NORTH CAROLINA
COALITION FOR
CHARTER SCHOOLS

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"Charter Schools Remain the Fastest-Growing Segment of K-12 Education in North Carolina"

"Demand like never before"

Raleigh, NC – In case you missed it, North Carolina's fast-growing public charter school sector has been getting lots of attention.

- Yesterday, Carolina Journal published a story ("**NC charter schools remain fastest growing K-12 segment**") with insights from a public charter school parent: "[My wife and I] saw increased parent engagement, which helped them to be more involved their kids' learning," Jerry Cooper, a father of two from Raleigh, told the outlet. **"We also found charters to be deeply connected to the community."**
- This week, the News & Observer **published a story** about strong demand for public charter school facilities: "Statewide, charter school enrollment is expected to eclipse 145,000 students this year, according to the state Department of Public Instruction, as several schools are expanding to accommodate some of the more than 85,000 students on waiting lists. . .**'There is demand like never before,'** said Bartley Danielsen, a member of the Charter [Schools] Review Board."

Lindalyn Kakadelis, executive director of the N.C. Coalition for Charter Schools, said, "Public charter schools continue to surge in popularity, complementing traditional public schools by offering innovative curricula enabling students to specialize in certain fields. Charter schools are a successful piece of the school choice landscape because of the flexibility afforded them by legislators."

More than 85,000 students were on waitlists for public charter schools across North Carolina in 2023-24.

In recent years, the General Assembly has passed legislation to preserve the independence and flexibility that help public charter schools succeed. Last year, for example, the legislature enacted into law **House Bill 219**. The measure eases the approval process for new public charter schools and removes growth restrictions on charter schools that are not low-performing.

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