 out of 43 states reported district enrollment loss over the last six years.
- 36 out of 43 states reported district enrollment loss in the last year.
- In 90% of states, charter growth outpaced overall school-age population trends.

Growth is happening in every corner of the country, in states with decades of charter experience and in those just beginning.

111,349

**CHARTER
STUDENTS
ADDED
THIS YEAR**

**STATES THAT REPORTED
CHARTER ENROLLMENT
GAINS OVER THE
LAST SIX YEARS**

41/43

90%

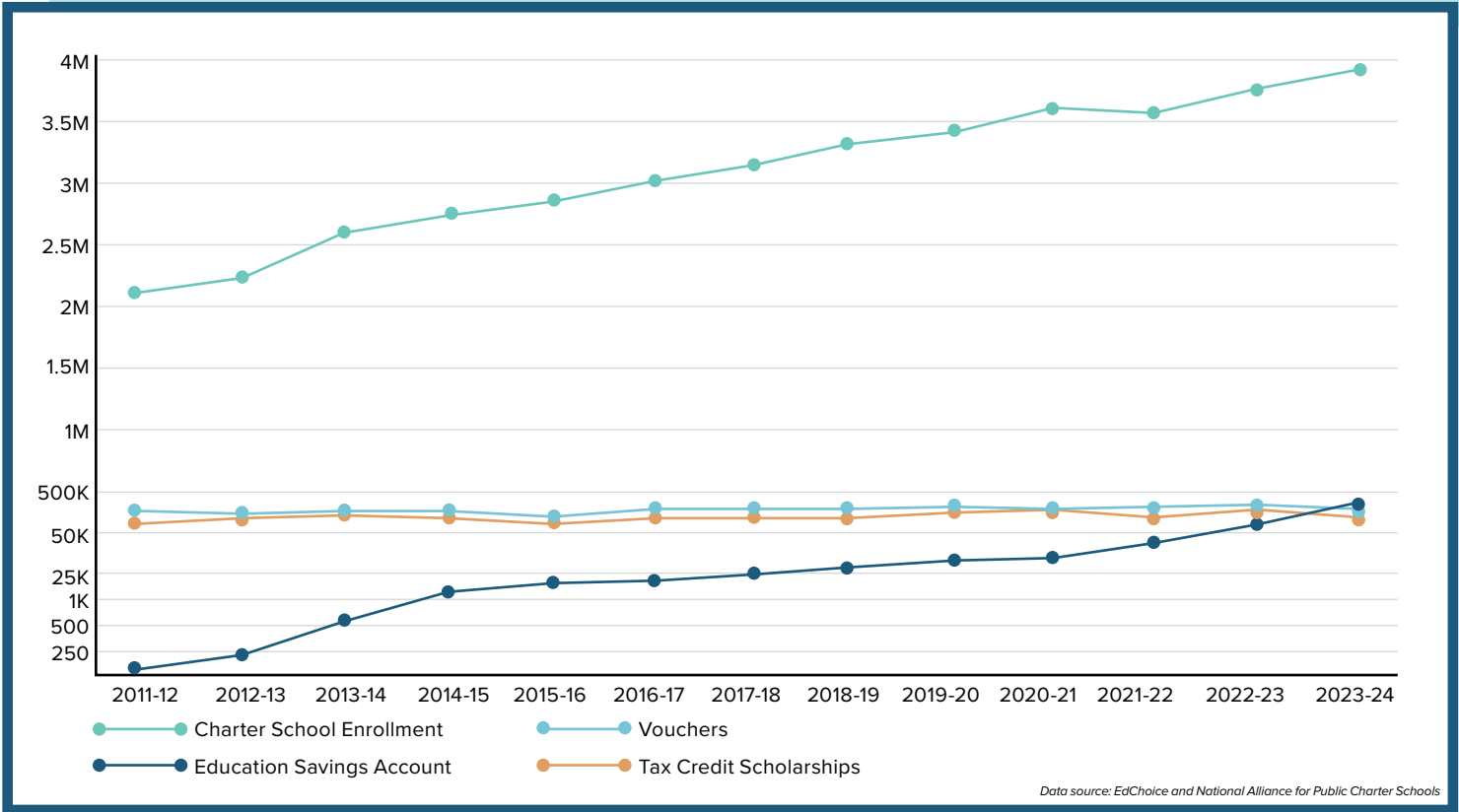
**OF STATES WHERE
CHARTER GROWTH
OUTPACED SCHOOL-AGE
POPULATION TRENDS**



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Even as ESA, voucher, and tax credit programs expand, parents overwhelmingly choose charter schools: nearly 4 million students are enrolled in charter schools, compared to about 1.3 million combined across vouchers, ESAs, and tax credit scholarships.



Families Driving Florida's Charter Growth



Shereen with her daughter, Courtney, celebrating her graduation as valedictorian from Somerset Prep North Lauderdale in 2022.

From her childhood in Jamaica, Shereen Reid dreamed of teaching in a classroom that felt like family. Today she teaches fourth grade math at Somerset Prep North Lauderdale, where she was named 2025 Florida Charter School Teacher of the Year and also chose the school for her daughter, who graduated as valedictorian. Her story reflects what the numbers prove: families across America are choosing charter schools for the quality, safety, and community they deliver.

"Somerset is a family atmosphere... teachers go the extra mile, parents are part of the learning, and students are safe. Our enrollment has gone up. So that's something that I'm very proud of because it just says that parents are taking notice of the work that our school is doing with their students."



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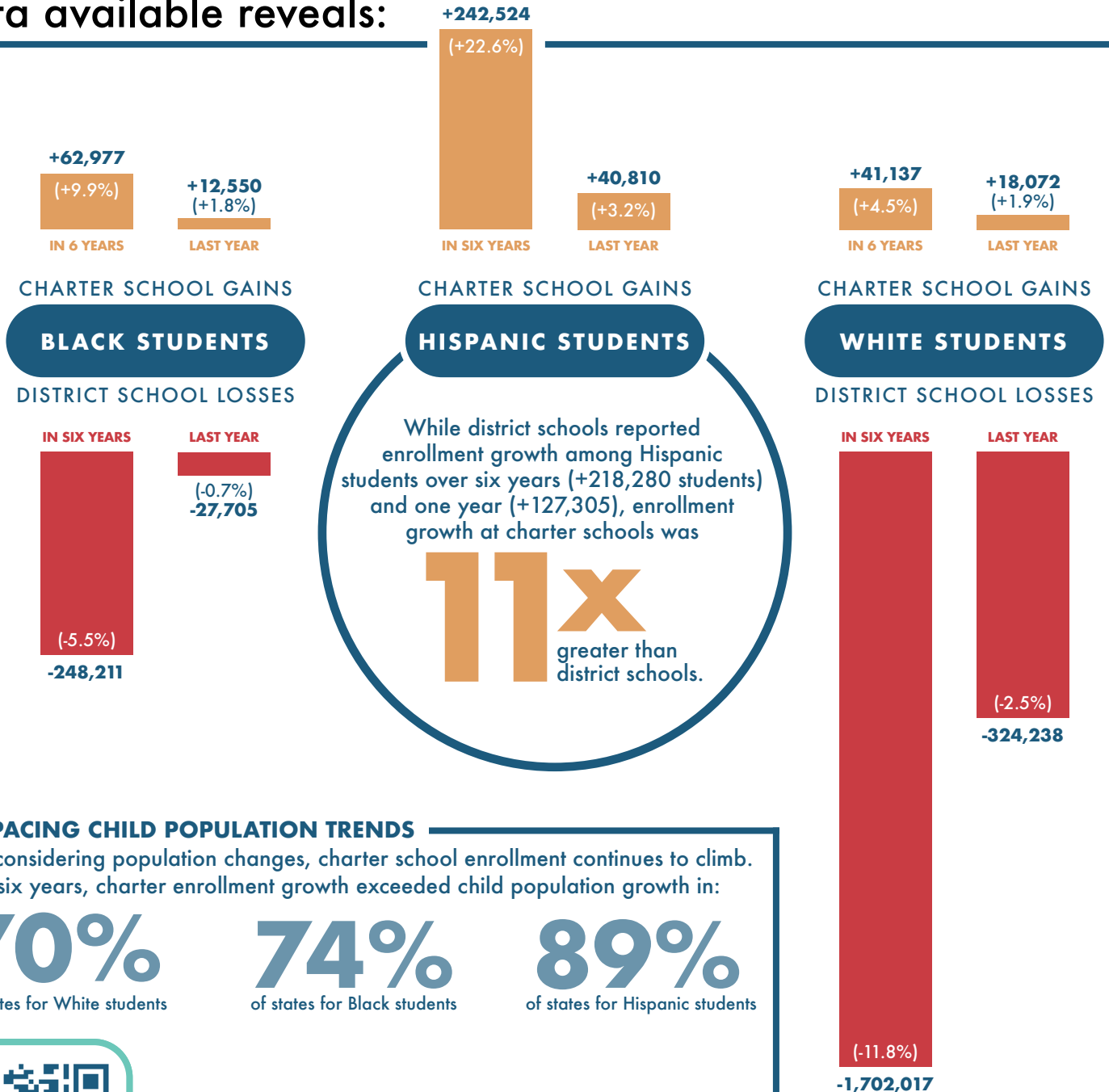


Families from all backgrounds are choosing charter schools, with Hispanic students leading the way.

Families from all backgrounds are choosing charter schools*, with Hispanic students driving the largest gains, up 242,524 (+22.6%) over six years and 40,810 last year. Black student enrollment in charter schools rose by more than 62,977 (+9.9%), while White student enrollment grew by nearly 41,137 (+4.5%), a striking contrast to national declines in population. Across racial and ethnic groups, charter schools consistently outperformed state population trends, underscoring their broad appeal and the trust families place in them.

* In 27 states where subgroup data was available

Charter schools reflect the diversity of America's students. Our analysis of 27 states with detailed racial and ethnic data available reveals:



OUTPACING CHILD POPULATION TRENDS

Even considering population changes, charter school enrollment continues to climb. Over six years, charter enrollment growth exceeded child population growth in:

70%
of states for White students

74%
of states for Black students

89%
of states for Hispanic students



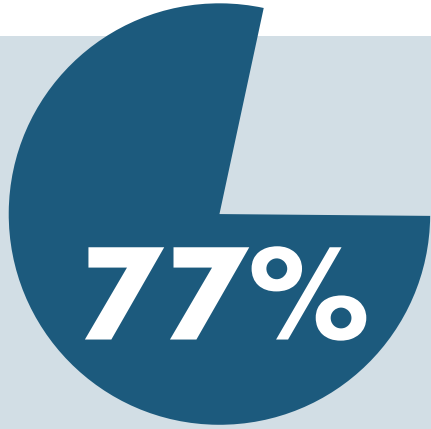
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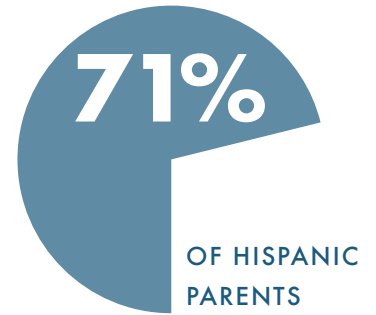
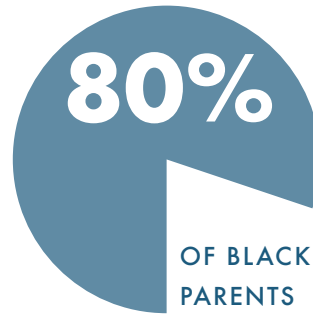


Public Opinion Reinforces Enrollment Momentum

ACCORDING TO A 2023 POLL BY DEMOCRATS FOR EDUCATION REFORM



PARENTS VIEW CHARTER SCHOOLS FAVORABLY INCLUDING



Hispanic charter school enrollment is up **22%** compared to just 2% in districts.

Belinda Lugo

Advocate – Burnham Wood Charter Schools

Burnham Wood Charter Schools provide hands-on support to students across Texas, with standout robotics and engineering programs. With four campuses in El Paso and a new school in San Antonio, they meet growing demand from families. For Hispanic and Latino families, these schools are welcoming places where students are known by name, supported individually, and prepared for college or careers.



“We’re really engaged with not just our students, but their families and their communities. So that sense of family, I think is what brings parents to charter schools.”



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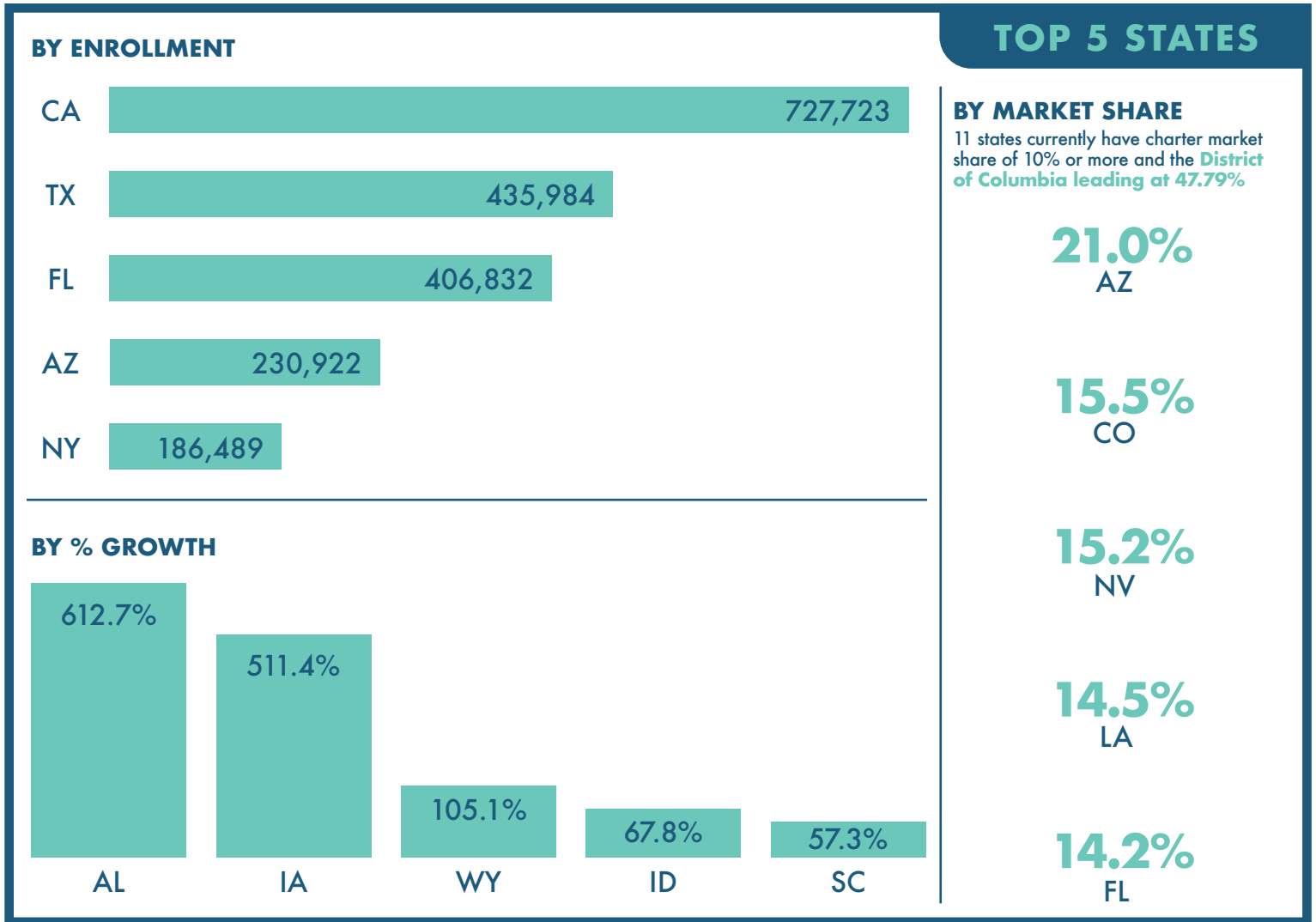
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Record enrollment. Record demand.

Charter schools are a permanent and growing part of America's public education system, serving nearly 4 million students in more than 8,100 schools nationwide. Families continue to choose charters for safe environments, student-centered learning, and real-world preparation. In states with new laws, growth reflects parents' unmet demand and lawmakers creating the right policy environment for charters to thrive. At the same time, large, mature charter school communities continue to expand rapidly.

Charters benefit all students. Separate 2024 studies by the Fordham Institute and the Progressive Policy Institute found that when charter schools expand in a region, all public school students' test scores rise, not just those in charter schools.



Growth is occurring both in states with long-established charter laws and in those just beginning, signaling that charter schools are reshaping the future of public education by expanding opportunity, driving quality, and meeting the evolving needs of families.



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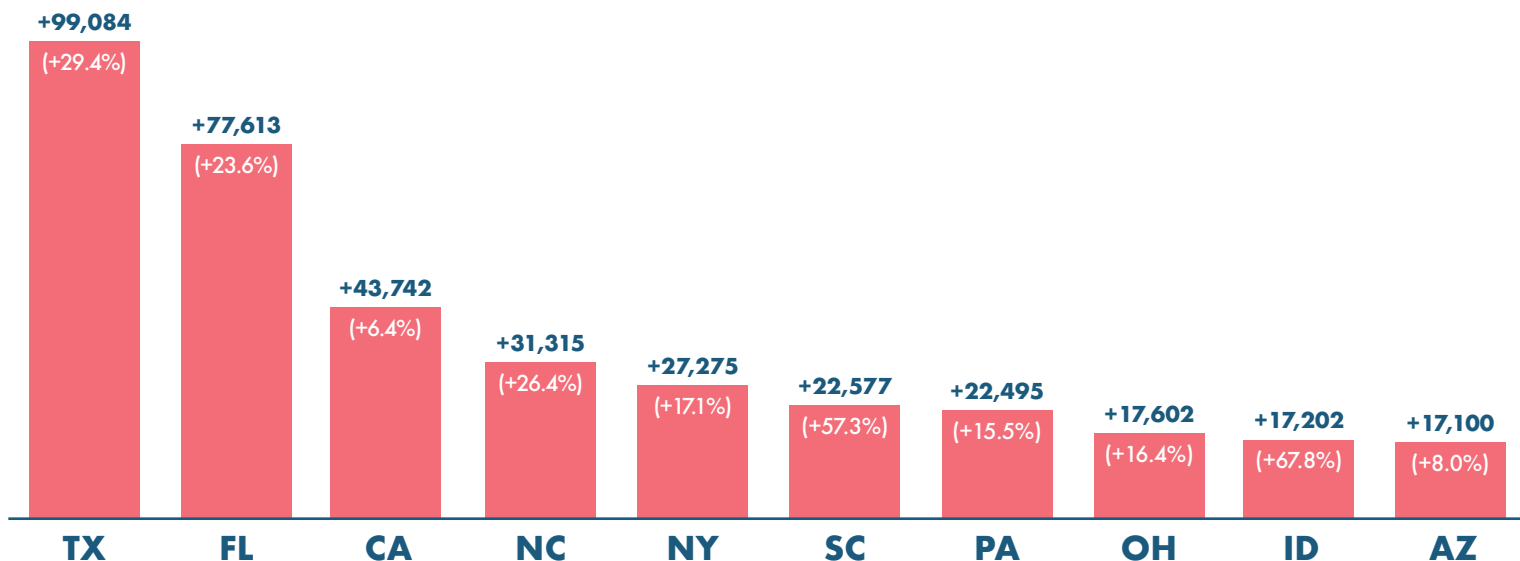
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NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR
**PUBLIC
CHARTER
SCHOOLS**

States with the Largest Gains in Student Enrollment

ENROLLMENT CHANGE MEASURED OVER A SIX-YEAR PERIOD 2019-20 VS. 2024-25



BASIS Charter Schools

Patti Bezanson & Peter Bezanson

Co-Chairs, BASIS Educational Ventures



BASIS Charter Schools, with 46 schools across Arizona, Louisiana, Texas, and Washington D.C. proves that scale and excellence can go hand in hand. BASIS Tucson North in Arizona is ranked the number one high school in the nation according to the 2025 U.S. News and World Rankings Report. Another 11 BASIS schools earned spots among the top 100 high schools in America, and nine BASIS schools were a part of the top 100 STEM high schools in the country. In 2024, more than two thirds of their high school students were named Advanced Placement scholars reflecting the strength of the curriculum and student achievement. In Texas, demand for BASIS Charter Schools is among the highest in the state, with more than 6,000 students on waitlists. Critical funding from the federal Charter Schools Program shows that when you invest in great educational options and support replicating models that work, parents and students succeed.

"At BASIS Charter Schools, growth and academic excellence go hand in hand. What began as a single school of 80 students has grown into a network of 46 public charter schools serving nearly 30,000 students nationwide—while academic results have continued to climb. Families should never have to choose between access and a quality education, and the BASIS Charter Schools community proves every day that both are possible. This success is built on high expectations for students, phenomenal teachers and staff, empowered school leaders, and an enduring commitment to adapt, expand, and improve to meet the needs of families."



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