

Funding Formula

Most states which permit charter schools determine in law how funding for charter schools will be calculated. Some states fund charter schools using a formula similar to the one used to fund traditional public schools, while others fund charter schools based on local district revenues or expenditures. Still others have a distinct formula. This report indicates the ways that states calculate funding for charter schools.

Alabama

Funding for charter schools in Alabama is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.

Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded using a resource-based funding formula that determines the cost of delivering education in a district based on the cost of the resources required to do so. For each student, charter schools receive the same amount of both state and local funding that would have been provided to the student's district of residence. Charter school funding will reflect any additional funding generated by students in certain grade levels, English-language learners, students from low-income households, and students with disabilities who attend charter schools. In addition, school districts may share funding for gifted and talented programs and for career and technical education programs in accordance with rules adopted by the state Department of Education.

In addition, charter schools will receive a proportionate share of program-specific allocations based on the share of charter students eligible for the program.

Alaska

Funding for charter schools in Alaska is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.

Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate. Charter schools in Alaska have contracts with their authorizing school districts that specifies how much funding they will receive. However, state law specifies that charters must receive at least the funding generated by the students enrolled at the charter school, excluding certain administrative costs retained by the local school district. This reflects any additional funding for English-language learners, students with disabilities, gifted and talented students, or students in career and technical education programs.

Arizona

Funding for charter schools in Arizona is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.

Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate. Charter schools in Arizona receive additional funding for students in certain grade levels and English-language learners. However, the formula for calculating charter schools does not take into account teacher experience and calculates additional funding for small schools differently.

Arkansas

Funding for charter schools in Arkansas is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.

Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based funding formula with a base amount that includes assumptions about different student-to-teacher ratios in different grade levels. Charter schools that had converted from being a traditional public school are funded by their school district in the same way as traditional public schools in their district. Charter schools that had not previously existed as traditional public schools will also receive state funding equal to what a traditional public school district will receive under the state's funding formula. Moreover, like traditional public schools, charter schools receive increased funding for English-language learners and students from low-income households. However, unlike traditional public school districts, charter schools are not eligible for funding for school districts with isolated schools.

Charter schools that had not previously existed as traditional public schools also have access to program-specific allocations available to school districts, like funding for gifted and talented students.

California	<p>Funding for charter schools in California is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools in California receive funding through a student-based funding formula, with a different base amount for different grade levels and that provides increased funding for students in certain grade levels, English-language learners, students from low-income households, and students with disabilities. Some types of charter schools are also eligible to apply for program-specific allocations, such as those for career and technical education. However, charter schools in California are not eligible for increased funding for small schools.</p>
Colorado	<p>Funding for charter schools in Colorado is calculated based on local school district revenue.</p> <p>Charter schools authorized by local school districts receive from those districts the per student revenue for their authorizing district, including both state funding and the districts' expected local contribution. They also receive a share of program-specific allocations on a per student basis, including one for English-language learners. Charter schools authorized by the state authorizer are funded based on the characteristics of all state-authorized charter schools as a whole.</p>
Connecticut	<p>Funding for some charter schools in Connecticut is calculated based on local school district expenditures, while funding for other charter schools is calculated based on a formula distinct from the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Charter schools authorized by local school districts receive funding based on the per student cost in the local school district in which the charter is located, with some types of expenditures excluded. Charter schools will also receive funding for students with disabilities from the students' district(s) of residence. In addition, the State Board of Education may approve a per-student grant to locally authorized charter schools not to exceed \$3,000 per student. Charter schools authorized by the state receive a per student payment that is currently set at \$11,250, subject to state appropriation.</p> <p>For the purposes of the calculation used to fund locally authorized charter schools, per student cost includes all expenditures, except for expenditures for land, capital construction, debt service, certain state and federal grants, adult education, and a number of other types of expenditures.</p>
Delaware	<p>Funding for charter schools in Delaware is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a resource-based funding formula that determines the cost of delivering education in a district based on the cost of the resources required to do so. Charter schools in Delaware receive the same amount of base funding for staff and for energy and other maintenance costs as traditional public schools. They also receive funding aimed at property poor school districts in the amount that their students would have generated in their district(s) of residence. In addition, charter schools receive a prorated portion of any other type of funding that is intended to be allocated on a student, employee, or school basis. Charters are also eligible for competitive grant programs, such as those awarded to charters serving high concentrations of students from low-income households or English-language learners.</p>
District of Columbia	
Florida	<p>Funding for charter schools in Florida is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate. Charter schools are funded based on the revenue per weighted student count in their local school district, including state funding, revenue from both required and discretionary local property taxes, and lottery funding. In Florida, the student count is weighted for students in certain grade levels, English-language learners, students from low-income households, and other characteristics. Charter schools receive the district's revenue per weighted student for each weighted student count attributed to the charter.</p> <p>Charter schools also receive a proportionate share of categorical program funds for eligible students and programs.</p>

Georgia	<p>Funding for charter schools in Georgia is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate, including students in certain grade levels, English-language learners, students with disabilities, gifted and talented students, and students enrolled in career and technical education programs and the cost of the resources required to deliver an education to these students.</p> <p>Charter schools also receive a proportionate share of categorical program funds, for eligible students and programs.</p>
Hawaii	<p>Funding for charter schools in Hawaii is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate. Charter schools in Hawaii may choose to receive funding through the student-based funding formula that the state uses for traditional public schools, which provides increased funding for students in certain grade levels, English-language learners, students from low-income households, and gifted and talented students. Alternatively, charter schools may propose to the State Board of Education to receive funding through an alternate student-based funding formula.</p> <p>However, charter schools will not receive funding for special education, which is provided for charter students through the state's traditional public school system.</p>
Idaho	<p>Funding for charter schools in Idaho is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools in Idaho are funded through a resource-based funding formula that determines assumes different staff ratios for students in different grade level, students with disabilities, and small schools. Charter schools are also eligible for most program-specific allocations, such as grant funding for English-language learners.</p> <p>Virtual charter schools are funded based on either students' actual hours of attendance or the percentage of coursework completed at the charter, whichever is more advantageous to the charter.</p>
Illinois	<p>Funding for charter schools in Illinois is calculated based on local school district expenditures.</p> <p>Charter schools in Illinois receive funding based on the average per student expense in the authorizing school district, in the case of locally-authorized charter schools, or in their students' district of residence, in the case of state-authorized charter schools. In calculating the average per student expense, expenditures for maintenance and operations, debt service, transportation, and staff legacy costs are included while expenditures for other programs, like summer school and adult education, are excluded. Charter schools must receive between 97% and 103% of the per student rate.</p> <p>In addition, charter schools in Illinois are eligible for any program specific allocation administered by the State Board, such as those for English-language learners.</p>
Indiana	<p>Funding for most charter schools in Indiana is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that provides a per student base grant, with increased funding for students from low-income households, students with disabilities, and others. In addition to tuition support, charter schools that were converted from a traditional public school will receive a proportionate share of state funding for students with disabilities and other program-specific allocations.</p> <p>Virtual charter schools receive 90% of the base amount, as well as increased funding for students from low-income households, students with disabilities, and students in career and technical education programs. Unlike other charter schools, charter schools focused on adult education are funded separately at \$6,750 per student.</p>
Iowa	<p>Funding for charter schools in Iowa is not subject to a specific calculation.</p> <p>Iowa state law does not specify how charter schools should be funded. Charter schools are considered part of local school districts for funding purposes and the local school district may fund charters as it does any other school within its district. However, charter schools must submit its financial plans as part of its application for a charter.</p>

Kansas	<p>Funding for charter schools in Kansas is not subject to a specific calculation.</p> <p>Kansas state law does not specify how charter schools should be funded. Charter schools are part of local school districts and the local school district may fund charters as it does any other school within its district. However, charter schools must submit a proposed school budget as part of its petition for establishment.</p>
Kentucky	<p>Funding for charter schools in Kentucky is not subject to a specific calculation. Kentucky does not currently have any charter schools, and its previous policy on charter funding ended in 2018.</p> <p>Prior to 2018, funding for charter schools in Kentucky would have been based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p>
Louisiana	<p>Funding for charter schools in Louisiana is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate and the cost of the resources required to deliver an education to these students. Charter schools in Louisiana receive a base funding amount per student and increased funding for students in certain grade levels, English-language learners, students from low-income households, and other characteristics. In addition, charter schools will receive a per student share of any state program-based allocations which are distributed on a per student basis.</p>
Maine	<p>Funding for charter schools in Maine is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate and the cost of the resources required to deliver an education to these students. Charter schools in Maine receive a base funding amount and increased funding for students from low-income households, English-language learners, and other student characteristics. Base costs vary in Maine by district, depending on the cost of resources in the district's geographic region. Charters are usually funded using the base cost of their students' district of residence, and for charter schools that serve students from more than one district of residence, the base cost is calculated based on the share of students that come from each district.</p> <p>In addition, charter schools also receive program-specific allocations for any gifted and talented students and students with disabilities they serve.</p>
Maryland	<p>Funding for charter schools in Maryland is calculated based on local school district expenditures.</p> <p>Maryland state law requires that charter schools should be funded at a rate commensurate with other schools in the district. Based on this requirement, the Maryland State Board of Education has established guidance to local school system authorizers to calculate charter funding based on the local school district's total operating budget per student count. Certain parts of the budget, such as debt service and funding for adult education, are excluded from the calculation, and any state and federal funding for which the charter is not eligible is subtracted at the end of the calculation.</p>
Massachusetts	<p>Funding for charter schools in Massachusetts is calculated based on a formula distinct from to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Massachusetts calculates per student funding for charter schools through several components: Charter schools receive a per student formula amount, calculated separately for each school district sending students to the charter. This amount is then increased by a percentage which reflects the amount by which sending district's actual spending exceeds their formula amount, excluding some types of spending such as health care costs for retired district employees. Finally, charters also receive a separate form of funding to cover facilities costs.</p>

Michigan	<p>Funding for charter schools in Michigan is calculated based on a formula distinct from the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Charter schools in Michigan receive either the base per student funding equal to that of the district where the school is located or the state maximum charter school allocation, whichever is less. Virtual charter schools receive the base per student funding equal to that of the district that authorized the school or the state maximum, whichever is less. The state maximum charter school allocation is calculated each year. For 2018-2019, the maximum charter school allocation is \$7,871.</p> <p>However, like traditional public schools, charter schools are eligible for increased funding for students with particular needs, such as English-language learners and students from low-income households.</p>
Minnesota	<p>Funding for charter schools in Minnesota is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based funding formula, adjusted for certain student characteristics, like grade level, English-language learners, and students from low-income households. For some types of funding, including funding for English-language learners and students from low-income households, the charter school's level of funding is calculated separately for each charter, based on the characteristics of the charter students. For other types of funding, like for gifted and talented programs and for schools in sparsely populated areas, charter schools receive the per student state average for those types of funding.</p> <p>In addition, charter schools receive state funding meant to compensate for property wealth disparities, in an amount that depends on the charter students' district(s) of residence.</p>
Mississippi	<p>Funding for charter schools in Mississippi is calculated based on local school district revenue.</p> <p>Charter schools receive a per student amount equivalent to the per student state funding in the school district in which the charter school is located and a proportionate amount of the local property tax revenue in the district where the charter school student resides. Charter schools will also receive a proportionate share of funding from program-specific allocations, including special education, vocational, and gifted and alternative school programs.</p>
Missouri	<p>Funding for charter schools in Missouri is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based funding formula, adjusted for regional costs in their students' school district of residence and weighted for student characteristics, including for students from low-income households, for English-language learners, and for students with disabilities. Charter schools in Missouri also receive a share of local property tax revenue in their students' district(s) of residence, based on a student count weighted for these same characteristics.</p>
Montana	<p>Montana does not have a law establishing charter schools.</p> <p>The State Board of Public Education in Montana has established a process whereby school districts may apply to have one of their schools designated a charter. However, Montana has no state law pertaining to charter schools or charter school funding. Schools designated as a charter would continue to be funded in the same way as traditional public schools.</p>
Nebraska	<p>Nebraska does not have a law establishing charter schools.</p>
Nevada	<p>Funding for charter schools in Nevada is calculated based on local school district revenue.</p> <p>The state provides to charter schools, on a per student basis, the state and local funds that would have been due to the charter students' district(s) of residence. The state provides local funding directly to charter schools in Nevada by withholding an equivalent amount of state aid for school districts that send students to charters.</p>

New Hampshire	<p>Funding for some charter schools in New Hampshire is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools, while funding for other charter schools is calculated based on local school district expenditures.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools authorized by the state are funded through a student-based funding formula, with additional funding for English-language learners, students from low-income households, and for third grade students who score below proficiency in reading. In addition, state authorized charter schools will receive an additional \$3,411 per student, beginning in 2018-19. Charter schools authorized by local school districts receive at least 80% of the per student cost in the district. The state Department of Education will determine the cost per student in each district based on data of district expenditures reported to the state.</p>
New Jersey	<p>Funding for charter schools in New Jersey is calculated based on local school district revenue.</p> <p>Charter schools receive 90% of per student revenue in their students' district(s) of residence, including the state funding and revenue raised from the local taxes. In addition, school districts will pay to the charter school the state special education funding attributable to charter students who reside in their district.</p>
New Mexico	<p>Funding for charter schools in New Mexico is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based funding formula, which provides increased funding to some categories of students, such as English-language learners, students from low-income households, gifted and talented students, and others. Charter schools also receive a share of revenue raised by local school districts.</p>
New York	<p>Funding for charter schools in New York is calculated based on local school district expenditures.</p> <p>Charter schools receive a sum of funding for each student that is based on approved operating expenditures in the student's district of residence. A district's approved operating expenditures reflects the day-to-day cost of operating the school and excludes capital outlay and debt service for building construction, transportation costs, and certain program-specific allocations. Charter schools also receive a supplemental amount for each student, as determined by the state legislature.</p>
North Carolina	<p>Funding for charter schools in North Carolina is calculated based on local school district revenue.</p> <p>Charter schools receive the average per student formula amount in the school district where the charter is located. However, students with disabilities and English-language learners are withheld from this calculation, and charter schools are funded for the actual number of such students attending the charter, based on the state's funding formula. In addition, charter schools receive a per student share of appropriations from county property taxes and any supplemental taxes levied on behalf of the school district.</p>
North Dakota	<p>North Dakota does not have a law establishing charter schools.</p>
Ohio	<p>Funding for charter schools in Ohio is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate. Brick-and-mortar charter schools receive additional funding for students from low-income households, English-language learners, students with disabilities, and for career and technical education programs. If they serve students from school districts with low property values and resident incomes, charter schools also receive one fourth of the additional per student funding. However, charter schools do not receive additional funding for gifted and talented students or additional funding for communities with less property wealth. Virtual charter schools receive fewer components of the formula. In particular, virtual charter schools do not receive additional funding for students from low-income households, for English-language learners, or for serving communities with concentrated poverty.</p> <p>Funding for students from low-income households and for schools with concentrated poverty is calculated based on the characteristics of the students' district(s) of residence rather than the characteristics of the charter school.</p>

Oklahoma	<p>Funding for charter schools in Oklahoma is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that applies weights for students in certain grade levels, English-language learners, students from low-income households, students with disabilities, and gifted students. In addition, charter schools are eligible for program-specific allocations.</p>
Oregon	<p>Funding for charter schools in Oregon is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate. Charter schools authorized by a local school district receive from that district 80% of the school district's weighted per student funding for students in grades K-8, and 95% for students in grades 9-12. Charters that are authorized by the State Board of Education will receive, from the school district where they are located, 90% of the district's weighted per student funding for students in grades K-8, and 95% of the district's per student funding for students in grades 9-12. As with that of traditional public schools, charter schools' student count is weighted to provide increased funding for English-language learners, students from low-income households, students with disabilities, and other student groups.</p> <p>Local school districts may also share local funds with charter schools.</p>
Pennsylvania	<p>Funding for charter schools in Pennsylvania is calculated based on local school district expenditures.</p> <p>Charter schools receive payments based on the per student expenditures in the charter students' district(s) of residence, including funding raised from local taxes. The per student expenditure includes all general fund expenditures, excluding expenditures for special education, adult education, transportation, facilities acquisition, construction or improvement, and other costs. For students with disabilities, the charter school receives the per student payment for non-students with disabilities, plus an additional amount based on the district's special education expenditure.</p>
Rhode Island	<p>Funding for charter schools in Rhode Island is calculated based on local school district expenditures.</p> <p>Charter schools in Rhode Island will receive funding based on the per student cost in the district(s) of residence of the charter students. The state must provide at least 30%, while local school districts must provide the remainder.</p> <p>Additional funding may be allocated to charter schools from the sending district if the charter school serves a higher share of free or reduced price lunch eligible students, English-language learners, and students with disabilities than the district as a whole. The state commissioner will set out rules for how this may happen.</p>
South Carolina	<p>Funding for some charter schools in South Carolina is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools and funding for other charter schools is calculated based on a formula distinct from the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools authorized by local school districts receive funding based on the characteristics of the students they serve, with multipliers applied to their student count for English-language learners, students from low-income households, students with disabilities, gifted students, and students in career and technical education programs. For each weighted student count, these locally authorized charter schools receive the total revenue per weighted student count in their authorizing school district. Meanwhile, charter schools that are authorized by the state or by an institution of higher learning are funded as directed by the state legislature.</p>
South Dakota	<p>South Dakota does not have a law establishing charter schools.</p>
Tennessee	<p>Funding for charter schools in Tennessee is calculated based on local school district revenue.</p> <p>For each student that they serve, charter schools will receive an amount that is equal to the total per student funding in the district in which the charter school operates. The total per student funding in the district includes most state and local funding, including tax revenue raised by local school districts.</p>

Texas	<p>Funding for some charter schools in Texas is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools, while funding other charter schools is not subject to a specific calculation.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools authorized by the State Commissioner of Education are funded through a student-based formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate. These include English-language learners, students from low-income households, students with disabilities, gifted and talented students, and students participating in career and technical education programs. Charter schools authorized by local school districts operate as schools within the district, and funding for them is not subject to a specific calculation.</p> <p>While for traditional public school districts, funding is adjusted based on regional cost of characteristics, district size, and sparsity, state authorized charters are adjusted based on the state average on these measures.</p>
Utah	<p>Funding for charter schools in Utah is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a student-based formula that considers the characteristics of students they educate. Charter schools receive increased funding for students with particular needs, including students with disabilities and students in career and technical education programs. Charter schools are also eligible for program-specific allocations for at-risk students including English-language learners and students from low-income households, and to reduce class sizes for students in grades K-8.</p> <p>However, unlike traditional public schools, funding for charter schools is subject to a different system of providing increased funding for students in certain grade levels. In addition, charter schools are not eligible for funding for necessary small schools.</p>
Vermont	<p>Vermont does not have a law establishing charter schools.</p>
Virginia	<p>Funding for charter schools in Virginia is not subject to a specific calculation.</p> <p>Virginia state law does not specify how charter schools should be funded. Charter schools are part of local school districts and the local school district may fund charters in accordance with the agreement it reaches with its charter school(s). State law suggests that per student funding for charter schools should be commensurate with the average per student cost within the district, and that charter schools should receive a proportionate share of program-specific allocations. However, it does not require the district and charter to arrive on these terms.</p>
Washington	<p>Funding for charter schools in Washington is calculated based on a formula similar to the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools.</p> <p>Like traditional public schools, charter schools are funded through a resource-based funding formula that determines the cost of delivering education in a district based on the cost of the resources required to do so. Charter schools will be funded using the same student to resource ratios as traditional public schools, including those that provide increased resources for students in certain grade levels, English-language learners, and others. Charter schools are also eligible for program-specific allocations, including those that provide additional funding for English-language learners, students from low-income households, students with disabilities, and gifted and talented students.</p>
West Virginia	<p>West Virginia does not have a law establishing charter schools.</p>
Wisconsin	<p>Funding for some charter schools in Wisconsin is calculated based on a formula distinct from the one used to calculate funding for traditional public schools, while funding for other charter schools is not subject to a specific calculation.</p> <p>Charter schools authorized by entities other than local school districts, such as institutions of higher education and eligible cities and counties, receive a per student amount in state law. For the 2018-19 school year, the amount is \$8,619. Meanwhile, charter schools authorized by local school districts are largely funded through their local school district in the same way that traditional public schools are. For charter students who reside outside of the district that authorized the charter school, a per student amount is withheld from the student's resident district's state funding and paid to the authorizing district.</p> <p>The state covers the cost of funding charter schools authorized by entities other than local school districts, by proportionally reducing state aid payments for all school districts or by having the districts where charter students reside bear the cost.</p>

Wyoming

Funding for charter schools in Wyoming is not subject to a specific calculation.

Charter schools in Wyoming are part of the district where they are located, and they receive funding based on an agreement between the charter and the school district. However, state law does specify that discussions on such a funding agreement should begin under the assumption that charters will receive 100% of the formula amount generated by the charter's student count, 100% of the maintenance funding generated by the charter's square footage, and 100% of funding for staff costs based on its payroll.

More information on states' general funding formulas can be found at funded.edbuild.org

For a complete list of primary sources, please see the appropriate state page at charters.funded.edbuild.org

