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 Central there are 69 charter schools and 16 traditional public school districts operating 534 schools.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Charter Schools</th>
<th>Traditional Schools</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>High Schools</th>
<th>Total High School Students</th>
<th>Economically Disadvantaged Students</th>
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<td>335,716</td>
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<td>127</td>
<td>9,855</td>
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<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Schools</td>
<td>31</td>
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<td>9,855</td>
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<td>Economically</td>
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<td>Disadvantaged Students</td>
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<td>34%</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

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

How students in North Central charter schools are currently doing:
- 39% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 8,895 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 39% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 12,248 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 77% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 448 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 19% of students are chronically absent from school; 4,300 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

North Central has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 461:1. 2023

1% of students drop out of high school (37 total students). 2023

How students in North Central charter schools are planning for and enrolling in college:
- 64% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 319 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
- 68% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in North Central completed 225 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (88 (39%) were industry-valued credentials) and 183 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Architecture and Construction; and Information Technology.

2,170 high school students took at least one AP test (28%) (2023).

543 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (32%) (2023).

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

- 85% of students who enroll persist to their second year. 2022
- 72% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. 2022