

# 2024 North Carolina Charter Schools Annual Report

*Presented June 9, 2025  
Charter Schools Review Board*

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# Background

## Key Report Sections

This report summarizes the state of North Carolina charter schools and provides comprehensive data and analysis of the 2023-2024 school year, as well as current school year data where available.



### Authorizing & Monitoring

Overview of charter school authorization processes and ongoing monitoring systems



### Student Demographics

Data on student population diversity across NC charter schools



### Academics & Funding

Performance metrics and financial allocation information



### Best Practices & Recognitions

Highlighting exemplary programs and achievements within NC charter schools



### Access & Challenges

Analysis of accessibility factors and obstacles facing the charter sector



# Background

In 1996, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Charter School Act, authorizing the establishment of “**a system of charter schools**” to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently of existing schools, as a method to accomplish all of the following:

1. *Improve student learning*;
2. *Increase learning opportunities for all students*, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are identified as at-risk of academic failure or academically gifted;
3. Encourage the use of different and *innovative teaching methods*;
4. Create *new professional opportunities for teachers*, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning at the school site;
5. Provide parents and students with *expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities* that are available within the public school system;
6. Hold the schools established under this Part *accountable for meeting measurable student achievement results* and provide the schools with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems.”



## Improve Student Learning

Create educational environments focused on enhancing academic outcomes through effective teaching methods and supportive learning conditions



## Increase Learning Opportunities

Expand access to educational options for all students, particularly those with limited access to quality learning experiences



## Encourage Innovation

Develop and implement creative, forward-thinking approaches to education that can be replicated in other schools





## Teacher Opportunity

Provide educators with professional growth, leadership roles, and the autonomy to implement effective instructional practices



## Educational Choice

Offer families meaningful public education alternatives that align with diverse student needs and learning styles



## Measurable Student Achievement

Focus on demonstrable academic progress with clear metrics and accountability for student performance outcomes

# Charter Schools by the Numbers

**208**

Current number of operating charter schools.

Best 1 of 2 ADM for current 24–25 School Year.

**153,480  
students**

**161**

Number of schools reporting a waitlist at start of school year.

Total reported waitlist

**Over 74,000**

\*Could include duplicate students

**63 counties**

63 counties with brick and mortar charter schools.



Five districts account for over 30% of the public school membership and only one (Wake) enrolls more than the number of charter school students enrolled statewide.



Since the 2022-2023 school year, charter membership has represented over 10% of the total public school unit membership.

■ Charter: 153,480 (10.1%)

■ Lab School: 1,072 (0.1%)

**Total Membership: 1,526,117**

**Total Best 1 of 2 Public School Unit Membership: 1,526,117**

# Charter School Authority and Oversight

# Charter School Oversight

- SL 2023-110 or House Bill 618, converted the Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB) to the Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB).
- CSRB authority includes, but is not limited to, the approval of charter applications, the approval of material revisions to the charter agreement, and the renewal of charter agreements.
- House Bill 618 defines the role of the SBE to have the following duties: rulemaking, funding, appeals, and accountability.
- Creates a right of appeal (re CSRB decisions) to SBE.

# Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB)



## **a Recommend Rules**

Make recommendations to the State Board of Education on rules for charter school operation, timelines, standards, criteria for acceptance and approval of applications, monitoring, and grounds for revocation.



## **b Application Review**

Review and approve or deny charter applications, renewals, and revocations.



## **c Appeal Recommendations**

Make recommendations to the State Board on actions before the State Board on appeal under G.S. 115C-218.9.



## **d Additional Assigned Duties**

Undertake any other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the State Board.

As outlined in North Carolina General Statutes (G.S. 115C-218)

# Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB)

12

**Total Members:** 11 Voting + 1 Non-Voting

4

**NC Senate Appointees**

4 Members



4

**NC House Appointees**

4 Members



2

**State Board of Education Appointees**

2 Members



1

**Lieutenant Governor**

1 Member



1

**Superintendent of Public Instruction**

1 Member (Non-Voting)



# Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB)

Appointed By	First Name	Last Name	Start Date of Current Term	End Date of Current Term
State Board of Education	Eric	Guckian	July 1, 2025	June 30, 2027
State Board of Education	Eric	Sanchez	July 1, 2025	June 30, 2029
Superintendent (Non-Voting)	Jeremy	Wall	2025	June 30, 2027
Lt. Governor	Stephen	Gay	January 1, 2025	January 1, 2029
House	Bruce	Friend	2021	June 30, 2025
House	Hilda	Parlér	2021	June 30, 2025
House	Lindalyn	Kakadelis	2025	June 30, 2025
House	Shelly	Shope	2021	June 30, 2025
Senate	Bartley	Danielsen	2022	June 30, 2025
Senate	John	Eldridge	2021	June 30, 2025
Senate	Rita	Haire	2021	June 30, 2025
Senate	Todd	Godbey	2021	June 30, 2025



# Office of Charter Schools



# Office of **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

NC Department of Public Instruction



## Mission Statement

The NC Office of Charter Schools fosters strong charter schools through quality authorizing, effective accountability, and collaborative support.



## Vision

To cultivate an exemplary charter school community where equitable access drives innovation and excellence, ensuring every student thrives.



## Values



Reliable and Knowledgeable



Collaborative



Inclusive



Adaptable



Accountable





*Office of*  
**CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
NC Department of Public Instruction



## Authorizing Team

Applications  
Ready to Open  
Amendments  
Reports/Rules  
SBE/CSRB



## Accountability Team

Performance Framework  
Renewals  
Risk Assessment  
School Improvement



## External Support Team

Stakeholder Support  
Partnerships/School  
Support  
Communications/Data

## National Authorizing Staff Statistics

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) conducts an annual survey to inform their Annual State of Authorizing reports. According to the [2024 State of Authorizing survey](#), the majority (59%) of surveyed respondents (overseeing approximately 60% of charter schools nationally), serve fewer than five charter schools per staff member. Ninety-two percent (92%) of respondents oversee ten or fewer schools per full-time staff member.

North Carolina's average of eight consultants staffing the Office of Charter Schools provides a ratio of 26 schools per consultant. When considering the addition of 17 schools in the planning process, the average increases to over 28 schools per consultant.



# Charter Accountability

# Charter Accountability



Statute, Rules, Policy



Charter Agreement



Academic Monitoring



Performance Framework



Renewal Process



Closure

# Charter Schools Performance Framework

A vital accountability tool providing an "at a glance" picture of charter school foundations to maintain high standards and ensure improvement and stability



## **Established 2014 and Revised 2024**

Updated for a more meaningful tracker and guide to performance standards while eliminating redundancies and ineffective performance measures



## **Reports on Four Main Categories**

Academics, operations, governance, and financial



## **Evaluates over 30 Measures**

Comprehensive assessment across all performance domains



## **Over 2500 Document Reviews**

OCS provides support and feedback for improvement when needed



# Performance Framework 2024 Stats

- 99% of schools achieved at or above 80% in the category of operational annual monitoring criteria
- 37.6% were compliant in every single applicable measure
- Two schools fell below the 80% threshold, scoring 72% respectively
- All charter schools were measured against a maximum of 21 operational criteria, of which some were not applicable to a given school.

Of the 210 operating charter schools, three schools were reported as having cautionary or disciplinary financial status. This is a decrease from last year's report of seven schools.



# Performance Framework

The performance measures will monitor the charter school's performance by providing:

- A clear and consistent measure of operational, governance, financial, and academic performance;
- Feedback for school leaders and boards;
- Transparency for schools, parents, students, and the public;
- Tracking information regarding school performance over time.

To support school leaders and board members, the OCS Performance Framework team created documents for each measure to reflect alignment to laws and policies, resources, references, and required versus best practice measures. In addition, training modules will be available for any questions that arise. The continued objective of the performance framework will be to provide a clear picture of a charter school's organizational performance and compliance with state and federal laws. The new performance framework took effect during the 2024-2025 school year.





# Charter School Closure Types

## Types of Charter Closure Processes:



### **Relinquishment**

Occurs when a charter board voluntarily surrenders the charter



### **Assumption**

Occurs when a charter board's Charter Agreement is assumed by another charter board



### **Non-renewal**

Occurs when a charter board fails to receive a renewal term and the current Charter Agreement expires



### **Revocation**

Occurs when a charter board's Charter Agreement is revoked pursuant to legal allowances for the termination of a charter



# Charter Closure/Termination

In 2024, two charter schools relinquished their charters: Veritas Community School (Mecklenburg County) and Apprentice Academy High School of North Carolina (Union County). Two charter schools were nonrenewed in 2024: Ridgeview Charter School (Gaston County) and Children’s Village Academy (Lenoir County).

One charter school, Valor Preparatory Academy, located in Cabarrus County, relinquished and closed at the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year.

Revoked	Relinquished	Assumed	Non-Renewed	Total
22	55	1	16	94

# Charter Closure Stats - NC

- Average years opened for **revoked** charter schools: 4.41
  - Most common reason: Financial and/or compliance
- Average years opened for **relinquished** charter schools: 4.11
  - 23 of 55 relinquishments never opened
  - 3 of 55 opened less than one year
  - Most common reason: enrollment and/or facility
- Average years opened for **nonrenewed** charter schools: 10.69
  - Primary reason: Academics



## Key Impact Categories:



### **Employment Impact**

Job losses for teachers, staff, and administrators



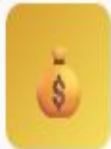
### **Student Records Management**

Complex process of transferring academic, health, and special education records



### **State Administrative Burden**

Oversight, audits, and compliance requirements



### **Financial Consequences**

Funding losses, debt issues, and closure costs



### **Community Impact**

Disruption to families and neighborhoods



### **Regulatory & Legal**

Compliance with closure laws and procedures





Rigorous authorization processes are essential safeguards.



First five years of operation are critical to building stability and strength.



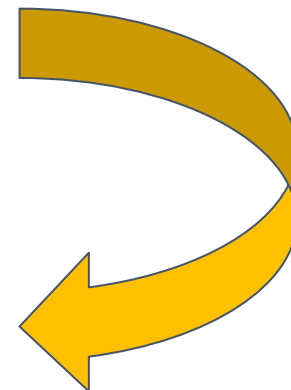
Low performing schools need support, especially three years prior to renewal.



The difficulties of facility planning/acquisition and enrollment challenges cannot be overstated. Boards must be clear-eyed, data-informed, and prepared for hurdles.



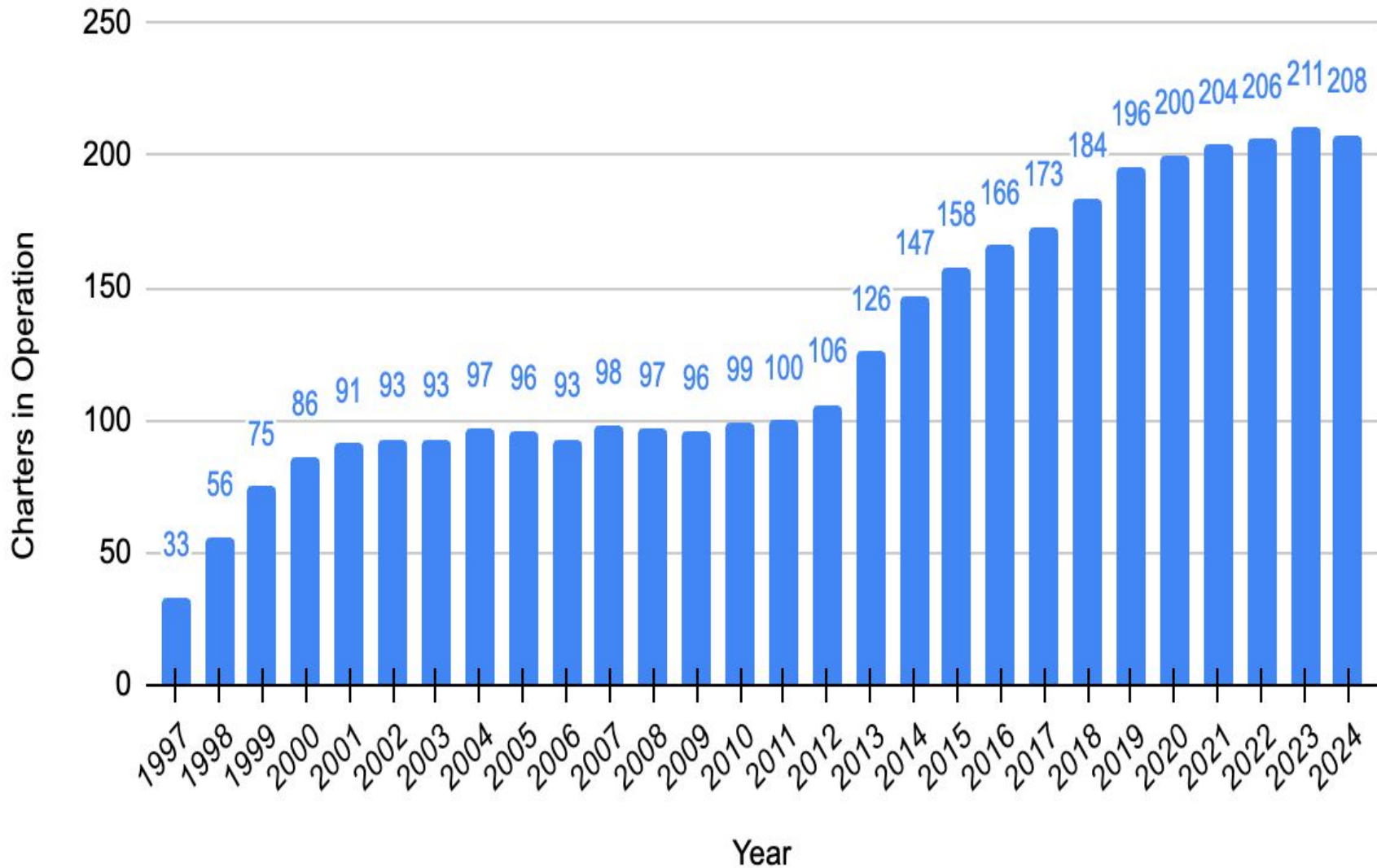
There must be adequate staffing capacity to navigate challenges presented during the closure process.



OCS Key  
Considerations and  
Recommendations  
Related to Charter  
School Closures

# Charter School Growth

# Charters in Operation 1997-2024



# 2024-2025 Charter Growth



2 new operating schools



9 scheduled to open in fall 2025 and 8 in 2026



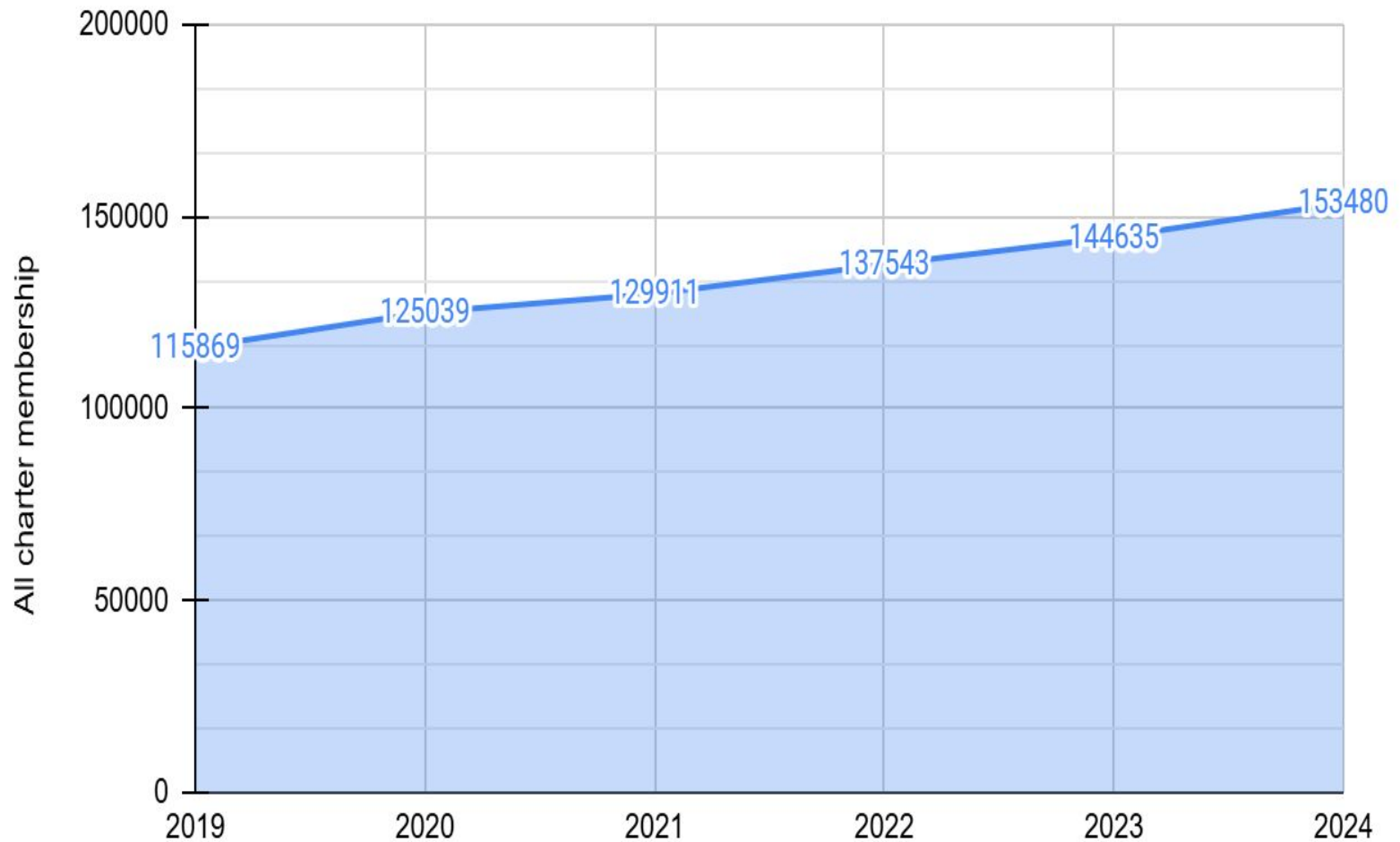
13 charter applications  
received

6 Standard Timeline  
approvals

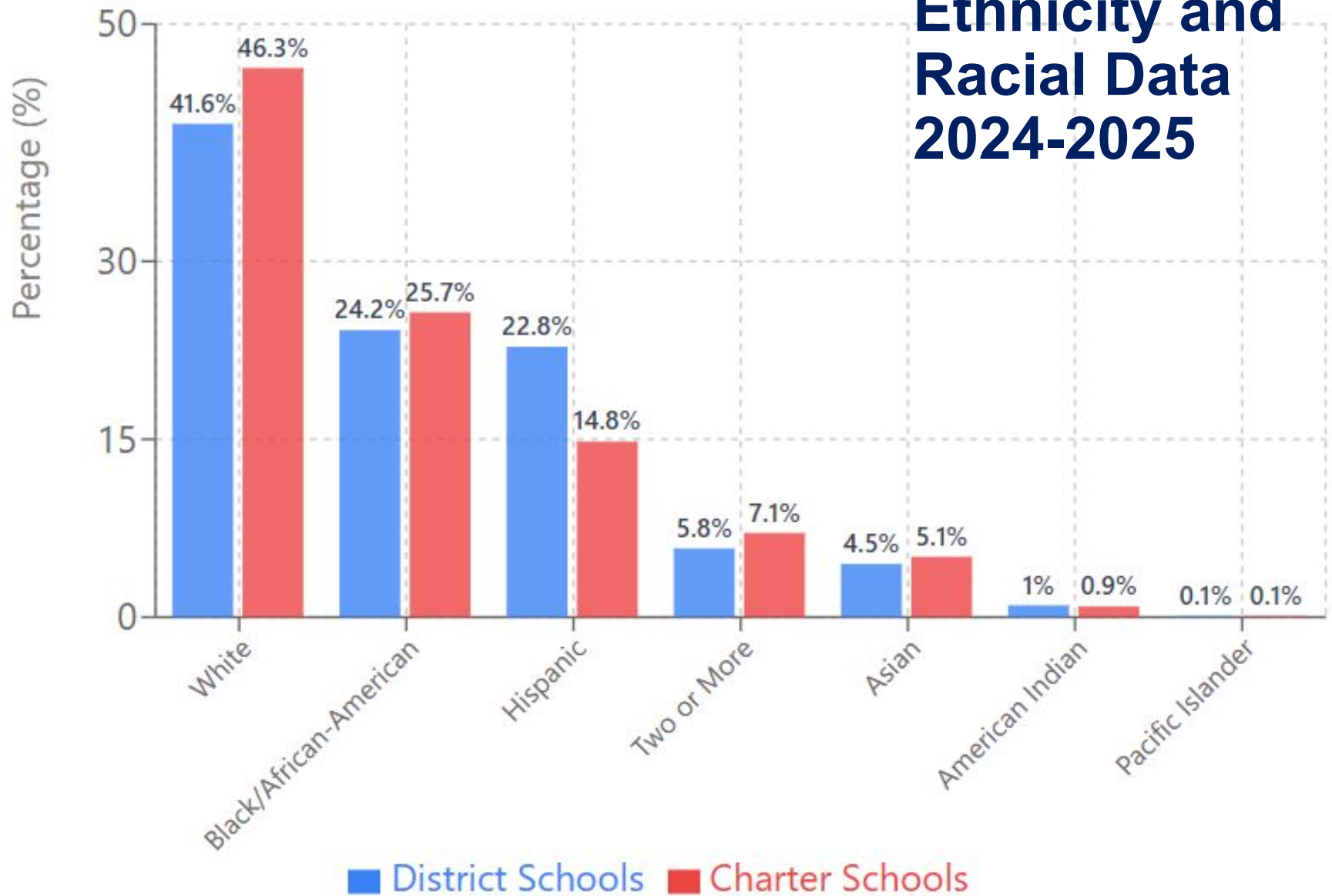
# Charter School Enrollment and Demographics



# Charter Membership 2019-2024



# Ethnicity and Racial Data 2024-2025



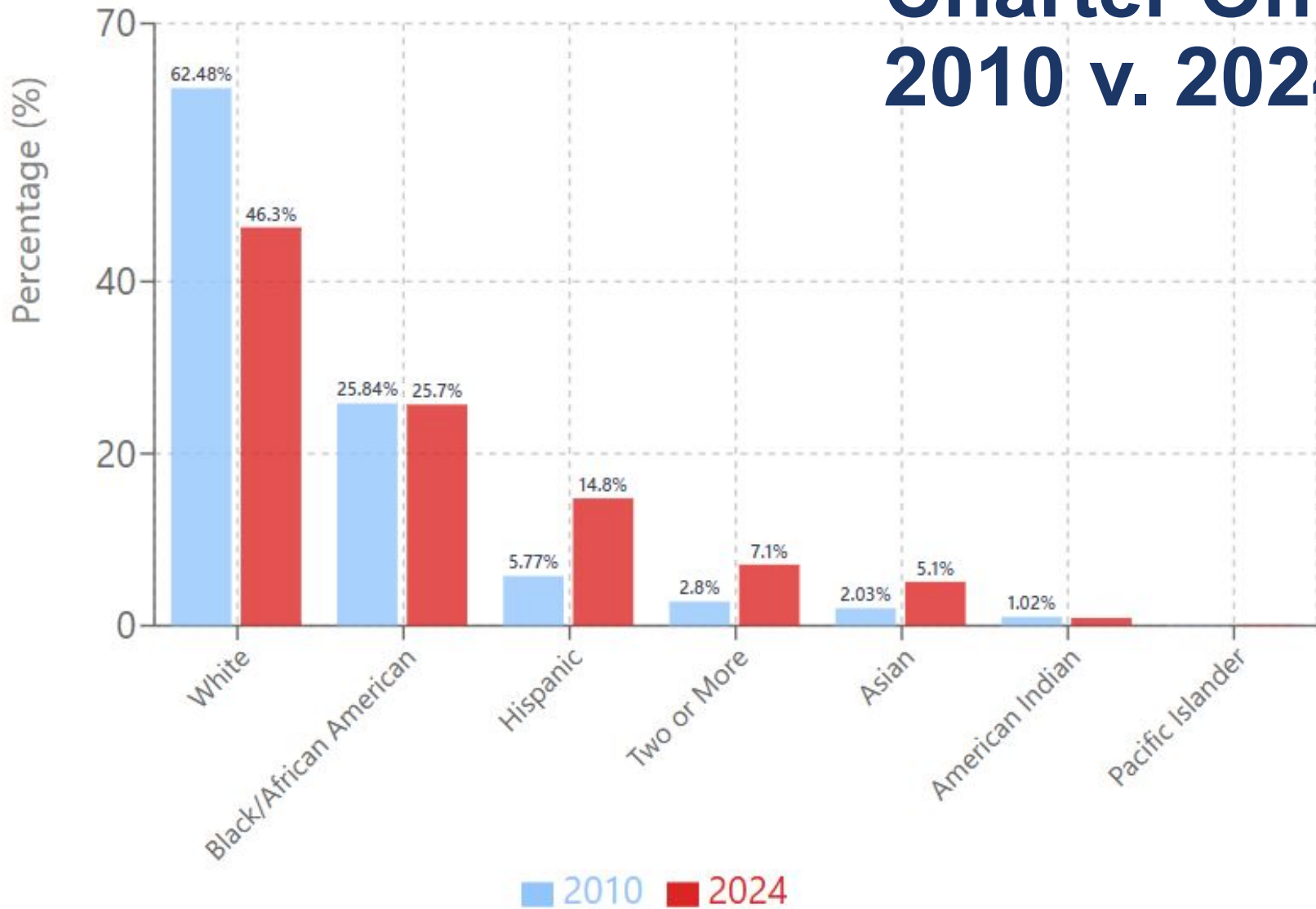
## Over-Represented in Charter Schools

White:	46.3% vs 41.6% (+4.7%)
Black/African-American:	25.7% vs 24.2% (+1.5%)
Two or More:	7.1% vs 5.8% (+1.3%)
Asian:	5.1% vs 4.5% (+0.6%)

## Under-Represented in Charter Schools

Hispanic:	14.8% vs 22.8% (-8.0%)
American Indian:	0.9% vs 1.0% (-0.1%)
Pacific Islander:	0.1% vs 0.1% (no change)

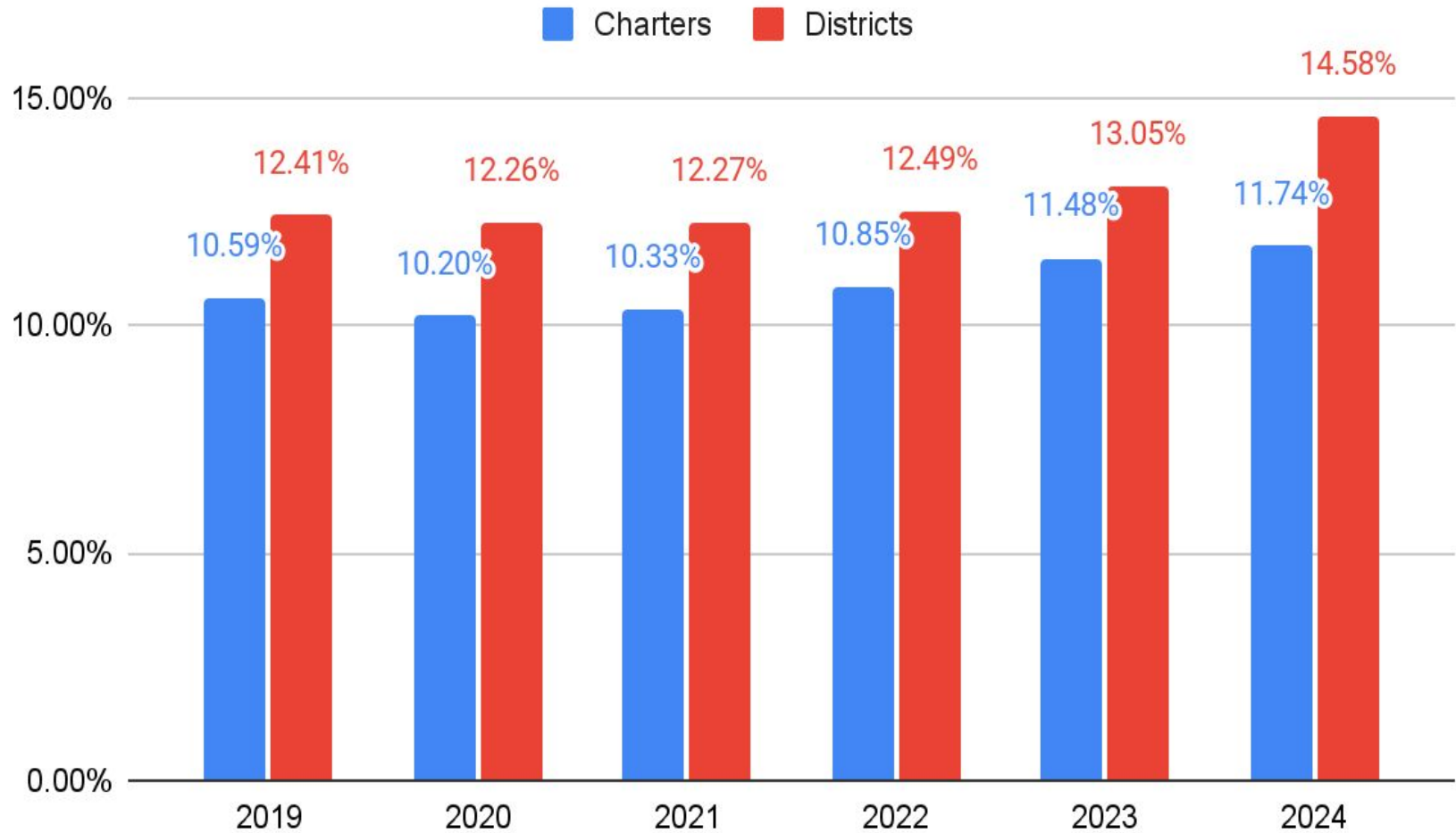
# Charter Only, 2010 v. 2024



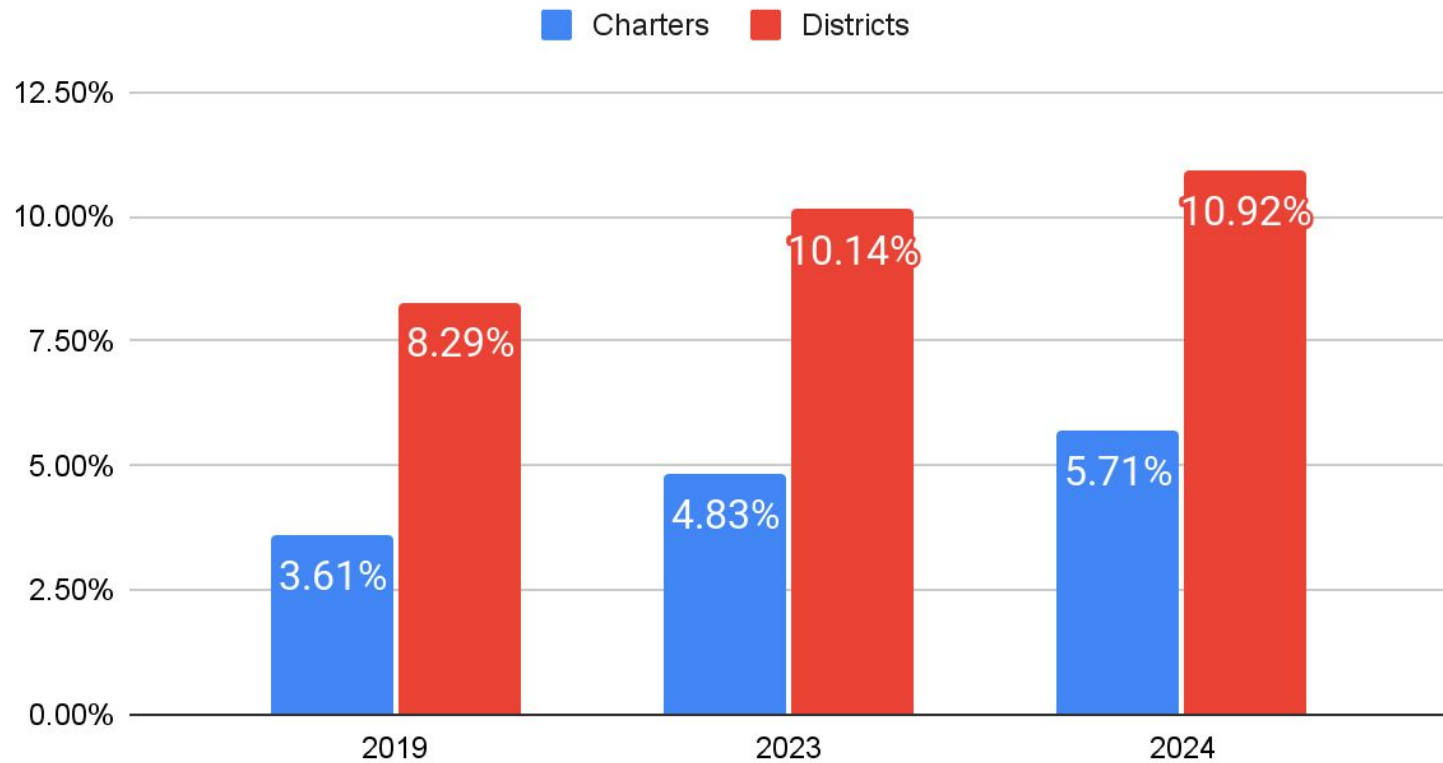
# Special Populations

# SWD Headcount

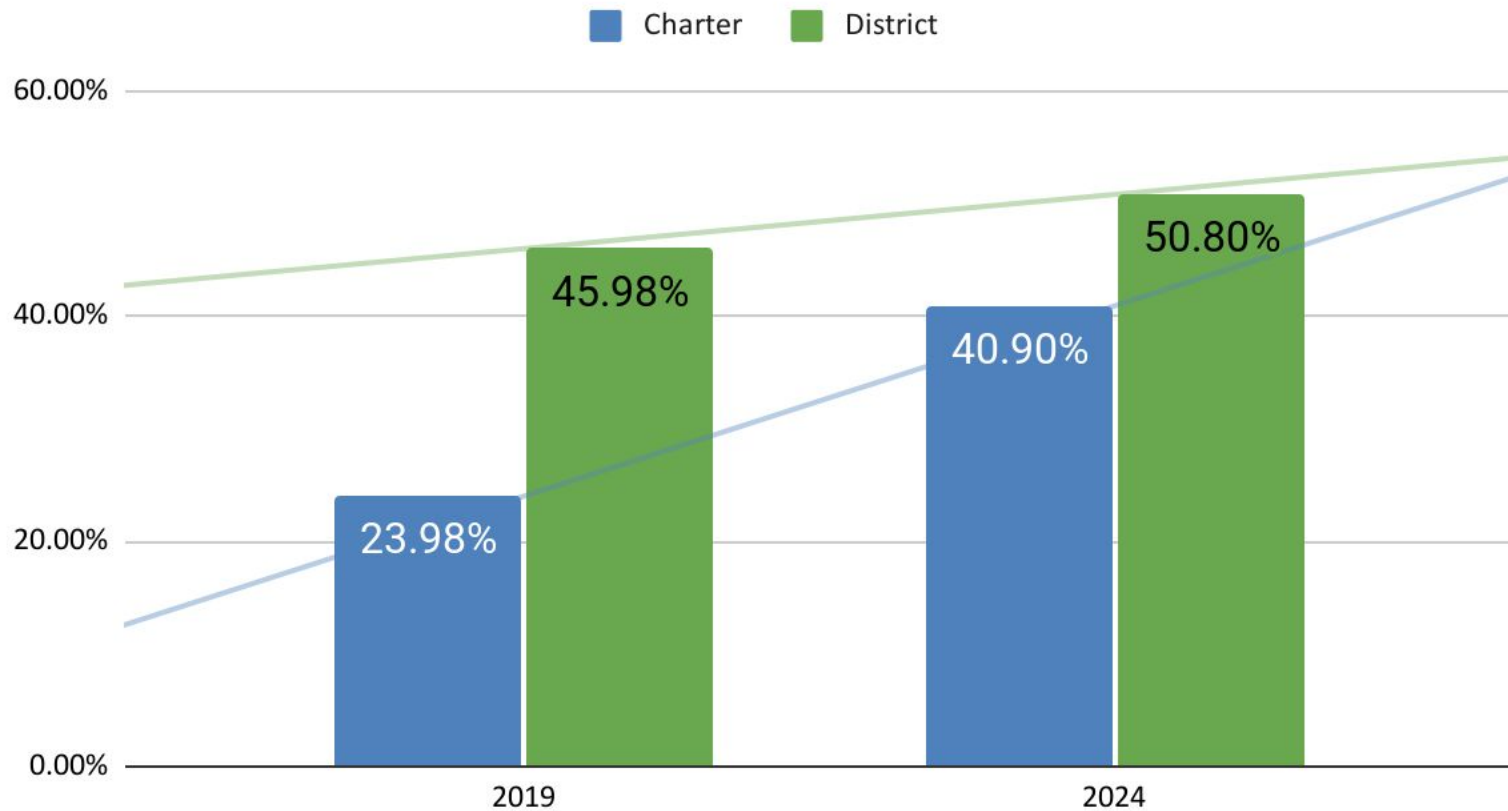
## Charters and Districts



## English Learners, Charters and Districts



## Economically Disadvantaged 2019 v. 2024





# Charter School Access

# Charter School Access Barriers



**Admissions &  
Applications**



**Geographic Barriers**



**Transportation**



**School Nutrition**

# Charter School Transportation

Electric bus program

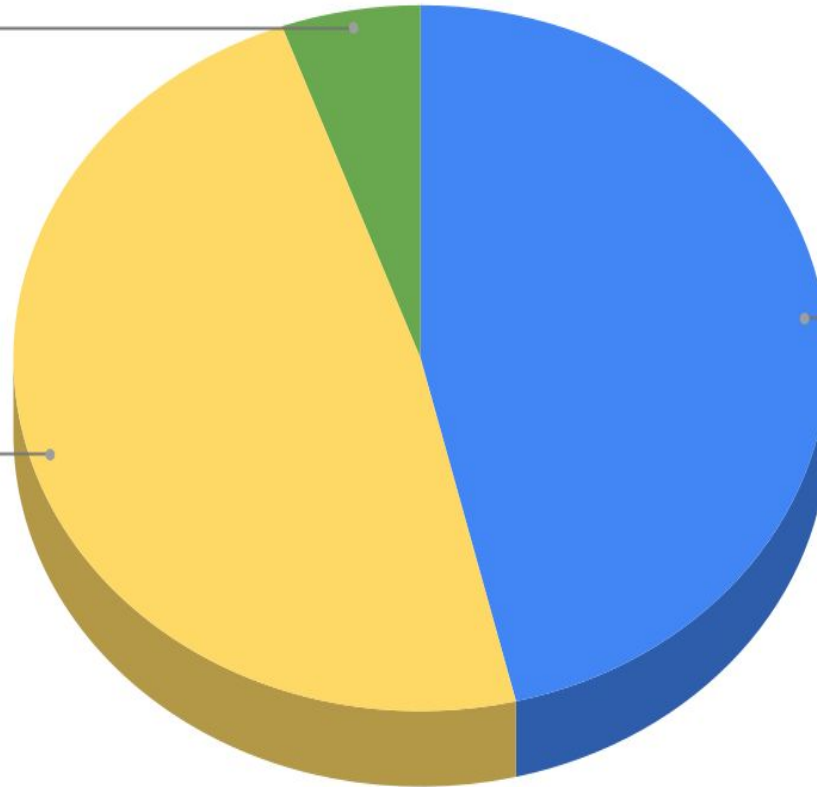
5.5%

Traditional bus program

48.2%

Other

46.2%

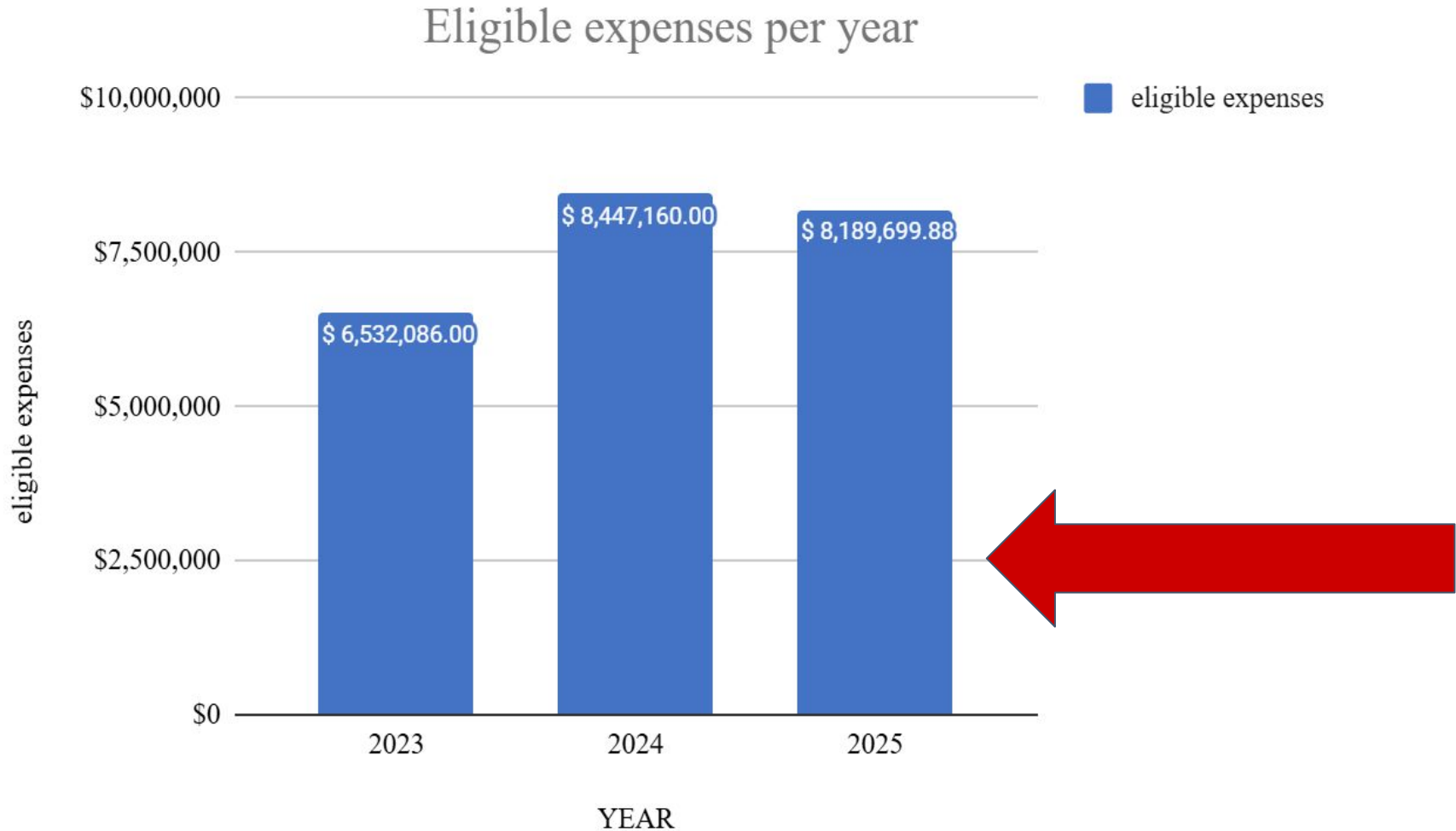


# Challenges

- Staffing
- Funding
- Maintenance
- Cost of replacement



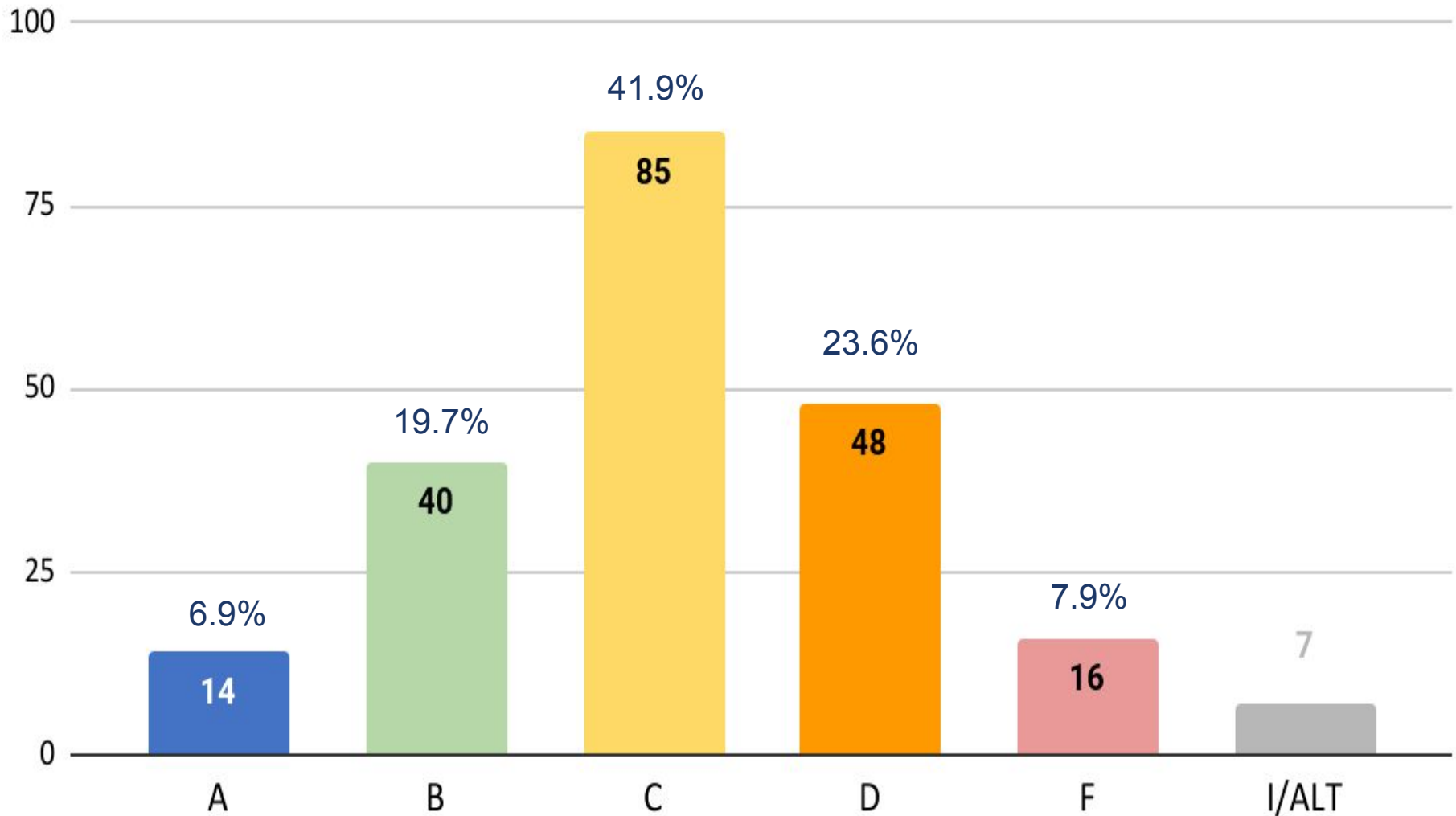
# CS Transportation Grant



# Charter School Academic Performance

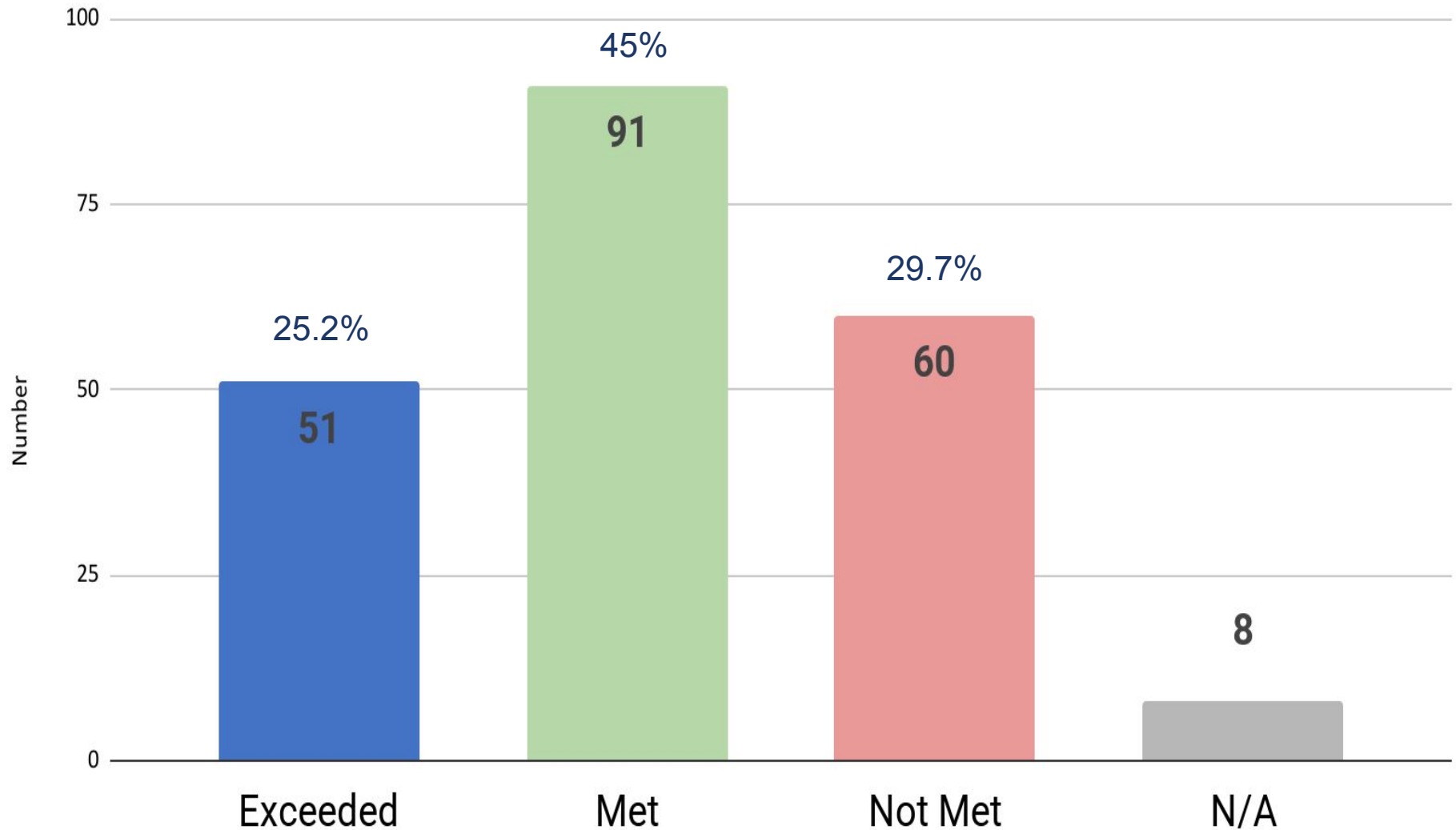
# 2023 - 2024 School Performance Grades

North Carolina Charter Schools



# 2023 - 2024 Overall Growth Status

North Carolina Charter Schools





# Subgroup Data Analysis

- No subgroup has returned to pre-pandemic (2019) proficiency levels.
- The subgroups showing the most severe declines in proficiency were Students with Disabilities, Hispanic students, Multi-racial, and White students.
- The college and career readiness data reveals even more dramatic declines than general proficiency, with all subgroups experiencing significant losses over the five-year period.
- Subgroups are showing progress, just not yet to pre-pandemic levels.

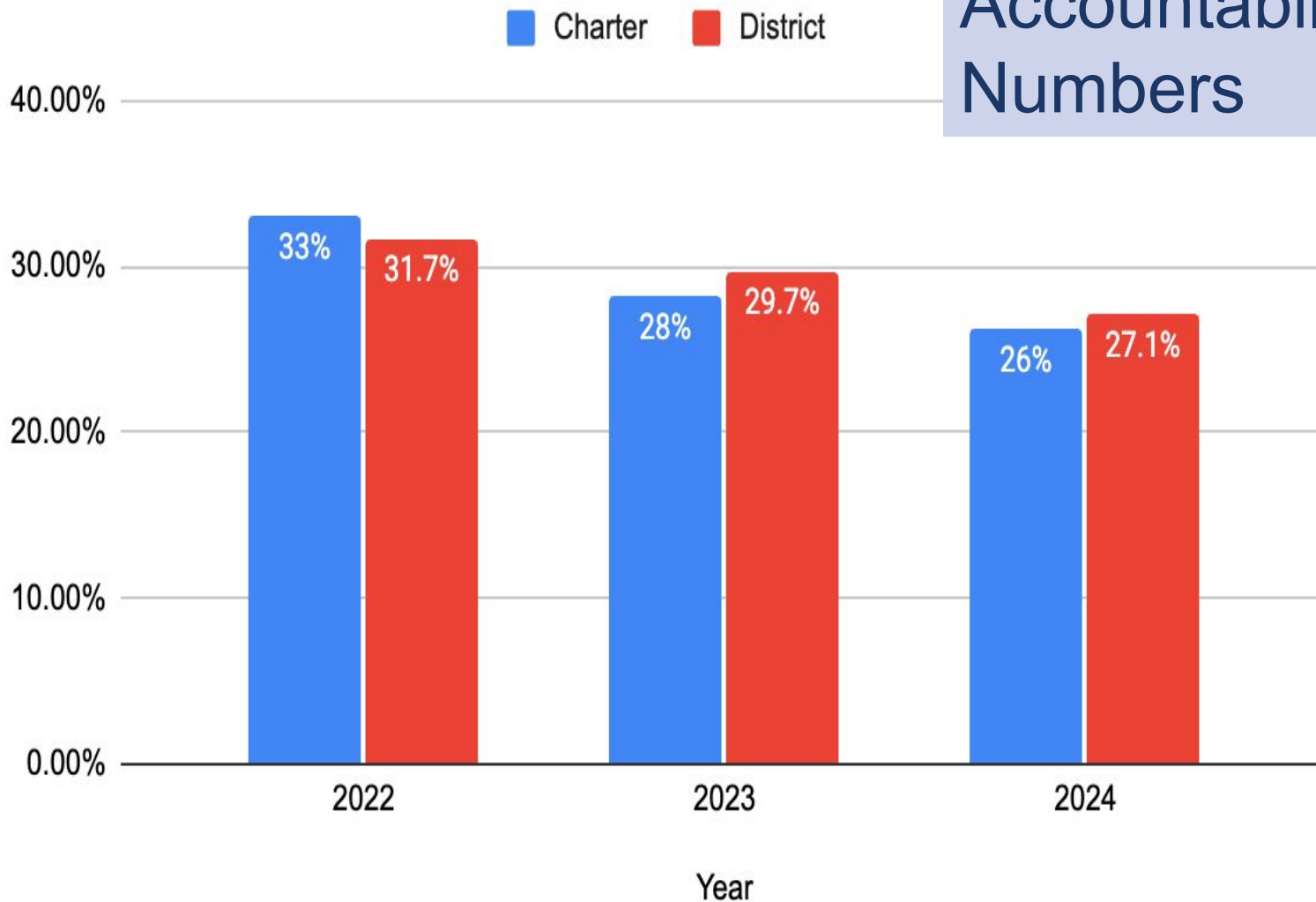
# Current Low-Performing Charter School Status

A low-performing school has a School Performance Grade of 'D' or 'F', and a growth status of 'Met' or 'Not Met.' A continually low-performing charter school is identified as low-performing in any two of the last three years. The years used for this list are the 2021–22, 2022–23 and 2023–24 school years.

Category	# of Schools	% of Open Charters
LP	51	25%
CLP	55	26%
CLP (not LP)	18	9%
Total LP or CLP	69	33%

# Percentages of Low-Performing Schools

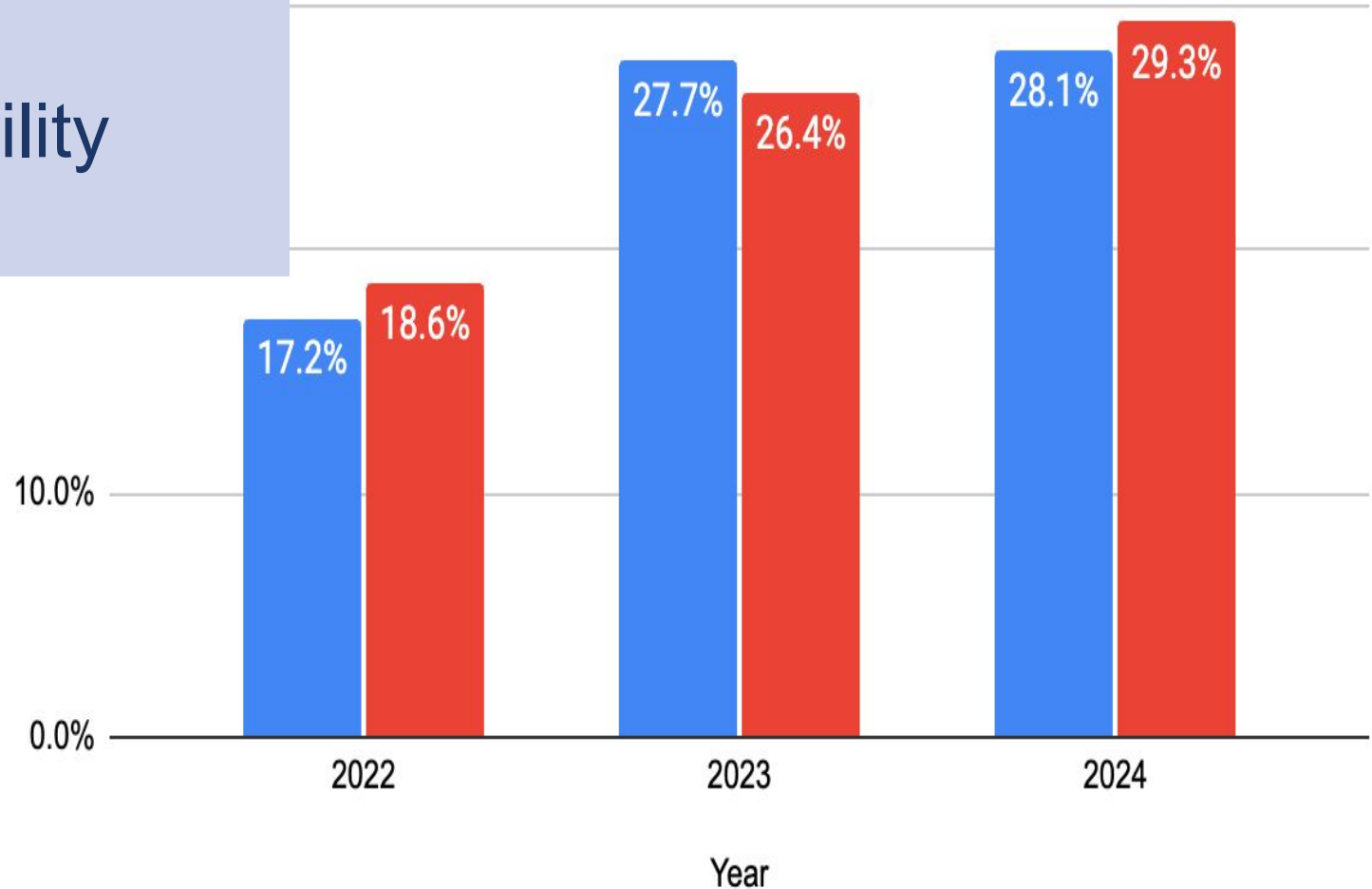
23-24SY  
Accountability  
Numbers



## Percentages of Continually Low-Performing Schools

■ Charter ■ District

23-24SY  
Accountability  
Numbers



# Funding and Community Impact

# Funding

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the allotted ADM was 156,524, equating to 10.2% of total ADM and \$1,182,929,082 in state allotted funding out of the \$12.60 billion total State Public School Budget.

State funds are allotted based on the number of students in ADM at an individual charter school. State funds may be used for any purpose with the exception of purchasing a building. Most federal funds are targeted to specific school populations such as Title I or IDEA Handicapped. Local funds are based on the local current expense appropriation in the county in which the student resides. Local funds may be used for any purpose.

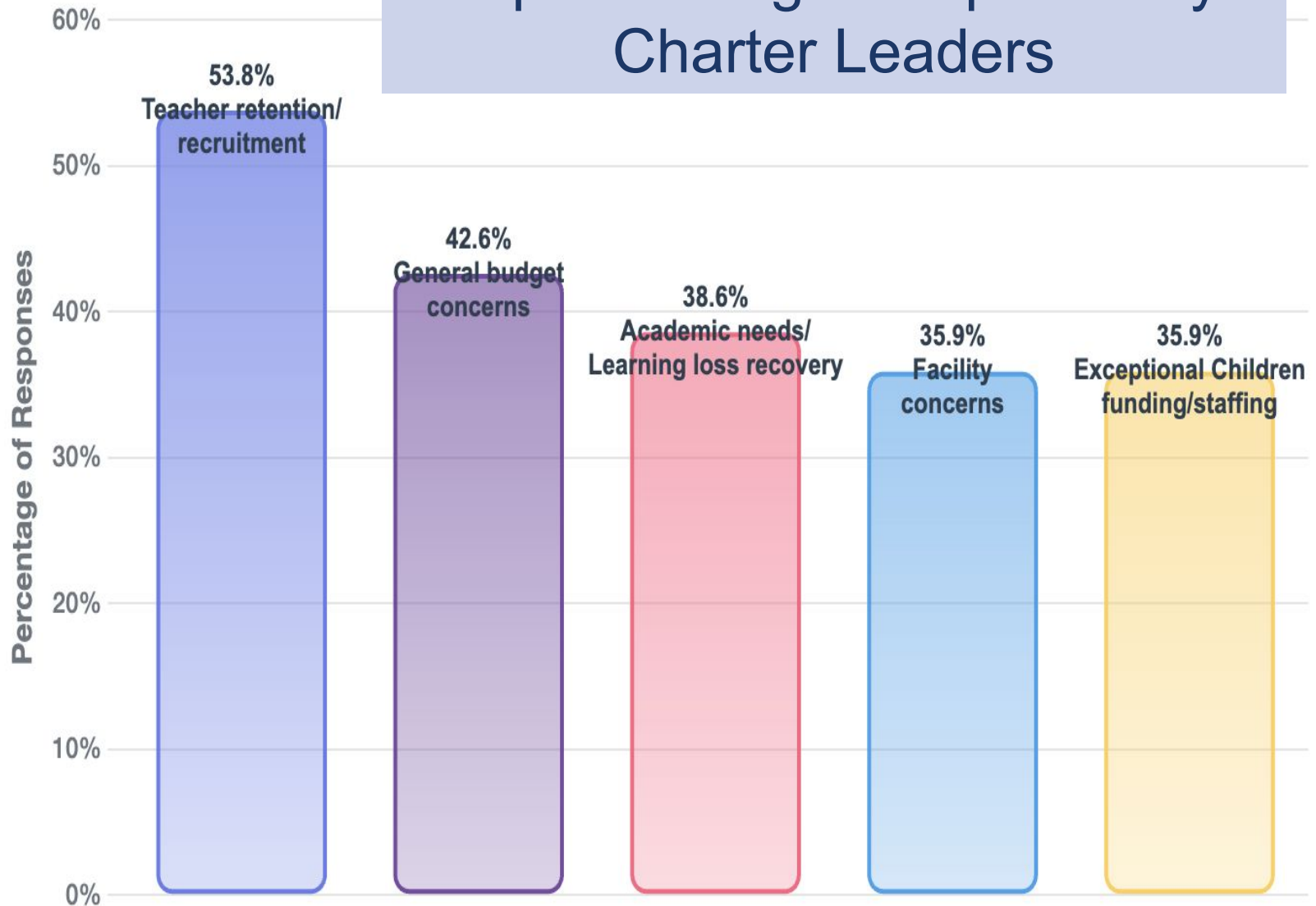
# Benefits of Charter Development

- ★ Facility renovation/restoration
- ★ Community development of underutilized areas
- ★ Job creation and economic development
- ★ Partnerships with local governments, public resources, faith-based organizations, etc.

# Challenges and Celebrations



# Top Challenges Reported by Charter Leaders



# Celebration and Innovation

A lighthouse with a glowing light inside, situated on a rocky coastline. The sun is setting in the background, creating a warm orange and yellow glow over the ocean. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a lighter orange near the horizon. The foreground shows dark, jagged rocks.

- Community Gardens and Podcast Buses
- Hoover Institute, Canopy Project, Building Hope
- Onsite Health Clinics
- Staffing Incentive and development
- Classical Learning
- Purple Star Awards
- Character, extracurricular, sports awards