

# Public Charter Schools Annual Legislative Report

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# BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Charter Proposals



Charter Contracts



Continuous Oversight and Monitoring



Performance Framework



Renewal and Nonrenewal/Revocation



Public Charter School Account

# LIST OF APPROVED PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

CHARTER SCHOOL NAME	SCHOOL DISTRICT	FIRST OPERATING YEAR
Big Horn Academy	Hardin Public Schools	2025-2026 – Year 1
Billings Early College School	Billings Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Billings Multilingual Academy	Billings Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Billings Opportunity School	Billings Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Bitterroot Polytech	Hamilton School District	2024-2025 – Year 2
Bridger Charter School	Bozeman Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Bronc Fast Track Public Charter School	Frenchtown School District	2024-2025 – Year 2
Butte Pathway Academy	Butte School District	2025-2026 – Year 1
Central Montana CTE Academy	Lewistown Public Schools	2025-2026 – Year 1
CORE School at Morningside	Great Falls Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
East Helena 227 Academy	East Helena School District	2024-2025 – Year 2
Flathead PACE Academy	Kalispell Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Helena Montessori Charter School	Helena Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Libby Central Charter School	Libby Public Schools	2025-2026 – Year 1
Missoula CONNECT Academy	Missoula County Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Missoula TEACH Academy	Missoula County Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Mount Ascension Learning Academy	Helena Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Project for Alternative Learning	Helena Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Rise Charter & Distance Learning Academy	Corvallis School District	2024-2025 – Year 2
Rise Charter & Pathways Learning Academy	Corvallis School District	2024-2025 – Year 2
Rising Wolf Charter	Kalispell Public Schools	2024-2025 – Year 2
Ronan Charter Academy	Ronan School District	2025-2026 – Year 1

# 2025 ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- Required under 20-6-804, MCA: comprehensive annual review of the performance of Montana's public charter schools and assessment of the sufficiency of current funding for public charter schools and offers recommended changes in state law or policy to strengthen the system's long-term sustainability and effectiveness.
- Based on data and narratives submitted by Board of Public Education members and public charter schools, along with student performance data provided by the Office of Public Instruction.
- Findings are early indicators for future monitoring, technical assistance, and legislative consideration.

# STUDENT PERFORMANCE NOTES

Assessment data summarizes student proficiency outcomes on required statewide assessments. For elementary and middle schools, English Language Arts (ELA) and math results reflect the percentage of students' scores on the 2024-2025 MAST assessment. High school results are based on the statewide ACT taken in April 2025.

Important notes about this data:

- Compares compiled public charter school data and compiled noncharter school data
- Primary enrollment determines the school where student test results are reported
- Schools without primary enrollments receive “NA” or are blank in the proficiency tables
- Schools or subgroups with fewer than 10 students are not reported publicly
- This data represents public charter schools that opened during the 2024-2025 school year
- Only grades 3-8 and 11 participate in statewide testing

# STUDENT PERFORMANCE DATA

- Data suggests public charter schools are performing below noncharter counterparts.
- Instructional models, program structures, and goals may prioritize outcomes not measured through statewide assessments, such as proficiency-based learning, career exploration, arts instruction, and work-based learning.
- At least 50% of our public charter schools have some emphasis on engaging high risk students who have a high probability of dropping out completely or reengaging students back into the school system.
- Consider comparing a broader set of performance measures to more accurately assess success, effectiveness, and intended outcomes of schools.



# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reengagement

Innovation and  
Flexibility

Personalized  
Learning

Community  
Partnerships

Student  
Engagement

# CHALLENGES



Community Understanding and Public Awareness



Regulatory and Statutory Clarity



Start-Up Funding



Capacity Constraints

# AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT



Public Awareness



Increased Collaboration



Targeted Professional Support



Database Continuity

## SUFFICIENCY OF FUNDING



Explore start-up funding

# SUGGESTED CHANGES IN STATE LAW OR POLICY

## Clarify and Streamline

Clarify and Streamline Public Charter Law and Application Processes

## Revise

Revise Reporting Metrics

## Establish

Establish Dedicated Start-Up, Facilities Support



# CONCLUSION AND QUESTIONS!