



# Annual Report

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2023

A Year of Raising the Bar for Charter  
School Students

# *A Letter from Leadership*

For over 25 years, since the beginning of Arizona's charter school law, the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (Board) has continued to assist charter schools operate, navigate, and remain accountable in Arizona's educational landscape. Our mission: "To improve public education in Arizona by sponsoring charter schools that provide quality educational choices", has been at the core of our work. Keeping in mind 2025 will be marked as the Board's 30th year in operation and as we near this milestone, we intentionally reflect on the initiatives that took place last year in 2023.

In my first year as the Board's President I have witnessed the Board's efforts to "raise the bar" through additional support, communication and training for our schools and how the Board portfolio continues to strengthen and diversify. This was evident to me when the Board successfully deployed a team in Southern Arizona enabling our agency to increase the quality of support in that region, which currently holds 146 schools. As the Board's first indigenous president, it is my hope that the Board will continue to reach out and support all schools including those in rural and indigenous communities. With that, I am excited to know that the Board is actively hiring for a team in Northern Arizona to better support the unique needs of those schools north of the metropolitan-Phoenix area.

As we closed out Fiscal Year 2023 and have ventured into 2024, the Board is committed to heightening support measures and factor in the needs of students and families across Arizona as we make decisions. The Board's Annual Report details what we achieved in 2023 and how we have our eye on the future so that all schools and their communities can thrive in 2024 and beyond. I, along with my fellow Board members, thank you for your support over the past two decades and we look forward to continuing to "raise the bar" internally to better assist the charter community outwardly.

Sincerely,

Hans-Dieter Klose



Hans-Dieter Klose  
Board President

# BOARD MEMBERS



**Hans-Dieter Klose**

President  
Reservation Resident Member



**Jessica Montierth**

Vice President  
Charter School Operator



**Tom Horne**

Superintendent of Public  
Instruction



**Wendy Miller**

Superintendent Designee



**Carlos Ruiz**

Public Member



**Carol Crockett**

Public Member



**Christina Foster**

Public Member



**Eli Chmouni**

Public Member



**Stephanie Bahr**

Charter School Teacher



**James  
Swanson**

Business Community  
Member



**Timothy A.  
Stratton**

Business Community  
Member



# A SNAPSHOT OF ALL ARIZONA CHARTER SCHOOLS IN 2023\*\*

9.8%

Of charter school students  
identified with disabilities

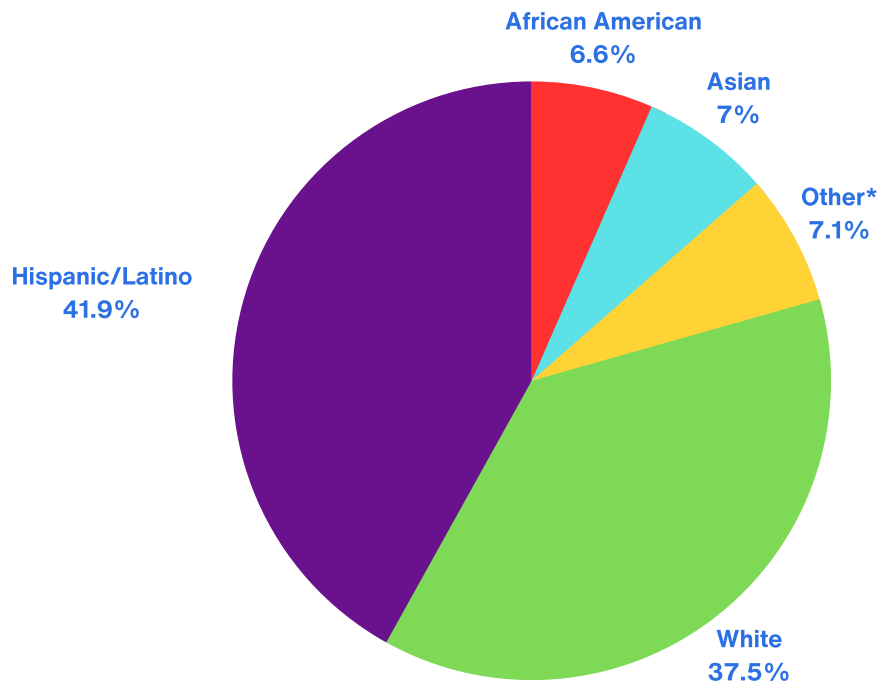
31%

Of charter school students  
eligible for free and reduced  
lunch

Data shows charter schools  
are closing the academic  
achievement gap between  
disadvantaged subgroups and  
all students in Arizona.

\*Includes Pacific Islander, Multiracial, and  
Native American

\*\*AZ Dept. of Education 2022-23 Enrollment Data



571

Charter schools in Arizona

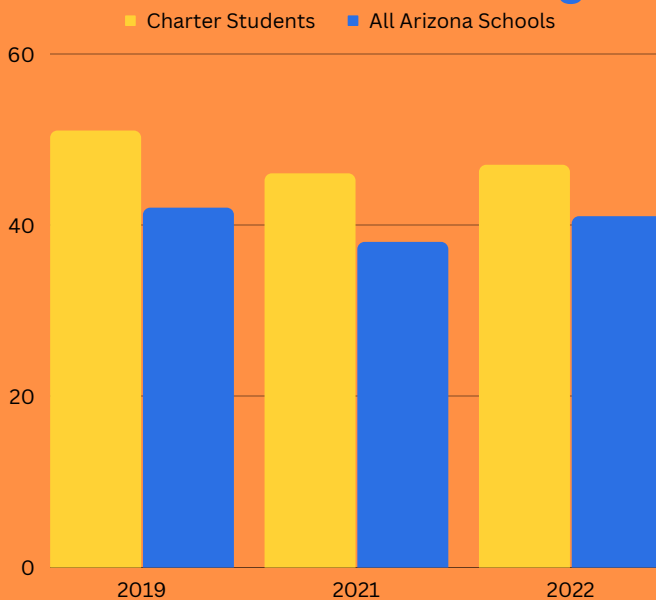
20.6%

Of public school students are  
enrolled at charter schools

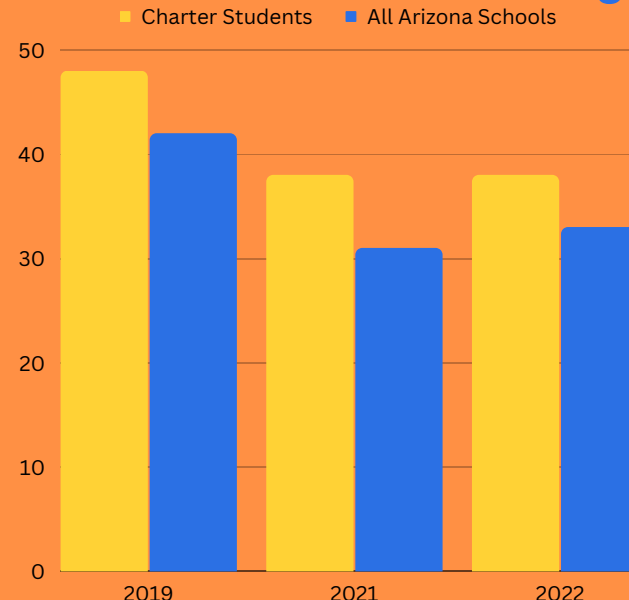
More than  
232,000

Charter school students  
enrolled

## ELA Percent Passing



## Math Percent Passing



# ASBCS AT A GLANCE

OVERSEES **559** CHARTER SCHOOLS OPERATED BY **412** CHARTER HOLDERS

**191**

Schools Visited

**407**

Financial Audits  
Reviewed

**99%**

Of charter holders met  
operational performance  
standards

**90%**

Of charter holders met  
financial performance  
standards

**75%**

Of charter schools that received  
a letter grade received “A” or  
“B” letter grades in fiscal year  
2022





# "Raising the Bar"



## New ASBCS Online System

Moving to a new ASBCS Online system has enhanced operational efficiency and improved system capabilities. The public is able to access information more easily from our system.



## Transition to Electronic Files

Improved operational practices by upgrading to an electronic file keeping system to make fulfillment of records requests more efficient and contract information more readily accessible overall.



## Investing in Our Team

Increased number of staff to 20 which enhances our capacity to provide support for charters and to have faster turnaround time on charter requests.

Staff were provided with increased professional development opportunities throughout the year.



## Communication is Key

Enhanced communication and release of information has led to fewer compliance issues found and better performance under the operational framework.



## A Regional Approach

Regional team was created for Southern Arizona, increasing the quality of support and accountability for schools in this region and creating opportunities for more positive touchpoints.



## Enhanced Training Offerings

Provided 11 training sessions to our charter holders which provides opportunities for charter holders to learn more about the frameworks and best practices.

# STRATEGIC GOALS

Our Board uses its strategic goals to guide our work and the ways in which we support our mission. In 2024, we intend to build upon that work and take further actions to support our portfolio of charter schools.

## **GOAL #1**

Promote our mission and continue to improve our authorizing practices to ensure quality educational choices are available to Arizona students and families.

## **GOAL #2**

Continue to monitor and improve our Performance Frameworks and processes in order to meet the changing needs of the educational landscape and to ensure compliance and high expectations of the charter schools we authorize.

## **GOAL #3**

Provide increased support, collaboration, and communication to our charter holder portfolio and charter school community.

# LOOKING FORWARD

**What To Expect in  
Fiscal Year 2024**

## **Increase Charter Support**

- Incorporate further enhancements, cleanup to existing data, and improvement for transparency to the new ASBCS Online System.
- Hire a regional team for northern Arizona to increase the quality of support and community involvement.
- Expand training offerings by ASBCS staff and partner with external agencies to provide additional training and support.
- Visit 175 schools this year.

## **Improvement of Processes**

- Establish a Financial Framework Subcommittee to review Financial Framework through public process.
- Continue development of School-Specific Academic Goals.
- Collect and utilize data to make informed decisions to improve processes.
- Review of amendment requirements to better streamline processes and reduce administrative burden.

## **Increase Communication**

- Increase presence with charters and public by providing more newsletters and improving social media presence.
- Meet and build relationships with charter community members to assist in navigating the national charter landscape.
- Improve communication to include more touchpoints with our charters and to better provide charter school support.



# *Connect with ASBCS*

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[NEWSLETTER](#)



[ASBCS WEBSITE](#)

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