

the condition of education 2007



INDICATOR 32

Charter Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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School Choice

Charter Schools

Charter schools are more likely than conventional public schools to be located in urban areas, to have smaller total enrollment sizes, and to enroll higher proportions of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native students.

A charter school is a publicly funded school that is typically governed by a group or organization under a contract or charter with the state; the charter exempts the school from selected state or local rules and regulations. In return for funding and autonomy, the charter school must meet accountability standards. A school's charter is reviewed (typically every 3 to 5 years) and can be revoked if guidelines on curriculum and management are not followed or the standards are not met (U.S. Department of Education 2000).

In the 2004–05 school year, there were 3,294 charter schools in the jurisdictions that allowed them (40 states and the District of Columbia), compared with 90,001 conventional public schools in all of the United States (see supplemental table 32-1). Charter schools made up 4 percent of all public schools. The population of students served by charter schools differed from the student population served by conventional public schools. Charter schools enrolled larger percentages of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian/Alaska Native students and lower percentages of White and Asian/Pacific Islander

students than conventional public schools. A larger percentage of charter schools (27 percent) than conventional public schools (16 percent) had less than 15 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

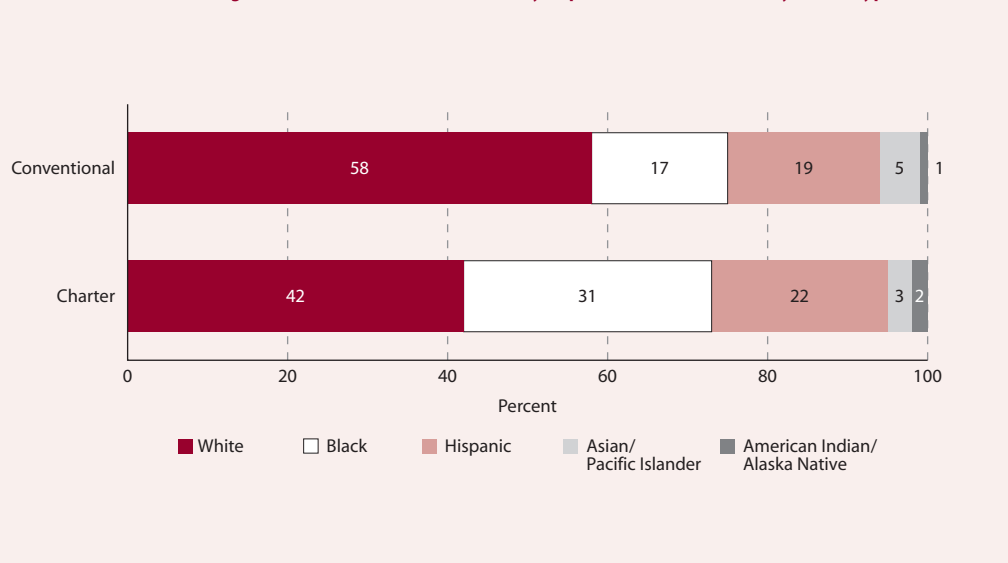
Student enrollments in charter schools were lower than enrollments in conventional public schools. Seventy-one percent of charter schools had enrollments of less than 300 students, compared with 31 percent of conventional public schools. Charter schools were also more likely to be located in central cities than were conventional public schools (52 vs. 25 percent).

Charter schools were more likely to be located in the West (39 percent) than in the Midwest (27 percent), South (25 percent), and the Northeast (9 percent). In addition, a greater percentage of charter schools (24 percent) than conventional schools (19 percent) were secondary schools, while a larger percentage of conventional schools (57 and 18 percent) than charter schools (44 and 9 percent) were elementary and middle schools, respectively.

NOTE: These tabulations exclude schools with no charter status designation and those not reporting membership. Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. See *supplemental note 3* for the states included in each region and information on location. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2004–05.

CHARTER SCHOOLS: Percentage distribution of the race/ethnicity of public school students, by school type: 2004–05



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
 Supplemental Notes 1, 3
 Supplemental Table 32-1
 U.S. Department of
 Education 2000

Charter Schools

Table 32-1. Number and percentage distribution of public schools by school type and selected student and school characteristics: 2004–05

Student or school characteristic	Type of public school	
	Conventional	Charter
Number of students	47,694,443	887,243
Number of schools	90,001	3,294
Student characteristic		
Percentage of students	98.2	1.8
Sex		
Male	42.1	32.9
Female	57.9	67.1
Race/ethnicity ¹		
White	58.0	42.0
Black	16.9	31.3
Hispanic	19.4	21.8
Asian/Pacific Islander	4.6	3.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.2	1.5
School characteristic		
Percentage of schools	96.5	3.5
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch		
Less than 15	16.0	26.8
15–29	22.5	27.0
30–49	17.0	11.5
50–74	22.7	14.9
75 or more	21.8	19.8
Enrollment		
Less than 300	30.9	70.9
300–999	59.0	26.2
1,000 or more	10.1	2.9
Instructional level		
Elementary	57.0	44.4
Middle	17.8	9.4
Secondary	19.4	24.3
Combined	5.8	22.0
Region		
Northeast	16.2	9.1
South	27.9	25.1
Midwest	33.5	26.5
West	22.4	39.3
Location		
Central city	25.2	52.4
Urban fringe/large town	48.0	35.5
Rural/small town	26.8	12.1

¹ Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity.

NOTE: These tabulations exclude schools with no charter status designation and those not reporting membership. See *supplemental note 1* for the states included in each region and information on location. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey," 2004–05.