



Department of Education Update

**Florida Charter School Conference and School Choice Summit
October 16, 2025**

Agenda

- By the numbers
 - Charter Schools
 - Scholarship participation
- Legislative update
- Operations update
 - Checking scholarship and public school enrollments
 - Florida Agency for Health Care Administration clearinghouse
- Questions and discussion

Public Charter School Demographics (2024-25)

	Charter Schools		Traditional Schools	
Total Student Enrollment	404,350		2,447,890	
Demographic Group	Students	Percent	Students	Percent
White	110,789	27%	836,484	35%
Black	73,873	18%	522,759	21%
Hispanic	191,790	47%	899,621	37%
Other	27,898	7%	189,206	8%
Male	202,540	50%	1,261,129	52%
Female	201,810	50%	1,186,761	48%
Educational Needs				
Students with Disabilities	43,683	11%	414,926	17%
English Language Learners	52,558	12%	317,610	13%
Economic Indicator				
Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Eligible	192,518	50%	1,768,486	53%

Scholarship Participation

School Year	Program	Students Funded
2024-25	Family Empowerment Scholarship Unique Abilities	115,428
	Family Empowerment Scholarship Educational Options	267,413
	Transportation	18,707 (households)
	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (w/Personalized Education Program)	114,443
2023-24	Family Empowerment Scholarship Unique Abilities	93,925
	Family Empowerment Scholarship Educational Options	156,038
	Transportation	8,050
	Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (w/Personalized Education Program)	148,222



2025 Legislative Update

House Bill 443

- Districts may not impose upon a charter school administrative deadlines that are earlier than the sponsor's own corresponding deadlines for similar reports or submissions. Any deadline imposed upon a charter school for financial audits or other administrative requirements may not be earlier than 15 days before the sponsor's own deadline for similar submissions to the department.
- Allows high-performing charters to assume the charter of an existing charter school within the same school district in which it operates. Any request to assume a charter must be initiated by a school in a written format to the high-performing charter school.

House Bill 443, continued

- Authorizes a charter school to increase its student enrollment beyond the capacity identified in the charter (but not the facility capacity).
- Access to the sponsor's student information system must be provided to the charter school and its contractor.
- Requires the department to provide student performance data to a charter school and its contractor.
- Prohibits a landlord of a charter school or his or her spouse or an officer, a director, or an employee of an entity that is a landlord of a charter school or his or her spouse from being on a charter school governing board.

House Bill 1105

- Requires the use of a standard monitoring tool for charter schools and sponsors.
- Allows municipalities to create a job-engine charter out of an existing district school via charter conversion for the purpose of attracting job-producing entities.
- Charter School Conversions: Parents who apply for a conversion charter school must be parents whose children are enrolled in the existing public school.
 - Also, parent support is the sole determinant for the conversion; bill removed a requirement for at least 50 percent support among teachers.

House Bill 1105, continued

- School district shall provide charters with the following information pertaining to shared revenues generated by a discretionary half-cent sales surtax and other millages:
 - Estimated total revenue to be received from each tax.
 - Estimated per-student allocation to charter schools from each tax and the methodology used to determine the estimate.
 - Estimated timeframe within which the charter school will receive funds from each tax.
 - Detailed explanation for each revenue transmission at the time funds are transferred.
- By March 31 of each year, districts shall provide to the department a summary revenue report, by charter school.

House Bill 1255

- Zoning flexibility for private and charter schools looking to expand or open new schools.
 - For private schools, new facilities may be constructed under property's preexisting zoning and land-use designations without need for rezoning or special exception.
 - For charter schools, a local governing authority may not require a special exemption or conditional use approval.
- Authorizes charter school consortia with at least 30 member schools and a DOE-approved professional learning system to submit a Teacher of the Year nomination.
- Requires school districts and charter schools to get parental consent before administering corporal punishment.

Other Legislation

- **Senate Bill 2510** allows Schools of Hope to co-locate with school districts and expands zones in which to operate.
- **House Bill 1237** requires charter schools to comply with requirements for human trafficking awareness training (Section 1006.481, F.S.).
- **House Bill 1145** adds charter schools to the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.
- **Senate Bill 1514** requires charter school personnel to be trained to respond to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis.
- **House Bill 248** expands interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities for home education and private school students.



Scholarship and Operations

Scholarship Cross-Checks

- Before any scholarship payment, district superintendents can view the students in their district scheduled to receive a payment.
- Any matches would “freeze” that student’s scholarship until resolution.
- Covers new and renewal students in:
 - Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options
 - Family Empowerment Scholarship for Unique Abilities
 - Florida Tax Credit Scholarship
 - Personalized Education Programs

Florida Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse

- Established by law in 2012 to reduce duplicative screenings.
- All educational entities were transitioned to the Clearinghouse in April 2025.
- Provides a single data source for background screening results of persons required to be screened by law for employment in positions that provide services to children, the elderly and disabled individuals.
- Allows the results of criminal history checks to be shared among specified agencies when a person has applied to volunteer, be employed, be licensed or enter a contract that requires a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history check.

Florida Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse

- Maintained and Managed by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- For more information, please contact DOEBGS@AHCA.MyFlorida.com or 850-412-4700.



Questions



www.FLDOE.org



www.FLDOE.org