

Charter Schools



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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 October, 2002, 37 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 which 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 12 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.

The 1995-97 biennial budget, 1995 Act 27,

amended the original charter school legislation by repealing all of the above mentioned provisions and including a number of additional modifications to the charter school laws. 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, the Act 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 (the 1997-99 budget), 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. 1997 Act 238 further provided that: (a) school boards are required to consider the fiscal effect on the district before establishing a charter school; (b) two or more districts may contract with a cooperative educational service agency (CESA) 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 1999-01 budget), the state aid reduction associated with charter schools operated by the City of Milwaukee, UWM, or MATC were 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 by January 1, 2000, or by January 1 of the first year of operation,

whichever is later.

The most recent modifications to the charter school law were made under 2001 Act 16. Act 16 expanded the current Milwaukee charter school program to allow UW-Parkside (UWP) to establish or contract to establish a charter school on a pilot basis.

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. 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 is required to consider the level of 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 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 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, the MPS School Board 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. Charter schools are subject to 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 reading compre-

hension test at third grade and the knowledge and concepts examinations administered to fourth, eighth and tenth grade pupils, as well as the high school graduation examination administered to eleventh and twelfth grade pupils.

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

- c. 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 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 of the contract.

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.

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 its contract with the board; (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 included in the school district's membership 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. Further, a charter school has to comply with all requirements associated with the 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 a renewal grant in 1999 for three additional fiscal years. Five percent of the funding is reserved for DPI project administration and 95% is awarded to school districts. Charter schools shared \$4.0 million in federal implementation grants for 1999-00, \$4.4 million in 2000-01, and \$4.8 million for 2001-02. DPI received another renewal grant in September, 2002, for an additional \$26.9 million to be shared over the next three fiscal years, through 2005.

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. Additionally, in the school year prior to their initial enrollment, participants are required to have been enrolled in MPS, the Milwaukee parental choice program (MPCP), the proposed charter schools, or grades kindergarten through three in private schools located within the City of Milwaukee that are not participating in MPCP, or not enrolled in school.

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 reading comprehension test in 3rd grade and the 4th, 8th and 10th grade

knowledge and concepts examinations, as well as the high school graduation exam administered in the 11th and 12th grades, as is required of all school districts under current law.

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.

Funding and Expenditures. Under 1999 Act 9, 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 revenue increase per pupil allowed under revenue limits, 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 \$6,951 per pupil in 2002-03. The following table shows the number of pupils and program expenditures since 1998-99.

Milwaukee/Racine Charter School Expenditures -- 1998-99 Through 2002-03

	Pupils	Payment	Expenditures
1998-99	55	\$6,062	\$350,000
1999-00	193	6,272	1,210,000
2000-01	1,590	6,494	9,160,000
2001-02	2,098	6,721	13,750,000
2002-03	3,626	6,951	25,200,000*

* Estimated

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) Khamit Institute; (c) YW Global Career Academy; (d) Central City Cyberschool; and (e) Hines College Preparatory Academy. Currently five schools are operating under UWM's charting authority: (a) Marva Collins Academy; (b) Milwaukee Academy of Science; (c) School for Early Development and Achievement; (d) Urban League Academy of Business and Economics; and (e) YMCA Youth Leadership Academy. Based on the enrollment counts reported to DPI on the third Friday in September of 2002, 3,626 full time equivalent pupils attending these charter schools in 2002-03 meet the definition of a charter student.

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 2002-03, it is projected that this \$25.2 million reduction will represent a 0.6% 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. Because this property tax levy is included in partial school revenues under the two-thirds funding calculation, total funding for general school aids is increased by two-thirds of the projected charter reduction, which partially offsets the statewide reduction amount.

UW-Parkside Provisions

Method of Establishment. Under 2001 Act 16, UW-Parkside is authorized to establish by charter and operate, or contract to operate one charter school for grades kindergarten through eight, enrolling no more than 400 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 is located or in an adjacent county.

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. A continuing program revenue appropriation under the UW System was created to receive payments from DPI for this purpose.

In addition, DPI is required to pay to the Racine Unified School District 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 2002-03, the Racine Unified School District will be eligible to receive equalization aid per member equal to \$5,243.

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 Academy of Learning, opened in the fall of 2002, serving 255 pupils in kindergarten through fourth grades. Racine Unified School District will be eligible to receive an estimated \$1.3 million in 2002-03. The 21st Century Academy of Learning will be eligible to receive an estimated \$1,773,000 in 2002-03.

Status of Wisconsin's Charter Schools

Since the inception of the charter school program through January 1, 2003, 140 charter schools have been created. Eleven schools have subsequently closed due to funding issues, low enrollment, or other issues. During the 2002-03 school year, 129 charter schools are open, chartered by 67 authorities, and enrolling approximately 15,000 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 129 charter schools in operation during the 2002-03 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
2002-03 School Year**

School District	Charter School	School Year Began Operation
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
Beloit	Knight's Academy	1999-00
Black Hawk	E*X*C*E*L* Charter School	1999-00
Colfax	Academic Center-High School	1998-99
Colfax	Academic Center-Middle School	1999-00
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	Gilman Charter School	2000-01
Glenwood City	Transitional Skills Center	2000-01
Hamilton	Passage Middle School ²	2000-01
Hurley	Dr. Joseph Lalich Charter School	1999-00
Janesville	Rock River Charter School	1998-99
Jefferson	Jefferson County Alternative School ³	1999-00
Kewaunee	Lakeshore Alternative High School	2000-01
La Crosse	LaCrossroads Charter School	2000-01
Lodi	Lodi Charter School	1999-00
Marshall	The Fifth Dimension	1998-99
Mauston	Mauston Alternative Resource School	1998-99
Menominee	Lucas Charter School	1998-99
Middleton-Cross Plains	Middleton Alternative Senior High	1995-96
Milwaukee	Learning Enterprise Vocational and Training Institute	2001-02
Milwaukee	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
Neillsville	Clark County Alternative School ⁴	1998-99
New Lisbon	Juneau County Charter School ⁵	1999-00
Oconto Falls	Oconto Falls Alternative Learning Site	1998-99
Parkview	Parkview Charter School	1999-00
Portage	Portage Academy of Achievement	1999-00
Portage	River Crossings Charter School	2002-03

School District	Charter School	School Year Began Operation
Racine Unified	The R.E.A.L. School	2000-01
Rice Lake	Barron County Alternative School ³	2001-02
Richland	Comprehensive Learning Center	2000-01
River Falls	Montessori Charter School	2002-03
River Falls	Renaissance Alternative Charter School	1999-00
St. Francis	Horizon Academy	1998-99
South Milwaukee	Connects Learning Center	2000-01
Stevens Point	Teachers Educating, Advising, and Mentoring Students	1994-95
Stevens Point	C.A.R.E.	1999-00
Sun Prairie	Dane County Transition School	1998-99
Sun Prairie	Sun Prairie Alternative High School	2000-01
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	2002-03
Waupaca	Waupaca County Charter School ⁵	1998-99
Waupun	Waupun Alternative High School	2000-01
West Allis	CESA 1 Consortium Competency-Based Diploma Program ²	2001-02
Wisconsin Dells	Kilbourn Academy	1999-00
Wisconsin Rapids	River Cities High School	2000-01
General Education Schools		
Appleton	Appleton eSchool	2002-03
Appleton	Classical Charter School	1999-00
Appleton	Elementary TAG School	2002-03
Appleton	Magellan Middle School	1999-00
Appleton	Renaissance School for the Arts	2000-01
Appleton	Tesla Engineering Charter School	2002-03
Appleton	Wisconsin Connections Academy	2002-03
Deerfield	Deerfield H.S. Life Education & Preparation Program	1996-97
Eau Claire	Chippewa Valley Technology Charter School	1999-00
Eau Claire	Health Occupations Charter School	2002-03
Eau Claire	Montessori Charter School	2002-03
Hayward	Waadookodaading	2001-02
Kenosha	Dimensions of Learning Academy	2000-01
Kenosha	Paideia Academy	1997-98
Kenosha	The Brompton School	1997-98
Kiel	Kiel Learning Center	2002-03
La Crosse	Coulee Montessori	1998-99
La Crosse	The Partnership	1999-00
La Crosse	School of Technology and Arts I	1995-96
La Crosse	School of Technology and Arts II	1997-98

School District	Charter School	School Year Began Operation
Ladysmith-Hawkins	Project: Learning	2001-02
Lake Geneva-Genoa	Badger Career Campus	2000-01
Madison	Accelerated Learning Academy High School	2002-03
Madison	Accelerated Learning Academy Middle School	2002-03
Madison	Work and Learning High School	2002-03
Madison	James Wright Middle School	1994-95
Maple	Richard I. Bong Memorial Academy ¹	2000-01
Menasha	The School on the Lake	2000-01
Milwaukee	AfroUrban Institute	2002-03
Milwaukee	Audobon Technology and Communication Center	2001-02
Milwaukee	Bruce-Gudalupe Community School	2000-01
Milwaukee	Central City Cyberschool ⁶	1999-00
Milwaukee	Downtown Montessori Academy ⁶	1997-98
Milwaukee	Fairview School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Gustav A. Fritsche Middle School	1999-00
Milwaukee	Highland Community School	1996-97
Milwaukee	Darrell Lynn Hines College ⁶	2002-03
Milwaukee	I.D.E.A.L. Charter School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Khamit Institute ⁶	1998-99
Milwaukee	Marva Collins Academy ⁷	2002-03
Milwaukee	Malcolm X Academy	2002-03
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Academy of Science ⁷	2000-01
Milwaukee	Milwaukee Leadership Training Center	2000-01
Milwaukee	Northern Star School	2002-03
Milwaukee	Phoenix School	2001-02
Milwaukee	School for Early Development and Achievement ⁷	2001-02
Milwaukee	Siefert Elementary School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Solomon Juneau Business High School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Veritas High School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Walker International Middle School	1999-00
Milwaukee	Westside Academy I	2000-01
Milwaukee	Westside Academy II	2000-01
Milwaukee	Whittier Elementary School	2001-02
Milwaukee	Wings Academy	2002-03
Milwaukee	Wisconsin Career Academy	2000-01
Milwaukee	YWCA Global Career City Academy ⁶	1999-00
Milwaukee	YMCA Youth Leadership Academy ⁷	2002-03
New London	CASTLE Charter School	2002-03
Oconto Falls	Spruce School: A Rural Community Alternative	1998-99
Omro	Enterprise Charter School ⁸	2000-01

School District	Charter School	School Year Began Operation
Oshkosh	EAA and Oshkosh Schools Third-Grade Aviation School	2001-02
Prairie du Chien	Eastman Community Home Organization Elementary	2000-01
Racine Unified	McKinley Middle Charter School	2000-01
Racine Unified	21 st Century Academy of Learning ⁹	2002-03
Sparta	Sparta Charter Preschool	2000-01
Sparta	Sparta High Point School	2002-03
Stevens Point	Jackson Environmental Center	2002-03
Stevens Point	McDill Academies	2002-03
Stevens Point	McKinley Center	1998-99
Sturgeon Bay	Door County Charter School	2001-02
Trevor	Trevor Charter School	1998-99
Verona	Core Knowledge Charter School	1996-97
Verona	New Century School	1995-96
Wausau	Star Bright Charter School	1999-00

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 Operated by UW-Parkside