

California Charter School Estimated Waitlist by Geography

Annually, the California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) releases data on the number of students on waiting lists to attend charter public schools across the state. This year, a record 158,000 *unduplicated* students are on a charter school waitlist in California. When taking into account the number of students who are on *more than one* waitlist in California, that number jumps to approximately 278,000 students.

Below are *unduplicated* waitlist estimates for various geographic areas. Due to estimation methodology (see next page), CCSA only releases estimates for areas that contain 20 or more charters.

California Charter School Estimated Waitlist by Geography, 2014-15						
Regions	Charters w/ Data*		Avg. Waitlist per Charter		# Students on Waitlists	
	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15	2013-14	2014-15
Greater LA	338	350	115	152	38,883	53,200
Northeast & Central Valley	301	313	57	137	17,237	42,800
North Coast & Bay	271	279	62	96	16,836	26,700
Southern CA	194	187	95	194	18,336	36,200
School Districts						
Los Angeles USD	249	269	146	155	36,300	41,830
San Diego USD	56	55	91	99	5,080	5,440
San Jose**	48	52	91	108	4,360	5,620
Oakland USD	38	38	42	70	1,600	2,680
Counties						
Los Angeles	311	325	121	153	37,000	49,840
San Diego	115	112	75	147	8,680	16,470
Santa Clara	53	58	91	110	4,830	6,390
Alameda	56	55	60	82	3,360	4,520
Sonoma	56	55	38	82	2,140	4,530
Sacramento	41	46	81	136	3,330	6,380
San Joaquin	36	39	50	127	1,780	4,940
Fresno	37	36	44	114	1,630	4,090
San Bernardino	35	32	92	235	3,210	7,530
Stanislaus	25	26	38	102	950	2,660
Riverside	26	25	132	312	3,450	7,810
Placer	22	22	74	193	1,630	4,240
Bay Area***	103	110	54	90	5,570	9,940

*CCSA obtained self-reported or estimated data for 1104 schools in 2013-14 and 1129 schools in 2014-15. For complex statistical reasons, a few schools without self-reported data do not obtain estimates.

**Includes the following school districts: San Jose Unified, East Side Union High, and six elementary districts: Alum Rock Union, Cambrian, Campbell Union, Franklin-McKinley, Moreland, Mt. Pleasant.

***Includes the following school 16 districts: San Francisco Unified, Oakland Unified, Hayward Unified, San Lorenzo Unified, West Contra Costa Unified, Mt. Diablo Unified, Pittsburg Unified, Antioch Unified, San Mateo Foster City, Redwood City Elementary, Ravenswood City Elementary, Alum Rock Union Elementary, East Side Union High, Franklin-McKinley, San Jose Unified, and Novato Unified.

WAITLIST METHODOLOGY

Estimating Demand for California Charter Schools Surveys of Schools

Each fall, CCSA conducts an annual survey of charter schools throughout California on various issues, including their enrollment and waitlists. In that survey CCSA asked each school:

- What is the enrollment capacity for your school in 2014-15?
- How many students who attended your school in 2013-14 are enrolled in your school for 2014-15?
- How many new applications for enrollment did you receive for the 2014-15 school year?

CCSA received survey responses from about 29% of charter schools in the state, providing ample data upon which to base our statistical analysis of waitlists throughout the state.

Statistical Techniques

CCSA estimated waitlist data for the 71% of charters that did not respond to the survey. First, we used negative binomial regression modeling to determine which variables best predict waitlists. We then used multiple imputation to predict the 71% of missing data based on our statistical model. To learn more about the methodology, visit www.calcharters.org.

The following variables were included in the imputation model:

- School Enrollment and Enrollment Growth in 2013 and 2014
- Management Model (Charter Management Organization, Network of Schools, Freestanding)
- Level of Autonomy (Non-Autonomous, Semi-Autonomous, Autonomous)
- Age of the school
- Geographic Region
- Academic Performance

Estimating *Unique* Applicants

Many parents of school aged children will place their student on multiple charter school waitlists. In order to account for duplicated names across schools, CCSA applied a discount factor of 1.63 to any school that has another charter school serving the same grade within 10 miles. For example if there were 100 students reported on a school's waiting list, CCSA only estimated 61 unique students for that school. This discount factor was chosen after researching charter school enrollment patterns in New York City and New Orleans. This conservative estimate, which discounts the number of applications at most charters by close to 40%, helps to ensure we are not counting the same student more than once. CCSA applied this discount rate to almost 90% of California charter schools.

2014-15 Waitlist Summary

- Approximately 158,000 unduplicated students on charter school waitlists in CA
- Average of 133 students on waitlists across 1,184 charter schools
- 29% survey response rate
- Estimated 278,000 students on one or more waitlists in CA

2013-14 Waitlist Summary

- 91,000 students on charter school waitlists in 2013-14
- Average 83 students on waitlists across 1,130 charter schools
- 17% survey response rate

Charters in California 2014-15

- 1,184 total number of CA charter schools
- 87 new charter schools opening
- CA is the state with the most charter schools anywhere in the country.
- 547,800 estimated number of students attending charters.
- 7% estimated percentage by which charter school student enrollment grew.
- 33,525 estimated number of new charter school students.

- Evidence over the past five years argues the public has never been more supportive of charter public schools than right now based on growth in charter school enrollment, waiting list numbers, and polling data.
- Charter schools are: public schools of choice, serve ALL students, have open enrollment, and are tuition-free.
- In 1992, California was the second state in the nation to approve the Charter Schools Act.