



CRDC 2021-2022 ANALYSIS

# Specialized Charter Schools

MAY 2025

One of the unique features of charter schools is their flexibility to specialize their education programming by focusing on a particular content area, group of students, or educational philosophy. These focus areas can be an important motivator for charter school founders, teachers, and families that choose to enroll their students.

## Charter schools specializing in educating students with disabilities may distinguish themselves with a unique set of service offerings or tailored curricula designed to meet specific student needs.

**AT THE SAME TIME**, specialized schools may run counter to long-standing goals to provide students access to inclusive learning environments. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that students with disabilities should be educated in the “least restrictive environment,” in line with research showing that inclusive schools and their classrooms provide stronger academic and non-academic outcomes for students both with and without disabilities.<sup>1</sup>

The first responsibility of a charter school ecosystem is to offer meaningful, high quality educational choices to families, especially to students most at risk of being shortchanged. It is up to authorizers, state policymakers, and school leaders themselves to ensure that each charter school meets high academic standards for all students, including students with disabilities, and protects each student’s legal rights. Specialized charter schools should be held to the same standards as every other charter school in a state or local ecosystem.

In this brief, we use data from the 2021-22 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) to identify specialized charter schools focused on students with disabilities and identify key trends in how they serve students. We identified 220 specialized charter schools educating students with disabilities, representing 2.9% of charter schools nationwide. These 220 schools are largely of two types: schools that actively choose to specialize in educating one or more of the disabilities identified in IDEA (“specialized charter schools”), or schools that function as specialized for the purpose of enrolling an alternative population of students, of which a significant proportion are students with disabilities (“alternative specialized charter schools”). Our brief attempts to identify and characterize both groups.

<sup>1</sup> Hehir, T., Grindal, T., Freeman, B., Lamoreau, R., Borquaye, Y., & Burke, S. (2016). *A summary of the evidence on inclusive education*. Abt Associates. <https://www.abtglobal.com/insights/publications/report/summary-of-the-evidence-on-inclusive-education>; National Council on Disability. (2018). *IDEA series: The segregation of students with disabilities*. <https://ncd.gov/assets/uploads/docs/ncd-segregation-swd-508.pdf>



## About the Civil Rights Data Collection

In 1968, four years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the US Department of Health, Education, and Welfare collected the first version of what would become the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). Throughout the following 56 years, the CRDC has expanded to include all the nation's public schools and dramatically evolved its technical sophistication and relevance to policymakers and practitioners alike.

The CRDC first disaggregated data on students with disabilities in 1973, predating the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). IDEA and the CRDC have always worked together, the CRDC supplementing data collected under IDEA with context on the broader work of building an equitable education system for students with disabilities of all races, genders, and life experiences. Continued data collection helps researchers, educators, and policymakers determine if students with disabilities are being served and, ultimately, informs better decision-making by families.

## Key Findings

- ✓ In 2021-22, the U.S. had 154 specialized charter schools across 21 states focused on students with disabilities. These schools enrolled 20,044 students, of whom 14,048 (70.1%) were identified under IDEA.
- ✓ In 2021-22, the U.S. had 66 alternative specialized charter schools across 17 states. These schools enrolled 6,959 students, of whom 2,352 (33.8%) were identified under IDEA.
- ✓ Specialized charter schools enroll smaller percentages of Black and Latine students with disabilities (and a larger percentage of white students with disabilities) compared to charter schools overall. Alternative specialized charter schools enroll a higher percentage of Black students with disabilities and a similar population of Latine students with disabilities compared to charter schools overall.
- ✓ Specialized charter schools issued one or more out-of-school suspensions to a greater percentage of all students than charter schools overall, including students with disabilities. However, data on other types of suspensions varied between school types.



# Recommendations

- ✓ **For families of students with disabilities and family advocates,** pose thoughtful questions when considering a specialized charter school for a student with disabilities, including:
  - In what ways is the school specialized and for what profile of student?
  - What is their programming and curriculum model for the school, and how does that match your child's individualized needs?
  - What is the school's plan for and access to specialized staffing for implementing your child's IEP?
  - What is the school's plan for providing inclusive learning opportunities for students with disabilities alongside non-disabled peers?
  - Based on the school's legal status (i.e., as an LEA or part of an LEA) and its authorizer, what are your options should you have a dispute about service levels in the future?
- ✓ **For charter school leaders and charter management organizations,** follow the long-standing legal requirements of IDEA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that prohibit discrimination against students with disabilities and require providing equal opportunity in enrollment, access to inclusive settings, and active participation in other educational programming, whether specialized or non-specialized.
- ✓ **For charter school authorizers,** hold specialized charter schools to the same high standards as all other schools, and ensure additional accountability for areas of specialization. Use growth measures and other techniques to ensure specialized schools deliver excellent outcomes for the students on whom they focus, and schools with poor outcomes are closed.
- ✓ **For state policymakers,** ensure outcomes for and growth of specialized charter schools are closely monitored, and students are connected with the resources or services they need to succeed. Ensure specialized charter schools acting as an independent local education agency (LEA) understand and act on their full responsibility to educate every student with disabilities and to offer the full continuum of services and programming.
- ✓ **For researchers,** work to understand trends in the types of specialized charter schools active in the United States and conduct research on long-term outcomes and enrollment trends of the students who attend them.



## Schools by Disability Category

CLE collected language from the websites of each of the 154 specialized charter schools studied here and categorized each school to understand the specific disability categories on which they aim to focus. The largest group of schools—59.1%— do not specialize in a single disability category; that is, they focus on two or more categories identified by the IDEA. Schools for students with autism represent 27.3% of specialized charter schools overall, the largest category of specialization.

Table 1. Specialized Charter Schools by Disability Category

Disability Specialization	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Autism	42	27.30%
Deaf, Blind, or Hard-of-Hearing	4	2.60%
Developmental	4	2.60%
Emotional/Behavioral	9	5.80%
Language-based	4	2.60%
Two or more IDEA Categories	91	59.10%

## Enrollment

Specialized charter schools enrolled 20,044 students in 2021-22, more than twice as high as the 9,009 students enrolled in those schools in 2011-12. Of these students, 14,048 (70.1%) were identified as eligible for services under IDEA in 2021-22, compared to 6,940 students (77.0%) identified as eligible in 2011-12. Overall enrollment in this sector has grown significantly over the last decade. Much of this growth is concentrated in a few states; as with last year's analysis, over 50% of specialized charter schools are in Florida (36 of 154 schools), Ohio (32 of 154 schools), and Texas (17 of 154 schools).

Alternative specialized charter schools enrolled 6,959 students in 2021-22. Of those students, 2,352 (33.8%) were identified as eligible for services under IDEA. Like specialized charter schools generally, these schools are heavily concentrated in a few states, including Texas (18 of 66 schools), Michigan (8 of 66 schools), and New York (8 of 66 schools).

# Enrollment Characteristics

Specialized charter schools enroll a larger proportion of students identified as white than charter schools overall (40.6% vs. 29.5%) and a slightly smaller proportion of students identified as Black than charter schools overall (24.4% vs 26.3%).

In alternative schools generally, disproportionate enrollment rates for students of different races have long been a concern of policymakers, suspecting that enrollment in these schools is correlated with discriminatory disciplinary policies in traditional public schools. In 2019, the Government Accountability Office found Black boys were overrepresented in alternative schools by 8 points, and Latine boys were overrepresented in alternative schools by 6 points.<sup>2</sup> We find that alternative specialized charter schools enroll a greater proportion of Black students than charter schools overall (36.5% vs. 24.4%, a difference of 12.3%). While alternative specialized charter schools enroll a slightly smaller proportion of Latine students than charter schools overall (31.7% vs. 35.9%, a difference of -4.2%), alternative specialized charters enroll a significantly higher proportion of Latine students than other specialized charter schools (31.7% vs. 21.2%, a difference of 10.5%).

While the group of alternative specialized charter schools is relatively small, these findings suggest they may be subject to similar dynamics as alternative schools more broadly.

Table 2. Enrollment of Students with Disabilities by Race in Specialized Charter Schools

		White	Black	Latine
Specialized Charter Schools	Overall	40.60%	26.30%	21.20%
	IDEA	43.30%	24.20%	21.90%
Alt. Specialized Charter Schools	Overall	24.90%	36.50%	31.70%
	IDEA	26.30%	35.80%	31.20%
Charter Schools Overall	Overall	29.50%	24.40%	35.90%
	IDEA	30.80%	27.30%	33.70%

<sup>2</sup> Government Accountability Office. (2019). K-12 education: Certain groups of students attend alternative schools in greater proportions than they do other schools (GAO-19-373). <https://files.gao.gov/reports/GAO-19-373/index.html>

# Climate and Discipline

As described in our main CRDC brief, students with disabilities have long experienced higher rates of disciplinary practices than students without disabilities. This can often leave students with disabilities spending less time receiving instruction than their non-disabled peers.

In 2021-22, specialized charter schools were slightly less likely to issue in-school suspensions to students with disabilities (2.2% vs. 3.0%) but slightly more likely to issue out-of-school suspensions to students with disabilities than charter schools overall (8.1% vs. 7.3%, a difference of 0.8%). Alternative specialized charter schools were also slightly more likely to issue out-of-school suspensions to students with disabilities than charter schools overall (7.5% vs. 7.3%, a difference of 0.2%).

Table 3. In-School Suspensions of Students with and without Disabilities in Specialized Charter Schools

	IDEA	Non-IDEA	Difference
Specialized Charter Schools	2.20%	0.80%	1.40%
Alternative Specialized Charter Schools	1.40%	0.60%	0.80%
Charter Schools Overall	3.00%	1.70%	1.30%

Table 4. Out-of-School Suspensions of Students with and without Disabilities in Specialized Charter Schools

	IDEA	Non-IDEA	Difference
Specialized Charter Schools	8.10%	5.00%	3.10%
Alternative Specialized Charter Schools	7.50%	5.10%	2.40%
Charter Schools Overall	7.30%	3.80%	3.50%





# Our Approach

As CLE's understanding of this unique group of schools evolves, we regularly update our methodology to present the data better. This year, our methodology divides the schools we focus on into two groups:

✓ **Specialized charter schools are either:**

- Schools that self-identify as charter schools with a special education focus, with at least 25% of students qualifying for services under IDEA, or,
- Charter schools with at least 50% of students qualifying for services under IDEA, regardless of their identification as a special education school.

✓ **Alternative specialized charter schools are:**

- Charter schools with at least 25% of students qualifying for services under IDEA that self-identify as schools focused on educating at-risk students (e.g., students involved in the juvenile justice system, students experiencing trauma, or students with substance use disorders).

By also including alternative specialized charter schools, we look to represent a significant segment of the charter school ecosystem, one that serves a substantial number of students under IDEA because they focus on an overlapping group of students.

Using data from the 2021-22 CRDC, we identified schools meeting the “specialized” enrollment criteria. While local education agencies (LEAs) and charter school systems may represent their data in a variety of ways (for example, some systems may list out separate campuses or grade bands, while others may include these as a single data point), this list includes all relevant schools with a unique identifier (or “COMBOKEY”) listed in the CRDC. We then qualitatively analyzed the websites of schools with between 25% and 50% of students qualifying for services under IDEA to identify their focus.

This analysis identified **154 specialized charter schools and 66 alternative specialized charter schools**. While our expanded criteria mean we identified substantially more schools than in the last CRDC, some schools were removed from our list because their enrollment fell below the 25% threshold, because of our more specified selection criteria, or because they have closed.

The distinction between these two groups of schools is not absolute. Some schools with a focus on students identified as at-risk may have more than 50% of their students qualifying for services under IDEA; by our definitions, these are listed as “specialized charter schools.” However, we believe this approach leads to the most inclusive list of these schools while remaining mindful of important differences in context between them.





# Appendix A: List of Specialized Charter Schools

State	School Name	City	Focus	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
AZ	Arizona Autism Charter School – Online K–8	Phoenix	Autism	K–8	52	75%
AZ	Arizona Autism Charter – Online High School	Phoenix	Autism	9–12	20	95%
AZ	Arizona Autism Charter School	Phoenix	Autism	K–5	231	87%
AZ	Arizona Autism Charter School Upper School Campus	Phoenix	Autism	6–11	176	96%
AZ	Kelly EDP Program	Mesa	Two or more IDEA Categories	1–9	31	97%
AZ	PAS Charter Online	Phoenix	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	1	100%
AZ	Sequoia Deaf School	Mesa	Deaf, Blind, or Hard-of-Hearing	K–12	59	98%
AZ	Thrivepoint High School at Surprise	Glendale	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	121	50%
AZ	Thrivepoint Online High School	Glendale	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	109	53%
CO	Rocky Mountain Deaf School	Denver	Deaf, Blind, or Hard-of-Hearing	PK–12	66	92%
DC	Bridges Public Charter School	Washington	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–5	345	34%
DC	The Children's Guild DC Public Charter School	Washington	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–8	293	34%
DC	Kingsman Academy Public Charter School	Washington	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	284	36%
DC	Maya Angelou Public Charter School – Academy at DC Jail	Washington	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	31	100%
DC	St. Coletta of Greater Washington	Washington	Developmental	Ungraded	225	100%
DE	Positive Outcomes Charter School	Camden	Two or more IDEA Categories	7–12	104	63%
FL	Access Charter	Orlando	Autism	6–12	131	99%
FL	Achievement Academy	Bartow	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK	Missing data	Missing data
FL	Believers Academy	West Palm Beach	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	90	100%
FL	Capstone Academy	Pensacola	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK	Missing data	Missing data
FL	Chautauqua Charter School	Panama City	Two or more IDEA Categories	12	47	96%
FL	Connections Education Center of The Palm Beaches	West Palm Beach	Autism	PK–8	68	99%
FL	Early Beginnings Academy Civic Center	Miami	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–4	82	100%

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State	School Name	City	Focus	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
FL	Easter Seals Child Charter School, Daytona Beach	Daytona Beach	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK	Missing data	Missing data
FL	Ed Venture Charter School	Lantana	Two or more IDEA Categories	10–12	72	97%
FL	The Einstein School	Gainesville	Two or more IDEA Categories	2–8	100	66%
FL	Florida Autism Charter School of Excellence	Tampa	Autism	PK–12	148	98%
FL	Focus Academy	Temple Terrace	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	102	96%
FL	Gulfstream L.I.F.E. Academy	Boynton	Two or more IDEA Categories	12–12	51	86%
FL	The Hope Academy for Autism	Stuart	Autism	3–6	48	100%
FL	The Hope Charter Center for Autism	Stuart	Autism	PK–2	21	100%
FL	Language And Literacy Academy for Learning	Winter Haven	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–12	228	100%
FL	The Learning Academy at the Els Center of Excellence	Jupiter	Autism	9–12	121	98%
FL	The Learning Center at the Els Center of Excellence	Jupiter	Autism	PK–8	134	100%
FL	Palm Beach School for Autism	Lake Worth	Autism	PK–12	350	100%
FL	Pepin Academies	Tampa	Two or more IDEA Categories	3–12	819	100%
FL	Pepin Academies Pasco	New Port Richey	Two or more IDEA Categories	3–12	319	100%
FL	Potentials Charter School	West Palm Beach	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–8	30	100%
FL	Princeton House Charter	Orlando	Autism	PK–5	110	100%
FL	Seagull Academy	Riviera	Two or more IDEA Categories	7–12	35	94%
FL	South Florida Autism Charter School	Hialeah	Autism	K–12	259	99%
FL	St. Johns Community Campus	St Augustine	Two or more IDEA Categories	10–12	40	90%
FL	Therapeutic Learning Center	St Augustine	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK	Missing data	Missing data
FL	UCP Bailes Community Academy	Orlando	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–8	424	46%
FL	UCP Charter	Orlando	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–5	109	81%
FL	UCP East Orange/Bailes Early Childhood Academy	Orlando	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK	Missing data	Missing data
FL	UCP Osceola Charter School	Kissimmee	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–5	133	77%
FL	UCP Pine Hills Charter	Orlando	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–5	148	43%

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State	School Name	City	Focus	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
FL	UCP Seminole Child Development	Sanford	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–2	50	80%
FL	UCP Transitional Learning Academy High Charter	Orlando	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	152	99%
FL	UCP West Orange Charter	Winter Garden	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–5	176	65%
FL	Victory Ridge Academy	Lake Wales	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–12	233	99%
GA	GNETS of Oconee	Milledgeville	Emotional/ Behavioral	K–12	49	100%
GA	Tapestry Public Charter School	Atlanta	Autism	6–12	265	46%
IN	Damar Charter Academy	Indianapolis	Developmental	K–12	182	98%
IN	Dynamic Minds Academy	Indianapolis	Autism	K–12	108	100%
IN	Options Charter School – Noblesville	Noblesville	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	48	60%
IN	Options Indiana (Virtual)	Noblesville	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	178	67%
LA	The Emerge School for Autism	Baton Rouge	Autism	K–2	400	96%
LA	Louisiana Key Academy	Baton Rouge	Language-based	1–8	440	62%
LA	Opportunities Academy	New Orleans	Developmental	12	69	99%
MA	Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School	Lowell	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	74	30%
MA	Map Academy Charter School	Plymouth	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	212	55%
MA	Roxbury Prep Mission Hill Campus	Roxbury	Two or more IDEA Categories	5–12	279	78%
MI	Blended Learning Academies Credit Recovery High School	Livonia	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	31	52%
MI	Clara B. Ford Academy	Dearborn Heights	Emotional/ Behavioral	6–12	51	57%
MI	Fostering Leadership Academy	Redford	Emotional/ Behavioral	6–8	25	68%
MI	Lighthouse Academy – Eagle Village	Hersey	Emotional/ Behavioral	5–12	36	53%
MI	Lighthouse Academy – South	Grand Rapids	Two or more IDEA Categories	3–12	73	56%
MI	Lighthouse Academy – Waalkes	Grand Rapids	Two or more IDEA categories	8–12	55	25%
MI	Macomb Academy	Clinton Township	Developmental	12	60	100%
MN	Avalon School	Saint Paul	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	176	52%
MN	CVA Fusion Elementary School	Minneapolis	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–5	41	61%

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State	School Name	City	Focus	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
MN	Kato Public Charter School	Mankato	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	46	61%
MN	Lionsgate Academy – Lynx Program	Shoreview	Autism	8–12	21	100%
MN	Lionsgate Academy – Minnetonka	Minnetonka	Autism	7–12	149	93%
MN	Lionsgate Academy – Shoreview	Shoreview	Two or more IDEA Categories	7–12	162	94%
MN	Lionsgate Academy Aim	Shoreview	Two or more IDEA Categories	12–12	42	98%
MN	Metro Deaf School	Saint Paul	Deaf, Blind, or Hard-of-Hearing	PK–12	122	100%
MN	Rochester Beacon Academy	Rochester	Autism	6–12	90	76%
MN	Spero Academy	Minneapolis	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–6	143	94%
NM	Albuquerque Sign Language Academy	Albuquerque	Deaf, Blind, or Hard-of-Hearing	K–12	111	59%
NY	Bridge Preparatory Charter School	Staten Island	Language-based	1–3	195	62%
NY	John W. Lavelle Preparatory Charter School	Staten Island	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–12	799	40%
NY	Neighborhood Charter School: Bronx	Bronx	Autism	K–2	385	33%
NY	Neighborhood Charter School: Harlem	New York	Autism	K–8	480	41%
NY	Neighborhood Charter School: Harlem NW	New York	Autism	K–8	120	100%
NY	New Dawn Charter High School	Brooklyn	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	242	43%
NY	New York City Autism Charter School	New York	Autism	1–9	37	97%
NY	NYC Autism Charter School Bronx	Bronx	Autism	Ungraded	31	100%
NY	Opportunity Charter School	New York	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	422	64%
OH	The Autism Academy of Learning	Toledo	Two or more IDEA Categories	1–12	44	100%
OH	Autism Model School	Toledo	Autism	2–12	99	100%
OH	Discovery Academy	Toledo	Autism	K–6	360	26%
OH	Foxfire Intermediate School	Zanesville	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–8	133	53%
OH	Hope Learning Academy of Toledo	Toledo	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–8	56	61%
OH	Lakeland Academy Community School	Freeport	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–12	22	100%
OH	Steel Academy	Akron	Autism	7–12	140	41%
OH	Summit Academy – Youngstown	Youngstown	Autism	K–7	140	64%
OH	Summit Academy Community School – Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–8	78	76%
OH	Summit Academy Community School – Columbus	Columbus	Autism	K–5	38	50%

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State	School Name	City	Focus	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
OH	Summit Academy Community School – Dayton	Dayton	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–8	66	70%
OH	Summit Academy Community School – Painesville	Painesville	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–8	37	49%
OH	Summit Academy Community School – Parma	Parma	Autism	1–12	157	64%
OH	Summit Academy Community School – Toledo	Toledo	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–12	114	65%
OH	Summit Academy Community School – Warren	Warren	Autism	K–7	103	51%
OH	Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners – Canton	Canton	Autism	K–8	91	66%
OH	Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners – Lorain	Lorain	Autism	K–5	73	53%
OH	Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners – Middletown	Middletown	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–6	90	62%
OH	Summit Academy Community School for Alternative Learners – Xenia	Xenia	Autism	K–12	160	70%
OH	Summit Academy Elementary School – Akron	Akron	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–5	93	55%
OH	Summit Academy Middle School – Akron	Akron	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–8	69	71%
OH	Summit Academy Middle School – Columbus	Columbus	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–8	41	78%
OH	Summit Academy School – Lorain	Lorain	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	90	69%
OH	Summit Academy School for Alternative Learners – Warren Middle & Secondary	Warren	Autism	8–12	90	69%
OH	Summit Academy Secondary School – Akron	Akron	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	63	81%
OH	Summit Academy Secondary School – Canton	Canton	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	56	71%
OH	Summit Academy Secondary School – Middletown	Middletown	Two or more IDEA Categories	7–12	85	73%
OH	Summit Academy Secondary School – Youngstown	Youngstown	Two or more IDEA Categories	8–12	147	72%
OH	Summit Academy Transition High School – Cincinnati	Cincinnati	Autism	9–12	55	75%
OH	Summit Academy Transition High School – Columbus	Columbus	Autism	9–12	54	80%
OH	Summit Academy Transition High School – Dayton	Dayton	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	99	73%
OH	Westwood Preparatory Academy	Columbus	Two or more IDEA Categories	3–12	213	59%
OR	Childs Way Charter School	Dorena	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–12	61	33%

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State	School Name	City	Focus	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
PA	Dr. Robert Ketterer Charter School	Latrobe	Two or more IDEA Categories	7–12	166	69%
PA	New Day Charter School	Huntington	Two or more IDEA Categories	7–12	136	51%
PA	Provident Charter School	Pittsburgh	Language-based	2–8	327	63%
PA	Spectrum Charter School	Monroeville	Autism	8–12	39	95%
SC	Lakes and Bridges Charter School	Columbia	Language-based	1–7	205	62%
SC	Meyer Center for Special Children	Greenville	Two or more IDEA Categories	PK–2	41	68%
SC	Palmetto Achievement Center for Excellence Academy	Columbia	Two or more IDEA Categories	2-Aug	187	58%
SC	Pattison's Academy for Comprehensive Education	Charleston	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–12	41	93%
TX	Betty M. Condra School for Education Innovation	Lubbock	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–5	185	44%
TX	Depelchin Children's Center	Richmond	Two or more IDEA Categories	2–7	14	64%
TX	The Foundation School for Autism – San Antonio	Lewisville	Autism	PK–1	19	100%
TX	Helping Hand	Austin	Emotional/ Behavioral	2–6	17	82%
TX	Hill Country Youth Ranch	Ingram	Two or more IDEA Categories	K–12	90	66%
TX	Ki Charter Academy	San Marcos	Emotional/ Behavioral	1–12	161	57%
TX	New Horizons	Goldthwaite	Two or more IDEA Categories	1–11	62	61%
TX	Pathways 3H Campus	Austin	Emotional/ Behavioral	6–11	19	68%
TX	Premier HS Foundation School of Autism	Lewisville	Autism	K–1	1	100%
TX	Safe Haven	Hempstead	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–11	9	78%
TX	SJRC Texas	Austin	Emotional/ Behavioral	6–12	14	50%
TX	Texas Neurorehabilitation Center	Austin	Two or more IDEA Categories	4–11	56	95%
TX	Trinity Charter School – Camp Worth	Fort Worth	Two or more IDEA Categories	7–12	16	75%
TX	Trinity Charter School – New Pathways	Angleton	Two or more IDEA Categories	5–9	11	55%
TX	Trinity Charter School – Reclaim Academy	Tyler	Two or more IDEA Categories	Ungraded	7	71%
TX	UT Charter School — Pathfinder Camp	Driftwood	Emotional/ Behavioral	5–10	19	68%

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State	School Name	City	Focus	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
TX	UT Charter School — The Settlement Home for Children	Austin	Two or more IDEA Categories	6–12	21	67%
UT	Spectrum Academy – North Salt Lake	North Salt Lake	Autism	K–12	816	84%
UT	Spectrum Academy – Pleasant Grove	Pleasant Grove	Autism	K–12	667	81%
VA	Richmond Career Education & Employment	Richmond	Two or more IDEA Categories	10–12	22	100%
WI	Island City Academy	Cumberland	Two or more IDEA Categories	7–12	1	100%
WI	Lakeland Star Academy	Minocqua	Two or more IDEA Categories	9–12	31	77%

## Appendix B: List of Alternative Specialized Charter Schools

State	School Name	City	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
AR	Hope Academy of NW Arkansas	Bentonville	K–3	49	37%
AZ	Northern Arizona Academy for Career Development Taylor	Taylor	10–12	50	28%
AZ	The Pima Partnership School	Tucson	9–12	127	27%
CA	California Heritage Youthbuild Academy II	Redding	9–12	63	27%
CA	Learning Works	Pasadena	7–12	209	26%
DC	Maya Angelou Public Charter School – High School	Washington	9–12	168	30%
FL	Waypoint Charter Academy	Madison	5–12	19	47%
IL	YBMC Charter School	Normal	11–12	18	39%
IL	YCCS – West Town Academy Alternative High School	Chicago	9–12	117	26%
LA	Youth Study Center	New Orleans	7–12	96	26%
MA	Boston Day and Evening Academy Charter School	Roxbury	9–12	348	39%
MA	Phoenix Academy Public Charter High School – Lawrence	Lawrence	9–12	138	28%
MI	Academic and Career Education Academy	Midland	9–12	91	27%
MI	Alternative Educational Academy of Iosco County	Tawas City	6–12	155	26%
MI	Lighthouse Academy – Juvenile Justice Institute	Holland	6–12	16	31%
MI	Lighthouse Academy – The Pier	Grand Rapids	9–12	25	36%

[Continues on the next page](#)

State	School Name	City	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
MI	Outlook Academy	Allegan	6–12	28	43%
MI	Outlook Academy – Youth Home Campus	Allegan	5–12	11	45%
MI	Relevant Academy of Eaton County	Grand Ledge	9–12	62	37%
MI	Windover High School	Midland	9–12	88	35%
MN	Face to Face Academy	Saint Paul	9–12	104	30%
MN	Minnesota Internship Center – Downtown Campus	Minneapolis	9–12	Missing data	Missing data
MN	Paladin Career and Tech High School	Coon Rapids	9–12	257	47%
MN	Pease Academy	Bloomington	10–12	21	38%
NM	Los Puentes Charter	Albuquerque	7–12	Missing data	Missing data
NY	Broome Street Academy Charter High School	New York	9–12	297	26%
NY	John V. Lindsay Wildcat Academy Charter School	New York	9–12	315	30%
NY	Mott Haven Academy Charter School	Bronx	PK–8	446	26%
NY	New Dawn Charter High School II	Jamaica	9–12	223	37%
NY	New Ventures High School	Staten Island	10–12	153	42%
NY	New Visions Aim Charter High School II	Bronx	9–12	254	44%
NY	Urban Dove Team Charter School	Brooklyn	10–12	233	44%
NY	Urban Dove Team Charter School II	Bronx	10–12	291	44%
OH	Coshocton Opportunity School	Coshocton	9–12	44	30%
OH	Mahoning County High School	Youngstown	7–12	136	43%
OH	Schnee Learning Center	Cuyahoga Falls	9–12	81	40%
OH	Tomorrow Center	Cardington	7–12	96	30%
OH	YB Columbus Community School	Columbus	9–12	211	36%
OK	Oya Charter – Manitou	Manitou	9–12	46	37%
OK	Oya Charter – Tecumseh	Tecumseh	9–12	81	35%
OR	Harmony Academy	Lake Oswego	10–12	12	33%
OR	Olalla Center	Newport	1–6	5	20%
PA	Keystone Education Center Charter School	Greenville	K–12	187	41%
PA	New Academy Charter School	Pittsburgh	Ungraded	84	43%
PA	Passport Academy Charter School	Pittsburgh	9–12	101	28%
PA	YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School	Philadelphia	12	177	27%
TX	Cedar Crest	Austin	6–12	85	28%
TX	Harris County Juvenile Detention Center	Houston	6–12	113	27%
TX	Hays Inspire Academy	San Marcos	7–12	42	26%
TX	KI Charter Academy – Liberty Hill	Liberty Hill	4–12	98	36%
TX	Medlock Youth Village	Dallas	7–12	83	29%

[Continues on the next page](#)

State	School Name	City	Grades	Total Enrollment	% of Enrolled SWDs
TX	Methodist Children's Home	Waco	6–12	83	27%
TX	Ranch Academy	Canton	6–12	63	25%
TX	Rockdale Inspire Academy	Rockdale	7–12	61	30%
TX	Thomas Buzbee Vocational School	New Waverly	9–12	67	36%
TX	Trinity Charter School – Brenham	Brenham	8–12	47	34%
TX	Trinity Charter School – Canyon Lake	Canyon Lake	6–12	37	46%
TX	Trinity Charter School – Canyon Lake	Canyon Lake	6–11	37	46%
TX	Trinity Charter School – Karyn's House	Austin	9–11	7	29%
TX	Trinity Charter School – Pegasus	Lockhart	5–12	157	32%
TX	Trinity Charter School – Spring Campus	Austin	8–11	13	31%
TX	Trinity Charter Schools – Fort Worth Campus	Austin	8–10	16	38%
TX	UT Charter School – University Charter School at High Point	San Antonio	K–12	36	31%
TX	UT University Charter School – Munday	Austin	10–12	7	29%
WI	McKinley Charter School	Eau Claire	6–12	149	30%
WI	New Horizons for Learning	Shorewood	9–12	25	36%







## About the Center for Learner Equity (CLE)

CLE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that students with disabilities have equitable access to high-quality public education. CLE provides research, policy analysis, coalition building, and technical assistance to a variety of stakeholders nationwide.

## Mission

We are committed to catalyzing student success and eradicating the complex, pervasive, and systematic barriers that prevent students with disabilities from accessing school choice, educational opportunities, quality support, and inclusive environments.

## Vision

All students with disabilities are respected, learning, and thriving.

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