

2014 A-F Letter Grade Fact Sheet

On August 4, 2014, the Arizona Department of Education reported A-F Letter Grade information for 1,940¹ schools, enrolling approximately 1.1 million students in the 2013-2014 school year.

- 597 (31 percent) are charter schools (17 percent of state enrollment).
- 1,343 (69 percent) are traditional district schools (83 percent of state enrollment).
- 8 percent of charter schools and 4 percent of district schools received a grade of “P,” indicating the letter grade is still being calculated.

Noted Achievements

- Of the top 30 schools in Arizona, 18 are charter schools.
- 73 percent of charter schools with two years of letter grades either improved their letter grade or earned an A (A-Alt) or B (B-Alt).
- Four charter schools demonstrated huge improvement over a three-year period moving from a D in 2012 to an A in 2014. These schools are Educational opportunity Center, TIA West, Accelerated Learning Charter School and Bennett Academy – Venture Site.
- 18 charters improved by two letter grades and 113 charters moved up one letter grade.

School and Student Counts by Model

Recognizing that not all schools are the same or serve students in the same manner, Arizona has developed four accountability models to evaluate schools. While most charter schools (461 out of 597) are evaluated in the traditional model, charter schools represent a larger share of all alternative and small schools in the state.

School Counts

Accountability Model	District		Charter	
	Schools	Percent	Schools	Percent
Alternative	33	2%	117	20%
K-2	10	1%	5	1%
Small	20	1%	14	2%
Traditional	1280	95%	461	77%
Total	1343		597	

Student Counts

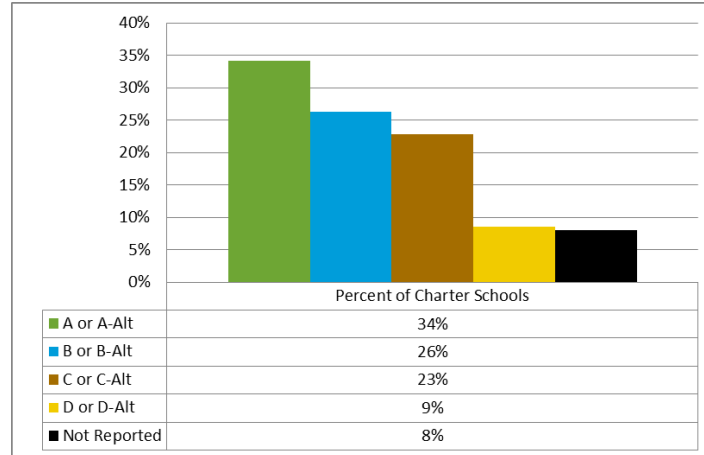
As a point of comparison, nearly 99 percent of all students enrolled in a district school attend a traditional school, however:

- 89 percent of students enrolled in charter schools attend a traditional school
- 10 percent attend an alternative school
- Less than 1 percent attend a small school or K-2 school

¹ This is not the total number of Arizona public schools for the current school year (2014-2015); it is the number with letter grades released by the Arizona Department of Education for the 2013-2014 school year.

Charter School Performance

Overall, 61 percent of charter schools were graded A or B (or A-Alt/B-Alt). Fewer than 10 percent were graded D or D-Alt and an additional 8 percent of charter schools are still awaiting their letter grades.



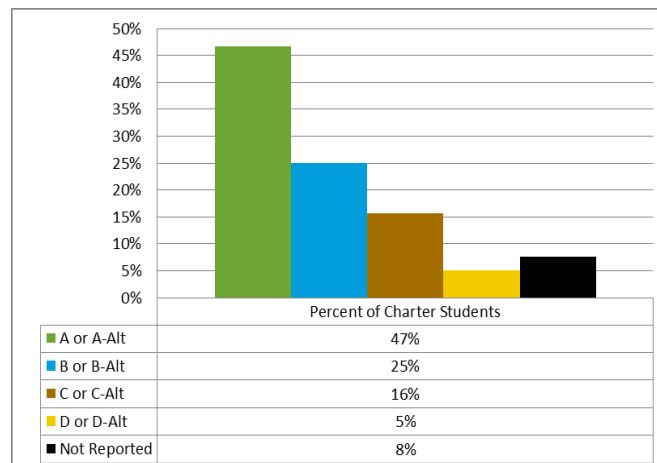
A closer look shows that:

- Traditional charter schools perform better than the overall charter school population, with 69 percent of those schools receiving an A or B letter grade.
- Thirty-four percent of Alternative charter schools received an A-Alt or B-Alt letter grade.
- Thirty-six percent of small charter schools and 1 charter K-2 school (20 percent) also received an A or B letter grade; however, these numbers are so small they should be viewed with caution.

Quality Schools for All Students

72 percent of charter students attend an A (A-Alt) or B (B-Alt) school.

- Nearly half (47 percent) of charter students are enrolled in an A or A-Alt charter school.
- Seventy-two percent of all students enrolled in a charter school are enrolled in an A or B (or A-Alt or B-Alt) school.
- Five percent of charter students are enrolled in a D or D-Alt charter school.



School Improvement

Of the 520 charter schools that received a 2013 and 2014 letter grade, 135 (26 percent) improved at least one letter grade from 2013 to 2014:

- 140 maintained an A letter grade
- 113 improved one letter grade (e.g., from B to A)
- 18 improved 2 letter grades (e.g., from C to A), and
- 4 improved 3 grades (i.e., from D to A)

Potential 'F' Schools for 2014

Letter grades are assigned A through D or A-Alt through D-Alt. No "F" letter grade is given to school automatically. The F letter grade is the result of receiving three consecutive D letter grades and an additional review by a committee at the Arizona Department of Education. After the 2012-2013, there were 41 charter schools with two consecutive D letter grades that we identified as "potential F" schools. Three schools surrendered their charter, 16 (42 percent) school improved their letter grade, and another three schools are still awaiting their 2014 grade. The following 19 schools received a third D and face potential F ratings for 2014 pending appeal:

County	Charter Holder	Charter School	Under Appeal
Pinal	Academy Of Excellence, Inc.	Academy of Excellence - Central Arizona	
Maricopa	Blueprint Education	Hope High School	
Maricopa	Career Success Schools	Career Success High School - Robert L. Duffy	
Pima	Compass High School, Inc.	Compass High School	
Navajo	Developing Innovations in Navajo Education, Inc. (DINE, Inc.)	DINE Southwest High School	
Maricopa	Edkey, Inc. - Sequoia Ranch School	Children First Academy - Phoenix	Yes
Maricopa	Edkey, Inc. - Sequoia School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Sequoia School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing	Yes
Pima	Educational Impact, Inc.	Academy Adventures Primary School	
Graham	Fort Thomas Unified District	Mt. Turnbull Academy	
Pima	Ha:san Educational Services	Ha:san Preparatory & Leadership School	
Maricopa	International Commerce Secondary Schools, Inc.	International Commerce High School - Phoenix	
Pinal	Ira H. Hayes Memorial Applied Learning Center, Inc.	Ira H. Hayes High School	
Maricopa	Mission Charter School, Inc.	Inspire Education, A Mission Charter School	CLOSED
Yavapai	New Visions Academy, Inc.	New Visions Academy	
Maricopa	Pinnacle Education-Mesa, Inc.	Pinnacle High School - Mesa	
Maricopa	Precision Academy Systems, Inc	Precision Academy System Charter School	
Maricopa	RSD Charter School, Inc.	RSD Computerized Plus High School	
Maricopa	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Community Schools	Salt River High School	Yes
Pinal	Vechij Himdag Alternative School, Inc.	Vechij Himdag MashchamakuD	

Three of these schools are currently appealing their letter grade to the Arizona Department of Education and one school, Inspire Education, has closed its doors.

Potential 'F' Schools for 2015

Looking ahead to 2015, the following 14 charters have two consecutive D letter grades. If they are labeled D again in 2015, they could potentially become an F school.

County	LEA Name	School Name	Grade 2014	Grade 2013
Pima	Academy Del Sol, Inc.	Academy Del Sol - Hope	D	D
Pinal	Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh Charter School, Inc.	Akimel O'Otham Pee Posh (3-5)	D	D
Pima	Arizona Community Development Corporation	La Paloma Academy-South	D	D
Maricopa	Concordia Charter School, Inc.	Concordia Charter School	D	D
Pima	El Centro for the Study of Primary and Secondary Education, Inc.	Adalberto M. Guerrero School	D	D
Pinal	Excalibur Charter Schools, Inc.	Excalibur Charter School	D	D
Maricopa	GAR, LLC dba Student Choice High School	Student Choice High School Tatum Campus	D-ALT	D-ALT
Maricopa	Imagine Prep Coolidge, Inc.	Imagine Prep Coolidge	D	D
Maricopa	Kaizen Education Foundation dba Summit High School	Kaizen Education Foundation dba Summit High School	D-ALT	D-ALT
Pinal	Pinnacle Education-Casa Grande, Inc.	Pinnacle High School - Casa Grande	D-ALT	D-ALT
Santa Cruz	Pinnacle Education-Kino, Inc.	Pinnacle Charter High School	D-ALT	D-ALT
Maricopa	Pinnacle Education-Tempe, Inc.	Pinnacle High School - Tempe	D-ALT	D-ALT
Maricopa	StarShine Academy	StarShine Academy	D-ALT	D-ALT
Pima	Tucson Preparatory School	Tucson Preparatory School	D-ALT	D-ALT

Noted Concerns

- As listed in our report, *“Oh, the Places They’ll Go, School Ratings: Improving the Data in Data Driven Decision Making,”* (<https://azcharters.org/publications>), the relationship between poverty and measures of student achievement has long been a limitation of measurement of student achievement in education. The challenge for Arizona’s accountability model is to adequately control for the effect of poverty on the final school rating. As we noted, despite the inclusion of the student growth percentiles, the A-F model still has limited use in portraying school quality due to its failure to adequately control for the effects of poverty and fairly measure a school’s contribution to learning.