# Myths and Facts about Connecticut’s Public Charter Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Fact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charter schools are not public schools and are privately operated.</td>
<td>In Connecticut, charter schools are public schools. Both operators and the schools they operate are non-profit by law.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public charter schools are **free and open to all students**, nonsectarian, do not discriminate on any basis and are publicly funded based on enrollment.

Charter schools serve predominantly low-income and minority populations and are located in many of the state’s lowest performing districts.

Charter schools do not serve historically underserved communities.

Charter schools serve historically underserved communities.

Charter schools are not public schools and are privately operated.

Charter schools do not serve historically underserved communities.

Charter schools are not public schools and are privately operated.

Charter schools are not accountable.

Charter schools are held to the highest accountability standards for schools in the state.

Connecticut’s 21 public charter schools successfully serve nearly 11,000 of our state’s children, 93% of which are children of color, while delivering results for kids with limited resources at their disposal.

Connecticut’s public charter schools are located in 10 host districts, which are among the state’s largest cities and among the lowest performing in the state.

Connecticut’s public charter schools are **approved and overseen by the State Board of Education**.

These schools are expected to **meet academic, operational and financial standards and results**. If they fail to achieve these results, the Commissioner of Education and the Connecticut State Board of Education can place schools on corrective action plans, probation, and even close them.

Charter schools must **undergo audits and submit regular reports** to the state.

Charter schools don’t serve all students.

Charter schools serve all students, are diverse, and often specialize in educating high-needs students, including special education students and English Language Learners.

By law, **public charter schools must accept all students**. When demand exceeds the available number of seats, public charter schools must run a blind enrollment lottery to determine enrollment.
All staff serving in Connecticut’s public charter schools must be authorized by the state to serve in those schools, and the state regularly reviews schools for compliance.

Charter students are public school students too, and deserve to be funded according to learning needs just like all other public school students.

In Connecticut, one of the wealthiest states in the country, there is a $713 million funding gap between districts primarily serving white students and those serving students of color. Even given recent funding gains in the state’s FY22-23 budget, charter schools remain the most underfunded public schools in the state, despite the fact that they serve some of our state’s most disadvantaged students.

Connecticut’s public charter school students excelled on the state’s 2020-2021 Smarter Balanced State Assessments across all learning modes, be it in-person, remote, or hybrid.

On the 2020 Smarter Balanced assessment (SBAC), 100% of in-person public charter schools outperformed the state and district average, and some are among the schools with the highest academic growth in the state. Over 70% of fully remote charter schools and 94% of hybrid charter schools outperformed the state and district average.

Connecticut law requires public charter school teachers to meet numerous certification requirements and charter schools are stringently held to these standards.

The Connecticut Charter Schools Association is a nonprofit membership organization that serves as a unified voice for the state’s 21 public charter schools, representing their interests at the state and local levels. We fight to ensure that every child in Connecticut has the opportunity to attend a great public charter school capable of unlocking his or her potential.

Visit us at ctcharters.org to learn more.