



## Facts and FAQs About South Carolina’s Charter Schools

### DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 5% of all public school students are enrolled in a public charter school in South Carolina with over 32,000 students this year. There are no entrance exams and students are admitted by random lottery if demand exceeds space available.

There are 70 public charter schools in South Carolina with 35 sponsored locally and 35 sponsored by the SC Public Charter School District.

South Carolina’s oldest public charter schools will turn 20 years old next year and the SC Public Charter School District is 10 years old. Charter schools are public schools that are allowed the freedom to be more innovative while being held accountable for improving student achievement.



Charter school leaders and charter school board members have identified the following areas as legislative priorities that would support an effective and stable charter sector:

- A stable, codified funding formula for the SC Public Charter School District included in a new education funding formula that focuses on equitable funding and access to excellent educational opportunities.
- Access to transportation or transportation funding for all students choosing a public education – including students in charter schools, magnet schools, and district programs.
- Per pupil funding for facilities, access to underutilized or vacant public facilities, and the ability to apply for low cost state-guaranteed loan options.
- Technology funding that truly closes the gap between well funded districts and under-resourced districts and charters. Required online testing has put additional strains on technology needs including testing center requirements for virtual charter schools.
- Updates to the SC Charter Schools Act that are forward thinking and focus on the student while preserving charter flexibility and autonomy.

### How are charter schools funded in South Carolina?

	Charters Sponsored by SCPCSD	Locally Sponsored Charters	District Run Schools
Local Funds	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
State Funds	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
Federal Funds	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>
Transportation	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES (Except for some magnet schools or programs)</b>
Facilities Funds	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO (Except for conversion charters and a few that have negotiated with a district board)</b>	<b>YES (Typically, debt service funded, but this creates vast inequities between districts.)</b>
Technology Funds	<b>Small amount of categorical state funds with the majority from classroom dollars.</b>	<b>Small amount of categorical state funds with the majority from classroom dollars.</b>	<b>YES (Many districts fund their technology with their debt service money)</b>

Do you need more information?

Contact us at: 843-743-6406 or [Mary.Carmichael@SCCharterSchools.org](mailto:Mary.Carmichael@SCCharterSchools.org)