



# Fast Facts: SUNY Authorized Charter Schools

SUNY is the Largest University-Based Charter School Authorizer in the U.S.

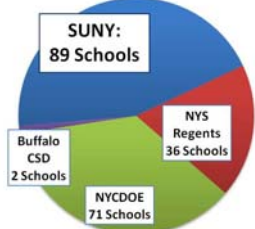
U-Based Authorizers by # of Schools Authorized:

1. SUNY (89)
2. Central Michigan University (55)
3. Bay Mills Community College (44)
4. Ohio Council - University of Toledo (40)
5. Ball State University (35)



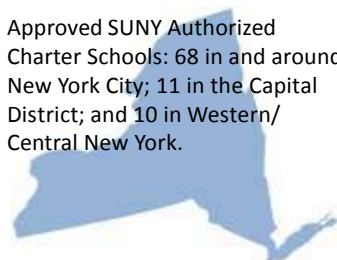
SUNY is the Largest Charter School Authorizer in New York State.

Number of Approved Charter Schools

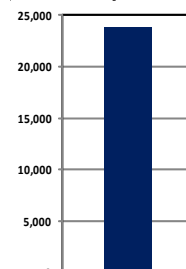


89

Approved SUNY Authorized Charter Schools: 68 in and around New York City; 11 in the Capital District; and 10 in Western/Central New York.



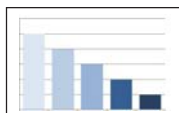
22,384



Students in SUNY Authorized Charter Schools (2010-11).

Five!

Total Enrollment in SUNY Charter Schools is Equal in Size to the 5th Largest School District in NYS— Behind New York City, Buffalo, Rochester and Yonkers!



77%

Students in SUNY Authorized Charter Schools that Qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch.

SUNY Charter Schools Primarily Serve Students Historically Underserved in New York State.

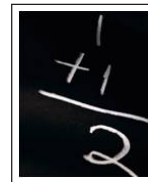
42,000

Students on Waiting Lists for Admission to SUNY Authorized Charter Schools.



1,046

Number of Teachers in SUNY Authorized Charter Schools.



820

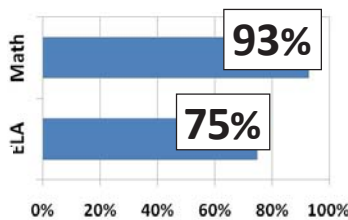
Community Members Serving on the Boards of Trustees of SUNY Charter Schools.

1 : 1.2

One Local SUNY Charter School Board for Every 1.2 SUNY Authorized Charter Schools.

75+

On Average, at Least 75% of Students in SUNY Charter Schools for 2+ Years Scored At or Above Proficiency on the 2009-10 State Exams in ELA and Math; a Required Goal in SUNY Academic Accountability Plans.



% of Students in SUNY Charters for 2+ Years Scoring At or Above Proficiency on State Exams.

SUNY Authorized Charter Schools Outperformed their Charter Peers on the 2009-10 State Exams in ELA and Math.

Data from the January 2010 CREDO Study Shows that SUNY Charter Schools Produce Greater Gains in Student Achievement than Any Other Public School in New York City (Charter or Non-Charter).



In 2010, SUNY was Recognized as Having the "Best Application Process" for Creating New Charter Schools by the National Association of Charter School Authorizers.

331

Applications for New Charter Schools Received by SUNY.

98

Applications Approved by SUNY. Of those Approved, 1 Did Not Open.

9

Schools Closed by SUNY for Failing to Meet Accountability Plan Goals.

In 2010, the U.S. Dept. of Education Released the Research Behind President Obama's Proposal for Reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The Document Entitled *Fostering Innovation and Excellence* Featured SUNY Charter School Policies and Practices for Approving New Schools, Oversight and Renewal.

198

Detailed Charter School Profiles Found on the Website of the SUNY Charter School Institute:

[www.newyorkcharters.org](http://www.newyorkcharters.org)



Updated April 2011



# Charter Schools Institute

*The State University of New York*

## SUNY as a Charter School Authorizer

The New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 named the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (SUNY Trustees) as one of two statewide chartering entities or “authorizers,” along with the New York State Board of Regents. The act gives each organization the authority to grant 230 charters for the purpose of organizing and operating independent and autonomous public charter schools who must apply to renew their charter (contract) at the end of each charter term (maximum length of a NYS charter term is five years). Each authorizer has ongoing responsibility for the approval of new schools, oversight and evaluation of approved schools, and review of each school’s application for charter renewal. SUNY authorized its first charter schools in 1999.

### *Leading the Way for Authorizers in New York and Nationally Since 1999*

- **SUNY Trustees Create the Charter Schools Institute in 1999.**
  - Organization dedicated to quality authorizing
  - Works on behalf of, and makes recommendations to, the SUNY Trustees
  - Practices to uphold SUNY’s high standards
  - Committed to holding schools accountable while respecting their autonomy
  - Staffed by nationally recognized education and charter school experts
- **Rigorous process for new school applicants.**
  - Proposal questions in 6 key areas and required completion of SUNY curriculum framework
  - Proposals reviewed by Institute staff and external panel of national experts
  - Planning teams interviewed by Institute staff
  - Proposed board interviewed by SUNY Trustees
  - Process supports innovative models
- **Comprehensive on-site school evaluation.**
  - Classroom observations conducted through the lens of SUNY’s renewal standards
  - Interviews with parents, teachers, school leaders, and board members
- Review of lesson plans, curriculum documents, student work
- Review of professional development plans, support for teachers, instructional leadership
- Visits result in comprehensive public reports
- **SUNY designed Academic Accountability Plans.**
  - Required for all SUNY charter schools; incorporated into each charter contract
  - Focused on outcomes, student achievement
  - Required measures for: absolute performance; student growth; and performance compared to similar schools statewide. For high schools, additional measures for annual promotion and graduation; and, for college prep schools, for college admission, enrollment and success.
  - Extent to which plan goals have been met is a key consideration at renewal
- **Fiscal and legal oversight.**
  - Comprehensive evaluation of school fiscal health on a quarterly and annual basis
  - First online fiscal dashboard allowing public access to current and historical fiscal data and Institute analyses of all SUNY charter schools
- Administration of state and federal grants; over \$24 million in federal funds infused into NYS through SUNY charter schools since 2004
- Innovative charter agreements that affirm high standards and foster autonomy and flexibility
- Pre-opening and ongoing legal/charter compliance review
- Solution oriented approach
- **Policies and practices for charter renewal.**
  - SUNY’s Renewal Benchmarks detail for schools expected performance in: academic success; organizational effectiveness; fiscal soundness; and achievable future plans
  - Clear standards, high expectations
  - Willingness to close underperforming schools
- **One of the most comprehensive authorizer websites at: [www.newyorkcharters.org](http://www.newyorkcharters.org)**
  - Committed to transparency; all policies online
  - SUNY school profiles include all analyses of academic performance, school evaluation and charter renewal reports, fiscal data, links to the fiscal dashboard, and more!

## A Sampling of Innovations: SUNY Authorized Charter Schools

- Expeditionary Learning™ program
- E.D. Hirsch’s Core Knowledge® program
- Dr. Caleb Gattegno’s student centered ‘Subordination of Teaching to Learning’
- Preparation for the International Baccalaureate Programme
- Inclusionary instruction where at least 50% of students have special education needs
- Multi-aged classrooms
- Student portfolios as key assessments
- Environmental focus throughout curriculum
- Arts infused throughout the curriculum
- Dual-language programs
- Single gender schools at the elementary, middle, and high school levels
- Programs aimed to meet the needs of those in the child welfare system
- Programs aimed at over-age, under-credited students
- At-risk admissions priority for students who are English language learners, who qualify for free or reduced lunch, who reside in public housing
- College defined as a priority in Kindergarten
- College visits beginning in elementary schools
- Students are “scholars” and “academic athletes”
- Early and frequent assessment to support data-driven instruction
- Teacher-driven curriculum development, review and revision
- Merit pay for teachers
- Parent membership on school boards of trustees
- Extended school day and school year
- More time on math and English language arts
- Character education
- Schools partnering with nationally recognized networks including: Achievement First; Green Dot; Icahn Charter Schools; Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP); New Visions; Success Charter Network; Uncommon Schools; Village Academies; and more.