

# Utah's Public Charter Schools

## 2011-2012 Annual Report

### EXPANDING OUR PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM



Utah State Office of Education  
250 East 500 South  
P.O. 14420  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200

Martell Menlove, Ph.D  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



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Report produced by the USOE Charter School Section, (801) 538-7720

# Foreword

Utah's charter schools continue to grow as an important option in our education system. Charters have moved to the forefront, too, in the national conversation on choice in education, with strong backing from President Obama's administration. The State Board of Education and I support public charter schools.

All public schools in Utah should be aiming to fulfill the mission of public education adopted by the State Board of Education: (1) ensuring numeracy and literacy; (2) providing high quality instruction; (3) establishing curriculum with high standards and relevance; and (4) requiring effective assessment. The success of Utah's charter school students should be judged by parents, policymakers, and others using these mission elements as the standard.

I appreciate the efforts of students, parents, teachers, and administrators to promote the success of charter schools.



Martell Menlove, Ph.D.  
Utah State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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# Utah State Charter School Board & Staff

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**John Pingree**

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**Laura Belnap**

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**Robert Enger**

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Genola, UT 84655  
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**Dean Brockbank**

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Sandy, UT 84092  
Phone: 801-220-4568

**Howard Headlee**

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Sandy, UT 84092  
Phone: 801-576-9496

**Teresa L. Theurer\*\***

33 Canterbury Lane  
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Phone: (435) 753-0470

\* State Board of Education Representative Appointment

\*\*Board of Regents Appointment

**Charter School Section Staff – Utah State Office of Education**

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# Utah State Charter School Board Profiles



**Tim Beagley Ph.D., Board Chair.** Dr. Beagley is an Associate Professor of the Biology at Salt Lake Community College, where he teaches Cell Biology, Microbiology, and College Biology. Dr. Beagley also conducts research in the field of molecular evolution, where he studies the genomic changes that have led to modern-day life forms. Many of his students participate in these research projects, either as Independent Study or within their courses. Dr. Beagley served as an elected member of the Utah State Board of Education from 2002 to 2006, representing the western half of Salt Lake City and most of West Valley City, and as a non-voting member from 2011 to 2012, representing the Utah State Charter School Board.



**Dean Brockbank, Board Vice Chair.** Mr. Brockbank is Vice President and General Counsel of PacifiCorp Energy. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake for three years, and as Chairman of the School Community Council for Park Lane Elementary School for six years. Mr. Brockbank has served as a teacher-volunteer with Junior Achievement, as the executive sponsor for the United Way fundraiser campaign, and as a volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America. He holds an accounting degree from Brigham Young University and a law degree from George Mason University. He speaks Spanish, French and Portuguese. He is married to Stephanie Brockbank, and they have five children. Governor Gary Herbert appointed Mr. Brockbank to the Utah State Charter School Board in 2010.



**Laura Belnap.** Mrs. Laura Collier Belnap received her bachelor's degree from Utah State University. She taught school in Logan, Utah and Loveland, Colorado, where she was part of the state's math advisory committee. She helped establish online education for Utah in 2002, working as the director of Utah Online Academies for three different school districts. She is currently the Director of Washington Online School, which has 1,200 students in grades K-12. She has served on several different nonprofit boards and received the soccer mom of the nation award in 2002. Mrs. Belnap is active in community and religious causes. She is the proud mother of six children and two grandsons. She was appointed to the State Charter Board by Governor Herbert in 2010.



**Kristin Elinkowski.** Mrs. Elinkowski is the owner of an Internet/direct response marketing company. She currently serves as the president of the Board of Directors at North Davis Preparatory Academy. Mrs. Elinkowski previously worked as a congressional staff assistant to Congressman James V. Hansen, and as a campaign manager for several local campaigns. Mrs. Elinkowski has served as the vice chair on the Layton City Planning Commission, and has volunteered on several committees in her community. She is a graduate of Weber State University and the proud parent, along with her husband Ron, of three great kids.



**Robert Enger.** Mr. Enger, CPA, started with the Larry H. Miller Group of Companies in 2008. Before being named as the general manager for Total Care Auto in 2012, he worked as the controller and assistant general manager. Mr. Enger graduated with a BS from Westminster College. Prior to his role with the Larry H. Miller Group, he worked for 10 years as an audit manager. He is the former president of the Utah Chapter of the Insurance Accounting and Statistical Association and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Utah Association of Certified Public Accountants, and currently acts as the board chair for Providence Hall Charter School in Herriman Utah. He enjoys music, plays the saxophone, and performs with several local bands. He is married to Melissa Enger, and together they have three boys.



**Howard Headlee.** Mr. Headlee was appointed President and CEO of the Utah Bankers Association (UBA) in 1997. As leader of the UBA, Mr. Headlee created the Regulatory Feedback Initiative, designed to introduce transparency and accountability into the bank examination process. Prior to that, Mr. Headlee served six years as Vice President of the Utah Taxpayers Association and as an auditor in the Detroit office of the international accounting firm KPMG Peat Marwick, specializing in the area of financial institutions. Mr. Headlee received his BS from Brigham Young University School and earned a MBA from the University of Utah. In 2003 he founded American Preparatory Academy. In 2012, Mr. Headlee was appointed by Utah Governor Gary Herbert to serve on the Utah State Charter School Board. Howard, his wife Tana, and their six children live in Sandy, Utah.



**John Pingree.** Mr. Pingree is a former member Utah State Board of Education and former Chief Executive Officer of Utah Transit Authority. He earned his BS degree from the University of Utah and his MBA from the Harvard Business School. Mr. Pingree has been Executive Director of the Semnani Foundation, which funds projects to assist women and children in developing countries. He has also been Director of Marketing for Memorex Corporation and Regional Manager at Xerox Corporation. He is married, with five children and 21 grandchildren.



# Utah State Board of Education

## **District 1**

Tami W. Pyfer  
52 Ballard Way  
Logan, UT 84321  
Phone: (435) 753-7529

## **District 2**

Keith M. Buswell  
1027 West 3800 North  
Pleasant View, UT 84414  
Phone: (801) 510-1773

## **District 3**

Craig E. Coleman  
621 South Main Street  
Genola, UT 84655  
(801) 754-3655

## **District 4**

David L. Thomas  
7875 South 2250 East  
South Weber, UT 84405  
Phone: (801) 479-7479

## **District 5**

Kim R. Burningham  
932 Canyon Crest Drive Bountiful,  
UT 84010  
Phone: (801) 292-9261

## **Teresa L. Theurer\***

33 Canterbury Lane  
Logan, UT 84321  
Phone: (435) 753-0470

## **James V. (Jim) Olsen\*\***

5656 West 10770 North  
Highland, UT 84003  
Phone: (801) 599-1095

## **Martell Menlove**

Chief Executive Officer

## **District 6**

Michael G. Jensen  
4139 South Aubrey Lane  
West Valley City, UT 84128  
Phone: (801) 955-5550

## **District 7**

Leslie B. Castle  
2465 St. Mary's Drive  
Salt Lake City, UT 84108  
Phone: (801) 581-9752

## **District 8**

Janet A. Cannon  
5256 Holladay Blvd.  
Salt Lake City, UT 84117  
Phone: (801) 272-3516

## **District 9**

Joel Coleman  
3740 Bawden Avenue  
West Valley City, UT 84120  
Phone: (801) 634-6251

## **District 10**

Laurel O. Brown  
5311 South Lucky Clover Lane  
Murray, UT 84123  
Phone: (801) 261-4221

## **Marlin K. Jensen\***

1500 N 7900 E  
Huntsville, UT 84317  
(801) 718-0858

## **R. Dean Rowley\*\*\*\***

526 South 170 West  
Springville, UT 84663  
Phone: (801) 489-6935

## **Lorraine Austin**

Secretary

## **District 11**

David L. Crandall  
13464 Saddle Ridge Drive  
Draper, UT 84020  
Phone: (801) 232-0795

## **District 12**

Carol A. Murphy  
463 West 140 North  
Midway, UT 84049  
Phone: (435) 729-0941

## **District 13**

C. Mark Openshaw  
3329 Piute Drive  
Provo, UT 84604  
(801) 377-0790

## **District 14**

Dixie L. Allen  
218 West 5250 North  
Vernal, UT 84078  
Phone: (435) 789-0534

## **District 15**

Debra G. Roberts  
P.O. Box 1780  
Beaver, UT 84713  
Phone: (435) 438-5843

## **Isaiah "Ike" Spencer\*\*\***

1029 East 11780 South  
Sandy, UT 84094  
Phone: (385) 646-5360

## **Tim Beagley\*\*\*\*\***

3974 S 3550 W  
West Valley City, UT 84119  
Phone: (801) 969-6454

\*Board of Regents Appointments

\*\*\* CMAC Advisory Representative Appointment

\*\*\*\*\* Charter School Representative Appointment

\*\* UCAT Representative Appointment

\*\*\*\* USBA Advisory Representative Appointment

# Charter School Distribution

## by Utah State Board of Education District

### **District 1 – Tami W. Pyfer**

Bear River Charter School  
Edith Bowen Laboratory School  
Fast Forward High School  
InTech Collegiate High School  
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning  
Thomas Edison Charter Schools

### **District 2 – Keith M. Buswell**

DaVinci Academy of Science and the Arts  
Good Foundations Academy  
Maria Montessori Academy  
Ogden Preparatory Academy  
Quest Academy  
Venture Academy

### **District 3 – Michael G. Jensen**

APA – The Accelerated School  
East Hollywood High School  
Endeavor Hall  
Excelsior Academy  
Monticello Academy

### **District 4 – David L. Thomas**

HighMark Charter School  
NUAMES  
Syracuse Arts Academy

### **District 5 – Kim R. Burningham**

Oquirrh Mountain Charter School  
Legacy Preparatory Academy  
North Davis Preparatory Academy  
Salt Lake Center for Science Education  
Spectrum Academy  
Wasatch Peak Academy

### **District 6 – Joel Coleman**

Entheos Academy – Kearns  
Navigator Pointe Academy

### **District 7 – Leslie B. Castle**

Alianza Academy – Magna  
Alianza Academy – WVC  
APA – School for New Americans  
City Academy  
Dual Immersion Academy  
Entheos Academy – Magna  
Guadalupe School  
The Open Classroom  
Pacific Heritage Academy  
Salt Lake Arts Academy  
Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts  
Weilenmann School of Discovery

### **District 8 – Jennifer A. Johnson**

AMES  
Alianza Academy – SLC  
Canyon Rim Academy

**District 9 – Craig E. Coleman**

Aristotle Academy  
John Hancock Charter School  
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy  
Lakeview Academy  
Lincoln Academy  
Mountainville Academy  
Odyssey Charter School  
Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts  
Quail Run Primary School  
Renaissance Academy  
Rockwell Charter High School  
The Ranches Academy

**District 10 – David L. Crandall**

APA – Draper  
Beehive Science & Technology Academy  
Channing Hall  
Summit Academy  
Summit Academy High School

**District 11 – Jefferson Moss**

The Early Light Academy  
Hawthorn Academy  
Itineris Early College High School  
North Star Academy  
Paradigm High School  
Providence Hall

**District 12 – Dixie Allen**

Noah Webster Academy  
Soldier Hollow Charter School  
Timpanogos Academy  
Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS)  
Uintah River High School  
Walden School of Liberal Arts

**District 13 – C. Mark Openshaw**

American Leadership Academy  
Provo Freedom Academy  
Merit College Preparatory Academy  
Ronald Reagan Academy

**District 14 – Debra G. Roberts**

C.S. Lewis Academy  
Liberty Academy  
Moab Charter School  
Pinnacle Canyon Academy

**District 15 – Barbara Corry**

Gateway Preparatory Academy  
George Washington Academy  
SUCCESS Academy  
Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts  
Valley Academy  
Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts and  
Technology

**Statewide**

Open High School of Utah  
Utah Connections Academy  
Utah Virtual Academy

## by Utah House District

**House District 2 – Rep. Lee B. Perry**

Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning

**House District 3 – Rep. Jack R. Draxler**

Fast Forward High School

InTech Collegiate High School

Thomas Edison Charter School—North

**House District 4 – Rep. David G. Butterfield**

Edith Bowen Laboratory School

**House District 5 – Rep. R. Curt Webb**

Bear River Charter School

Thomas Edison—South

**House District 6 – Rep. Brad J. Galvez**

Quest Academy

Venture Academy

**House District 7 – Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox**

Maria Montessori Academy

**House District 9 – Rep. Jeremy A. Peterson**

DaVinci Academy of Science and Arts

Ogden Preparatory Academy

**House District 11 – Rep. Brad L. Dee**

Good Foundations Academy

HighMark Charter School

**House District 13 – Rep. Paul Ray**

Syracuse Arts Academy

**House District 14 – Rep. Curtis Oda**

NUAMES

**House District 15 – Rep. Brad R. Wilson**

North Davis Preparatory Academy

Oquirrh Mountain Charter School

**House District 20 – Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards**

Legacy Preparatory Academy

Pacific Heritage Academy

Spectrum Academy

Wasatch Peak Academy

**House District 21 – Rep. Douglas Sagers**

Excelsior Academy

**House District 22 – Rep. Susan Duckworth**

Alianza Academy – Magna

Entheos Academy – Magna

**House District 23 – Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig**

Guadalupe School

Salt Lake Center for Science Education

**House District 24 – Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck**

City Academy

The Open Classroom

**House District 25 – Rep. Joel K. Briscoe**

Weilenmann School of Discovery

**House District 26 – Rep. David Litvack**

Dual Immersion Academy

East Hollywood High School

Salt Lake Arts Academy

**House District 27 – Rep. John Dougall**

Mountainville Academy

**House District 28 – Rep. Brian S. King**

Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts

**House District 29 – Rep. Janice M. Fisher**

Monticello Academy

APA – The Accelerated School

**House District 31 – Rep. Larry B. Wiley**

Alianza Academy – SLC

Alianza Academy – WVC

APA – The School for New Americans

Endeavor Hall

**House District 36 – Rep. Patrice M. Arent**

Canyon Rim Academy

**House District 37 – Rep. Carol Spackman Moss**

AMES

**House District 38 – Rep. Eric K. Hutchings**

Entheos Academy – Kearns  
Navigator Pointe Academy

**House District 41 – Rep. Todd E. Kiser**

APA – Draper  
Channing Hall  
North Star Academy  
Providence Hall

**House District 47 – Rep. Ken Ivory**

Hawthorn Academy  
Itineris Early College High School

**House District 48 – Rep. LaVar Christensen**

Beehive Science and Technology Academy

**House District 50 – Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold**

The Early Light Academy  
Paradigm High School

**House District 51 – Rep. Gregory H. Hughes**

Summit Academy

**House District 52 – Rep. Daniel McCay**

Summit Academy High School

**House District 54 – Rep. Kraig Powell**

Soldier Hollow Charter School

**House District 55 – Rep. John G. Mathis**

Moab Charter School  
Uintah River High School

**House District 56 – Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion**

Lakeview Academy  
Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts  
Renaissance Academy  
Rockwell Charter High School  
The Ranches Academy

**House District 57 – Rep. Craig A. Frank**

Aristotle Academy  
John Hancock Charter School  
Lincoln Academy  
Odyssey Charter School  
Quail Run Primary School

**House District 58 – Rep. Keven J. Stratton**

Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy  
Timpanogos Academy

**House District 60 – Rep. Bradley M. Daw**

Noah Webster Academy  
Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS)

**House District 61 – Rep. Keith Grover**

Provo Freedom Academy

**House District 62 – Rep. Christopher N. Herrod**

Walden School of Liberal Arts

**House District 64 – Rep. Rebecca D. Lockhart**

Merit College Preparatory Academy  
Ronald Reagan Academy

**House District 66 – Rep. Michael T. Morley**

American Leadership Academy  
Liberty Academy

**House District 67 – Rep. Patrick Painter**

C.S. Lewis Academy

**House District 69 – Rep. Christine F. Watkins**

Pinnacle Canyon Academy

**House District 72 – Rep. Evan J. Vickers**

Gateway Preparatory Academy  
SUCCESS Academy

**House District 71 – Rep. Bradley G. Last**

Valley Academy

**House District 74 – Rep. V. Lowry Snow**

George Washington Academy  
Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts  
Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts and  
Technology

**Statewide**

Open High School of Utah

Utah Connections Academy

Utah Virtual Academy

## by Utah Senate District

### **Senate District 1 – Sen. Luz Robles**

APA – The Accelerated School  
Dual Immersion Academy  
East Hollywood High School  
Endeavor Hall  
Guadalupe School  
Monticello Academy  
Pacific Heritage Academy  
Salt Lake Center for Science Education

### **Senate District 2 – Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams**

Alianza Academy – SLC  
Alianza Academy – WVC  
APA—The School for New Americans  
City Academy  
The Open Classroom  
Salt Lake Arts Academy

### **Senate District 4 – Sen. Patricia W. Jones**

AMES  
Canyon Rim Academy

### **Senate District 5 – Sen. Karen Mayne**

Entheos Academy – Kearns

### **Senate District 6 – Sen. Michael G. Waddoups**

Navigator Pointe Academy

### **Senate District 7 – Sen. Ross I. Romero**

Salt Lake School for the Performing Arts

### **Senate District 8 – Sen. Karen W. Morgan**

Beehive Science and Technology Academy

### **Senate District 10 – Sen. Aaron Osmond**

The Early Light Academy  
Hawthorn Academy  
Itineris Early College High School  
Paradigm High School

### **Senate District 11 – Sen. Howard A. Stephenson**

APA – Draper  
Channing Hall  
Mountainville Academy  
North Star Academy  
Providence Hall  
Renaissance Academy  
Summit Academy  
Summit Academy High School

### **Senate District 12 – Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher**

Alianza Academy – Magna  
Entheos Academy – Magna

### **Senate District 13 – Sen. Mark B. Madsen**

American Leadership Academy  
C.S. Lewis Academy  
Lakeview Academy  
Liberty Academy  
Merit College Preparatory Academy  
Pioneer High School for the Performing Arts  
Rockwell Charter High School  
Ronald Reagan Academy  
The Ranches Academy

### **Senate District 14 – Sen. John L. Valentine**

Aristotle Academy  
John Hancock Charter School  
Karl G. Maeser Preparatory Academy  
Lincoln Academy  
Odyssey Charter School  
Quail Run Primary School  
Timpanogos Academy

### **Senate District 15 – Sen. Margaret Dayton**

Freedom Academy  
Noah Webster Academy  
Utah County Academy of Sciences (UCAS)

### **Senate District 16 – Sen. Curtis S. Bramble**

Walden School of Liberal Arts

**Senate District 17 – Sen. Peter C. Knudson**

Excelsior Academy  
Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning  
Thomas Edison Charter School—South

**Senate District 18 – Sen. Stuart C. Reid**

DaVinci Academy of Science and the Arts  
HighMark Charter School  
Ogden Preparatory Academy

**Senate District 19 – Sen. Allen M. Christensen**

Maria Montessori Academy

**Senate District 20 – Sen. Scott K. Jenkins**

Good Foundations Academy  
Quest Academy  
Venture Academy

**Senate District 21 – Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson**

North Davis Preparatory Academy  
NUAMES  
Syracuse Arts Academy

**Senate District 22 – Sen. J. Stuart Adams**

Oquirrh Mountain Charter School

**Senate District 23 – Sen. Todd Weiler**

Legacy Preparatory Academy  
Spectrum Academy  
Wasatch Peak Academy

**Senate District 25 – Sen. Lyle W. Hillyard**

Bear River Charter School  
Edith Bowen Laboratory School  
Fast Forward High School  
InTech Collegiate High School  
Thomas Edison Charter School—North

**Senate District 26 – Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell**

Soldier Hollow Charter School  
Uintah River High School  
Weilenmann School of Discovery

**Senate District 27 – Sen. David P. Hinkins**

Moab Charter School  
Pinnacle Canyon Academy

**Senate District 28 – Sen. Casey O. Anderson**

Gateway Preparatory Academy  
SUCCESS Academy

**Senate District 29 – Sen. Stephen H. Urquhart**

George Washington Academy  
Tuacahn High School for the Performing Arts  
Valley Academy  
Vista at Entrada School of Performing Arts and  
Technology

**Statewide**

Open High School of Utah  
Utah Connections High School  
Utah Virtual Academy

# Introduction

Tim Beagley  
Utah State Charter School Board Chair



Charter schools first appeared on the Utah public education scene in 1999, and have now become an integral and popular component of our system. Indeed, with strong support from our governors, our legislators and the State Board of Education, the number of charter schools in Utah will soon pass 100. As that milestone approaches, so too will the inclusion of over 10 percent of all Utah public education students.

Charter schools have created extensive opportunities for greater parental involvement, and their continued success of in Utah is a testament to the endless hours of volunteerism seen at each school. Our charter schools continue to emphasize quality, innovation and creativity. They are generating new and exciting opportunities for educators and increasing choices of learning opportunities for students. Utah charter schools continue to experiment with new models of instruction and accountability as they focus on learning outcomes and student academic growth. Over the last few years especially, charter schools have waded into some of the most challenging educational environments in our state. We now have schools whose very mission centers around serving immigrant families, children with disabilities and students with accumulated risk factors.

The Utah State Charter School Board currently authorizes most of the charter schools in Utah. In order to accomplish our statutory mandate to annually evaluate the performance of the schools we authorize, and to hold the schools accountable for their performance, the board has created and implemented a performance framework. This framework monitors academic, operational and governance performance while leaving room for mission specific goals and standards. It is truly an exciting time to be part of the Utah charter school movement.



# 2011-2012 Report

Utah charter schools have come a long way since the Utah Legislature enacted the Utah Charter Schools Act of 1998. As of fall 2011, there were 81 operational charter schools serving 44,735 students. The combined total of the charter school population equals that of the fifth largest school district in the state. Even at that number, the demand outpaces the supply; approximately 10,000 children are wait-listed statewide every year.

Increasing enrollments and long waiting lists are not the only indicators of success. Charter school founders, board members, administrators, teachers, staff, parents, and students have reason to celebrate the success of these schools and their contribution to our state's education system. The goal of charter schools is to provide additional educational options with quality outcomes for students and parents. Successful, quality charter schools are more than a gathering of excellent teachers and effective curricula. These schools also have sound policy, strong governance, capable academic leadership, robust fiscal responsibility, and active parent and community engagement. Utah public charter schools possess this level of quality.

Charter schools may be authorized by different chartering entities, such as local school districts, institutions of higher education, and a seven-member, governor-appointed Utah State Charter School Board. The Utah State Charter School Board is the authorizer for the majority of charter schools. Utah Code Annotated §53A-3-501.6 dictates that the Utah State Charter School Board has, among other things, the power and duty to:

- a. Authorize and promote the establishment of charter schools.
- b. Annually review and evaluate the performance of charter schools authorized by the Utah State Charter School Board, and hold the schools accountable for their performance.
- c. Monitor charter schools authorized by the Utah State Charter School Board for compliance with federal and state laws, rules, and regulations.
- d. Provide technical support to charter schools and persons seeking to establish charter schools.

The 2011-2012 Charter School Annual Report celebrates all charter school students and school accomplishments, and shares information and performance data for charter schools regardless of chartering entity.

# Charter Schools

## Charter Schools by the Numbers

In 2011-12 there were 81 operational charter schools serving 44,735 students.

- 73 charter schools authorized by the Utah State Charter School Board
- 3 charter schools authorized by Salt Lake City School District
- 2 charter schools authorized by Logan City School District
- 1 charter school authorized by Cache County School District
- 1 charter school authorized by Iron County School District
- 1 charter school authorized by Jordan School District

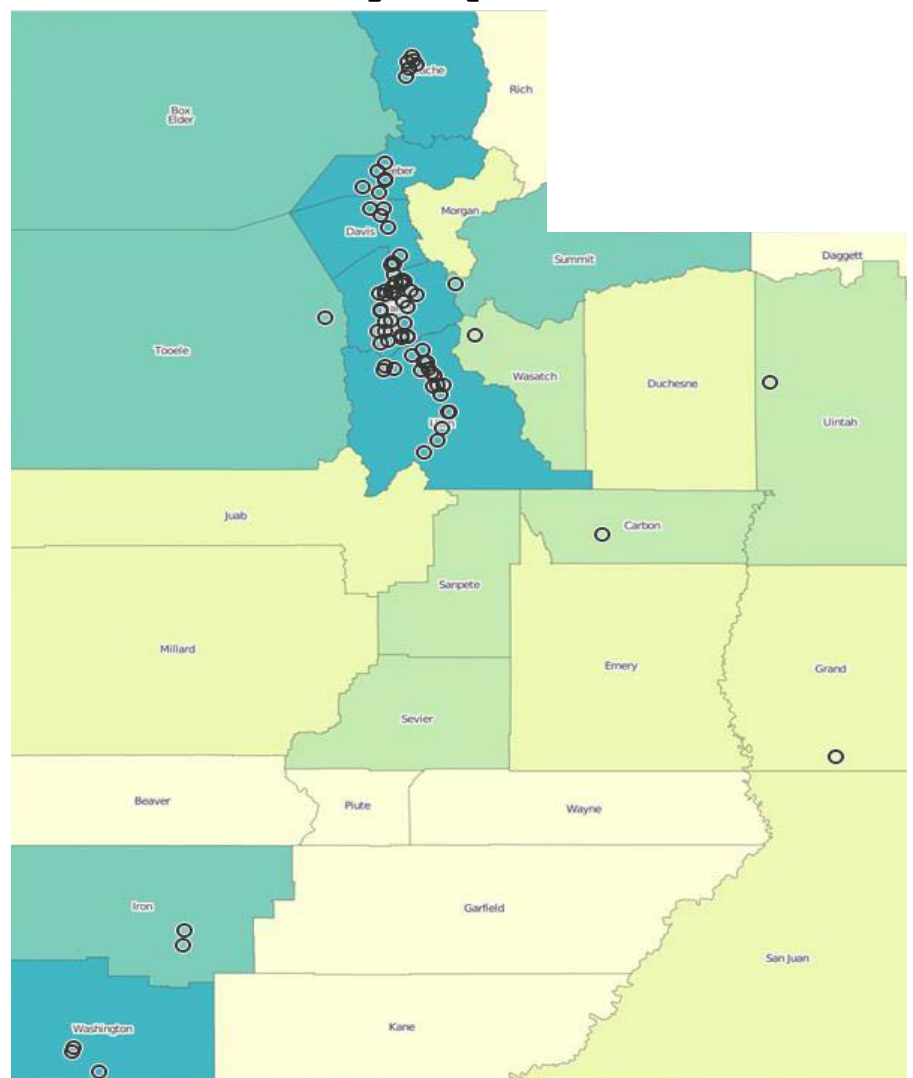
## Applications and Approvals

- 2007: 16 applications/7 approved
- 2008: 15 applications/6 approved
- 2009: 12 applications/5 approved
- 2010: 13 applications/7 approved
- 2011: 11 applications/4 approved
- 2012: 15 applications/8 approved

## Locations

Seventy-eight charter schools served 20 districts; three charter schools are online and served the entire state of Utah. Charter schools are most numerous in the more densely populated areas of Utah. In the map to the right each circle represents a charter school location and counties are also color coded to reflect population size based on 2009 census data. The vast majority of charter schools are located in the brighter blue counties, which are the counties with the most numerous populations.

## Charter School Locations and County Population Data



### 2009 Population

55 to 9,060  
9,060 to 18,700

18,700 to 36,600  
36,600 to 89,600

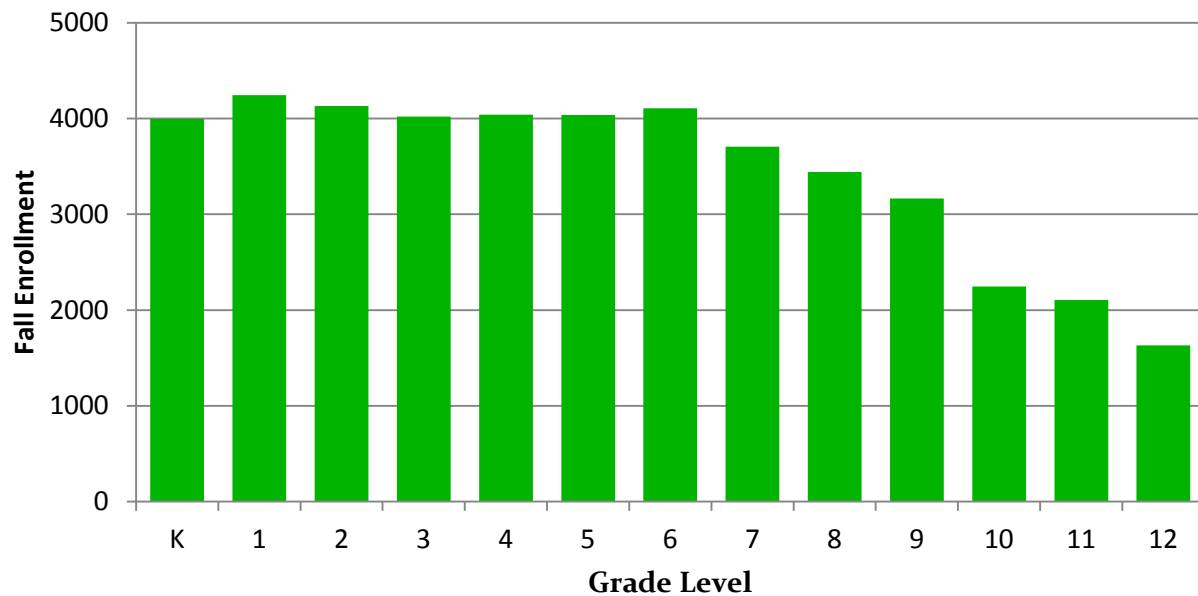
89,600 to 10,200,000

## Grade Configurations

Charter schools also serve a wide range of grade ranges and configurations, though charter schools serve more students in elementary and middle grades than in high school.

- 19 serve grades K-8
- 19 serve grades K-9
- 11 serve grades 9-12
- 10 serve grades K-6
- 10 serve grades K-12
- 6 serve grades 7-12
- 6 serve other grade configurations

## Charter School Enrollment by Grade Level

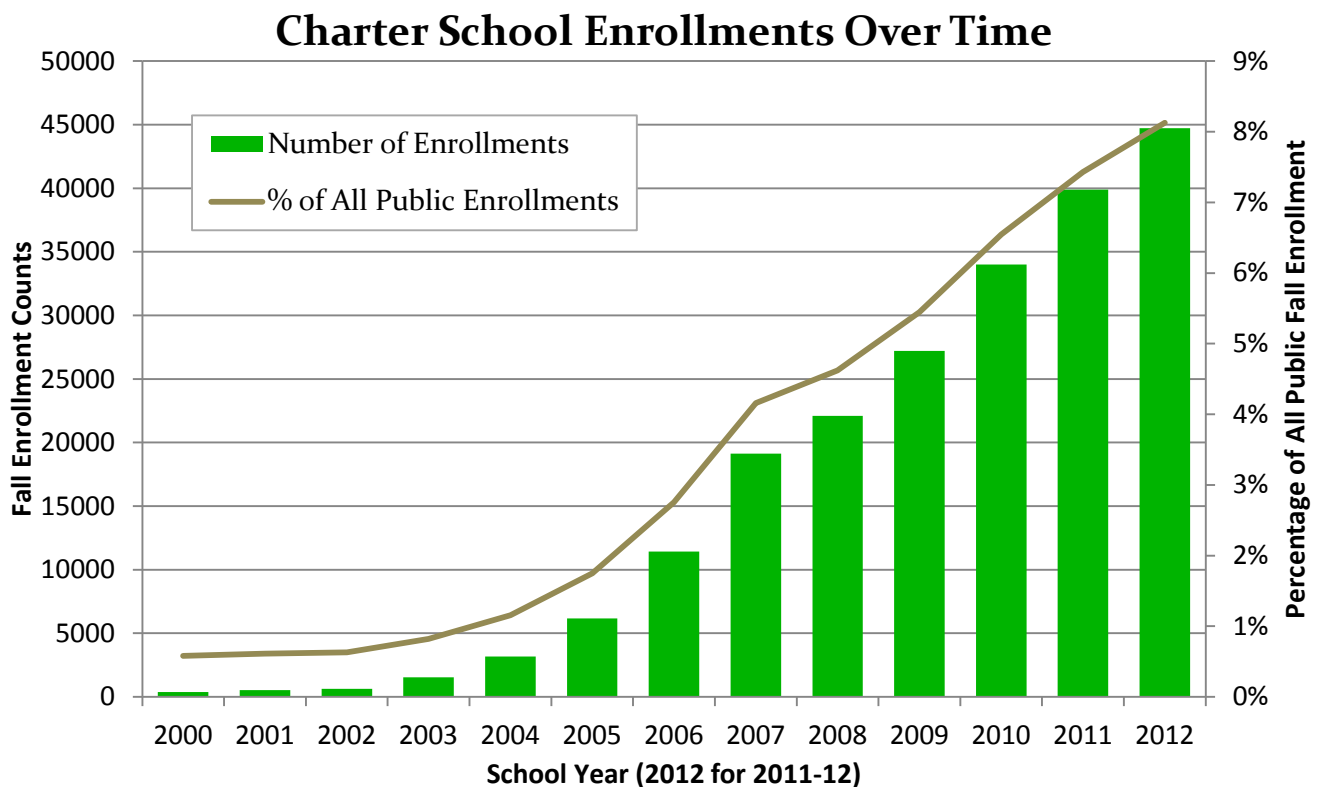


# Enrollment

Utah has long offered public school choice options through school district open enrollment and, more recently, charter schools. People choose charter schools for various reasons, some of which are curricular focus, geographic location, school size, safety, and school culture.

## Enrollment Longitudinally

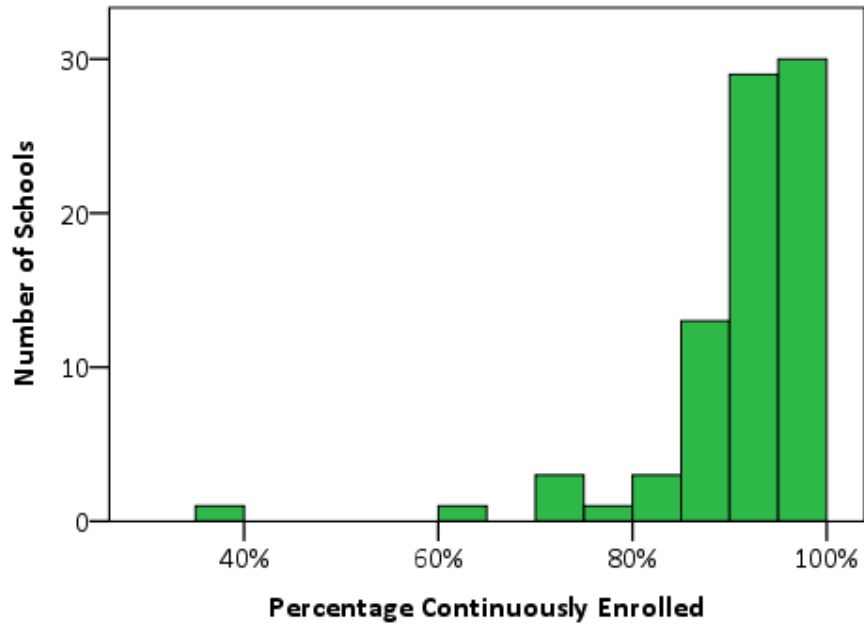
Charter school enrollments continue to rise. In 2011-12, Utah saw the largest number of students (44,735) and the highest percentage of public school students (7.6%) enrolled in charter schools since the Utah Legislature enacted the Utah Charter Schools Act of 1998. Individual school enrollments ranged from around 50 students to nearly 2,000 students in 2011-12.



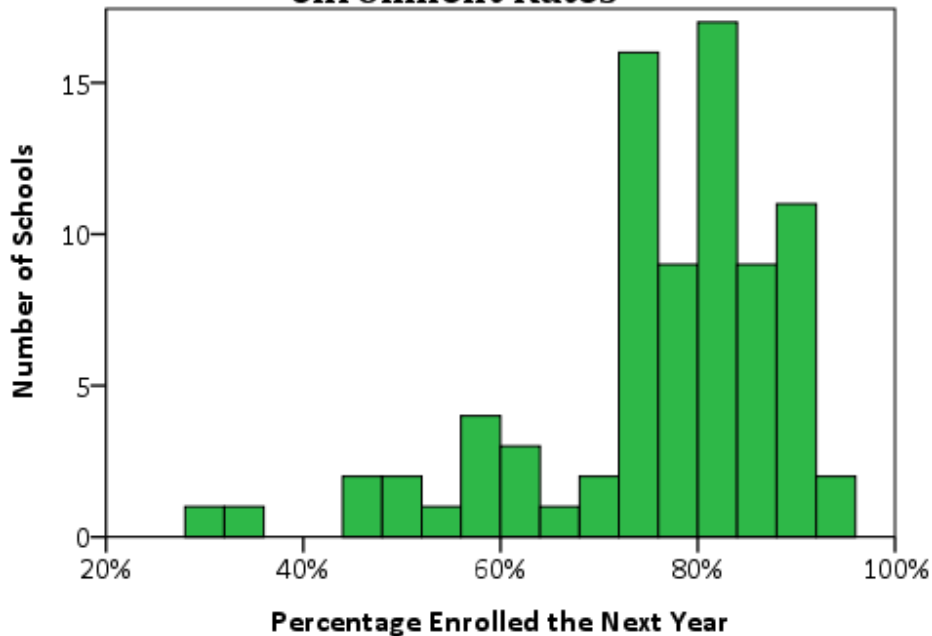
### Retention and Reenrollment

While the overall enrollment of a charter school is important, the Utah State Charter School Board also recognizes the importance of student retention (i.e., staying at the charter school throughout the school year) and reenrollment (i.e., reenrolling at the same charter school year after year). The majority of charter schools retained between 89% and 96% of their students during the 2011-12 school year. They also typically reenrolled between 73% and 86% of their students the next year. Below are two histogram graphs showing the distribution of charter schools by their retention and reenrollment rates. The graphs show that most charter schools have high retention and reenrollment rates.

#### 2011-12 Charter School Within Year Enrollment Rates



#### 2011-12 Charter School Year-to-Year Re-enrollment Rates



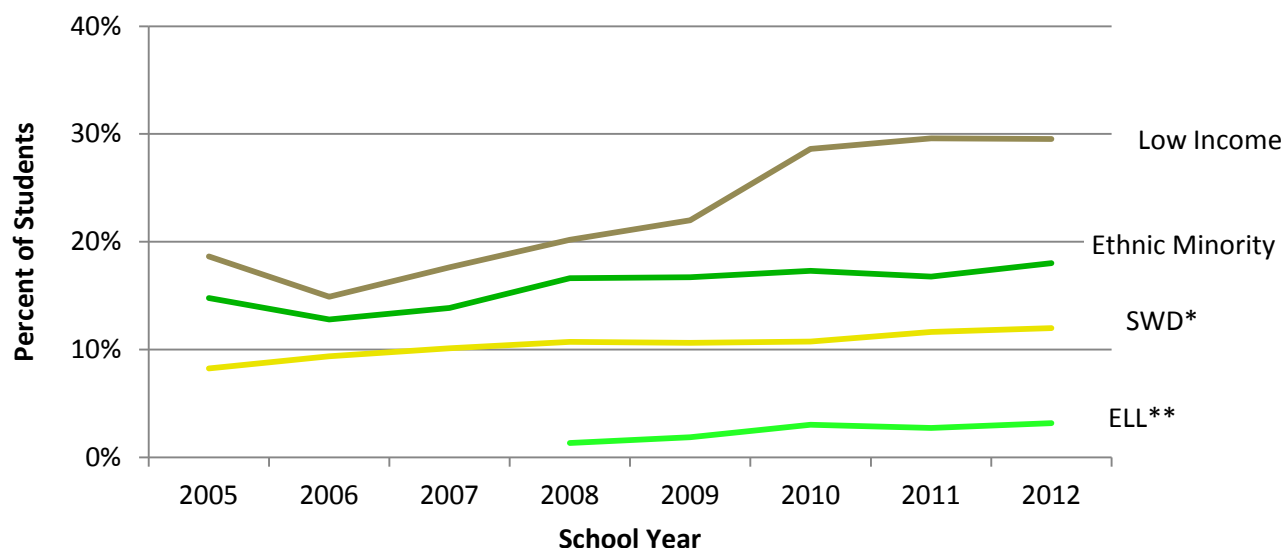
# Demographics

## Demographics Longitudinally

Utah charter schools have always served a wide variety of students across the state, beginning with the first cohort of charter schools that opened in fall 1999 and continuing with the most recent cohort of charter schools that opened in fall 2011. Lotteries take place at public charter schools across Utah every year. By law, any time a charter school has more applications than seats available, it must conduct a lottery to fill the seats. According to state law, preference may be given to students of a parent who actively participated in the development of the school, siblings of students presently enrolled in the school, a student of a parent who is employed by the school, students who reside within the school district in which the school is located, students who reside within the municipality in which the school is located, or students who reside within a two-mile radius of the school. Each charter school determines which enrollment preferences it will have in its charter agreement.

Utah charter schools have seen some increases in some demographic subgroups. However, the percentages of students in the subgroups shown in the graph below have held fairly steady over the last few years.

## Charter School Demographics



\*SWD = Students with disabilities

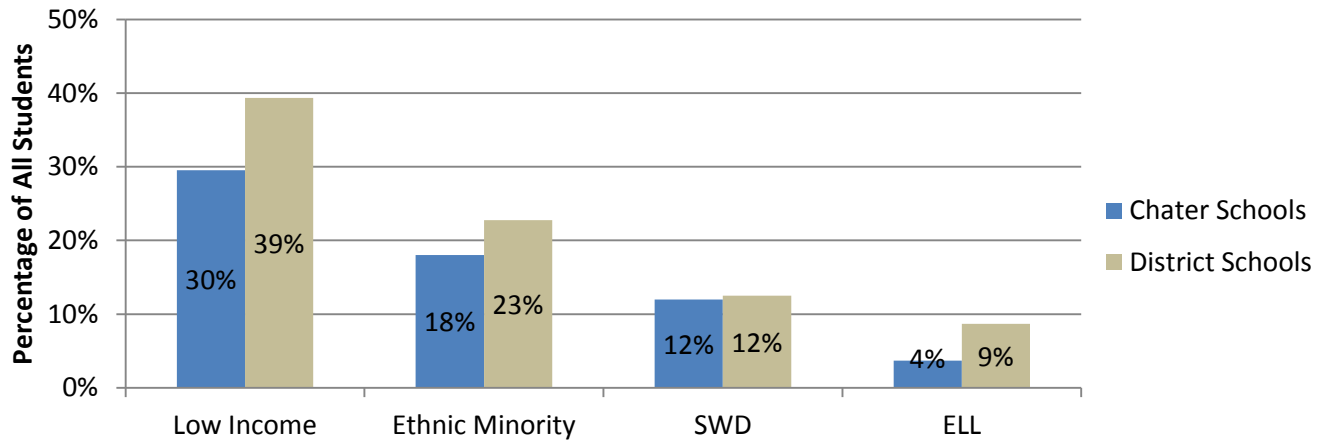
\*\* ELL = English language learners

\*\*\*English language learner designations changed in 2008; data prior to 2008 was not included for this subgroup.

### 2011-2012 Demographics

Compared to statewide demographic percentages, charter schools reported lower percentages of students who are identified as low income, ethnic minority, or English language learners (ELL). Charter schools have similar percentages of students with disabilities (SWD). A new law passed in 2012 allows charter schools whose mission it is to serve refugee students or students learning English as a second language to grant preference to refugee students or children of refugees or English language learners, respectively.

## Student Demographics

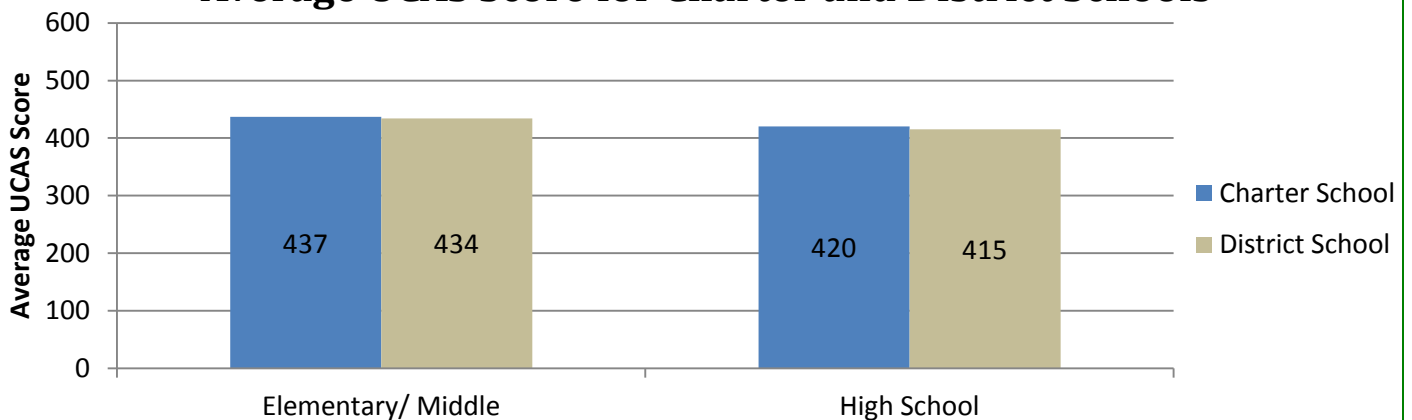


# Academics

## Utah Comprehensive Accountability System (UCAS)

UCAS was the state and federal accountability system used for public schools in 2011-12. The system consisted of a total of 600 points that were evenly split between Achievement and Growth. In 2011-12, charter schools had slightly higher average UCAS scores than district schools, but the difference is not statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ).

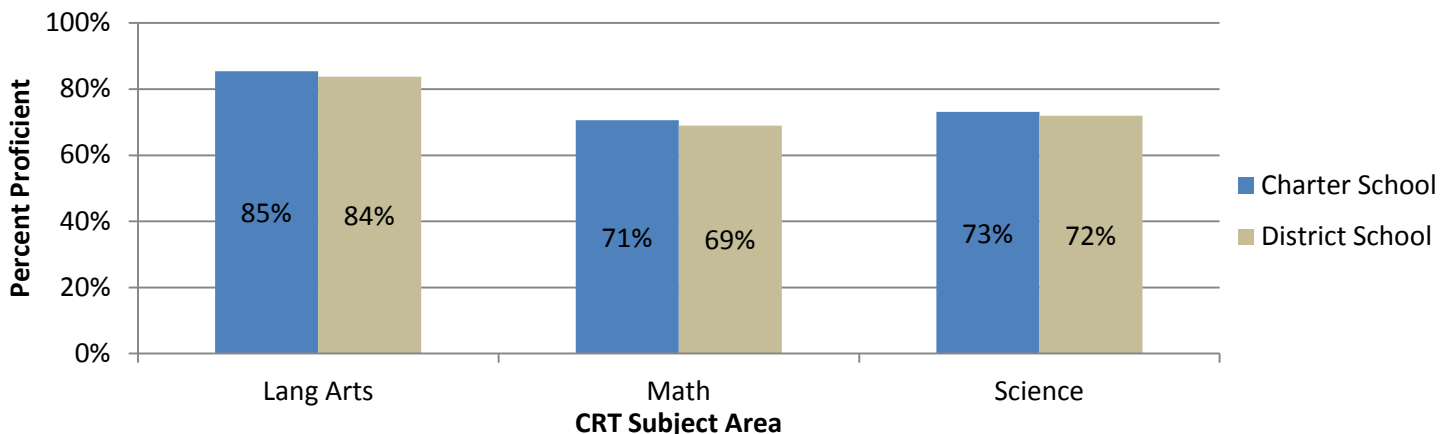
### Average UCAS Score for Charter and District Schools



## Criterion-Referenced Tests (CRTs)

The percentage of charter school students who were proficient in each of the 2012 CRT subjects was slightly higher than that of district school students. Since the number of students included in the analysis is so large, the difference is statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ), but the effect is small.

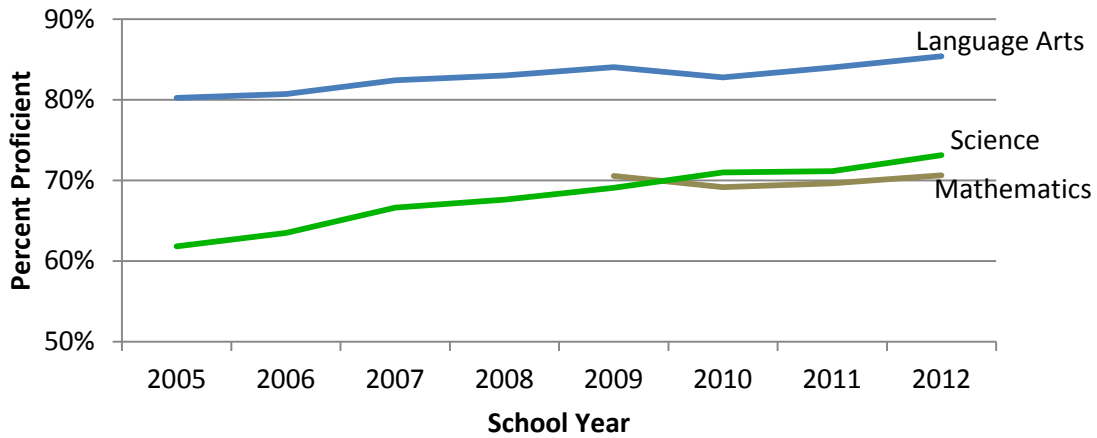
### Percent of Students Proficient, CRTs





Longitudinally, charter school proficiency on CRT tests shows a slight trend upward in Language Arts and Mathematics. There is a steeper trend upward in Science. Note that the Mathematics CRT changed in 2009, so data is only shown for 2009-2012.

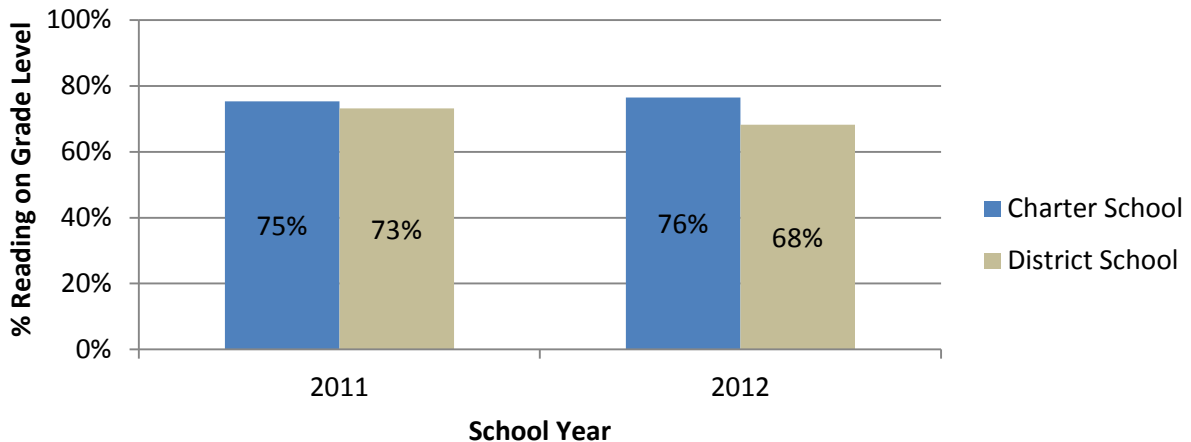
### Charter School CRT Proficiency Over Time



#### Reading on Grade Level

Using the DIBELS mid-year reading assessment, all districts and charter schools report whether students in grades 1-3 are reading on grade level. In 2011-12, a higher percentage of charter school students were reading on grade level than were in district schools. This difference is statistically significant and holds when controlling for demographics ( $p < .05$ ).

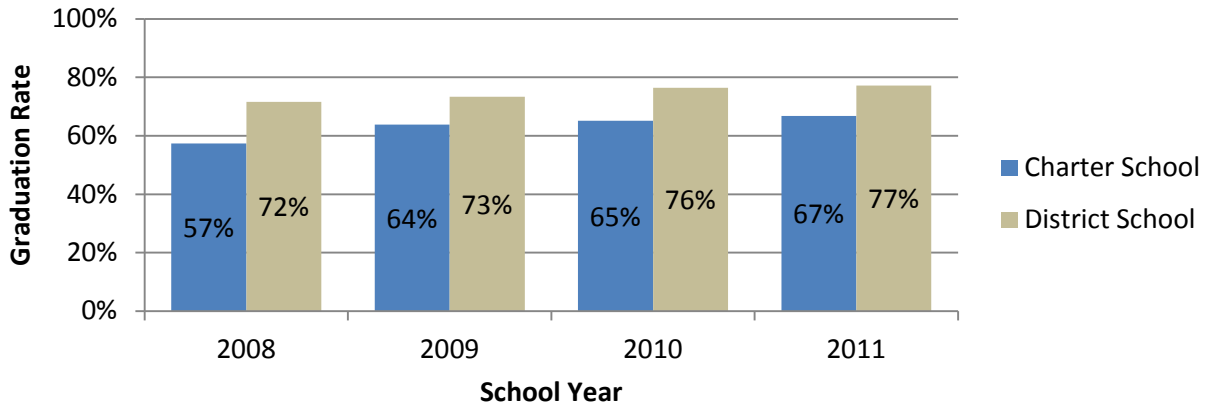
### Average School's Percent Reading on Grade Level, Grades 1-3



### Graduation Rates

Since graduation rates are not completed until December of each year, accountability reports use the prior year's rates. This report does the same, so the most recent graduation rate reported is for the class of 2011. Using the four-year Federal graduation rate, the average charter high school graduation rate was significantly lower than the average district high school graduation rate ( $p < .05$ ).

### Average School Graduation Rate



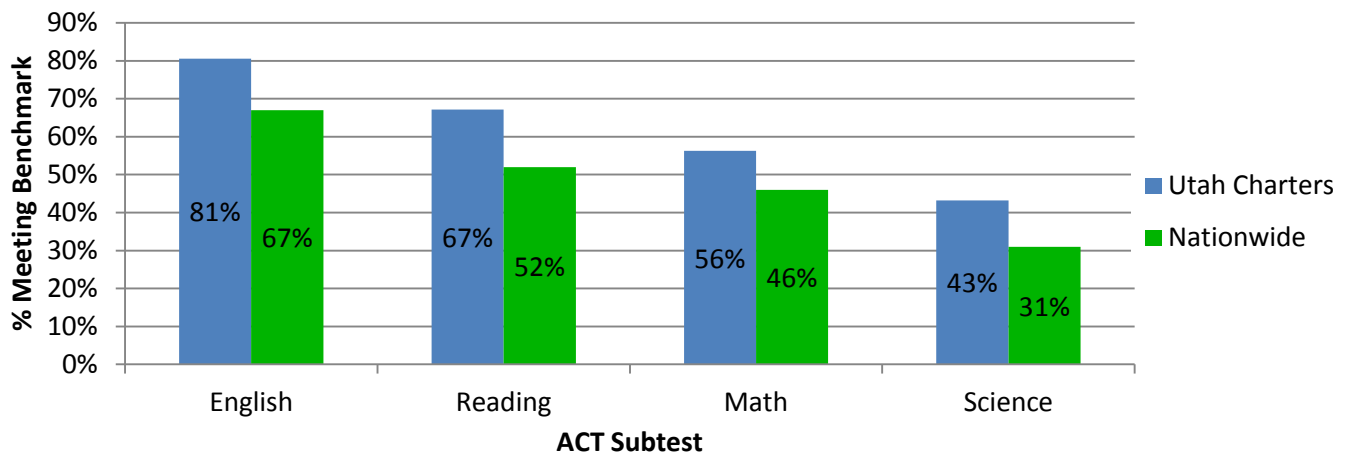
### College Readiness

ACT has set College Readiness Benchmarks for each subtest. These benchmarks are indicators of being more likely than not of earning a B or higher in a corresponding college course. The benchmarks are:

- English: 18
- Reading: 21
- Math: 22
- Science: 24

2012 graduates who were reported as taking the ACT while enrolled in a Utah charter school performed better than other 2012 graduates taking the ACT across the nation.

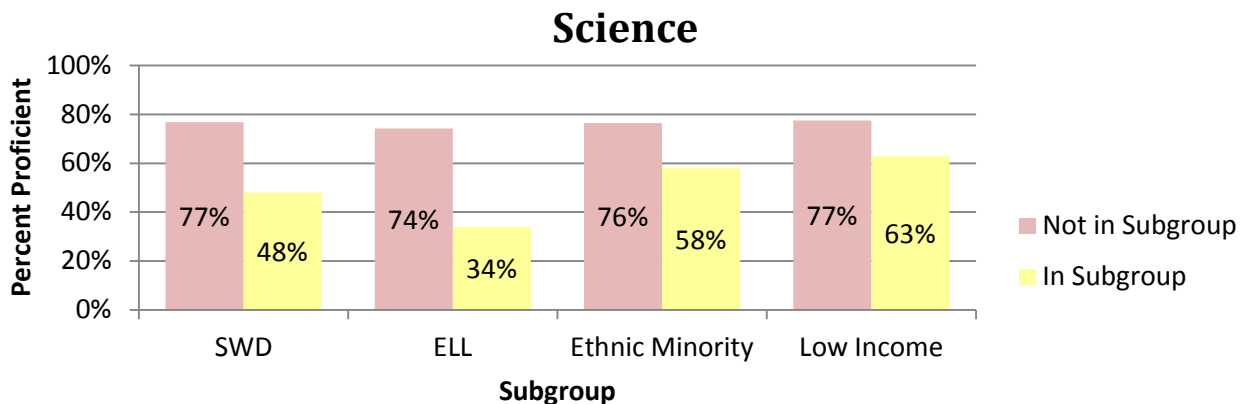
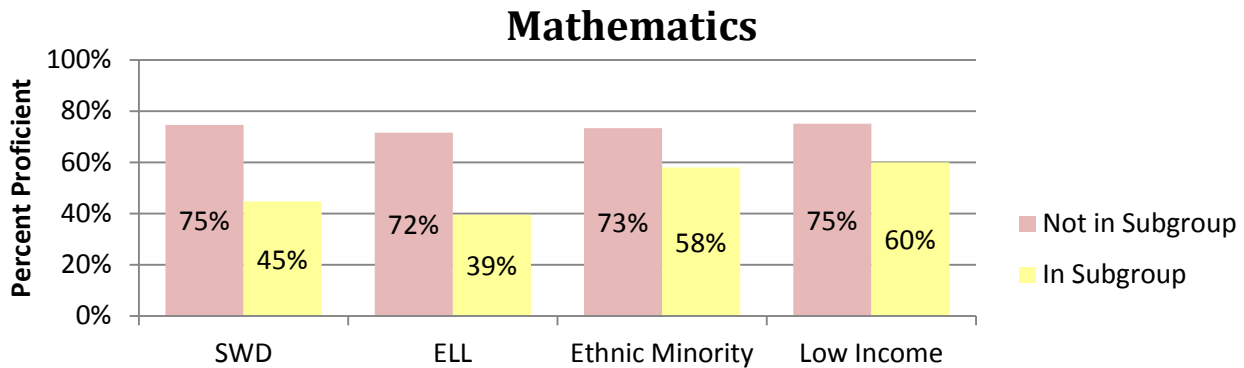
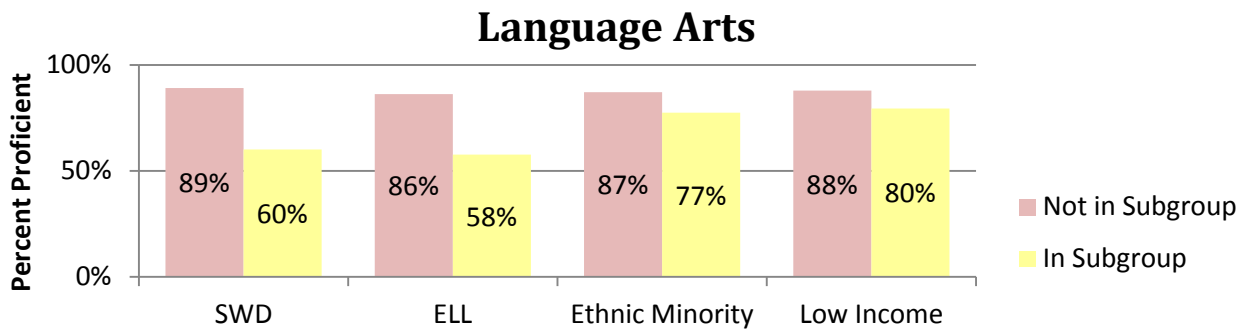
### 2012 Graduates Meeting ACT Benchmarks



## Demographics and CRT Achievement

Statewide, there is a correlation between achievement and demographics where certain subgroups tend to have lower test scores than those not in the subgroups. This is also true for charter schools. In 2012, for all subject CRT tests, charter school students with disabilities (SWD), English language learners (ELL), ethnic or racial minorities, and low income students had lower proficiency rates than charter school students not in those subgroups. In fact, compared to students in at least one of those subgroups (yellow), students not in any of those subgroups (pink) were around three times as likely to be proficient on the Language Arts or Science CRTs and about two-and-a-half times as likely to be proficient on the Mathematics CRT. All achievement gaps shown below are statistically significant ( $p < .05$ ).

### Charter School CRT Proficiency by Subgroup



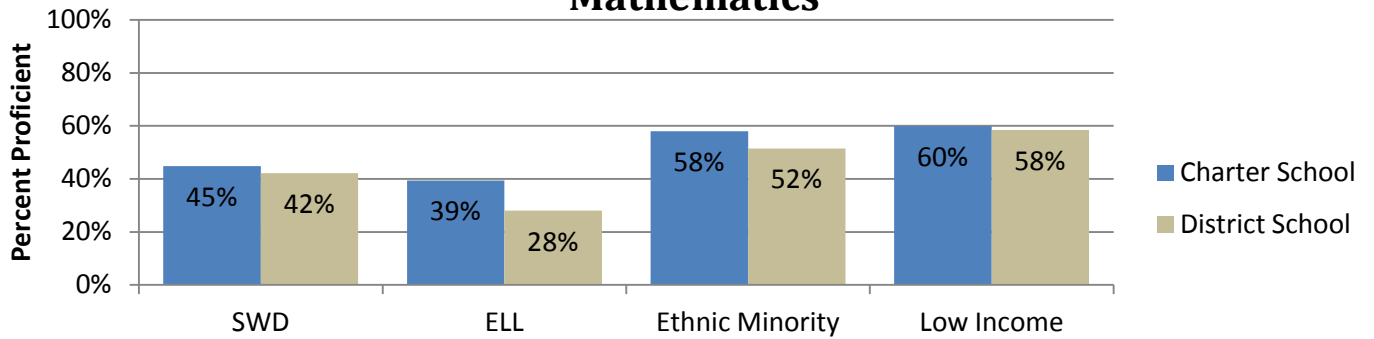
This achievement gap existed in district schools as well as charter schools. In fact, in 2012, charter school students in these subgroups tended to have higher proficiency rates than district school students in these subgroups. Conversely, charter school students *not* in these subgroups tended to have similar or slightly lower proficiency rates than district school students *not* in these subgroups. Thus, the achievement gap among charter school students was often statistically smaller than the achievement gap among district school students. In all subject areas for the subgroups shown below, charter school students had a statistically significant higher proficiency levels than district school students ( $p < .05$ ). However, where the difference is a only few percentage points, the effect size is small and the difference is negligible at most.

## CRT Proficiency by Subgroup

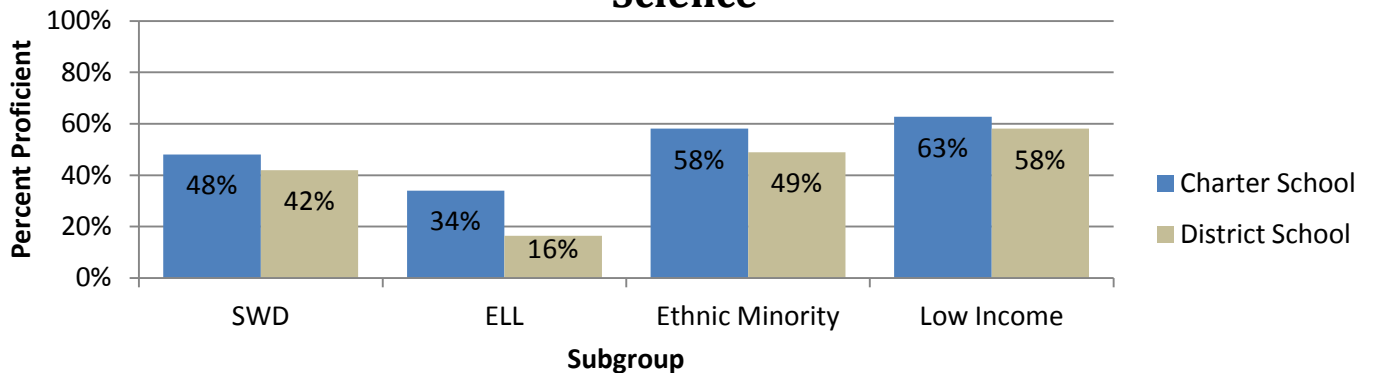
### Language Arts



### Mathematics



### Science



# Finances

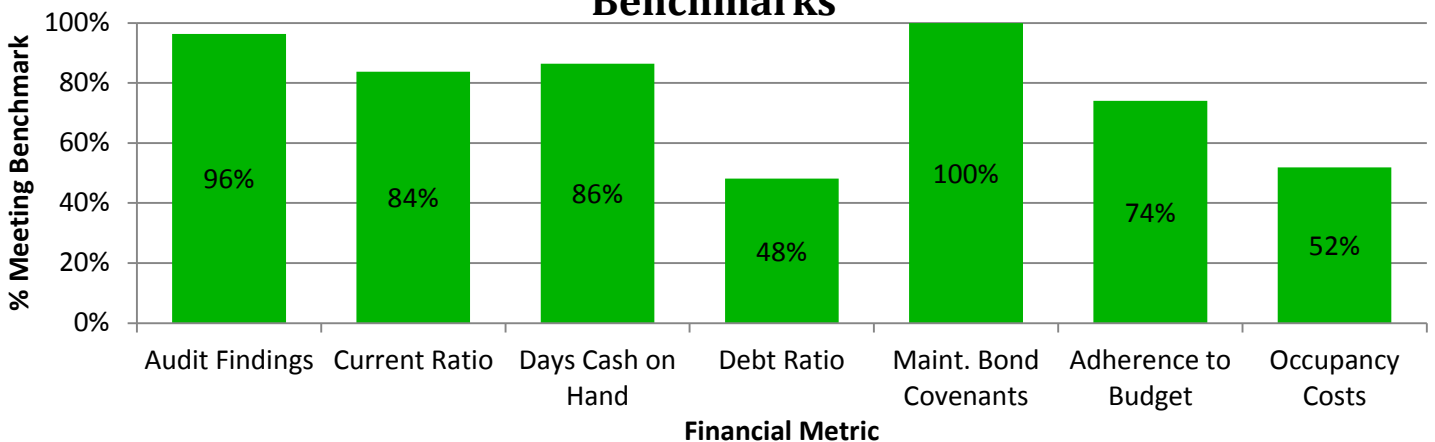
Finances play an integral role in support of public education in Utah. Financial security for the school comes through governing board oversight of the budget and financial operations, including responsibility for business plans, grants, budgeting, accounting, fundraising, financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, and annual audits. Financial stability and security depend on a number of factors, including student enrollment, staff retention, and the acquisition of additional funds. Governing boards are responsible for ensuring timely, accurate financial reporting.

Each charter school is responsible for submitting its Annual Financial Report (AFR) by October 1 and Audited Financial Statement by November 30 following the close of the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30). Using these reports, the Utah State Charter School Board determines charter school fiscal responsibility and sustainability by reviewing seven metrics against industry standards.

<b>Financial Measure</b>	Annual Audit	Current Ratio	Days Cash on Hand	Debt Ratio	Maintenance of Bond Covenants	Adherence to Budget	Occupancy Costs
<b>Benchmark</b>	No unresolved material findings, financial condition findings or repeat significant findings	> 1.15	30-60 days	< 0.9	All bond covenants maintained	Within 5%	< 22%

The 2011-2012 Charter School Annual Report provides a financial scorecard for Utah’s charter schools based on FY2012 data. Eighteen schools (22%) met all seven financial metrics.

## Percentage of Charter Schools Meeting Financial Benchmarks



# Governance

Effective leadership is the most important determinant of success in any enterprise. Each charter school is led by a governing board. Charter school governing boards exist to carry out the wishes of their owners – the taxpayers of Utah. The primary role of a charter school governing board is to ensure that its school accomplishes what the taxpayers want it to accomplish, as expressed in state statute.

During 2012, 28% of charter school had 100% of their teaching assignments filled by qualified teachers, and 38% of charter schools submitted all their reports on-time, accurately and completely. Many charter schools nearly met 100% for both of these standards, but only five schools reached 100%. The following graph shows the average (median) for all charter schools in 2012.

**Charter School Median Percentage for Governance Metrics**

