

# Get the Facts CONNECTICUT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

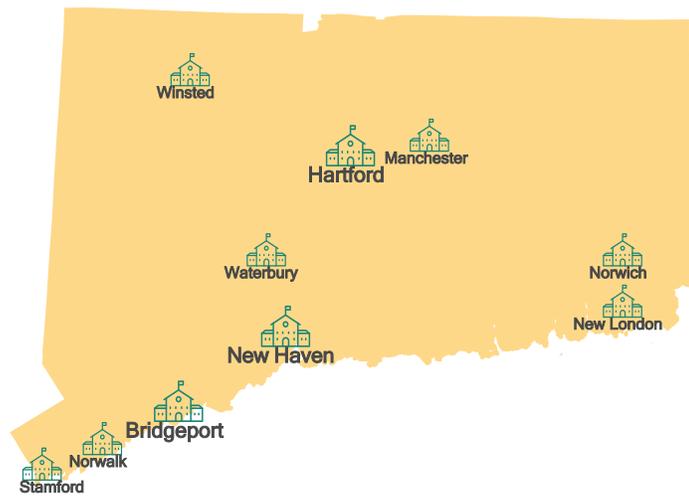
2025-2026  
SCHOOL YEAR

**Free. Public. Open to all.** Public charter schools play a valuable role in Connecticut's public education system by giving more students access to a high-quality public education they deserve. Now more than ever, we need a public education system where every child can go to a school that meets their individual needs and helps them reach their full potential. Charter schools provide families those options.

CT charter schools are increasing access to quality public schools in many of the state's largest and lowest performing school districts, called **Alliance Districts**.

**More than 50%**

of all school districts are represented across CT's public charter schools.



## Charter schools give families options where access to great schools is limited.

Every Connecticut student deserves access to a great public school, no matter who they are or where they live. Charter schools offer diverse learning models to meet individual student needs.

Roughly **11,000 students** attend **23 public charter schools** in Connecticut.

**69%**

of charter school students come from low-income households in 2024-25

**92%**

of students attending charter schools were students of color in 2024-25

**Over 5,000**

students have been waiting to enroll in a CT public charter school each year

## Public charter schools prepare students for the future.

Teachers at public charter schools are given the flexibility and support they need to teach students from diverse backgrounds in the ways they learn best, and are preparing students for success in the 21st century.

## 2024-2025 SBAC FINDINGS<sup>1</sup>

# 100%



of all charter schools out-performed schools that serve the same student population in **ELA**

# 84%



of charter schools out-performed schools that serve the same student population in **Math**

## Public charter schools are accountable to the students and families they serve.

To ensure they meet the high standards students deserve, public charter schools are accountable to their authorizer - the State Board of Education. They must also meet academic and financial performance standards and follow federal, state, and local regulations.

## Autonomy inspires creativity in the classroom and delivers results for students.

Charter schools have more autonomy over their staffing, budget, educational program, school culture and professional development. This flexibility comes in exchange for increased accountability and student outcomes.

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURE	DISTRICT	CHARTER
2-step certification for all new schools		✓
Be renewed every five years		✓
Face closure if not delivering results for students		✓
Provide additional transparency provisions, conflict of interest and anti-nepotism requirements and more		✓
<b>Receive facilities funding</b>	✓	
Receive per pupil state funding	✓	✓
Undergo annual audits and submit regular reports to the state	✓	✓
Meet academic, operational, governance and financial requirements	✓	✓
Teachers must meet numerous certification requirements and adhere to these standards.	✓	✓

## Public charter school students are deeply underfunded.

Despite being one of the wealthiest states in the country, there is a \$550 million statewide funding gap that disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable students and perpetuates an inequitable public education system. Even given funding gains in the state's FY23-24 budget, charter schools remain the most underfunded public schools in the state, despite the fact that they often specialize in educating our most vulnerable students.

## Charter schools are the only CT public schools that don't have access to facilities funding.

Without facilities funding, charter schools are forced to use their limited state funding on building costs instead of instruction. This crisis is shortchanging nearly 11,000 charter school students who don't have access to safe school buildings and is impacting their ability to learn.

<sup>1</sup> SBAC assessments only evaluate students in grades 3-8. Nineteen (19) charter schools received SY2022-23 SBAC data.