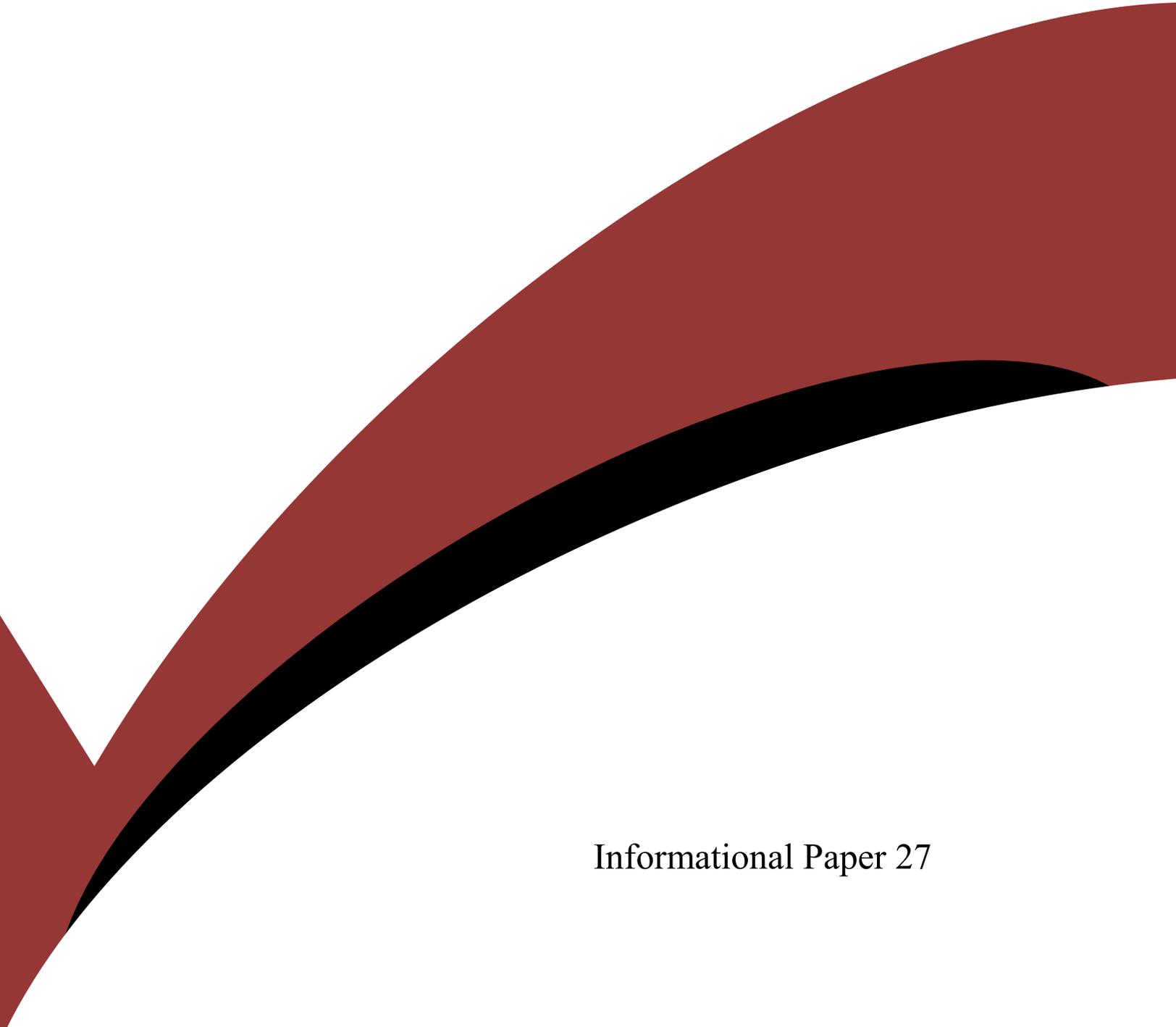


Charter Schools



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Prepared by

Russ Kava

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau
One East Main, Suite 301
Madison, WI 53703
<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lfb>

Charter Schools

The movement for charter schools emerged in the late 1980s as a strategy for education reform. Minnesota initiated the first charter school law in 1991 and California followed suit in 1992. In 1993, Wisconsin was one of six states to pass charter school legislation, enacted as part of the 1993-95 state budget (1993 Act 16). As of 2014, 42 states and the District of Columbia had enacted some type of charter school legislation.

While the specific provisions of charter school legislation vary widely among the states that have enacted it, certain characteristics are generally associated with charter schools. Charter schools are usually exempt from most laws and rules governing traditional public schools. In some cases, charter schools may also be exempt from a sponsoring school district's policies. However, it is generally required that charter schools be free of tuition, be nonsectarian, have nonselective admission policies, and abide by the same health, safety, and nondiscrimination laws that apply to non-charter schools. A public authority or sponsor, such as a local or state educational agency, usually has oversight or approval responsibilities, but a charter school may be operated by a separate entity such as a corporation or a group of teachers or parents. The school may be legally or fiscally autonomous, or it may remain a part of the school district. The schools are operated under a limited-term contract, or charter, which the sponsoring agency can revoke or not renew upon expiration.

Charter school legislation is intended to accomplish four primary objectives: (a) to encourage the development and implementation of innovative teaching methods through increased flexibility and freedom from regulations; (b) to improve the educational system as a whole by increasing competition for pupils among schools; (c) to provide increased accountability for ac-

complishing educational goals; and (d) to offer additional educational options to pupils and parents.

This paper provides: (a) a brief historical overview of Wisconsin's charter school law; (b) a description of the law as it applies to charter schools, including virtual charter schools, authorized by local school boards; and (c) information on the independent "2r" charter school program. The Appendix to this paper lists the charter schools that operated in the state in the 2013-14 school year.

Historical Overview

The Legislature created the charter school program under 1993 Act 16. Under that act, no more than 20 charter schools could be established statewide, with no more than two schools per district. School boards needed the approval of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish charter schools. In addition, newly approved charter schools were required to show significant progress toward operating by the beginning of the following school year. If it was determined that such progress was not demonstrated by a district, the State Superintendent could withdraw approval of the charter school.

Under 1995 Act 27, all of the above mentioned restrictions on the number of charter schools and requirements for approval by the State Superintendent were repealed, and a number of additional modifications to the charter school laws were made. Act 27 authorized two or more school boards to enter into a contractual agreement to establish a charter school, locating the school in just one of the establishing school

districts. In addition, school districts were allowed to distribute school funds to charter schools in the same manner used to distribute funds to any school in the district. As a result, per pupil spending for charter school pupils, may be more, less, or the same as spending for non-charter school pupils.

Under 1997 Act 27, the Milwaukee charter school program was created. Authority was provided to the City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) to create independent charter schools within the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), with the state making per pupil payments to the operators of the schools.

Further changes to the laws governing charter schools were made in 1997 Act 238. Act 238 provided that: (a) school boards are required to consider the fiscal effect on the district before establishing a charter school; (b) districts may contract with a cooperative educational service agency (CESA) to establish a charter school; (c) school districts statewide may convert private nonsectarian schools to charter schools; and (d) generally, school districts statewide are given the authority to determine whether or not staff at charter schools are school district employees.

Under 1999 Act 9, the funding for the Milwaukee charter school program was changed. Prior to Act 9, MPS could generally count pupils in these schools for revenue limits and general school aid purposes, and an offsetting aid reduction was made to the general aid that would otherwise have been paid to MPS equal to the cost of payments under the program. Under Act 9, a uniform percentage reduction was made in the general aids received by all school districts, and MPS was no longer able to count these pupils for either revenue limits or general aid.

Under 2001 Act 16, the Milwaukee charter school program was expanded to allow the Uni-

versity of Wisconsin-Parkside to establish or contract to establish an independent charter school on a pilot basis, with a maximum of 400 pupils, which was increased to 480 pupils in 2005 Act 111. This school was established in the Racine Unified School District (RUSD). DPI was also required to pay to RUSD a per pupil payment based on the number of pupils attending the charter school who were previously enrolled in the District.

In 2002-03, the first virtual charter school, Wisconsin Connections Academy, was chartered by the Appleton Area School District. Virtual charter schools offer online instruction and can enroll pupils statewide through state open enrollment program. Under open enrollment, a pupil may attend a public school outside his or her school district of residence, provided the pupil's parent complies with certain application dates and procedures and the applicable acceptance criteria are met.

The growth of virtual charter schools and the need to address a court ruling concerning their operation resulted in legislation being passed specifically dealing with such schools. A Court of Appeals' decision handed down in December of 2007 found that virtual charter schools violated state law, as it existed at the time, in three respects: (a) school districts were prohibited from operating charter schools located outside the district; (b) open enrollment students were required to attend a school in the district in which they open enroll; and (c) the parent of a virtual school pupil acts as the child's primary teacher, in violation of a requirement that public school teachers be state certified.

Under 2007 Act 222, virtual charter schools were defined in statute and regulated within the laws governing charter schools and the open enrollment program. Because such schools were already operating in Wisconsin, Act 222 largely codified current practices, added some requirements, and imposed a limit on participation in

such schools via the open enrollment program. The limit on participation was repealed under 2011 Act 32.

Under 2009 Act 28, school districts were authorized to contract with federally recognized American Indian tribes to operate charter schools. Such a school must be located within the chartering school district or within the boundaries of the tribe's reservation.

Under 2011 Act 32, the separate aid payment to RUSD related to pupils in the UW-Parkside charter school was phased-out over a two-year period, with the payment ending effective in the 2013-14 school year.

Local School Board Charter Provisions

Methods of Establishment. An unlimited number of charter schools may be formed by school districts in the state. There are two methods under which local school boards may authorize charter schools.

First, a school board may, on its own initiative, contract with a person to operate a school as a charter school. Under this process, a board may convert all of the district's schools to charter schools as long as the board provides alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to a charter school. At least 30 days before entering a contract that would convert a private school to a charter school or that would establish a charter school that is not an instrumentality of the school district, the board must hold a public hearing on the contract. At the hearing, the board must consider employee and parental support for the charter school and the fiscal impact of the charter school on the district.

Second, a school board may authorize the es-

establishment of a charter school upon receipt and approval of a written petition requesting the board to do so. The petition must be signed by at least 10% of the teachers employed by the district or by at least 50% of the teachers employed at one school in the district. The board must hold a public hearing within 30 days of receiving the petition. At the hearing, the board must consider the level of employee and parental support for the school and the fiscal impact of the charter school on the district. After the hearing, the board may grant the petition.

If the petition process is used, a school board may convert all of the district's schools to charter schools as long as the school board abides by the following two additional requirements: (a) the petition must be signed by at least 50% of the district's teachers; and (b) the school board must provide alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to a charter school.

In awarding charter school contracts, school boards are required to give preference to charter schools that serve children-at-risk.

The MPS Board is required to grant or deny a charter school petition within 30 days after a public hearing. If the MPS Board denies the petition, the person seeking to establish the charter school may, within 30 days after the denial, appeal the decision to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The Department must issue a decision within 30 days after receiving the appeal. This decision is final and not subject to judicial review.

State Notification. A school district must notify DPI of its intention to create a charter school and include a description of the proposed school in the notice. The Department does not have the authority to approve or deny charter school requests.

Legal Status of a Charter School. The law specifies, with one exception, that the school board of the school district in which a charter school is located determines whether or not the

charter school is an instrumentality of the district. If the board determines that the charter school is an instrumentality of the district, the board must employ all personnel for the charter school. If the board decides the charter school is not an instrumentality of the district, the board cannot employ any personnel for the charter school. The exception to this provision specifies that a private school located in the MPS district which is converted to a charter school is not an instrumentality of MPS; therefore, MPS cannot employ any personnel for such a charter school.

Charter School Restrictions. A charter school cannot: (a) be a converted private sectarian school; or (b) charge tuition. A charter school must be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices and all other operations.

Charter schools are also prohibited from discriminating in admission or denying participation in any program or activity on the basis of a person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. However, a school board may enter into a contract for the establishment of a charter school that enrolls only one sex or that provides one or more courses that enroll only one sex if the school board makes comparable schools or courses available to the opposite sex under the same policies and criteria of admission. Charter schools are subject to all federal laws governing education, including the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Pupil Rights. No pupil may be required to attend a charter school without the approval of his or her parents or legal guardian, or the pupil's approval if the pupil is an adult. In addition, if a charter school replaces a public school, in whole or in part, the school must give preference in admission to any pupil residing within the current or former attendance area of that public school.

Charter School Requirements. Unless specified in statute, charter schools are not subject to the provisions of Chapters 115 through 121 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which are generally the provisions that govern K-12 education. Charter schools are required to:

a. Administer state standardized pupil assessments to pupils in the required grade levels.

b. Adopt pupil academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history.

c. Develop and enforce a policy specifying criteria for promoting a pupil from 4th grade to 5th grade, from 8th grade to 9th grade, and for granting a high school diploma. A charter school cannot promote a pupil from 4th to 5th grade or from 8th grade to 9th grade unless the pupil satisfies the promotion criteria, and cannot grant a high school diploma unless the pupil has satisfied these criteria.

d. Be included in a school district's annual school performance report, DPI school accountability reports, and the statewide student information system.

e. Participate in the DPI educator effectiveness evaluation system or an alternative process in accordance with DPI administrative rule.

f. Assess pupils in pupils enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten through second grade for reading readiness.

g. Ensure that all of the school's instructional staff hold a license or permit to teach issued by DPI.

The Department has promulgated an administrative rule defining "instructional staff" to mean all professional employees who have direct contact with students or with the instructional program of the school, including teachers, librarians,

pupil services staff and administrative staff who supervise licensed staff.

In addition, DPI has established, by rule, a charter school instructional staff license. This license may be issued to an individual who holds a valid Wisconsin teaching license issued by DPI, and authorizes that individual to teach any grade or any subject outside his or her teaching license in a non-virtual charter school. An individual assigned to teach a core academic subject in a non-virtual charter school must verify that he or she has done one of the following: (a) completed a major or minor from a regionally-accredited institution in the assigned core academic subject; (b) passed a content knowledge exam prescribed by DPI in the core academic subject; or (c) demonstrated knowledge and competence in the assigned core academic subject based on an assessment process approved by DPI. An individual assigned to teach a subject that is not considered a core academic subject is eligible for this license without verification of those criteria. A charter school instructional staff license has the same term as the applicant's valid initial or professional teaching license. The license term for those holding a master educator or life license may not exceed five years.

A one-year charter school instructional staff license may be issued to an applicant who holds a valid teaching license but has not demonstrated content knowledge in a core academic subject area. The license may be issued for any assigned grade level and any assigned subject in a non-virtual charter school. To receive this one-year license, a district administrator of the employing school district or charter school must request a license on behalf of the applicant following a search for a qualified, licensed individual. This license is renewable for one-year periods if the applicant is making adequate progress toward eligibility for the charter school instructional staff license with verification that he or she has earned six semester credits each licensure term toward a content minor in his or her assigned teaching area until such time

that one of the three criteria listed above for the license has been completed.

Under 2013 Act 20, DPI is required to grant a three-year charter school teaching license to any person who has a bachelor's degree and demonstrates, based upon criteria established by DPI, that the person is proficient in the subjects that he or she intends to teach. The license authorizes the person to teach those subjects in a charter school, and is valid for three years and renewable for three-year periods. Under DPI rule, an applicant must demonstrate proficiency by verifying, for their assigned academic subjects, one of three criteria listed above for the charter school instructional staff license.

Charter School Contract. If a charter school is established through the petition process, the school board is required to contract with the person named in the petition to operate the school. If a charter school is established on the initiative of the school board, the board may contract with a person to operate the school. In addition, two or more school boards may enter into a contractual agreement to establish a charter school, locating the school in just one of the establishing school districts, and one or more school boards may enter into an agreement with the board of control of a CESA to establish a charter school, locating the school within the boundaries of the CESA.

When establishing a charter school, a school board must consider the principles and standards for quality charter schools established by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.

The contract may be for any term not exceeding five school years and can be renewed for one or more terms not exceeding five school years. In addition, the contract must specify the amount to be paid to the charter school during each school year.

The contract and the petition must include the following 15 provisions and may include other

provisions agreed upon by the parties:

1. The name of the person who is seeking to establish the charter school.

2. The name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school and the manner in which administrative services will be provided.

3. A description of the educational program of the school.

4. The methods the school will use to enable pupils to attain the state's statutory educational goals and expectations related to academic skills and knowledge, vocational skills, citizenship, and personal development.

5. The method by which pupil progress in attaining the state's educational goals and expectations will be measured.

6. The governance structure of the school, including the method to be followed by the school to ensure parental involvement.

7. The qualifications that must be met by the individuals to be employed in the school.

8. The procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of the pupils.

9. The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the school district population.

10. The requirements for admission to the school.

11. The manner in which annual audits of the financial and programmatic operations of the school will be performed.

12. The procedures for disciplining pupils.

13. The public school alternatives for pupils who reside in the school district and do not wish to attend or are not admitted to the charter school.

14. A description of the school facilities and the types and limits of the liability insurance that the school will carry.

15. The effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district.

Transportation. Charter schools are not required, under current law, to provide transportation for their pupils. Similarly, the law does not specifically include charter pupils among the pupils that school districts are required to transport. However, if the parties agree, then the contract between a charter school and school board may provide for the transportation of charter school pupils.

Charter Revocation. A school board can revoke a contract with a charter school if the board finds that any of the following occurred: (a) the school violated the contract; (b) the school's pupils failed to make sufficient progress toward attaining the state's educational goals and expectations; (c) the school failed to comply with generally accepted accounting standards of fiscal management; or (d) the school violated the charter school law.

Funding and Expenditures. As noted, the contract between the school board and the person operating the charter school must specify the amount to be paid to the charter school during each school year of the contract. The pupils enrolled in the charter school are counted by the school district for revenue limits and general aid purposes, and the contract costs are aidable under the equalization formula.

A charter school established by a school district may participate in categorical school aid and grant programs, but such participation needs to be included in the charter. A district-sponsored non-instrumentality charter school can be reimbursed for special education costs in the same manner as

other types of charter schools, if the school board contracts with the charter school to provide special education services to pupils attending the school. A charter school must comply with all requirements associated with the categorical aid program in which it participates.

Since 1996, DPI has been awarded federal grants through the U.S. Department of Education to provide funds to local school districts for charter school planning and implementation grants. The Department received three-year grants in 1996, 1999, 2002, and 2005. In 2009, DPI was awarded a five-year grant that ran through 2014 and totaled \$86.0 million. Five percent of the funding is reserved for DPI grant administration and 95% is awarded to school districts. For 2014-15, DPI has awarded approximately \$8.1 million to 51 charter schools, including: (a) eight planning grants totaling \$1.2 million; (b) 16 initial implementation grants for first-year operations of new charter schools totaling \$2.7 million; (c) 20 implementation renewal grants for second-year charter schools totaling \$3.4 million; and (d) seven dissemination or dissemination renewal grants for sharing best practices with other charter and traditional schools, totaling \$0.8 million.

Virtual Charter School Provisions

In the 2013-14 school year, 30 virtual charter schools (authorized by 26 school districts) enrolled a total of nearly 7,200 pupils. These virtual charter schools are marked with an asterisk in the list of charter schools in the Appendix to this paper.

Virtual Charter School Requirements. A virtual school is defined in statute as one in which all or a portion of instruction is provided on the Internet, and pupils and staff are geographically remote from each other.

Access to instructional staff is provided by the virtual schools, but pupils generally complete work independently under the supervision of their

parents. Teachers in virtual charter schools must be appropriately licensed by DPI in the subject and grade level for each virtual course taught. Under 2013 Act 20, DPI is prohibited from requiring professional development for an appropriately-licensed person teaching in a virtual charter school that would not otherwise be required for a similarly-licensed person teaching outside of a virtual charter school. Act 20 also repealed a prior law requirement that teachers of online courses in a public school, including a charter school, must complete 30 hours of professional development designed to prepare them for online teaching. Anyone providing educational services to a virtual charter pupil in the pupil's home who is not instructional staff employed by the school, including the pupil's parent or guardian, is not required to hold a license or permit to teach issued by DPI.

Virtual charter schools are required to provide educational services to pupils at least 150 days each school year, and instructional staff duties are enumerated. Teachers must be available for direct instruction for at least the same number of hours of instruction as are required for regular public school pupils, which varies by grade level, but no more than 10 hours per day can count towards this requirement. Teachers in virtual charter schools must respond to any inquiries by pupils and parents within one full school day. Pupils are required to participate in state pupil assessments.

The governing body of a virtual charter school must establish a parent advisory council that meets regularly. At the beginning of each school term, the governing body must inform its pupils' parents in writing of the names of, and how to contact, the school's staff and the members of the school's governing body, authorizing school board, and parent advisory council.

A virtual charter school is considered to be located in the school district that contracts for the establishment of the school. If a district enters into an agreement with another district or CESA to establish a virtual charter, the school is considered to

be located in the district specified under that agreement. If the virtual charter enrolls pupils from outside the school district, other specified requirements under the open enrollment program also apply.

Virtual Charter School Restrictions. The City of Milwaukee, UW-Milwaukee, MATC, and UW-Parkside are prohibited from establishing virtual charter schools. Like other charter schools, virtual charters are prohibited from charging tuition, except that virtual operators are required to charge tuition to out-of-state pupils enrolled in the school, in an amount equal to at least the open enrollment payment amount.

Pupils attending a virtual school are not subject to the usual compulsory school attendance requirements, but are subject to specified requirements regarding participation. Statutes define the equivalent of excused absences for virtual charter school pupils. If a pupil fails to adequately participate in the virtual school, the pupil may be transferred back to his or her resident district, or, if attending a virtual school within the resident district, to another school or program within that district. A parent or guardian may appeal such transfers to DPI.

Funding and Expenditures. If the virtual charter enrolls pupils from outside the school district, it is funded under the open enrollment program. The district of residence counts the pupil for revenue limit and general school aid purposes. The nonresident district receives a statutorily-determined per pupil transfer amount, which is equal to \$6,635 in 2014-15. The contract costs for the services of the private curriculum provider are funded by the open enrollment payments received from the pupils' school districts of residence. [For more information on this program, see the Legislative Fiscal Bureau's informational paper entitled "Open Enrollment Program."]

Independent "2r" Charter School Program

Method of Establishment. Under 1997 Act 27, the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, the Chancellor of UWM, and MATC are authorized to establish by charter and operate, or contract with a group or individual to operate, a charter school. UW-Parkside is authorized to establish by charter and operate, or contract to operate, one charter school under 2001 Act 16. These schools are sometimes collectively referred to as "independent" or "2r" charter schools. The "2r" designation is a reference to their statutory citation [s. 118.40(2r) of the statutes].

In the 2013-14 school year, 12 schools operated under UWM's chartering authority, 10 schools operated under the City's authority, and one operated under the UW-Parkside's authority. These schools are listed in the appendix to this paper. To date, MATC has not chosen to sponsor a charter school.

Notification. Each of these entities is required to notify DPI of its intention to establish a charter school by February 1 of the previous school year. The notice must include a description of the proposed school. The Chancellor of UWM may not establish or contract for the establishment of a charter school without the approval of the Board of Regents of the UW System.

Restrictions. A charter school established or contracted for by the City or MATC must be located within the boundaries of MPS. Prior to 2013 Act 20, schools authorized by UWM were also required to be located in MPS. Under Act 20, however, UWM can establish or contract to establish a school located anywhere in Milwaukee County or in an adjacent county.

Current law requires that a charter school established or contracted by UW-Parkside must be located within a unified school district in the

county in which UW-Parkside (Racine County) is located or in an adjacent county. By law, the school may not operate high school grades and has an enrollment limit of 480 pupils. The charter school overseen by UW-Parkside, the 21st Century Preparatory School, is located in the Racine Unified School District.

Prior to 2013 Act 20, attendance in a "2r" charter school was limited to pupils who resided in the district in which the school was located. Under Act 20, a pupil who resides in Milwaukee County or an adjacent county may attend any "2r" school established in Milwaukee County or in an adjacent county. (Separate statutory provisions allow for the eligibility of pupils who, in certain years, attended or had family members attend Woodlands School to continue to attend that school, regardless of the other criteria.)

Legal Status. In general, these charter schools cannot be instrumentalities of any district and no board may employ any personnel for these charter schools. However, any charter school authorized by the City of Milwaukee that is established and operated by a for-profit entity must be an instrumentality of MPS and all staff employed by the charter school must be employees of MPS.

Requirements. Independent "2r" charter schools are also generally exempt from the provisions of Chapters 115 through 121 of the Wisconsin Statutes (statutes governing K-12 education), and are generally subject to the same requirements listed above for district-authorized charter schools. These charter schools must also follow applicable federal laws. The chartering or contracting entity must give preference in awarding contracts to charter schools that serve children-at-risk. When establishing or contracting to establish a charter school, these authorizers are required to consider the principles and standards for quality charter schools established by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.

Contract. A charter for a "2r" charter school

is required to include all of the items for a petition to establish a charter school by a school board, except: (a) the name of the person who would operate the charter school; (b) the name of the person who would be in charge of the charter school and the manner in which administrative services would be provided; and (c) the effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district. A contract to operate a "2r" charter school is required to include all of the items required for a petition to establish a charter school by a school board with one exception. Instead of including a description of the effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district, the contract must specify the effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the contracting entity. A contract may include other provisions agreed to by the parties. A contract is subject to revocation by the contracting entity for the same grounds that a school board can revoke a contract with a charter school. A contract is subject to the same time limits for terms and renewals as a district-authorized charter.

Transportation. Similar to charter schools contracted by school districts, independent "2r" charter schools are not included under current law governing pupil transportation obligations. Therefore, these charter schools are not required to provide transportation for their pupils. However, if the parties agree, then the contract between a charter school and the chartering entity may provide for the transportation of charter school pupils.

Funding and Expenditures. DPI is required to pay the operators of "2r" charter schools a statutorily-specified amount per pupil. Under 2013 Act 20, the per pupil payment was set at \$7,925 in 2013-14 and \$8,075 in 2014-15. Also under Act 20, beginning in 2015-16 and in each year thereafter, the per pupil payment will equal the sum of the amount paid per pupil in the previous year plus the per pupil revenue limit adjustment for the current year, if positive, plus the

change in the amount of statewide categorical aid per pupil between the previous year and the current year, if positive. DPI is required to make payments equal to 25% of the total due to each school in September, December, February and June of each school year and send the check to the operator of the charter school. For payment purposes, "2r" pupils are counted on a full-time equivalency (FTE) basis, rather than a headcount basis. By statute, pupils in grades 1-12 are generally counted as 1.0 FTE pupil, while kindergarten pupils are counted as fractions of a pupil, generally based on the amount of educational programming provided.

These payments for the independent "2r" charter school program are funded from a sum sufficient appropriation from the general fund. By law, DPI is required to proportionally reduce the general school aid for which each school district is eligible by an amount totaling the estimated payments under the program. For the October 15, 2014, general school aid distribution, each district's general aid was reduced by 1.5% in 2014-15 to generate a statewide amount equal to the estimated \$68.6 million in "2r" program expenditures for that year.

A school district's revenue limit calculation is not affected by the "2r" charter school aid reduction. Thus, a school district can increase its property tax levy to offset the aid reduction related to this program. Pupils in a "2r" charter school are not counted by any school district for the purposes of revenue limits and aid membership.

The table shows the number of FTE pupils, the per pupil payment, and program expenditures for the "2r" program for each year since 1998-99 (including the payments to RUSD related to the UW-Parkside charter school for the relevant years).

Categorical Aid Eligibility. By statute, "2r" charter schools are also eligible for state special education and school lunch categorical aid, in

Independent "2r" Charter School Program Expenditures

	FTE Pupils	Payment	Expenditures (In Millions)
1998-99	55	\$6,062	\$0.4
1999-00	193	6,272	1.2
2000-01	1,411	6,494	9.2
2001-02	2,046	6,721	13.8
2002-03	3,360	6,951	24.2
2003-04	3,601	7,050	26.7
2004-05	4,066	7,111	30.0
2005-06	4,473	7,519	34.8
2006-07	4,826	7,669	38.5
2007-08	5,487	7,669	43.5
2008-09	5,296	7,775	42.7
2009-10	6,124	7,775	49.7
2010-11	7,159	7,775	56.9
2011-12	6,863	7,775	54.4
2012-13	7,459	7,775	58.7
2013-14	7,964	7,925	63.1
2014-15	8,500*	8,075	68.6*

*Estimated

addition to the per pupil payment, if they provide services that are eligible for reimbursement.

Status of Wisconsin's Charter Schools

Since the inception of the charter school program through the 2013-14 school year, 401 charter schools have been created. A total of 158 schools subsequently closed due to funding issues, low enrollment, failure to meet academic goals, or other issues. In 2013-14, 243 charter schools were open, chartered by 103 authorities. In total, enrollment in all types of charter schools was approximately 45,100 pupils in 2013-14.

According to DPI, 21 charter schools either closed or converted to regular public school status at the end of 2013-14, while 22 new charter schools opened for the 2014-15 school year. Therefore, 244 charter schools were operating in

the fall of 2014.

A comprehensive list of charter schools in operation in Wisconsin, including newly opened schools and those that have closed since the inception of the program, is published annually by DPI as the "Wisconsin Charter Schools Yearbook." This document can be found online at: [<http://sms.dpi.wi.gov/files/sms/pdf/2013-14yearbook.pdf>]

Using the information drawn from that publication, the Appendix lists the charter schools in operation in 2013-14 by school district or chartering authority. The September headcount enrollment of and grade levels operated by each charter school for that year are also shown. Virtual charter schools are marked with an asterisk in the Appendix.

APPENDIX

Wisconsin Charter Schools 2013-14 School Year

<u>District/Authorizer</u>	<u>School Name</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Grade Level(s)</u>
School District Authorized Charter Schools			
Albany	Albany Community Middle School	114	5-8
Appleton Area	Appleton Bilingual School	95	K-3
Appleton Area	Appleton Career Academy	108	9-12
Appleton Area	Appleton Central High School	105	6-12
Appleton Area	Appleton eSchool *	28	7-12
Appleton Area	Appleton Public Montessori	152	K4-6
Appleton Area	Classical School	486	K-8
Appleton Area	Foster (Stephen) Elementary Charter School	308	PK-6
Appleton Area	Fox River Academy	93	1-8
Appleton Area	Kaleidoscope Academy	338	6-8
Appleton Area	Odyssey-Magellan Charter School	159	3-8
Appleton Area	Renaissance School for the Arts	200	9-12
Appleton Area	Tesla Engineering Charter School	114	9-12
Appleton Area	United Public Montessori (UPM)	26	7-12
Appleton Area	Valley New School	65	7-12
Appleton Area	Wisconsin Connections Academy *	749	K-12
Ashland	Ashland Elementary Charter School	103	3-5
Augusta	Wildlands Science Research Charter School	61	6-12
Barron Area	Advanced Learning Academy of Wisconsin *	46	K4-12
Barron Area	Barron Area Montessori School	60	K4-4
Barron Area	North Star Academy	41	9-12
Beloit	Roy Chapman Andrews Academy	66	6-12
Birchwood	Birchwood Blue Hills Charter School	23	7-12
Birchwood	Birchwood Public Montessori Charter School	51	K4-6
Black River Falls	Black River Area Green School (BRAGS)	0	10-12
Blair-Taylor	School of Science, Engineering & Technology (SoSet)	71	K-6
Butternut	Promethean Charter School	2	9-12
Cameron	Cameron Academy of Virtual Education (CAVE) *	123	K-12
Chequamegon	Class ACT	5	9-12
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser	Link2Learn Virtual Charter School *	47	K4-12
Chetek-Weyerhaeuser	Red Cedar Environmental Institute	18	6-8
Columbus	Discovery Charter School	95	K-3
Cumberland	Island City Academy	40	7-12
Cumberland	Island City Virtual Academy *	13	K4-12
D C Everest Area	Idea Charter School	62	6-12
Denmark	Denmark Community School	36	7-12
Eau Claire Area	Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School	279	K4-5
Eau Claire Area	McKinley Charter School	119	6-12
Elkhorn Area	Walworth Co Educ Consortium Alternative High	80	11-12
Flambeau	Flambeau Career Charter School	4	PK-12

<u>District/Authorizer</u>	<u>School Name</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Grade Level(s)</u>
Flambeau	Whitetail Academy Charter School	12	9-12
Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac STEM Academy	93	3-5
Fond du Lac	Fond du Lac STEM Institute	57	6-8
Gillett	CRE8 Charter School *	31	K4-5
Gillett	Gillett Occupation and Leadership GOAL Charter School *	36	6-12
Glenwood City	Transitional Skills Center	7	10-12
Grantsburg	iForward *	492	6-12
Green Bay Area	John Dewey Academy of Learning	64	8-12
Greendale	Time 4 Learning Charter School	116	K4
Hartland-Lakeside J3	Hartland School of Community Learning	106	3-5
Hartland-Lakeside J3	Hartland School of Fine Arts Leadership Academy	67	K-2
Hartland-Lakeside J3	LIFE Charter School	87	6-8
Hayward Community	Hayward Center for Individualized Learning (HACIL) *	114	K4-12
Hayward Community	Northern Waters Environmental School	20	6-8
Hayward Community	Waadookodaading Charter School	57	PK-5
Highland	Highland Community Elementary School	172	K4-5
Highland	Highland Community High School	82	9-12
Highland	Highland Community Middle School	63	6-8
Hortonville	Fox West Academy	60	6-8
Janesville	Janesville Academy for International Studies	22	11-12
Janesville	Janesville Virtual Academy *	65	6-12
Janesville	Rock River Charter School	187	6-12
Janesville	TAGOS Leadership Academy	65	7-12
Kaukauna Area	New Directions Learning Community	203	K-4
Kaukauna Area	Park Community Charter School	216	K-4
Kenosha	Brompton School	216	K4-8
Kenosha	Dimensions of Learning Academy	226	K4-8
Kenosha	Harborside Academy	606	6-12
Kenosha	Kenosha eSchool K-12 *	151	K-12
Kenosha	Kenosha Sch. of Technology Enhanced Curriculum (KTEC)	469	K4-8
Kettle Moraine	KM Explore	143	K-5
Kettle Moraine	KM Global Charter School for Leadership and Innovation *	43	9-12
Kettle Moraine	KM School for Arts and Performance	135	9-12
Kiel Area	Kiel eSchool *	1	7-12
Kiel Area	Meeme LEADS Charter School	68	K4-3
Kimberly Area	Kornerstone Charter School	51	8-12
LaCrosse	Coulee Montessori Charter School	161	K4-8
LaCrosse	La Crosse Design Institute	69	6-8
LaCrosse	LaCrossroads Charter Schools (5)	50	9-12
LaCrosse	School of Technology & Arts (SOTA)	138	K-5
LaCrosse	School of Technology & Arts II (SOTA II)	36	6-8
Ladysmith Hawkins	Health Care Academy	33	9-12
Lena	Lena Education Alternative Network Charter (LEAN)	9	K-12
Little Chute Area	Little Chute Career Pathways Academy	57	9-12
Lodi	Gibraltar Charter School	5	9-10
Lodi	Ouisconsing School of Collaboration	88	3-5
Madison Metropolitan	Badger Rock Middle School	92	6-8
Madison Metropolitan	James C. Wright Middle School	255	6-8
Madison Metropolitan	Nuestro Mundo Community School	303	K-5
Manitowoc	Manitowoc County Comprehensive Charter School	11	1-8

<u>District/Authorizer</u>	<u>School Name</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Grade Level(s)</u>
Manitowoc	McKinley Academy	56	9-12
Marathon City	Marathon Venture Academy	143	6-8
Marshall	Marshall Charter School	10	10-12
Mauston	iLEAD Charter School	40	7-12
McFarland	Wisconsin Virtual Academy (WIVA) *	2,021	K-12
Medford Area	Rural Virtual Academy *	175	K4-8
Mellen	Mellen Technology Charter School	11	9-12
Mercer	Mercer Environmental Tourism	0	8-12
Merrill Area	Bridges Virtual School *	755	K4-12
Merrill Area	Maple Grove Schoolhouse	97	K-5
Merrill Area	Merrill Adult Diploma Academy	6	10-12
Middleton-Cross Plains	21st Century eSchool *	89	K-12
Middleton-Cross Plains	Clark Street Community School	94	9-12
Milwaukee	Academia de Lenguaje y Bellas Artes (ALBA)	407	K3-5
Milwaukee	Alliance School	175	7-12
Milwaukee	Banner School of Milwaukee	195	6-8
Milwaukee	Business & Economics Academy of Milwaukee (BEAM)	781	K4-8
Milwaukee	Career and Technical Education	457	9-12
Milwaukee	Carmen High School of Science and Technology	324	9-12
Milwaukee	Carmen Northwest Campus School	219	6-12
Milwaukee	Community High School	242	9-12
Milwaukee	Fairview School	642	K3-8
Milwaukee	Hawley Environmental School	341	K4-5
Milwaukee	Highland Community School	303	K3-8
Milwaukee	Hmong American Peace Academy (HAPA)	1,150	K3-12
Milwaukee	Honey Creek Continuous Progress School	402	K3-5
Milwaukee	Humboldt Park K-8 School	600	K3-8
Milwaukee	I.D.E.A.L. Charter School	257	K3-8
Milwaukee	Kathryn T. Daniels University Preparatory Academy	229	K4-9
Milwaukee	Kosciuszko Montessori Charter School	166	K3-3
Milwaukee	La Causa Charter School	808	K4-8
Milwaukee	Milwaukee College Preparatory - 38th Street	403	K4-6
Milwaukee	Milwaukee College Preparatory - Lloyd Street	493	K4-8
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Community Cyber (MC2) High School *	201	9-12
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Environmental Sciences	140	K4-5
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Excel High School	131	9-12
Milwaukee	Next Door Charter School	205	K4-K
Milwaukee	North Division High School	519	9-12
Milwaukee	Transformation Learning Community	131	11-12
Milwaukee	Universal Academy for the College Bound	596	K4-12
Milwaukee	Westside Academy I & II	535	K3-8
Milwaukee	Whittier Elementary School	201	K3-5
Minocqua J1	Creative Minds Charter School	50	3-5
Minocqua J1	Woodland Progressive School for 21st Century Citizens	48	6-8
Monona Grove	Monona Grove Liberal Arts Charter Sch. for the 21st Century	31	10-12
Monroe	Monroe Virtual High School *	123	9-12
Monroe	Monroe Virtual Middle School *	23	6-8
Montello	Forest Lane Charter School	373	K4-6
Montello	High Marq Environmental Charter School	34	7-12
Montello	Montello Junior/Senior High School	312	7-12

<u>District/Authorizer</u>	<u>School Name</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Grade Level(s)</u>
Mukwonago	Eagleville Elementary Charter School	96	1-6
Neenah	Alliance Charter Elementary	126	K-5
Nekoosa	Niikuusra Community School	7	4-8
New Lisbon	Juneau County Charter School	14	7-12
New London	Next Generation Academy	41	7-12
New Richmond	NR4Kids Charter School	233	K4
Northern Ozaukee	Wisconsin Virtual Learning (WVL) *	629	K4-12
Northland Pines	School of Options and Applied Research (S.O.A.R.)	43	5-8
Northwood	NorthStar Community Charter School	25	4-8
Northwood	Northwood Middle School/High School	195	6-12
Oconto	Bayshore Community Academy	59	5-8
Oconto	Oconto Literacy Charter School	105	K4-2
Oconto Falls	Falls Alternative Learning Site	11	9-12
Oconto Falls	New Path Charter School	11	6-12
Osceola	Osceola Charter Preschool	100	K4
Oshkosh Area	ALPs Accelerated Alternative Learning Program	26	6-8
Oshkosh Area	Jacob Shapiro Brain Based Instruction Laboratory School	276	K4-5
Oshkosh Area	Oakwood Environmental Education Charter School	479	K4-5
Portage Community	Portage Academy of Achievement	28	9-12
Portage Community	Portage Virtual School *	30	6-12
Prairie du Chien Area	Mighty River Academy of Virtual Education *	1	K-12
Racine	REAL School	319	6-12
Rhineland	Northwoods Community Elementary School	98	K4-5
Rhineland	Northwoods Community Secondary School	79	6-12
Rice Lake Area	Northern Lakes Regional Academy	44	9-12
Ripon	Catalyst Charter Middle School	138	6-8
Ripon	Journey Charter School	125	K-2
Ripon	Lumen Charter High School	57	9-12
Ripon	Quest Charter School	146	3-5
River Falls	Renaissance Charter Alternative Academy	45	9-12
River Falls	River Falls Public Montessori Academy	132	K4-6
River Valley	River Valley Elementary Studio School	68	K-5
Rosendale-Brandon	Cirrus Charter High School	29	9-12
Sauk Prairie	Merrimac Community Charter School	93	PK-5
Shawano	LEADS Primary Charter School	65	K4-2
Sheboygan Area	Central High School	207	9-12
Sheboygan Area	Elementary School of the Arts and Academics	182	K4-5
Sheboygan Area	George D. Warriner High School for Personalized Learning *	128	9-12
Sheboygan Area	George D. Warriner Middle School *	55	6-8
Sheboygan Area	I.D.E.A.S. Academy	128	9-12
Sheboygan Area	Lake Country Academy	343	K4-8
Sheboygan Area	Mosaic School	86	6-8
Sheboygan Area	Northeast Wisconsin Montessori School	30	1-6
Sheboygan Area	Sheboygan Leadership Academy	168	K4-8
Shorewood	New Horizons for Learning	17	9-12
Sparta Area	Lakeview Montessori School	171	K4-6
Sparta Area	Sparta Area Independent Learning Charter School (SAILS)	29	9-12
Sparta Area	Sparta Charter Preschool	175	K4-PK
Sparta Area	Sparta High Point Charter School	44	7-12
Spooner	SAVE Academy Area Virtual Academy *	30	K4-12

<u>District/Authorizer</u>	<u>School Name</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Grade Level(s)</u>
Stevens Point Area	C.A.R.E. (Concerned About Reaching Everyone)	31	7-9
Tomorrow River	Tomorrow River Community School	50	K4-6
Verona Area	Core Knowledge Charter School	409	K-8
Verona Area	Exploration Academy	58	9-12
Verona Area	New Century School	126	K-5
Verona Area	Verona Area International School	85	K-5
Viroqua Area	Laurel High School	34	9-12
Viroqua Area	Vernon County Better Futures High School	13	10-12
Waukesha	eAchieve Academy - Wisconsin *	906	6-12
Waukesha	Harvey Philip Alternative Charter School	97	9-12
Waukesha	Project Change Alternative Recovery School	4	9-12
Waukesha	Waukesha Academy of Health Professions	195	9-12
Waukesha	Waukesha Engineering Preparatory Academy	122	9-12
Waukesha	Waukesha STEM Academy	832	PK-8
Waupun	School for Agricultural and Environmental Studies	110	K4-6
Wausau	Enrich, Excel, Achieve Academy (EEA)	77	6-12
Wausau	Wausau Area Montessori Charter School	79	K-6
Wausau	Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy	71	9-12
Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa STEM	117	K-5
Wauwatosa	Wauwatosa Virtual Academy *	18	6-12
West Allis	Shared Journeys	14	7-12
West Bend	Pathways	50	7-12
West DePere	Phantom Knight School of Opportunity	26	7-12
Weyauwega-Fremont	Waupaca County Charter School	5	6-12
Whitewater	JEDI Virtual Charter School *	72	K-12
Whitewater	Lincoln Inquiry Charter School	358	K4-5
Whitnall	CORE 4	115	K4
Wisconsin Rapids	Mead Elementary Charter School	431	K4-5
Wisconsin Rapids	THINK Academy	<u>156</u>	K4-5
	Subtotal - School District Authorized Charter Schools	36,666	

Independent "2r" Charter Schools

City of Milwaukee	Central City Cyberschool	422	K4-8
City of Milwaukee	Darrell Lynn Hines (DLH) Academy	272	K4-8
City of Milwaukee	Downtown Montessori Academy	213	K3-8
City of Milwaukee	Escuela Verde	69	7-12
City of Milwaukee	Kings Academy	193	K4-8
City of Milwaukee	Milwaukee Academy of Science	961	K4-12
City of Milwaukee	Milwaukee Collegiate Academy	200	9-12
City of Milwaukee	Milwaukee Math and Science Academy	307	K4-7
City of Milwaukee	North Point Lighthouse Charter	277	K4-5
City of Milwaukee	Rocketship Southside Community Prep	305	K4-5
UW-Milwaukee	Bruce Guadalupe Community School	1,027	K4-8
UW-Milwaukee	Capitol West Academy	296	K4-8
UW-Milwaukee	Milwaukee College Preparatory School - 36th Street	499	K4-8
UW-Milwaukee	Milwaukee Scholars Charter School	548	K4-8
UW-Milwaukee	School for Early Development & Achievement (SEDA)	81	K3-2
UW-Milwaukee	Seeds of Health Elementary School	432	K4-8
UW-Milwaukee	Tenor High School	223	9-12
UW-Milwaukee	Urban Day Charter School	510	K4-8
UW-Milwaukee	Veritas High School	246	9-12
UW-Milwaukee	Woodlands School	335	K4-8

<u>District/Authorizer</u>	<u>School Name</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Grade Level(s)</u>
UW-Milwaukee	Woodlands School East (WSE)	100	K4-8
UW-Milwaukee	YMCA Young Leaders Academy	453	K4-8
UW-Parkside	21st Century Preparatory School	<u>443</u>	K4-8
	Subtotal - Independent "2r" Charter Schools	8,412	
	Total Charter School Enrollment	45,078	

* Virtual charter school