

Informational Paper 31

Charter Schools

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau
January, 2007

Charter Schools

Prepared by

Layla Merrifield

Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau
One East Main, Suite 301
Madison, WI 53703

Charter Schools

The movement for charter schools emerged in the late 1980s as a strategy for education reform. Minnesota initiated the first charter school law in 1991 and California followed suit in 1992. In 1993, Wisconsin was one of six states to pass charter school legislation, enacted as part of the 1993-95 state budget (1993 Act 16). As of 2006, 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico had enacted some type of charter school legislation.

While specific provisions of charter school legislation vary among the states that have enacted it, certain characteristics are generally associated with charter schools. Charter schools are usually exempt from most laws and rules governing traditional public schools. However, it is generally required that charter schools be free of tuition, be nonsectarian, have nonselective admission policies, and abide by the same health, safety, and nondiscrimination laws that apply to non-charter schools. A public authority or "sponsor," such as a local or state educational agency, usually has oversight or approval responsibilities, but a charter school may be operated by a separate entity such as a group of teachers or parents. The school may be legally or fiscally autonomous or it may remain a part of the school district. The schools are operated under a limited-term contract, or charter, which the sponsoring agency can revoke or not renew upon expiration.

Charter school legislation is intended to accomplish four primary objectives: (a) to encourage the development and implementation of innovative teaching methods through increased flexibility and freedom from regulations; (b) to improve the educational system as a whole by increasing competition for pupils among schools; (c) to provide increased accountability; and (d) to offer additional educational options to pupils and

parents. However, because the nation's charter school laws have been enacted within the past 15 years, and many of the states with such laws have just begun to operate charter schools, there is limited information regarding the attainment of these goals.

This paper describes Wisconsin's charter school law and provides information on charter schools in operation in the state.

Wisconsin's Charter School Law

Legislative History

In 1993, the Legislature created the charter school program. Under the original charter school legislation, 1993 Act 16, no more than 20 charter schools could be established statewide, with no more than two schools per district. School boards needed the approval of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish charter schools. In addition, newly approved charter schools were required to show significant progress toward operating by the beginning of the following school year, and if it was determined that such progress was not demonstrated by a district, the State Superintendent could withdraw approval of the charter school.

Under 1995 Act 27, all of the above mentioned restrictions on the number of charter schools and requirements for approval by the State Superintendent were repealed, and a number of additional modifications to the charter school laws were made. Act 27 authorized two or more school boards to enter into a contractual agreement to

establish a charter school, locating the school in just one of the establishing school districts. In addition, school districts were allowed to distribute school funds to charter schools in the same manner used to distribute funds to any school in the district. As a result, per pupil spending for charter school pupils, may be more, less, or the same as spending for non-charter school pupils. The legislation also required the Employment Relations Commission to place professional employees of a charter school in a separate collective bargaining unit from a unit that includes any other professional employees, if at least 30% of the charter school professional employees request a vote and the majority approve the change.

In addition, under 1995 Act 27, a number of exemptions and special provisions applicable only to Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) were created. Specifically, as enacted under Act 27, the MPS School Board is required to grant or deny a charter school petition within 30 days after a public hearing. If the school board denies the petition, the person seeking to establish the charter school may, within 30 days after the denial, appeal the decision to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The Department must issue a decision within 30 days after receiving the appeal. This decision is final and not subject to judicial review. Act 27 also provided that private schools can be converted to public charter schools within MPS. In addition, Act 27 provided that charter schools created within MPS were not to be considered instrumentalities of MPS and personnel employed by these charter schools were not to be considered employees of MPS. Lastly, a provision was included that specified that reassignment of MPS employees, with or without regard to seniority, as a result of MPS contracting for the operation of a charter school or converting a school to a charter school, or the impact of any such reassignment on the wages, hours or conditions of employment cannot be the subject of collective bargaining between the school district and any collective bargaining unit.

Under 1997 Act 27, authority was provided to

the City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and the Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) to create charter schools within MPS.

Further changes to the laws governing charter schools were made in 1997 Act 238. Act 238 provided that: (a) school boards are required to consider the fiscal effect on the district before establishing a charter school; (b) districts may contract with a cooperative educational service agency to establish a charter school; (c) school districts statewide may convert private nonsectarian schools to charter schools; and (d) generally, school districts statewide are given the authority to determine whether or not staff at charter schools are school district employees.

Under 1999 Act 9, the state aid reduction associated with charter schools operated by the City of Milwaukee, UWM, or MATC was changed. The aid reduction was modified so that it no longer applied solely to MPS; instead, a uniform percentage reduction is made in the general school aids received by all school districts. In addition, the treatment of pupils attending these schools was modified for state aid and revenue limit purposes, so that MPS no longer includes these pupils under either general school aids or revenue limits. Act 9 also specified that the operator of these schools would be considered to be the local education agency (LEA), unless the MPS Board would agree with the operator to serve as the LEA for federal special education requirements. In addition, Act 9 made these charter schools eligible for state special education aid if they provide such services. Finally, Act 9 required each operator of Milwaukee charter schools to adopt pupil academic standards.

Under 2001 Act 16, the current Milwaukee charter school program was expanded to allow UW-Parkside (UWP) to establish or contract to establish a charter school on a pilot basis, with a maximum of 400 pupils. This limit on enrollment was increased to 480 pupils in 2005 Act 111.

The sections that follow describe current charter school law as it applies to: (a) local school boards; (b) the City of Milwaukee, UWM and MATC; and (c) UW-Parkside (UWP). Only those provisions that specifically apply to the City of Milwaukee, UWM, MATC and UWP are described in the second section. The third section describes only those provisions that relate to UW-Parkside.

Local School Board Provisions

Methods of Establishment. An unlimited number of charter schools may be formed in the state. There are two methods under which local school boards may authorize charter schools.

First, a school board may, on its own initiative, contract with a person to operate a school as a charter school. Under this process, a board may convert all of the district's schools to charter schools as long as the board provides alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to a charter school. At least 30 days before entering a contract that would convert a private school to a charter school or that would establish a charter school that is not an instrumentality of the school district, the board must hold a public hearing on the contract. At the hearing, the board must consider employee and parental support for the charter school and the fiscal impact of the charter school on the district.

Second, a school board may authorize the establishment of a charter school upon receipt and approval of a written petition requesting the board to do so. The petition must be signed by at least 10% of the teachers employed by the district or by at least 50% of the teachers employed at one school in the district. The board must hold a public hearing within 30 days of receiving the petition. At the hearing, the board must consider the level of employee and parental support for the school and the fiscal impact of the charter school on the district. After the hearing, the board may grant the petition.

If the petition process is used, a school board

may convert all of the district's schools to charter schools as long as the school board abides by the following two additional requirements: (a) the petition must be signed by at least 50% of the district's teachers; and (b) the school board must provide alternative public school attendance arrangements for pupils who do not wish to attend or are not admitted to a charter school.

In awarding charter school contracts, school boards are required to give preference to charter schools that serve children-at-risk.

The MPS Board is required to grant or deny a charter school petition within 30 days after a public hearing. If the school board denies the petition, the person seeking to establish the charter school may, within 30 days after the denial, appeal the decision to DPI. The Department must issue a decision within 30 days after receiving the appeal. This decision is final and not subject to judicial review.

State Notification. A school district must notify DPI of its intention to create a charter school and include a description of the proposed school in the notice. The Department does not have the authority to approve or deny charter school requests.

Legal Status of a Charter School. The law specifies, with one exception, that the school board of the school district in which a charter school is located determines whether or not the charter school is an instrumentality of the district. If the board determines that the charter school is an instrumentality of the district, the board must employ all personnel for the charter school. If the board decides the charter school is not an instrumentality of the district, the board cannot employ any personnel for the charter school. The exception to this provision provides that a private school located in the MPS district which is converted to a charter school is not an instrumentality of MPS; therefore, MPS cannot employ any personnel for such a charter school.

Charter School Restrictions. A charter school

cannot: (a) be a converted private sectarian school; or (b) charge tuition. A charter school must be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices and all other operations.

Charter schools are also prohibited from discriminating in admission or denying participation in any program or activity on the basis of a person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. However, under 2005 Act 346, a school board may enter into a contract for the establishment of a charter school that enrolls only one sex or that provides one or more courses that enroll only one sex if the school board makes available to the opposite sex, under the same policies and criteria of admission, comparable schools or courses. Charter schools are subject to all federal laws governing education.

Pupil Rights. No pupil may be required to attend a charter school without the approval of his or her parents or legal guardian, or the pupil's approval if the pupil is an adult. In addition, if a charter school replaces a public school, in whole or in part, the school must give preference in admission to any pupil residing within the current or former attendance area of that public school.

Charter School Requirements. A charter school is not subject to the provisions of Chapters 115 through 121 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which are generally the provisions that govern elementary and secondary education, except for the following requirements to:

a. Administer the Wisconsin knowledge and concepts examinations to third through eighth grade pupils and to tenth grade pupils, and adopt pupil academic standards in mathematics, science, reading and writing, geography, and history.

b. Develop and enforce a policy specifying criteria for promoting a pupil from 4th grade to 5th grade, from 8th grade to 9th grade, and for granting a

high school diploma. Beginning September 1, 2002, a charter school cannot promote a pupil from 4th to 5th grade or from 8th grade to 9th grade unless the pupil satisfies the promotion criteria. Beginning September 1, 2005, a charter school may not grant a high school diploma unless the pupil has satisfied these criteria.

c. Be included in a school district's annual school performance report.

d. Ensure that all of the school's instructional staff hold a license or permit to teach issued by DPI.

The Department has promulgated an administrative rule defining "instructional staff" to mean all professional employees who have direct contact with students or with the instructional program of the school, including teachers, librarians, pupil services staff and administrative staff who supervise licensed staff.

In addition, DPI has established, by rule, a special charter school instructional staff license and permit. The license may be issued to an individual who is already licensed by DPI and authorizes the individual to perform any instructional duty in a charter school.

Individuals who do not hold a DPI license or permit may be issued a renewable, one-year charter school instructional permit if the school district requests it and has conducted a search for a qualified, licensed individual, and the individual receiving the permit: (a) has a bachelor's degree in the subject he or she would be teaching or in a related field, or has formal proof of mastery in the trade that he or she would be teaching; and (b) receives six credits of training or education in each school year that he or she is employed by the charter school. An individual is exempt from the continuing education requirement if he or she: (a) holds a bachelor's or higher degree and is a full-time employee of an approved teacher preparation institution in Wisconsin; or (b) has formal proof of mastery in a trade and is a full-time employee of a

Wisconsin Technical College System district.

The Department's rule also requires that the responsibilities of an individual holding a charter school permit be coordinated, directed and inspected by a person who is licensed by DPI to teach the subject or trade that the permit-holder is teaching. Finally, the rule specifies that charter school instructional staff would receive the same immunity from liability as staff in non-charter schools in matters relating to suicide intervention, referral to police, privileged communications and license or permit revocations, reports or investigations.

Charter School Contract. If a charter school is established through the petition process, the school board is required to contract with the person named in the petition to operate the school. If a charter school is established on the initiative of the school board, the board may contract with a person to operate the school. In addition, two or more school boards may enter into a contractual agreement to establish a charter school, locating the school in just one of the establishing school districts, and one or more school boards may enter into an agreement with the board of control of a CESA to establish a charter school, locating the school within the boundaries of the CESA.

The contract may be for any term not exceeding five school years and can be renewed for one or more terms not exceeding five school years. In addition, the contract must specify the amount to be paid to the charter school during each school year.

The contract and the petition must include the following 15 provisions and may include other provisions agreed upon by the parties:

1. The name of the person who is seeking to establish the charter school.

2. The name of the person who will be in charge of the charter school and the manner in which administrative services will be provided.

3. A description of the educational program of the school.

4. The methods the school will use to enable pupils to attain the state's educational goals and expectations under s. 118.01 of the statutes.

5. The method by which pupil progress in attaining the state's educational goals and expectations will be measured.

6. The governance structure of the school, including the method to be followed by the school to ensure parental involvement.

7. The qualifications that must be met by the individuals to be employed in the school.

8. The procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of the pupils.

9. The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the school district population.

10. The requirements for admission to the school.

11. The manner in which annual audits of the financial and programmatic operations of the school will be performed.

12. The procedures for disciplining pupils.

13. The public school alternatives for pupils who reside in the school district and do not wish to attend or are not admitted to the charter school.

14. A description of the school facilities and the types and limits of the liability insurance that the school will carry.

15. The effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district.

Transportation. Charter schools are not

required, under current law, to provide transportation for their pupils. Similarly, the law does not specifically include charter pupils among the pupils that school districts are required to transport. However, if the parties agree, then the contract between a charter school and school board may provide for the transportation of charter school pupils.

Charter Revocation. A school board can revoke a contract with a charter school if the board finds that any of the following occurred: (a) the school violated the contract; (b) the school's pupils failed to make sufficient progress toward attaining the state's educational goals and expectations; (c) the school failed to comply with generally accepted accounting standards of fiscal management; or (d) the school violated the charter school law.

Funding and Expenditures. As noted, the contract between the school board and the person operating the charter school must specify the amount to be paid to the charter school during each school year of the contract. The pupils enrolled in the charter school are counted for revenue limits, included in the school district's membership for aid purposes, and the contract costs are eligible for state cost sharing under the equalization aid formula.

A charter school established by a school district may participate in categorical school aid and grant programs, but such participation needs to be included in the charter. Under 2005 Act 25, district-sponsored non-instrumentality charter schools can be reimbursed for special education costs in the same manner as other types of charter schools, if the school board contracts with the charter school to provide special education services to pupils attending the school. A charter school must comply with all requirements associated with the categorical aid program in which it participates.

In 1996, DPI was awarded a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Education to provide funds to local school districts for charter school planning and implementation grants for

three fiscal years beginning on October 1, 1996. The Department received three-year renewal grants in 1999, 2002, and 2005. Five percent of the funding is reserved for DPI project administration and 95% is awarded to school districts. The 2005 three-year grant totaled \$52.0 million. In 2005-06, grants totaling \$9.48 million have been awarded for planning and implementing 80 new charter schools. For 2006-07, so far, 35 grants for planning new charter schools, 13 grants for first-year schools, and 12 grants for second-year schools have been awarded, totaling \$4.1 million. In addition, dissemination grants totaling \$1.3 million have been awarded to 12 charter schools.

Virtual Schools. In 2002-03, the first "virtual" charter school, Wisconsin Connections Academy, was chartered by the Appleton Area School District. Appleton Area School District provides pupils curricular materials, including a computer system and Internet access, through a contract with Connections Academy, a private company. This virtual charter school offers an online K-8 elementary curriculum and enrolls pupils statewide, through the state interdistrict open enrollment program.

Under open enrollment, a pupil may attend any public school located outside his or her school district of residence, under certain circumstances. The school district of residence counts the pupil for the purposes of revenue limits and aid membership. The nonresident district receives a per pupil transfer amount, determined by DPI, and equal to the statewide average per pupil school district costs for regular instruction, co-curricular activities, instructional support services, and pupil support services for the prior school year. The 2006-07 per pupil cost for these four categories is estimated to be \$5,884. (For more information on this program, please see the informational paper entitled, "Interdistrict Public School Open Enrollment.")

Access to instructional staff is provided by the virtual schools, but pupils generally complete work independently, under the supervision of their

parents. The contract costs for the services of the private curriculum provider are funded by the open enrollment payments received from the pupils' school districts of residence.

In 2003-04, the Northern Ozaukee School District chartered another virtual school, the Wisconsin Virtual Academy, offering online courses in grades kindergarten through seven. High school grades will be added in future years. The Virtual Academy also offers statewide online instruction, via the open enrollment program and a contract with K12, another private online curriculum provider.

In 2004-05, three more virtual charter schools opened: (a) Grantsburg Virtual School in the Grantsburg School District; (b) iQ Academies of Wisconsin in the Waukesha School District; and (c) the Northeast Wisconsin Online Charter School in the Kohler School District. Northeast Wisconsin Online primarily serves pupils from 36 participating school districts within CESA 7, in grades 6 through 12.

In 2005-06, the JEDI (Jefferson Eastern Dane Interactive) Virtual High School in the Cambridge School District, and the Rural Virtual Academy in the Medford Area Public Schools District were opened. JEDI is open to all students, although most are drawn from the nine school districts in Dane and Jefferson counties who have worked cooperatively to develop the school. Rural Virtual Academy serves K-8 nontraditional students, and a five-district consortium helps govern the school.

Similar to traditional charter schools, virtual charter school instructional staff must be state-certified and pupils are required to participate in state pupil assessments.

City of Milwaukee, UWM, and MATC Provisions

Method of Establishment. Under 1997 Act 27, the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, the Chancellor of UWM, and MATC are authorized to establish by charter and operate, or contract with a

group or individual to operate, a charter school.

Notification. Each of these entities is required to notify DPI of its intention to establish a charter school by February 1 of the previous school year. The notice must include a description of the proposed school. The Chancellor of UWM may not establish or contract for the establishment of a charter school without the approval of the Board of Regents of the UW System.

Charter School Restrictions. A charter school established or contracted for must be located within the MPS district and pupils residing within the MPS district may attend the charter school. Under 2005 Act 25, provisions that placed further eligibility restrictions on pupils residing within MPS were eliminated. Act 25 also expanded eligibility for state school lunch categorical aid to these charter schools. Finally, under 2005 Act 346, independent charter schools, like those sponsored by school districts, were permitted to establish single-sex schools or courses, provided that comparable schools or courses are available to the opposite sex.

Under 2003 Act 156, additional eligibility criteria were created for pupils attending the Woodlands School, a private school located in MPS that had previously participated in the Milwaukee parental choice program, but also enrolled tuition-paying pupils who resided within or outside MPS. Woodlands contracted with UWM to convert to a charter school beginning in 2004-05. Act 156 modified the law in order to accommodate pupils who wished to continue attending Woodlands but who did not meet the enrollment requirements listed above. Instead, pupils may attend Woodlands regardless of their school district of residence if: (a) the pupil attended Woodlands in the 2003-04 school year and, beginning in the 2005-06 school year, in the previous year; or (b) a member of the pupil's family who resides in the same household as the pupil attended Woodlands in the 2003-04 school year.

Legal Status of a Charter School. In general, these charter schools cannot be instrumentalities of the MPS district and MPS cannot employ any personnel for these charter schools. However, any charter school authorized by the City that is established and operated by a for-profit entity must be an instrumentality of MPS and all staff employed by the charter school must be employees of MPS.

Charter School Requirements. The chartering or contracting entities are required to: (a) ensure that all instructional staff of the charter school hold a teaching license or permit issued by DPI; and (b) administer the Wisconsin knowledge and concepts examinations in grades three through eight, and in grade 10.

In addition, these charter schools, along with all charter schools, must follow applicable federal laws. Further, like school boards, the chartering or contracting entity must give preference in awarding contracts to charter schools that serve children-at-risk.

Charter School Contract. A charter for a charter school established by the City of Milwaukee, UWM or MATC is required to include all of the items for a petition to establish a charter school by a school board, except: (a) the name of the person who would operate the charter school; (b) the name of the person who would be in charge of the charter school and the manner in which administrative services would be provided; and (c) the effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district. A contract to operate a charter school is required to include all of the items required for a petition to establish a charter school by a school board with one exception. Instead of including a description of the effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the school district, the contract must specify the effect of the establishment of the charter school on the liability of the contracting entity. A contract may include other provisions agreed to by the parties. This contract is subject to revocation by

the contracting entity for the same grounds that a school board can revoke a contract with a charter school.

Transportation. Similar to charter schools contracted by school districts, charter schools established by the City of Milwaukee, UWM, and MATC are not included under current law governing pupil transportation obligations. Therefore, these charter schools are not required to provide transportation for their pupils. However, if the parties agree, then the contract between a charter school and the chartering entity may provide for the transportation of charter school pupils.

Funding and Expenditures. Under 2003 Act 33, the formula for state funding to charter schools operated by the City of Milwaukee, UWM, and MATC was altered. DPI is currently required to pay the operators of these charter schools an amount equal to the sum of the amount paid per pupil in the previous school year and the amount of increase per pupil allowed under the Milwaukee parental choice program, multiplied by the number of pupils attending the charter school. DPI is required to make payments equivalent to 25% of the total due to each school in September, December, February and June of each school year and send the check to the operator of the charter school. The payment amount is \$7,669 per pupil in 2006-07. The table shows the number of pupils and program expenditures since 1998-99 including the charter school operated by UW-Parkside. These pupils are not counted by any school district for the purposes of revenue limits and aid membership.

In May, 1998, the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee passed an ordinance that enabled the City to contract for the establishment of charter schools beginning in the 1998-99 school year. Currently, five schools are operating under the City's chartering authority: (a) Downtown Montessori Academy; (b) Academy of Learning and Leadership; (c) Central City Cyberschool; (d) Hines College Preparatory Academy; and (e)

Milwaukee/Racine Charter School Expenditures Including RUSD Aid Payment

	Pupils	Payment	Expenditures (In Millions)
1998-99	55	\$6,062	\$0.4
1999-00	193	6,272	1.2
2000-01	1,411	6,494	9.2
2001-02	2,046	6,721	13.8
2002-03	3,360	6,951	24.2
2003-04	3,601	7,050	26.7
2004-05	4,066	7,111	30.0
2005-06	4,473	7,519	34.8
2006-07	5,000*	7,669	39.9*

*Estimated

Maasai Institute. Currently nine schools are operating under UWM's charting authority: (a) Capitol West Academy; (b) Inland Seas School of Expeditionary Learning; (c) Milwaukee Academy of Science; (d) Milwaukee College Preparatory; (e) School for Early Development and Achievement; (f) Tenor High School; (g) Urban-League Academy of Business and Economics; (h) YMCA Young Leader Academy; and (i) Woodlands School. To date, MATC has not chosen to sponsor a charter school.

Based on the enrollment counts reported to DPI on the third Friday in September of 2006, there are an estimated 5,000 full time equivalent pupils attending these charter schools in 2006-07, including pupils attending the charter school operated by UW-Parkside.

Offsetting Reduction in General School Aid.

Under current law, funding equal to the estimated payment each year for these charter schools is reduced proportionally from the general school aids paid to all school districts in the state. In 2006-07, it is projected that this estimated \$39.9 million reduction will represent a 0.84% decrease in the general school aids received by all school districts.

A school district's revenue limit calculation is not affected by the Milwaukee charter school program reduction in aid. Thus, a school district can increase its property tax levy to offset any aid

reduction related to this program.

UW-Parkside Provisions

Method of Establishment. UW-Parkside is authorized to establish by charter and operate, or contract to operate one charter school for grades kindergarten through eight. The enrollment limit for this charter school is 480 pupils.

Charter School Restrictions. A charter school established or contracted for must be located within a unified school district in the county in which UW-Parkside (Racine County) is located or in an adjacent county.

Transportation. No provision is made for the transportation of pupils enrolled in a charter school contracted by UW-Parkside. Therefore, this charter school is not required to provide transportation for its pupils. Nothing in the law prevents UW-Parkside from addressing transportation of charter pupils in their contracts with the charter school.

Funding and Expenditures. DPI is required to make payments to UW-Parkside equal to those made to Milwaukee charter schools to operate a charter school. Also, DPI is required to pay to the Racine Unified School District (RUSD) an amount equal to its equalization aid per pupil multiplied by the number of pupils attending the charter school who were previously enrolled in the District. For 2006-07, the Racine Unified School District will be eligible to receive equalization aid per member equal to \$5,835.

In March, 2002, the UW Board of Regents approved Racine Charter One to operate a charter school overseen by UW-Parkside and located in the Racine Unified School District. The charter school, the 21st Century Preparatory School, opened in the fall of 2002. Racine Unified School District will receive an estimated \$1.5 million in 2006-07 for an estimated 260 pupils previously enrolled in the district. The 21st Century Preparatory School will receive an estimated \$3.4 million in 2006-07.

Status of Wisconsin's Charter Schools

Since the inception of the charter school program through December, 2006, 212 charter schools have been created. Twenty-nine schools have subsequently closed due to funding issues, low enrollment, or other issues. In 2005-06, 183 charter schools were open, chartered by 81 authorities. DPI expects that another 18 charter schools will open in 2006-07, and statewide charter

enrollment will be approximately 26,000 pupils.

Generally, Wisconsin charter schools can be categorized into two types of schools, those that are designed to serve primarily at-risk students and those that offer general education programs for all students. The appendix provides information on the 183 charter schools in operation during the 2005-06 school year. The information is presented according to the type of school and includes the school district in which the charter school is located and the school year in which the charter school began operation.

APPENDIX

Wisconsin Charter Schools 2005-06 School Year

<u>School District</u>	<u>Charter School</u>	<u>School Year Began Operation</u>
At-Risk Schools		
Appleton	Appleton Central Alternative School	1996-97
Appleton	Appleton Community Learning Center	1999-00
Beaver Dam	Beaver Dam Charter School	1994-95
Colfax	Academic Center-High School	1998-99
Crandon	Crandon Alternative Resource School	2000-01
Denmark	Denmark Empowerment Charter School	2000-01
Drummond	Ascend Academy ¹	2000-01
Eau Claire	McKinley Charter School	1996-97
Elkhorn	Walworth County Educational Consortium Alternative H.S.	1999-00
Gilman	School District of Gilman Charter School	2000-01
Glenwood City	Transitional Skills Center	2000-01
Hamilton	Passage Middle School, Wauwatosa ²	2000-01
Hurley	Dr. Joseph Lulich Charter School	1999-00
Janesville	Rock River Charter School	1998-99
Jefferson	Jefferson County Alternative School -- Watertown ³	1999-00
Kewaunee	Lakeshore Alternative High School	2000-01
Kimberly	Caring Opportunities for Recovery Educ. (CORE) Charter School	2005-06
LaCrosse	La Crossroads High School	2000-01
Ladysmith-Hawkins	Alternative Program II	2003-04
Lena	LEARN Charter School	2005-06
Lodi	Lodi Charter School	1999-00
Marshall	The Fifth Dimension	1998-99
Mauston	Mauston Alternative Resource School	1998-99
Menasha	Chance II Charter School	2005-06
Menominee	Lucas Charter School	1998-99
Middleton-Cross Plains	Middleton Alternative Senior High	1995-96
Milwaukee	Aurora Weier Early College Bilingual High School	2005-06
Milwaukee	Next Door Charter School	2005-06
Milwaukee	The Alliance School	2005-06
Milwaukee	Urban League Academy of Business and Economics ⁷	2001-02
Monona Grove	Monona Grove Alternative High School	1998-99
Monroe	Monroe Alternative Charter School	1998-99
Monroe	Monroe Independent Education Charter High School	2003-04
Monroe	MMS Alternative Charter	1998-99
Neillsville	Clark County Charter School ⁴	1998-99

<u>School District</u>	<u>Charter School</u>	<u>School Year Began Operation</u>
New Lisbon	Juneau County Charter School ⁵	1999-00
Oconto Falls	Falls Alternative Learning Site	1998-99
Parkview	Parkview Charter School	1999-00
Portage	Portage Academy of Achievement	1999-00
Portage	River Crossing Environmental Charter School	2002-03
Racine Unified	The R.E.A.L. School	2000-01
Rice Lake	Barron County Alternative School ¹⁰	2001-02
Richland Center	Comprehensive Learning Center	2000-01
River Falls	Renaissance Alternative Charter Academy	1999-00
River Falls	River Falls Public Montessori Academy	2002-03
Sheboygan	Riverview Academy Charter School	2005-06
Shorewood	New Horizons for Learning	2005-06
South Milwaukee	Connects Learning Center	2000-01
Stevens Point	Concerned About Reaching Everyone (C.A.R.E.)	1999-00
Viroqua	Laurel High School	1999-00
Viroqua	Vernon County Area Better Futures High School	2000-01
Waukesha	Harvey Phillip Alternative Charter School	2001-02
Waukesha	Project Change Alternative Recovery School	2002-03
Waupun	Waupun Alternative High School	2000-01
Wausau	New Horizons Charter School for At-Risk Teens	2005-06
West Allis-West Milwaukee	Academy of Learning ²	2001-02
Weyauwega-Fremont	Waupaca County Charter School ⁵	1998-99
Wisconsin Dells	Kilbourn Academy	1999-00
General Education Schools		
Appleton	Appleton eSchool	2002-03
Appleton	Appleton Public Montessori	2005-06
Appleton	Classical Charter School	1999-00
Appleton	Dan Spalding Academy	2004-05
Appleton	Fox River Academy	2005-06
Appleton	Odyssey-Magellan Middle School	1999-00
Appleton	Renaissance School for the Arts	2000-01
Appleton	Tesla Engineering Charter School	2002-03
Appleton	Valley New School	2003-04
Appleton	Wisconsin Connections Academy	2002-03
Argyle	Argyle Land Ethic Academy	2004-05
Argyle	Lafayette County Community Charter School	2002-03
Augusta	Wildlands Science Research Charter School	2005-06
Beloit	Synectics Middle School	2003-04
Blair-Taylor	School of Science, Engineering & Technology	2004-05

<u>School District</u>	<u>Charter School</u>	<u>School Year Began Operation</u>
Cambridge	JEDI Virtual High School	2005-06
Clinton	Language Instruction for Tomorrow (LIFT) Charter School	2004-05
Deerfield	Life Education & Preparation Program (LEAPP)	1996-97
Eau Claire	Chippewa Valley Technology Charter School	1999-00
Eau Claire	Chippewa Valley Montessori Charter School	2002-03
Flambeau	Flambeau Charter School	2003-04
Grantsburg	Grantsburg Virtual School	2004-05
Greendale	Time 4 Learning Charter School	2003-04
Hayward	Waadookodaading	2001-02
Hayward	Hayward Center for Individualized Learning	2003-04
Janesville	Janesville Academy for International Studies	2005-06
Kenosha	Dimensions of Learning Academy	2000-01
Kenosha	Paideia Academy	1997-98
Kenosha	The Brompton School	1997-98
Kiel	Kiel eSchool	2002-03
Kiel	Meeme LEADS Charter School	2005-06
Kohler	Northeast Wisconsin Online Charter School	2004-05
La Crosse	Coulee Montessori	1998-99
La Crosse	School of Technology and Arts	1995-96
La Crosse	School of Technology and Arts II	1997-98
Madison	James C. Wright Middle School	1994-95
Madison	Nuestro Mundo Community School	2004-05
Medford	Rural Virtual Academy	2005-06
Menasha	The School on the Lake	2000-01
Milwaukee	Academy of Language and Fine Arts	2004-05
Milwaukee	Academy of Learning and Leadership ⁶	2003-04
Milwaukee	Advanced Language and Academic Studies	2004-05
Milwaukee	Audobon Technology and Communication Center	2001-02
Milwaukee	Bruce Gudalupe Community School	2000-01
Milwaukee	Capitol West Academy ⁷	2004-05
Milwaukee	Carter School of Excellence	2003-04
Milwaukee	Central City Cyberschool ⁶	1999-00
Milwaukee	CITIES Project High School	2004-05
Milwaukee	Community High School	2004-05
Milwaukee	Community Trade and Business Center	2004-05
Milwaukee	Darrell Hines College Preparatory Academy of Excellence ⁶	2002-03
Milwaukee	Downtown Montessori Academy ⁶	1997-98
Milwaukee	Fairview School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Genesis High School	2004-05
Milwaukee	Gustav A. Fritsche Middle School	1999-00

<u>School District</u>	<u>Charter School</u>	<u>School Year Began Operation</u>
Milwaukee	Highland Community School	1996-97
Milwaukee	Hmong American Peace Academy	2004-05
Milwaukee	Honey Creek Continuous Progress Elementary School	2005-06
Milwaukee	Humboldt Park K-8 School	2004-05
Milwaukee	I.D.E.A.L. Charter School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Inland Seas School of Expeditionary Learning ⁷	2005-06
Milwaukee	La Causa Charter School	2003-04
Milwaukee	Maasai Institute ⁶	2005-06
Milwaukee	Malcolm X Academy	2002-03
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Academy of Aviation, Science and Technology	2005-06
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Academy of Science ⁷	2000-01
Milwaukee	Milwaukee College Preparatory School of Wisconsin ⁷	2002-03
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Leadership Training Center	2000-01
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Learning Laboratory and Institute	2005-06
Milwaukee	Milwaukee School of Entrepreneurship	2004-05
Milwaukee	New Hope Institute of Science and Technology	2003-04
Milwaukee	Northern Star School	2002-03
Milwaukee	Phoenix High School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Preparatory School for Global Leadership	2004-05
Milwaukee	Professional Learning Institute	2003-04
Milwaukee	School for Early Development and Achievement ⁷	2001-02
Milwaukee	School of Humanities	2004-05
Milwaukee	Siefert Elementary School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Solomon Juneau Business High School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Tenor High School ⁷	2005-06
Milwaukee	Truth Institute for Leadership and Service	2004-05
Milwaukee	Veritas High School	2001-02
Milwaukee	W.E.B Du Bois High School	2005-06
Milwaukee	Walker International Middle School	1999-00
Milwaukee	Westside Academy I/II	2000-01
Milwaukee	Whittier Elementary School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Wings Academy	2002-03
Milwaukee	Wisconsin Career Academy	2000-01
Milwaukee	Woodlands School ⁷	2004-05
Milwaukee	YMCA Young Leaders Academy ⁷	2002-03
Mukwonago	Eagleville Elementary Charter School	2004-05
Neenah	Alliance Charter School	2004-05
New London	CASTLE Learning Center	2002-03
Northern Ozaukee	The Wisconsin Virtual Academy	2003-04
Oconto Falls	Spruce School	1998-99

<u>School District</u>	<u>Charter School</u>	<u>School Year Began Operation</u>
Omro	Enterprise Charter School ⁸	2000-01
Osceola	Osceola Charter Preschool	2005-06
Oshkosh	ALPS Accelerated Alternative Learning Program School	2004-05
Oshkosh	Oshkosh East High (Charter) School	2004-05
Oshkosh	EAA and Oshkosh Schools Third-Grade Aviation Charter School	2001-02
Oshkosh	Journeys School	2004-05
Oshkosh	Oakwood 4 th and 5 th Grade Environmental Ed. Charter School	2003-04
Prairie du Chien	Eastman Community Home Organization Elementary School	2000-01
Racine Unified	McKinley Middle Charter School	2000-01
Racine Unified	21 st Century Preparatory School ⁹	2002-03
Rhineland	Northwoods Community Elementary School	2004-05
Rhineland	Northwoods Community Secondary School	2004-05
Sparta	Lakeview Montessori Charter School	2004-05
Sparta	Sparta Area Independent Learning School (SAILS)	2004-05
Sparta	Sparta Charter Preschool	2000-01
Sparta	Sparta High Point Charter School	2002-03
Stevens Point	Jefferson School for the Arts	2004-05
Stevens Point	McDill Academies	2002-03
Stevens Point	McKinley Center	1994-95
Stevens Point	Roosevelt IDEA School	2004-05
Stevens Point	Washington Service-Learning Center	2004-05
Stevens Point	Wisconsin River Academy	2002-03
Trevor	Trevor Accelerated Program	1998-99
Verona	Core Knowledge Charter School	1996-97
Verona	New Century School	1995-96
Waukesha	iQ Academies of Wisconsin	2004-05
Waukesha	Waukesha Academy of Health Professions	2004-05
Wausau	Wausau Area Montessori School	2005-06
Wilmot	Wilmot Bright Horizons	2005-06
Wisconsin Rapids	Central Cities Health Institute	2005-06

¹ Operated by CESA 12

² Operated by CESA 1

³ Operated by CESA 2

⁴ Operated by CESA 10

⁵ Operated by CESA 5

⁶ Chartered by the City of Milwaukee

⁷ Chartered by UW-Milwaukee

⁸ Operated by CESA 6

⁹ Chartered by UW-Parkside

¹⁰ Operated by CESA 11