

NEW YORK'S PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

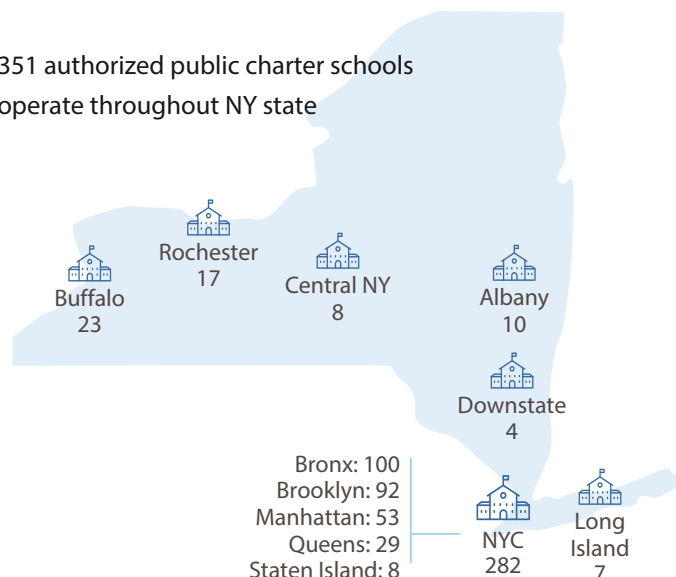
*Innovative schools
that are as unique
as your student.*



Free. Public. Open to all.

About Our Schools

351 authorized public charter schools
operate throughout NY state



About Our Students

More than

187,400

total public charter school students in NY

In Western New York, nearly:

13,000

public charter school students in 24-25



Statewide Demographics

94%

are students of color,
compared to **58%** statewide

81%

come from economically disadvantaged
families, compared to **56%** statewide

17%

are students with disabilities,
compared to **18%** statewide

6%

are English-language learners,
compared to **10%** statewide

Data based on SY24-25 counts from [NYSED Information and Reporting Services](#)

All parents should have the freedom to decide on the right school for their child's individual needs. Many parents in low-income communities do not have any options outside their local traditional public school. New York's public charter schools give these parents and students additional high-quality, innovative options that can inspire their educational journeys and **prepare them for the next levels of education and career.**

About Public Charter Schools in Buffalo & WNY

As of Spring 2025, there are 23 public charter schools operating in Buffalo & WNY serving 12,977 students. Like their counterparts throughout the state, each of the public charter schools currently operating in Buffalo completed a rigorous approval process to open and clearly demonstrated an existing community need for their services. And as evidenced by recent NYS assessment data, public charter schools are working. Students in grades 3-8 from public charter schools perform 7 percentage points better than all public schools statewide in both ELA and Math and tested a larger portion of their students with disabilities than any other type of school in the state.



What Charters Offer Students

Public charter schools have the freedom to innovate in their educational approaches, while remaining accountable to the same standards of public district schools. Public charter schools offer rigorous academic programs aimed at addressing learning gaps, preparing students for success in the next levels of their education and careers, and delivering skills needed for the 21st century economy. Often serving students for whom traditional schools were ineffective, public charter schools develop personalized learning approaches and interventions through their autonomy over staffing, budget, programs, culture, and professional development.

Unique charter school options available to Buffalo students

Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School II

Featuring a **STEM- infused college preparatory curriculum** for students in grades K-12, their school culture uses academic rigor to promote and enhance student learning progress.

Enterprise Charter School

Focused on **project-based learning**, comprehensive **arts education**, and **individualized instruction** for enrichment and remediation.

Charter School of Inquiry

Infusing the **heritage and culture of people of African descent**, embracing the concept of Ubuntu and promoting academic growth through **challenging student-led investigations**.

WNY Maritime Charter School

Offering a program based on **military code of conduct and chain of command for students** looking for a career in the military.