# How do charter schools work in Nashville?

Charter schools are independently operated public schools managed by a board of directors and authorized by a local or state entity. In Tennessee, charter schools are not required to follow the policies and rules of local boards of education but are required to publicly report on student performance.

The nuts and bolts of charters in Tennessee

#### **Public**

All charter schools are public schools and must be open enrollment

#### Non-profit

TN state law requires all charters to be non-profit

### Non-religious

Charter schools cannot have a religious affiliation of any kind in TN

#### Urban

Of TN's 114 charter schools, all but 9 are in Nashville (32) or Memphis (73)

TN law allows charters to be approved for 10-year terms, at which point they can apply for renewal through their authorizer.

## Nashville's charter landscape

#### Authorizers (the entity that approves the charter)











of MNPS students are in MNPS charter schools (~13,400) in the 22-23 school year

## **Origin and Responsibilities**

Since 2002, when TN passed its first charter legislation, the MNPS School Board has been the primary authorizer of charter schools in the

Since 2011, the state-run Achievement School District (ASD) has had the authority to take over low-achieving schools and authorize new charters to lead a turnaround effort. If ASD schools improve, they are eligible to exit the ASD and roll under the Tennessee Charter School Commission portfolio.

The TN Public Charter School Commission authorizes charters on appeal and Achievement School District transfers. They have also assumed authorizing authority for former State Board of Education-approved schools.

# of schools

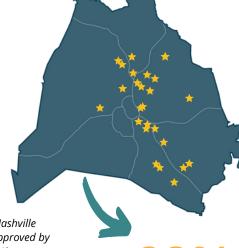






years

**Charters are more prevalent** in East and South Nashville



of the state's charter schools are in Nashville

Since 2002, 6 MNPS charter schools have been closed for poor performance or under-enrollment and three charter schools have been consolidated into one.



























KIPP, Lead, and Republic operate just under half of the district's charters

| Student demographics in MNPS Schools |                  |                       |                            |                  |                       |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
|                                      | MNPS<br>Charters | MNPS Non-<br>Charters |                            | MNPS<br>Charters | MNPS Non-<br>Charters |
| Black                                | 44%              | 38%                   | Economically disadvantaged | 40%              | 37%                   |
| Hispanic                             | <b>37</b> %      | 31%                   | Students with disabilities | 13%              | 14%                   |
| White                                | 16%              | 26%                   | English language learners  | 27%              | 28%                   |

Source: MNPS Open Data Portal

## The history of charter school legislation in Tennessee

Tennessee's original charter law passes, allowing charters to enroll students who are zoned to an underperforming schools

2002

Law lifts charter school cap and establishes open enrollment for all students in a district

Law clarifies multiple rules for charter operations, provides an authorizer's fee for districts, and establishes a facilities fund for charters

2017 2011

Law expands who is eligible to enroll in a charter school and caps the total number of charters at 90 statewide

2009

Law gives State Board of Education (SBOE) authority to hear appeals and authorize charters denied by local school boards

2014

Law creates TN Public Charter School Commission to hear appeals and authorize charters denied by local boards

2019









