

# Charter Schools 101

**Charter schools are public schools open to all Hoosier students.** Charter schools got their name from the “charter” or contract that must exist between an organizer and an authorizer. Unlike public magnet schools and private schools that can set enrollment criteria, charter schools must have an open enrollment policy. Charters have no geographic boundaries like traditional public school districts. **Charters also do not charge any tuition.**

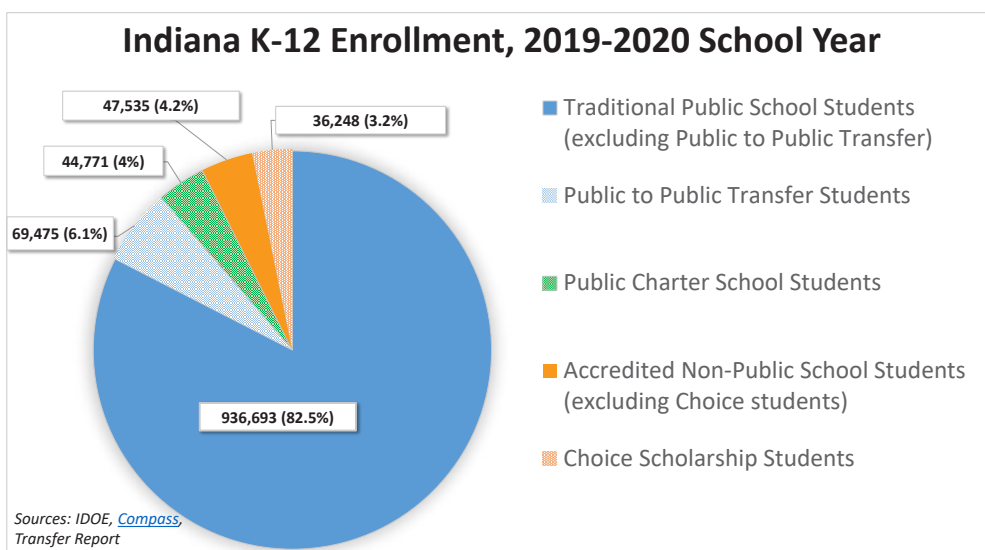
Unlike some traditional public schools, no student is forced to attend a charter school. **Parents make the decision to send their child to a charter because they believe it will be the best educational environment for their student.** A lottery must be held if the number of students who wish to attend the charter school is greater than the number of available seats in the school.

Charter schools were created to allow schools to operate with **more flexibility and less regulation** in return for being held to a **stricter accountability** framework. Many would argue that a parent continuing to choose a charter school is the ultimate form of accountability.

## Indiana law requires charter school organizers to be run by nonprofit boards.

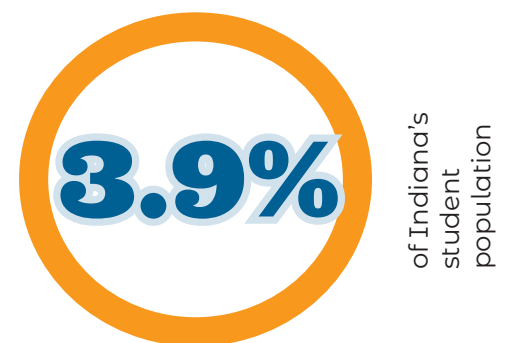
There are three types of charter schools in Indiana. Each of these are funded differently

- Traditional brick and mortar charter schools
- Virtual charter schools
- Adult charter high schools (also known as dropout recovery schools)



# 103

Indiana charter schools



# 44,771

charter students statewide

\* 2019-20 school year