

**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.

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

\*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](http://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.