

Is a charter school part of a local education agency (LEA) or its own LEA?

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At the present time, 39 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have enacted charter school laws, so this database contains information only for them. It does not contain any information for the 11 states that have not enacted charter school laws.

Maintenance of this database is a collective effort between ECS and the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Please contact Molly Ryan, 303.299.3614 or mryan@ecs.org with questions or comments about the database.

Is a charter school part of a local education agency (LEA) or its own LEA?

Alaska	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Arizona	A charter school is its own LEA.
Arkansas	A conversion charter school is part of an LEA. An open enrollment charter school is its own LEA.
California	A charter school may choose to be a part of an LEA or its own LEA.
Colorado	A charter school approved by a local school board is part of the LEA. A charter school approved by the state charter school institute is part of the state charter school institute (an LEA).
Connecticut	A charter school is its own LEA. However, for special education purposes, a charter is part of the school district LEA in which it is located.
Delaware	A charter school is its own LEA.
District of Columbia	A charter school is its own LEA, except that for special education purposes it may choose to be part of the local school district.
Florida	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Georgia	A district-authorized charter school is part of the local school district. A state-authorized charter school is its own LEA.

Hawaii	A charter school is part of the LEA that is the state-wide school district.
Idaho	A charter school that is approved by a local school board is part of an LEA. A charter school that is approved by the state public charter school commission is its own LEA.
Illinois	A charter school that is approved by a local school board is part of an LEA. A charter school that is approved on appeal by the state board of education is its own LEA.
Indiana	A charter school is its own LEA.
Iowa	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Kansas	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Louisiana	A locally-approved charter school is part of an LEA. A state-approved charter school is its own LEA.
Maryland	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Massachusetts	A commonwealth charter school, which is approved by the state board of education, is its own LEA. A Horace Mann charter school, which is approved by the local school committee and the local teachers union (the charter is granted by the state board of education), is its own LEA for most purposes (including reporting of enrollment and assessment data and grant allocations), although some aspects of its legal status are determined through negotiations with the school district.
Michigan	A charter school is its own LEA.
Minnesota	A charter school is its own LEA.
Missouri	A charter school is its own LEA.
Nevada	A charter school is part of an LEA.
New Hampshire	A charter school is its own LEA.
New Jersey	A charter school is its own LEA.
New Mexico	A charter school is part of an LEA.
New York	A charter school is its own LEA, except that for special education purposes it is part of an LEA.

North Carolina	A charter school is part of the LEA in which it is located.
Ohio	A charter school is its own LEA.
Oklahoma	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Oregon	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Pennsylvania	For certain situations, a charter school is its own LEA; for other situations, it is part of an LEA.
Puerto Rico	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Rhode Island	A charter school is its own LEA.
South Carolina	A charter school organizes as non-profit organization, but is part of an LEA.
Tennessee	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Texas	A school district-approved charter school is part of an LEA. A state board of education-approved charter school, called an open-enrollment charter school, is its own LEA.
Utah	A charter school that is approved by a local school board is part of an LEA. A charter school that is approved by the state charter school board is its own LEA.
Virginia	A charter school is part of an LEA.
Wisconsin	A charter school that is authorized by the city of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and the Milwaukee Area Technical College is its own LEA. A charter school that is sponsored by a local school board may be either part of an LEA or its own LEA. Charters that are part of the LEA that is the school district are known as instrumentality charter schools, and their employees are employees of the school district. Charters that are their own LEA are known as non-instrumentality charter schools, and their employees are not employees of the school district.
Wyoming	A charter school is part of an LEA.

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