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 Western there are 14 charter schools and 14 traditional public school districts operating 179 schools.

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

Race/Ethnic Composition of Grades K-12 in Western 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>All Other Groups</td>
<td>Charter Schools</td>
<td>Traditional Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>25%</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 Western charter schools are currently doing:

- 43% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 1,133 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 38% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 1,817 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 91% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 20% of students are chronically absent from school; 653 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Western has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 338:1. 2022

1% of students drop out of high school (<10 total students). 2022

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Western completed ** Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 4 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Information Technology, Health Science; and **.

- 344 high school students took at least one AP course (31%) (2022).
- 138 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (13%) (2022).

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

How students in Western charter schools are planning for and enrolling in college:

- 66% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 32 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 76% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution. 2022
- 67% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. 2022

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

- 86% of students who enroll persist to their second year. 2022
- 79% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. 2022

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

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