Charter schools are public schools that must be authorized by the NC State Board of Education to operate. Like traditional public schools, charter schools are primarily funded through state and local tax dollars and are prohibited from discriminating in admissions, having religious affiliations, or charging tuition. “Charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system.” Because charter schools have open enrollment and often serve students from multiple counties, charter school profiles are aggregated up to the Prosperity-Zone level. In North Carolina there are 206 charter schools and 115 traditional public school districts operating 2,484 schools.

1Charter Schools. 2023. NC Dept of Public Instruction.

**Race/Ethnic Composition of Grades K-12 in North Carolina Schools, 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades K-5</th>
<th>Grades 6-8</th>
<th>Grades 9-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
<td>Traditional Schools</td>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Groups</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Hispanic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Any data item including <10 students, or any observation <5%, or >95% is not reported.

**ACADEMIC READINESS**

**How students in North Carolina charter schools are currently doing:**

- 38% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 24,962 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 37% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 34,434 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 79% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 1,079 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 20% of students are chronically absent from school; 12,271 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

North Carolina has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 478:1. 2022

2% of students drop out of high school (145 total students). 2022

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**

Students in North Carolina completed 325 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 336 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; Information Technology; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

5,011 high school students took at least one AP course (21%) (2022).

3,076 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (13%) (2022).

**COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS**

**How students in North Carolina charter schools are planning for and enrolling in college:**

- 67% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 693 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 82% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- 69% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. 2022

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates (within 12 months) for Select Groups in North Carolina Schools, 2022**

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.

**POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION**

- 86% of students who enroll persist to their second year. 2022
- 71% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. 2022