

## CHARTER ENROLLMENT STABLE NEAR 40,000

"The most callused aspect of the (Arkansas) education monopoly is that it willingly and deliberately forces children--except those whose parents have wealth--to attend bad schools. And it does so with financial resources taken from parents already struggling financially and at the expense of their ability to choose a better school for their sons and daughters." Policy Foundation, 1998

(October 30, 2021) Newly-released public records show 39,232 students enrolled in Arkansas conversion and open-enrollment charter schools in the 2021-22 school year. There were 40,512 students enrolled in charters in the 2020-21 school year.

Arkansas Department of Education records show 17,967 students enrolled in district conversion charters this year. A conversion school "is a public school converted to a public charter school. Conversion schools can only draw students from within the school district's boundaries," the department notes.

Another 21,265 students are enrolled in open-enrollment charters in the current school year. An open-enrollment charter is operated by "a governmental entity, an institution of higher learning or a tax-exempt non-sectarian organization," according to the department.

Charter schools have advanced as an idea since Policy Foundation analysts Allyson Tucker and Donna Watson wrote their landmark 1996 study recommending charters. They are a type of public school that is free from certain state regulations.

Following is a list from the department's website of conversion and open-enrollment charters, along with current school year enrollment counts.

### Conversion Charters

Academies at Rivercrest High School	326
Academic Center for Excellence (Cabot)	382
Academies of West Memphis	971
Adventure Online Academy (Waldron)	15
Batesville Charter High School	977
Bauxite Miner Academy	45
Blytheville High School - A new Tech School	469
Cave City	
Middle School Career and Collegiate Prep	285
Cave City High School Career & Collegiate Prep	409
Centerpoint Academy of Agriculture & Skilled Trades	28

Cross County Elementary Technology Academy	306
Cross County High School, A New Tech School	300
Don Tyson School Innovation (Springdale)	2,368
Driven Virtual Academy(Pulaski County Special)	609
Fayetteville Virtual Academy	396
Fountain Lake Charter High School	412
Fountain Lake Middle School Cobra Digital Prep	424
Harrisburg College & Career Prep	18
Harrison High School Conversion Charter	848
Hot Springs Junior Academy	820
Hot Springs World Class High School	733
Lincoln Academy	152
Mountain Home High School Career Academies	1,539
Mountainburg Middle School Brain Academy	199
North Little Rock Center of Excellence	326
Osceola STEM Academy	288
Polk County Virtual Academy (Mena)	20
Prairie Grove High School	630
River Valley Virtual Academy (Van Buren)	230
Rogers New Technology High School	677
Siloam Springs High School	1,358
Southside Charter High School	414
Southside Jr. High	515
Vilonia Pathways Academy	96
Warren Middle School	382
<b>Conversion Charters Total</b>	<b>17,967</b>

### **Open-Enrollment Charters**

Academics Plus	
Maumelle Charter Elementary	829
Maumelle Charter High School	641
Scott Charter	215
Arkansas Arts Academy	
Elementary	573
High School	618
Arkansas Connections Academy High School	3,390
Arkansas Lighthouse Academies	
Jacksonville Elementary	343
Jacksonville Flight Line	145
Jacksonville High School	239

Pine Bluff Elementary	153
Pine Bluff Middle School	59
Arkansas Virtual Academy	
High School	1,444
ESTEM	
Elementary	944
Junior High	478
High School	496
East Village Elementary	800
East Village Junior High	334
Exalt Academy of Southwest Little Rock	539
Founders Classical Academies of Arkansas	
Bentonville	781
Rogers High School	183
West Little Rock Elementary	15
West Little Rock	107
Friendship Aspire Academy of Little Rock	
Elementary	188
Middle	79
Friendship Aspire Academy of Pine Bluff	405
Friendship Aspire Academy Southeast Pine Bluff	34
Future School of Fort Smith	251
Graduate Arkansas High	141
Haas Hall Academy	
Haas Hall Academy	455
At The Lane	287
Jones Center	182
Bentonville	407
Hope Academy of Northwest Arkansas	49
Imboden Area Charter School	54
KIPP Delta	
Blytheville College Prep	238
Blytheville Collegiate High	123
Delta Elementary Literacy Academy	345
Delta College Prep	198
Delta Collegiate High	191
LISA Academy	
Arkansas Hybrid School	115
West Elementary	632
West Middle	544
West High School	451
North Elementary	740
North Middle	358

North High School	282
Springdale	347
Premier High School of Little Rock	125
Premier High School of North Little Rock	143
Premier High School of Springdale	50
Scholarmade Achievement Place	
Ivy Hill Academy	186
Nichols International Academy of Leadership	135
Prodigy Preparatory Academy of Service	69
The Excel Center	72
Westwind School for Performing Arts	63
<b>Open Enrollment Charters Total</b>	<b>21,265</b>
<b>Total Charter Enrollment</b>	<b>39,232</b>

**Sources:**

[ADE My School Info - Search \(arkansas.gov\)](https://ade.arkansas.gov/my-school-info)

[District Conversion Charters \(arkansas.gov\)](https://ade.arkansas.gov/district-conversion-charters)

[Open Enrollment Charters \(arkansas.gov\)](https://ade.arkansas.gov/open-enrollment-charters)