English Learners (ELs) in Charter Schools

This fact sheet reports data from the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). CRDC defines a charter school as a “nonsectarian public school under contract—or charter—between a public agency and groups of parents, teachers, community leaders, or others who want to create alternatives and choice within the public school system.”

Number of Charter Schools, by State, Including DC: SY 2015–16

In 2015–16:
- In SY 2015–16, 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC) reported a total of 6,822 charter schools nationwide.
- Four states combined reported more than 2,900 charter schools: California (1,159), Florida (649), Texas (603), and Arizona (530).
- Seven states reported between 200 and 500 charter schools.
- More than 300,000 ELs attended charter schools in SY 2015–16.

Fact

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In SY 2015–16, the national percentage of charter school students who were ELs was 10.5 percent. Six states reported EL enrollment rates in charter schools of 12 percent or more.


Four States With Highest Percentage of Charter School Students Who Are ELs: SY 2015–16

- **TX**: 21.4%
- **MN**: 20.2%
- **CO**: 16.5%
- **CA**: 16.3%

Fact

In SY 2015–16, Texas, Minnesota, Colorado, and California reported the highest percentages of students in charter schools who were ELs.