

# The Charter School Difference

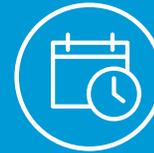
Aspire schools are authentic reflections of the communities they exist to serve.



**PUBLICLY FUNDED**



**TUITION-FREE**



**OPEN ENROLLMENT**

## Charter School Impact

Charter schools present a choice for families seeking high-quality public school options for their children.

---

Black and Latinx charter school students are **closer to reaching grade-level proficiency** than their peers in traditional district schools.

---

Black and Latinx charter school students **graduated with better access** to four-year colleges.

---

Socioeconomically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities who attend charter schools are outperforming **outperforming their district peers** in English language arts and are on par for math.

# Common Questions About Charter Schools

## WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?



Charter schools are free, public schools open to any child. They offer options to families who may be dissatisfied with their local schools. Choice is a powerful tool for parents seeking educational equity and equal access to quality education for their children.

## WHO CAN ATTEND CHARTER SCHOOLS?



Public charter schools are open to all students and do not have applications or entrance requirements.

## HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS FUNDED?



Charter schools are publicly funded just like traditional district schools. The majority of funding is tied to enrollment and daily attendance.

## HOW ARE CHARTER SCHOOLS HELD ACCOUNTABLE?



Charter schools are held accountable by their authorizer (usually the local school district) and, most importantly, by the families they serve. Families make the choice to enroll their children in charter schools and can remove them if they are dissatisfied with the school. Charter schools are part of ongoing audits and must apply for renewal (usually every five years) with their authorizer. Authorizers also have the ability to close under-performing charter schools.

## A History of Charter Schools in California

1992

California lawmakers passed the Charter Schools Act, making California the second in the nation behind Minnesota to enact charter school legislation. This act established charter schools as an option for communities to design self-governing schools within the public school system.

1998

Aspire Public Schools opened its first school in North Stockton.

2000

California voters passed Proposition 39, requiring school districts to make facilities available to charter schools that serve students who live within the district. Nonetheless, securing adequate facilities remains one of the biggest challenges for charter schools today.

2019

Voters passed AB 1505, giving school boards more power to reject new charter schools and changing the process for charter renewals.

2021

California charter schools account for 11% of all students (629,000+ students) across 1,320+ campuses.

Aspire Public Schools serves 15,300+ scholars across 36 schools in California.