



The Utah Charter School Phenomenon

Charter schools are independent public schools that encourage innovation and are held accountable for improved student achievement. The first charter school opened 10 years ago in 1999, and today there are 66 charter schools operating in the state of Utah, with 11 more approved to open.

- ✓ Charter students comprise five percent of the Utah’s total public education population – one in 20 public school pupils attend a charter school.
- ✓ On average, seven new charter schools with 3,000 charter students have been approved each year since 1999.
- ✓ More than 5,000 students are on waiting lists for a seat in a charter school.
- ✓ Viewing all charter schools as a single charter district, it would rank 7th largest of Utah’s 42 districts.
- ✓ At current growth rates, the number of charter students will double within five years.

