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Iowa Charter Schools *Legislative Report*



Department of Education

State of Iowa
Department of Education
Grimes State Office Building
400 E. 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

State Board of Education

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I. Introduction

Pursuant to Iowa Code sections 256E.12 and 256F.10, the State Board shall prepare and provide a comprehensive report with findings and recommendations to the general assembly by December 1. Iowa Code chapters 256E¹ and 256F outline all requirements for the establishment and operations of charter schools in Iowa. The Iowa Department of Education (Department) must prescribe by rule the required contents of the reports, and must include information regarding student achievement, including annual academic growth and proficiency, graduation rates, and financial performance and sustainability. Therefore, as indicated in Iowa Administrative Code chapter 281-19.14, reports must contain:

- The charter school's mission statement, including a vision statement and goals, as well as data measuring goal attainment.
- Student demographics, disaggregated by grade level and protected characteristics.
- Attendance statistics and dropout rate (average daily attendance, dropout rate, student mobility).
- Graduation data, including four-year and five-year graduation rates, credit accrual, and the number of students on track for graduation.
- Student achievement, including annual academic growth and proficiency, including Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) data, other assessment data, and aggregate assessment test scores.
- Financial performance, including projections of financial stability.
- The number and qualifications of teachers and administrators.
- Sustainability data, including enrollment trends, and satisfaction of staff, parents and students.
- The number of and comments on supervisory visits by the Department of Education (Iowa Code chapter 256F only).

A. Charters Authorized under Iowa Code Chapters 256E and 256F

Sixteen charter schools are currently authorized to operate in Iowa under Iowa Code chapters 256E and 256F. Out of these 16 charters, **10 are operational** in the 2025-26 school year. Of the 10 in operation, **seven are reporting** charter schools, as they were in operation throughout the 2024-25 reporting year. Table 1 provides the name of each authorized charter school, the grades served, the charter focus and type, the year operational, and the charter renewal year. Note that data is not available for any charter school with an operational year on or after 2025-26.

¹ Note that charters authorized prior to 2021, were approved under Iowa Code chapter 256F. Although Iowa Code chapter 256F remains in effect, no new charter schools may be authorized under this chapter.

Table 1. Iowa Authorized Charter Schools

School	Address	Principal	Grades	Focus	Type	Open	Renew
Choice Charter School	P.O. Box 193, Union, Iowa 50258	Dr. Cynthia Knight	9-12	Virtual; Working students	Founding Group	2022-23	2026-27
Empowering Excellence Charter School	1918 St. Andrews Ct NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402	Sarah Swayze	11-12	Career Readiness targeted to at-risk youth	Founding Group	2024-25	2028-29
Great Oaks High School and Career Center Charter School - Des Moines	100 East Euclid Ave. Des Moines, IA 50313	Kristopher Byam	9-12	Career Readiness targeted to at-risk youth	Founding Group	2024-25	2028-29
Hamburg Charter High School	309 S Street Hamburg, IA 51640	Gregg Cruickshank	9-12	Career Readiness	School Board	2022-23	2026-27
Horizon Science Academy Des Moines	4801 Franklin Ave, Des Moines, IA 50310	Laura Cannon	K-7	STEM	Founding Group	2023-24	2027-28
Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School (256F)	419 Lake Ave. Storm Lake, IA 50588	Dr. Stacey Cole	9-12	Career Readiness	School Board	2005-06	2025-26
West Central Charter High School (256F)	305 Pember St. Maynard, IA 50662	Rob Busch	9-12	Career Readiness	School Board	2005-06	2026-27
OEN-Cedar Rapids Prep	4515 N. River Blvd. Cedar Rapids, IA 52411	Justin Blietz	6-8	Work-Based Learning	Founding Group	2025-26	2028-29
OEN-Des Moines Prep	95 E. 5th Street Des Moines, IA 50309	Matt Lakis	8-9	Work-Based Learning	Founding Group	2025-26	2028-29
Horizon Science Academy Davenport	2626 Boies Ave. Davenport, IA 52802	Shawn Smith	K-10	STEM	Founding Group	2025-26	2029-30
CIVICA Charter School-Cedar Rapids	3233 Blairs Ferry Rd. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402	TBD	K-5	Academic Achievement, Character Formation, College and Career Readiness	Founding Group	2026-27	2028-29
OEN-Davenport Prep	TBD Davenport	TBD	6-12	Work-Based Learning	Founding Group	2026-27	2029-30
Red Barn School House	TBD Crescent	TBD	K-5	Nature-Based Learning	Founding Group	2026-27	2029-30

School	Address	Principal	Grades	Focus	Type	Open	Renew
Distinctive Innovation Academy	TBD Des Moines	TBD	K-8	Rigorous academics, whole child development, personalized, student-centered learning	Founding Group	2026-27	2029-30
Great Oaks High School and Career Center- Davenport	TBD Davenport	Kristopher Byam	9-12	Career Readiness targeted to at-risk youth	Founding Group	2026-27	2029-30
Great Oaks High School and Career Center- South Des Moines	TBD South Des Moines	Kristopher Byam	9-12	Career Readiness targeted to at-risk youth	Founding Group	2026-27	2029-30

B. Report Organization

This report is organized in the following manner:

- I. **Introduction** provides a broad overview of the reporting authority and Iowa charter schools.
- II. **Charter School Highlights** is a one-page overview of charter school highlights across all reporting charter schools.
- III. **Charter School Summary** provides an overall summary of charter school progress in the state within each required data category as outlined in Iowa Code chapters 256E and 256F.
- IV. **Appendix A** includes linked reports submitted by each operational charter school with available 2024-25 data.

Important Note

Charter schools will be named by acronyms in multiple data tables within this report. The table below identifies the acronym for each school.

Charter School	Acronym
Choice Charter School	CC
Empowering Excellence Charter School	EE
Great Oaks High School and Career Center-Des Moines	GO
Hamburg Charter High School	HC
Horizon Science Academy – Des Moines	HSA
Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School	SL
West Central Charter High School	WC

II. Charter School Highlights

Charter schools have seen significant growth and progress in recent years. From FY23 to FY25, **charter school enrollment surged by 213%**², rising from 257 to 804 students. At the start of FY25, 72.7% of all charter goals across the network—24 out of 33—were either met or in progress, signaling strong alignment with performance benchmarks. Growth continues with three new charter schools opening in FY26, and six more scheduled to open in FY27, further expanding access and educational opportunity.

Charter schools serve a diverse student population, with nearly half (48.1%) of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch. Additionally, 13.1% of students receive special education services, and 4.0% are English language learners. In terms of racial and ethnic diversity, the largest student groups are White students (57.7%), African-American students (19.5%), and Hispanic/Latino students (15.5%), with the remaining population comprising multiracial and other minority groups.

Charter schools are also staffed by fully qualified professionals. As of FY25, **100% of charter school teachers hold appropriate licensure**—whether full, conditional, initial, or equivalent, such as a substitute license. Of the total staff, 66% are fully certified, 20% hold an initial license, 6% hold a conditional license, and 8% are licensed under another qualifying category. All charter school administrators (6 out of 6) are fully licensed.

Individual charter achievements are highlighted in Table 2, with additional details available in Appendix A, where all individual charter reports are linked.

² Note that this represents less than .2% of the total student population in Iowa (804/475,459x100).

Table 2. Charter School Highlights

Charter School	Highlights
Choice Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment increased 53.8% in one year (167 to 257 students). • One student was awarded a Presidential Scholarship to attend Drake University. • 100% of students pursued post-secondary options after graduation. • 95.2% of parents reported their child receives the academic support needed.
Empowering Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0% of students were chronically absent in FY25. • 100% of students reported a positive, supportive experience during exit interviews. • Met FY25 enrollment goal of 120 students. • 51 students graduated in FY25.
Great Oaks High School and Career Center-Des Moines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of school goals met or in progress. • Received YouthBuild grant with I-JAG and DMACC; students built a Habitat for Humanity home in FY25. • Enrollment grew from 14 to 203 students in FY25, exceeding the goal of 120. • 100% of graduates completed internships, pre-apprenticeships, or similar placements.
Hamburg Charter High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 9 students outperformed the state average on English Language Arts (ELA) ISASP. • Enrollment increased 91.4% from FY21 to FY25 (35 to 67 students). • 100% of seniors participated in paid apprenticeships. • Dropout rate decreased 78.7% (from 8.1% to 1.72%).
Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serves higher percentages of multiple student groups than the state average. • Students participated in STEM events and technology courses, including coding and artificial intelligence (AI). • Enrollment increased 89.8% from FY24 to FY25 (79 to 150 students).
Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average daily attendance at 100%, above state average. • Dropout rate at 0%, below state average. • Students earned 523 college credits from FY24 to FY25. • Students enrolled in 124 concurrent enrollment courses.
West Central Charter High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 94.4% 4-year and 100% 5-year graduation rates. • 11th-grade reading scores increased from 64.4% to 70.5%. • Above state average in 10th grade ELA (80.8%) and mathematics (76.9%). • Enrollment continues to grow annually.

III. Charter School Summary

This section is organized by the required data as indicated in Iowa Code sections 256E.12 and 256F.10:

1. **Mission, Vision, Goals and Progress** is a summary of these areas in a table for ease of reference, and specifically provides the progress of each charter in meeting the goals and purposes set forth by the charter.
2. **Enrollment and Demographics** is a table summary of charter school data in comparison to state-level data.
3. **Attendance, Graduation and Dropout** is a table summary of this required data in comparison to state-level data.
4. **Student Achievement** includes a table summary of one-year student achievement data in comparison to state-level data.
5. **Number and Qualifications of Teachers and Administrators** is a table summary of the number and percentage of:
 - a. Teachers: Fully certified
 - b. Teachers: Conditional
 - c. Teachers: Other. “Other” means not indicated as fully certified. Note that the staff in “Other” have a certification or degree—they are just not indicated as fully certified.
 - d. Administrators: Fully certified
 - e. Administrators: Other. “Other” means not indicated as fully certified. Note that the administration in “Other” has a certification or degree—they are just not indicated as fully certified.
6. **Financial Sustainability** provides a summary of financial data submitted by charters.
7. **Sustainability and Stakeholder Satisfaction Ratings** provides an overview of projected enrollment for 2025-26, and a summary of charter school satisfaction results.
8. **Findings** indicate any noncompliance across charters, and if applicable, the number of supervisory visits and comments on them by the Department.
9. **Recommendations** are provided for the next steps in the evaluation and monitoring of charter schools.

A. Mission, Vision, Goals and Progress

Charter schools have clearly stated mission and vision statements, as well as overall goals within their authorized charter applications and contracts. Table 3 reflects each school’s mission, vision, goals and related progress as submitted verbatim by the charter schools. All charter schools are actively implementing their established mission and vision as well as actions to achieve their outlined goals. Outlined charter school goals encompass various areas, including increasing progress toward graduation, decreasing rates of chronic absenteeism, and improving college and career readiness. Across all seven charter schools, 72.7% of charter goals have been met or are in progress, totaling 24 out of 33 goals.

Table 3a. Choice Charter School Mission, Vision and Goals/Progress

Mission	Vision	Goals/Progress
<p>Choice Charter School Iowa (7-12): On a virtual secondary school campus, we provide Iowa with a student-centered alternative public education – steeped in mentoring, equity, compassion, and the skills needed to shape the future.</p>	<p>Choice Charter School will be a non-traditional, nonprofit school meeting the needs of unique students who want a brighter future. We will provide a research evidence-based program for students who want a nontraditional high school option, have dropped out of high school, and who are motivated to earn a diploma. Through individual learning paths that honor students' college/career dreams, we will prepare people to become engaged members of society by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrating learning strengths, student choice, interests, and needs to create personalized learning. ● Recognizing the value of each student and the unique circumstances brought to the learning environment. ● Creating a cross-curricular curriculum. 	<p>Goal 1: Continue to increase progress towards graduation. Each student will make progress toward graduation based on their Individual Success Plan. (A minimum of 8 credits will be suggested for students who are present all year).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Progress: <i>For the FY24 school year, the school’s 4-year graduation rate was 31.9%, the 5-year graduation rate was 54.3%; additionally, 25.3% of students earned 8 credits during the 2024-2025 school year towards graduation.</i> <p>Goal 2: Continue improvement in academic learning on the State ISASP Assessments by increasing the participation of students taking the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress from 49% to 80% and continue the progress of 5% growth on scale score of the cohort student group in ELA, mathematics, and science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Progress: <i>During the FY25 school year, 47% of the school’s students took the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress and 57.14% were proficient in ELA, 32.2% were proficient in mathematics, and 40.9% were proficient in science.</i> <p>Goal 3: Maintain a positive school culture by preventing bullying, supporting social-emotional learning and having positive results on the five areas of (Safety, Listening, Communication, Boundaries, and Expectations).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Progress: <i>Conditions for Learning data has been completed the past two years for students, parents/guardians, and staff.</i> <p>Goal 4: Improve communication on student progress and success. Decrease the percent of strongly disagree and disagree responses on the parent/guardian and staff survey results for questions 3, 7, and 9 which address parent/guardian communication regarding student progress, the staff regularly communicating with parents about their child, and students having multiple on-ramps if they have struggled to meet those expectations.</p>

Mission	Vision	Goals/Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focusing on competency, project-based education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>On the 2025 survey, 20.6 percent of parents/guardians either strongly disagreed or disagreed with question 3, 19.1 percent of parents/guardians either strongly disagreed or disagreed with question 7, and question 9 was not asked of parents/guardians. For staff, 22.3 percent strongly disagreed or disagreed with question 3, 29.4 percent disagreed and 0 percent strongly disagreed with question 7, and 5.6 percent disagreed and 0 percent strongly disagreed with question 9.</i> Goal 5: Future Ready Students in that each student will be able to identify their career path and utilize it for school and post-graduation planning. <p>Annual Progress: <i>Career and technical progress toward ELP composite data will be given after count day when the school has students who graduate. The career and technical progress towards ELP composite centered around sixteen career clusters combined to create either bigger subgroups.</i></p>

Table 3b. Empowering Excellence Charter School Mission, Vision and Goals/Progress

Mission	Vision	Goals/Progress
<p>At Empowering Excellence Charter School, our mission is to Activate Excellence by providing students with a flexible, personalized, and forward-thinking education that will help them achieve their academic, professional, and personal goals.</p>	<p>Our vision is to Cultivate students who are prepared for life after high school through mentoring, educational counseling, and career-related fields.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Have a 40% or lower chronic absenteeism rate as the school serves a highly transitory population classified as out-of-Charter School or at-risk adolescents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>According to the Iowa School Performance Profile (ISPP), zero percent of Empowering Excellence Charter School students were chronically absent during FY25.</i> <p>Goal 2: Achieve 50% or higher for positive survey responses on the Conditions for Learning Survey as the school serves a highly transitory population classified as out-of-Charter School or at-risk adolescents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>Thirty-one percent of Empowering Excellence Charter School graduates provided detailed testimonials confirming the school was instrumental in their ability to graduate. During individual exit meetings, 100% of graduates reported that Empowering Excellence Charter School was a positive, supportive experience that directly led to their graduation.</i> <p>Goal 3: Achieve a Post-Secondary Readiness score of 19 or higher according to the Iowa School Performance Profile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>According to the Iowa School Performance Profile, the school's Post Secondary Readiness Index Score was 4.76.</i> <p>Goal 4: Achieve a clean audit.</p> <p>Annual Progress: <i>The school's audit is currently in progress. Upon completion of the audit, the school will have the necessary data to confirm if this target was met.</i></p>

Table 3c. Great Oaks High School and Career Center-Des Moines Mission, Vision and Goals/Progress

Mission	Vision	Goals/Progress
<p>Great Oaks High School, operated in partnership with Oakmont Education, exists to transform the lives of opportunity youth by providing a second chance for nontraditional high school students who have faced considerable challenges. We are committed to preparing students for “a quality life after high school” through a blend of credit recovery, career and technical education, and nationally recognized industry credentials.</p>	<p>We envision a future where every young person, regardless of background or past setbacks, has access to the tools, guidance, and confidence to succeed. Great Oaks High School serves as a lifeline, helping students re-engage with education, recover lost credits, gain work-based learning experiences, and graduate ready for both postsecondary education and the workforce.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Increase student credit attainment and on-track graduation rates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>Eleven students successfully graduated in 2025, all of whom entered with significant credit deficiencies. Many others made measurable progress toward being on track.</i> <p>Goal 2: Improve student daily attendance and persistence in school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>Average daily attendance for the year was 49%, with strong persistence rates as students continued to accrue credits even when unable to attend daily.</i> <p>Goal 3: Provide access to CTE pathways and industry-recognized credentials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>Students engaged in construction, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare, pathways, with multiple students earning OSHA-10 and working towards industry recognized credentials. YouthBuild coming online for the 2025-2026 school year will only enhance the growth of the CTE programs.</i> <p>Goal 4: Ensure wraparound supports that reduce barriers to student success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>Family Advocates and Resiliency Specialists provided housing, food, transportation, and court support; partnerships with iJAG and community organizations enhanced wraparound services.</i> <p>Goal 5: Build strong student engagement and satisfaction.</p> <p>Annual Progress: <i>Student surveys indicated strong agreement that teachers care, provide support, and make technology and CTE opportunities accessible (over 80% agreement across multiple indicators).</i></p>

Table 3d. Hamburg Charter High School Mission, Vision and Goals/Progress

Mission		Vision	Goals/Progress
<p>The mission of the charter school focuses on increasing the number of students who graduate high school in southwest Iowa by providing a nontraditional approach to school by focusing on job skill development which will equate to high paying jobs upon competition of high school. Students who choose to be in the charter school will have an opportunity to earn a career and technical certification/diploma and/or an associate degree while in high school. All charter high school students will be required to choose a career path which can be changed upon approval. The purpose is to assure all students who graduate from the charter school have the skill set to enter the workforce upon graduation or continue their educational journey through college. The targeted students include</p>		<p>The vision of the Hamburg Charter School is to be a state leader in education by setting a high standard of educational quality and opportunity for high school students. We will accomplish this by teaching the importance of honesty, integrity, self-discipline and work ethic. We will accomplish this by providing a well-rounded educational experience that will provide students with the opportunity to explore careers, and gain "real world" skills. Students will have a mixed model of traditional classroom experiences with an apprenticeship program. These experiences will help students develop a strong work ethic which is lacking in many employees in today's work environment. The school will honor diverse cultures and faiths and involve employers, educators, family and community into the educational process. Our vision is that every student attending the Hamburg Charter High School will earn a certificate, diploma or degree while in high</p>	<p>Goal 1: Increase the number of non-Caucasian students and students from low-income families attaining advanced post-secondary degrees and technical diplomas/certifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>The school's total enrollment increased from 35 to 67 students over the past four years.</i> <p>Goal 2: Provide a high school experience that is more rigorous and relevant than a traditional high school by focusing on college and career curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>Data previously shared in the report shows that 90 to 100 percent of students in trade programs earned certification in their trade field.</i> <p>Goal 3: Each student will develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) that allows them to direct and decide their educational path which will be measured by performance in an apprenticeship program, Iowa Assessments, and classroom performance. The ILP will measure mathematics, reading, science, as well as speaking and job performance skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>This is currently in practice for all students. Seniors presented their career portfolios to the school board.</i> <p>Goal 4: Provide a year-round school that incorporates apprenticeship programs where students learn valuable skills while earning money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>All seniors participated in a paid apprenticeship program.</i> <p>Goal 5: All students will have an individualized learning plan that is based on their interests and life goals that will map out their career plan, set goals, and measure outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>Individualized learning plans are displayed as part of the student portfolios.</i> <p>Goal 6: Decrease the number of student dropouts in Southwest Iowa by providing a meaningful alternative to traditional high school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Progress: <i>Students from College Springs, Red Oak, Shenandoah, Sidney, and Tabor attend the charter high school.</i>

Mission		Vision	Goals/Progress
<p>all students in Southwest Iowa with a special focus on minority and low social-economic students. The communities include Hamburg, Riverton, Sidney, Farragut, Coin, Clarinda, Shenandoah, and Tabor.</p>		<p>school and will have the skillset to enter the workforce and earn a good living or further their education in a post-secondary school. The decisions on which path a student takes will be supported by the school, community and family.</p>	<p>Goal 7: Provide a career mentor for each student in the charter school to help guide and aid students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>Each student has a qualified mentor assigned for their career path.</i> <p>Goal 8: Provide professional development for all staff members on career and technical programming and individualized learning plans.</p> <p>Annual Progress: <i>All staff are licensed and trained in developing personal learning plans.</i></p>

Table 3e. Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines Mission, Vision and Goals/Progress

Mission	Vision	Goals/Progress
<p>The mission of the Horizon Science Academy Des Moines is to foster an environment of inquiry and a love of learning so students are prepared to thrive in a STEM-focused college and world.</p>	<p>The vision of Horizon Science Academy Des Moines is: All students will enter college ready to excel in STEM subjects.</p>	<p>Goal 1: By the end of each reporting year, 60% of students will perform at or above the benchmark on Literacy Screening assessments as evidenced by STAR Early Literacy approved screening measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>At the end of the school year, 55% of all students were proficient as measured by the STAR Early Literacy benchmark assessment.</i> <p>Goal 2: One-hundred percent of students will engage in STEM focused, project-based learning experiences and courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>Horizon Science Academy of Des Moines hosted a STEM event where each student engaged in a project and presented it to other classrooms, along with parent visitors. Students also participated in technology classes in which they are learning coding, Artificial Intelligence, and typing skills. Each student received mathematics lessons according to grade level standards and teachers support vertical alignment when teaching small groups to meet student needs.</i> <p>Goal 3: By the end of each reporting year, 75% of students will “strongly agree” that Horizon Science Academy Des Moines has a supportive environment as evidenced by the 5 Essentials Survey.</p> <p>Annual Progress: <i>In FY24, the impact was not measured due to a limited number of responses. The FY25 year will serve as the benchmark for FY26.</i></p>

Table 3f. Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School Mission, Vision and Goals/Progress

Mission	Vision	Goals/Progress
<p>The mission of the original Charter School was to make higher education more accessible, affordable and attractive to all students, especially for those students who do not see a college degree in their future due to language and/or economic barriers, thereby helping increase Storm Lake High School's overall graduation and college completion rates for all its students, particularly for a portion of its most disadvantaged youth.</p>	<p>Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College High School has served the students and families of Storm Lake well over the past twelve years. Many of our past charter school students live in the community, and the additional educational opportunities they have received has allowed them to be employed in highly skilled and high demand jobs including jobs in nursing, industrial maintenance, carpentry, business, auto maintenance, accounting and criminal justice.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Increase the number of first-generation, low socio-economic status, English Language Learners, and Non-Caucasian students attaining advanced postsecondary degrees/certificates or college credits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>The overall number of students attaining a degree or certification this report year has slightly increased from four students during FY24, to eight students during FY25. The program additionally is continually seeing students enroll and attain college credit for the first time or building upon college credit taken in high school. For many students, the goal is to transfer to a four-year university or enroll in an additional associate's degree program. First generation, low socio-economic status, and English Language Learners continue to show high representation in the enrollment.</i> <p>Goal 2: Provide a more rigorous/relevant/college prep curriculum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>During FY25, students enrolled in approximately 124 concurrent enrollment courses, including Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), Early Bird, and Distance Learning (online) courses.</i> <p>Goal 3: Raise student scores on the Iowa Test of Educational Development and Iowa Assessment scores in Reading, Mathematics, and Science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>During the 2022 to 2023 school year, the average score among juniors in evidence-based reading and writing on the PSAT was 530, in mathematics was 528, and the average total score was 1,058. During FY24 there were no scores to report. Meanwhile, in FY25, the average score among juniors in evidence-based reading and writing on the PSAT was 452, in mathematics was 457, and the average total score was 908.</i> Goal 4: Increase the number of dual-credit/concurrent enrollment credits earned. Annual Progress: <i>There was a slight increase from FY24 of 473 to FY25 of 523 in the number of college credits charter students earned during their four years of high school.</i> <p>Goal 5: All students will have individual learning plans.</p> <p>Annual Progress: <i>All students entering the Charter program work closely with the Charter Counselor and Iowa Central Community College officials to create individualized learning plans tailored to their needs. The Charter Counselor organizes monthly meetings, hosts informational sessions during parent-teacher conferences, and offers one-on-one appointments throughout the year to adjust or revise these plans as necessary. Prior to the start of the school year, students meet with their academic advisors for a comprehensive college orientation, connect with Academic</i></p>

Mission	Vision	Goals/Progress
		<i>Assistance and Accommodations Specialists, as well as the Work-Based Learning Coordinator, to learn about various resources and opportunities available on campus.</i>

Table 3g. West Central Charter High School Mission, Vision and Goals/Progress

Mission	Vision	Goals/Progress
<p>Engage each and every student through collaborative relationships, exceptional teaching, and personalized learning experiences that will result in confident graduates who will be successful in their chosen path.</p>	<p>Student Centered, Future Focused</p>	<p>Goal 1: Continue to raise Iowa Assessment proficiencies for 11th-grade students in reading, mathematics, and science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>In FY25, 11th-grade reading proficiency grew to 70.5% on the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) and mathematics proficiency was at 58.97% on the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress.</i> <p>Goal 2: Provide special needs and at-risk students with the opportunity to develop individualized courses of study working toward a high school diploma and developing employability skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Progress: <i>In FY24, the school had a 100 percent 4-year and 5-year graduation rate. In FY25, the school had a 94.4 percent 4-year graduation rate and 100 percent 5-year graduation rate.</i> <p>Goal 3: Increase the percentage of students that graduate with a dual concentration of vocational and academic credits.</p> <p>Annual Progress: <i>The school's data continues to provide evidence that students of low socio-economic status and students with an IEP continue to have the same success and opportunities afforded to the general population of students.</i></p>

B. Enrollment and Demographics

Demographic data for the charter schools are provided in Tables 4 and 5. These tables include both the number of enrolled students by demographic group and the percentage each group represents within the total student population.

Compared to the state overall, charter schools serve a more diverse population across nearly every demographic category, as shown in Table 5. Five of seven charter schools have a higher percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, with rates ranging from 49.4% to 87%. Additionally, three of the seven schools report higher percentages of students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), ranging from 16.6% to 22.4%. Furthermore, five of the seven charters serve a higher percentage of students in one or more of the following racial/ethnic groups: Hispanic/Latino, African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Asian, American Indian, and multiracial. Among all charter schools in the state, Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School demonstrates the greatest overall diversity.

Table 4. Enrollment and Demographic Data - Grades: 2024-25

Demographics	CC Number	CC Percent	EE Number	EE Percent	GO Number	GO Percent	HC Number	HC Percent	HSA Number	HSA Percent	SL Number	SL Percent	WC Number	WC Percent	State Number	State Percent
Grade KG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	39	26%	NA	NA	NA	NA	35,976	7.56%
Grade 01	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	38	25.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	33,828	7.11%
Grade 02	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	37	24.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	34,749	7.30%
Grade 03	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	22	14.6%	NA	NA	NA	NA	35,825	7.53%
Grade 04	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	14	9.3%	NA	NA	NA	NA	35,771	7.52%
Grade 05	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	36,177	7.60%
Grade 06	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	35,905	7.55%
Grade 07	3	1.17%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	35,836	7.53%
Grade 08	5	1.95%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	36,138	7.60%
Grade 09	20	7.78%	NA	NA	NA	NA	13*	22.4%*	NA	NA	NA	NA	35*	36%*	38,531	8.10%
Grade 10	48	18.68%	NA	NA	5*	6.9%*	17*	29.3%*	NA	NA	NA	NA	26*	26.8%*	38,716	8.14%
Grade 11	68	26.46%	40	33%	23*	31.9%*	20*	34.4%*	NA	NA	NA	NA	16*	16.4%*	38,946	8.19%

Demographics	CC Number	CC Percent	EE Number	EE Percent	GO Number	GO Percent	HC Number	HC Percent	HSA Number	HSA Percent	SL Number	SL Percent	WC Number	WC Percent	State Number	State Percent
Grade 12	113	43.97%	80	67%	44*	61.1%*	8*	13.7%*	NA	NA	50%	100%*	20*	20.6%*	39,061	8.21%
Total Enrollment	257	100	120	100	72*	100*	58*	100*	150	100	50*	100*	97*	100	475,459	100

Note. Charter School data is from the 2024 Fall BEDS submission. These data reflect students actively enrolled on the October 1 count date with a BEDS entry code (students served): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 15, 19, and 60 except when Service/Facility Type is 8 (Border Agreements). State data are from: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Performance and Analytics, Address File, and the SRI Fall Merged 2024 file.

*Asterisk** = data provided by the Iowa Department of Education

Table 5. Enrollment and Demographic Data-Race/Ethnicity: 2024-25

Demographics	CC Number	CC Percent	EE Number	EE Percent	GO Number	GO Percent	HC Number	HC Percent	HSA Number	HSA Percent	SL Number	SL Percent	WC Number	WC Percent	State Percent
FRL	51	19.8%	104	87%	**	**	33*	56.8%*	119	79.3%	32*	60%*	48*	49.4%*	42.2%
IEP	49	19%	11	9%	12*	16.6%*	13*	22.4%*	5	3.3%	4*	8%*	11*	11.3%*	13.8%
EL	4*	1.6%*	0	0	0*	0*	5*	8.6%*	5	3.3%	16*	30.2%*	2*	2%*	8.0%
Male	128	49.8%	57	48%	49*	68%*	33*	56.8%*	86	57.3%	21*	42%*	44*	45.3%*	51.4%
Female	119	46.3%	60	50%	23*	31.9%*	25*	43.1%*	64	42.7%	29*	58%*	53*	54.6%*	48.5%
Nonbinary	10	3.8%	3	2%	0*	0*	0*	0*	0	0	0*	0*	0*	0*	0.01%
White	196	76.2%	34	28%	23*	31.9%*	52*	89.6%*	68	45.3%	5*	10%*	86*	88.6%*	70.4%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	1.1%	0	0	0*	0*	0*	0*	0	0	0*	0*	0*	0*	0.3%
Hispanic-Latino	30	11.6%	8	7%	21*	29.1%*	6*	10.3%*	21	14%	31*	62%*	8*	8.2%*	13.7%
African-American	24	9.3%	62	52%	27*	37.5%*	0*	0*	41	27.3%	2*	4%*	1*	1%*	7.3%
Native Hawaiian-Pacific Island	0	0	0	0	1*	1.3%*	0*	0*	0	0	1*	2%*	0*	0*	0.7%
Asian	2	0.7%	0	0	0*	0*	0*	0*	0	0	9*	18%*	0*	0*	2.5%
Multi-Race	2	0.7%	16	13%	0*	0*	0*	0*	20	13.3%	2*	4%*	2*	2%*	5.1%

Note. Charter School data is from the 2024 Fall BEDS submission. These data reflect students actively enrolled on the October 1 count date with a BEDS entry code (students served): 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 15, 19, and 60 except when Service/Facility Type is 8 (Border Agreements). State data are from the Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Performance and Analytics, Address File, and the SRI Fall Merged 2024 file and represent the percent of students within each subpopulation, or the number of students within a subpopulation divided by the total number of students within the population as a whole. **Bold green** indicates the population is above the state percent; *Italic yellow* indicates the rate is within one percentage point of the state.

*Asterisk** = data provided by the Iowa Department of Education

C. Attendance, Graduation and Dropout

Attendance, graduation, and dropout data for the charter schools are presented in Table 6, with each metric represented as a percentage. Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School achieved 100% average daily attendance (ADA). Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines reported an ADA of 90.68%, while Hamburg Charter High School reported an ADA of 92%. Choice Charter School had an ADA of 88.6%, which is below the state average of 92.6%.

West Central Charter High School recorded a four-year graduation rate of 94.4% for the Class of 2024, 6.1 percentage points higher than the state average of 88.3%. Choice Charter School had a four-year graduation rate of 31.9%.

Regarding dropout rates, Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School reported 0%, while West Central Charter High School reported 2.17%. Hamburg Charter High School reported a dropout rate of 2.53%, slightly higher than the state average of 1.84%, while Choice Charter School reported a rate of 14.2%, 12.4 percentage points above the state average.

Table 6. Attendance, Graduation and Dropout: 2023-24

Area	Choice	Empowering	Great Oaks	Hamburg	Horizon	Storm Lake	West Central	State (K-12)
Attendance (ADA)	88.6%*	N/A	N/A	92%	90.68%*	100%	84.27%*	92.6%
4 Year Graduation Rate	31.9%	N/A	N/A	87.5%*	N/A	N/A	94.4%	88.3%
5 Year Graduation Rate	54.3%	N/A	N/A	**	N/A	N/A	100%	89.9%
Dropout	14.2%	N/A	N/A	2.53%*	N/A	0%	2.17%	1.84%

Note: School data are from required charter reports in Appendix A; state data reflect statewide statistics for attendance, graduation, and dropout rates. **Bold green** indicates the charter exceeds the state rate (attendance, graduation) or is below the state rate (dropout). **Italic yellow** indicates the rate is within one percentage point of the state. Attendance, graduation, and dropout rates are reported one year in arrears; the most recent data is from 2023–24. Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School serves only Grade 12 students; graduation rate data is not available. Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines does not serve secondary students; graduation and dropout data are not applicable.

*Asterisk** = Data provided by the Iowa Department of Education.

*Double asterisk*** = Student count under 10; data not reportable.

D. Student Achievement

Student proficiency in charter schools is generally below the state average in both ELA and mathematics, with a few notable exceptions across grade levels and schools (see Tables 7–10).

In Grades 3–4, 41.9% of students at Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines were proficient in ELA, compared to the state average of 71.6%. Mathematics performance at Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines was stronger, with 67.7% proficiency, narrowing the gap with the state average of 69.1%.

In Grades 9–11 ELA, charter schools overall had a proficiency rate of ranging from 32.93% at Choice Charter, 71.4%% at West Central Charter High School and 72.3% at Hamburg Charter High School, compared to the state average of 71.6%. Further, Hamburg Charter High School’s Grade 9 students (84.6%) outperformed the state average by over 10%.

In Grades 9–11 mathematics, proficiency was significantly lower, with charter schools ranging between 12.2% to 58.4%, compared to the state’s 69.1%. West Central Charter High School had the strongest mathematics outcomes, specifically for grade 10 (76.9%), followed by Hamburg Charter High School at an overall proficiency of 41.6%. Other schools reported notably lower performance or did not meet minimum reporting thresholds.

The narrower proficiency gap in elementary mathematics may reflect stronger performance at Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines, where 67.7% of students were proficient, closer to the state average than other charters. Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines’s STEM-focused academic model may contribute to these outcomes. Overall, lower academic performance among charter school students may be influenced by the fact that many charters serve students who are academically at risk.

Table 7. Grades 3-8 ELA Proficiency 2024-25

Reading	CC Number	CC Percent	HSA Number	HSA Percent	State Percent
Grade 03	N/A	N/A	7/19	36.8%	66.2%
Grade 04	N/A	N/A	6/12	50%	74.2%
All Students	**	**	13/31	41.9%	71.6%

Note. Data listed for each school are from the 2024-25 ISASP assessment. State data are from [state statistics](#) on student proficiency in reading and mathematics.

*Double Asterisk*** indicates n-size equaled less than 10 students; data not reportable.

Table 8. Grades 3-8 Mathematics Proficiency 2024-25

Math	CC Number	CC Percent	HSA Number	HSA Percent	State Percent
Grade 03	N/A	N/A	14/19	73.7	74.3%
Grade 04	N/A	N/A	7/12	58.3	72.6%
All Students	**	**	21/31	67.74%	69.1%

Note. Data listed for each school are from the 2024-25 ISASP assessment. State data are from [state statistics](#) on student proficiency in reading and mathematics. *Italic yellow* indicates the rate is within one percentage point of the state.

*Double Asterisk*** indicates n-size equaled less than 10 students; data not reportable.

Table 9. Grades 9-11 ELA Proficiency 2024-25

Reading	CC Number	CC Percent	EE Number	EE Percent	GO Number	GO Percent	HC Number	HC Percent	WC Number	WC Percent	State Percent
Grade 09	**	**	**	**	**	**	11/13	84.6	25/34	73.5%	73.7%
Grade 10	10/18	55.6%	**	**	**	**	11/16	68.8%	21/26	80.8%	72.3%
Grade 11	17/27	63%	**	**	3/12	25%	12/18	66.7%	9/17	52.9%	67.6%
All Student	27/82	32.93%	**	**	N/A	N/A	34/47	72.3%	55/77	71.4%	71.6%

Note. Data listed for each school are from the 2024-25 ISASP assessment. State data are from [state statistics](#) on student proficiency in reading and mathematics. Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School serves only Grade 12 students; therefore, ISASP proficiency data is non-applicable. **Bold green** indicates the students performing above state performance levels; *Italic yellow* indicates the rate is within one percentage point of the state.

*Double Asterisk*** indicates n-size equaled less than 10 students; data not reportable.

Table 10. Grades 9-11 Mathematics Proficiency 2024-25

Math	CC Number	CC Percent	EE Number	EE Percent	GO Number	GO Percent	HC Number	HC Percent	WC Number	WC Percent	State Percent
Grade 09	**	**	**	**	**	**	7/13	53.8%	20/34	58.8%	63.1%
Grade 10	8/20	40%	**	**	**	**	6/16	37.5%	20/26	76.9%	65.8%
Grade 11	10/27	37%	**	**	2/14	14.3%	7/19	36.8%	5/17	29.4%	63.9%
All Student	10/82	12.2%	**	**	N/A	N/A	20/48	41.6%	45/77	58.4%	69.1%

Note. Data listed for each school are from the 2024-25 ISASP assessment. State data are from [state statistics](#) on student proficiency in reading and mathematics. Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School serves only Grade 12 students; therefore, ISASP proficiency data is non-applicable. **Bold green** indicates the students performing above state performance levels.

*Double Asterisk*** indicates n-size equaled less than 10 students; data not reportable.

E. Number and Qualifications of Teachers and Administrators

The number and qualifications of teachers and administrators for the seven charter schools are presented in Table 11. All charter schools report employing staff who meet qualification criteria, including those with full, conditional, initial, or other recognized licensure (e.g., substitute authorization). However, not all schools provided complete data on administrator licensure. For additional details on teacher and administrator degrees, see Appendix A.

Table 11a. Number and Qualifications of Teachers

School	Full	Conditional	Initial	Other ¹	Total Qualified Teachers
Choice	21	1	3	4	29
Empowering	2	0	0	0	2
Great Oaks	3	2	0	2	7
Hamburg	0	0	4	0	4
Horizon	12	1	6	0	19
Storm Lake	1	0	0	0	1
West Central	13	1	3	0	17
TOTAL	52	5	16	6	79

Table 11b. Number and Qualifications Administrators

School	Full	Initial	Other ²	Total Qualified Administrators
Choice	2	0	0	2
Empowering	2	0	0	2
Great Oaks	1	0	0	1
Hamburg	*	*	*	*
Horizon	1	0	0	1
Storm Lake	*	*	*	*
West Central	*	*	*	*
TOTAL	6	0	0	6

¹ Teachers: Other means **not indicated as fully, conditionally or initially certified as a teacher**. Note that the staff in other departments have substitute authorization or an equivalent.

² Administrators: Other means **not indicated as fully certified as an administrator**. Note that the administration in other areas have an educational certification or degree and are serving in a director or coordinator-level role.

*Asterisk** = data was not included in the charter school annual report submission.

F. Financial Sustainability

Total revenue, expenditures, and carryover amounts for the prior, current, and projected fiscal years are provided in Table 12. Student enrollment and per-pupil funding remain the primary drivers of charter school financial performance. To strengthen sustainability and long-term financial health, many charter schools are actively working to (a) increase enrollment through open tours, local promotion, and partnerships with community colleges for dual enrollment, and (b) diversify revenue through grants, fundraising, and deepen community engagement.

Four of the seven currently operating public charter schools in the state—authorized under Iowa Code chapters 256E and 256F—had expenditures that exceeded revenues and incurred negative carryover for FY25.

Two of the schools showing deficits—West Central Charter High School and Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School—are school board model charter schools. In these cases, the local school district acts as the fiscal agent and is responsible for covering any financial shortfalls. Further, the final two schools showing deficits—Great Oaks High School and Career Center-Des Moines and Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines—are supported by Charter Management Organizations that provide direct financial support to the charters they establish. Therefore, these reported deficits do not indicate financial instability in the same way they would for independently operated charter schools authorized under Iowa Code chapter 256E.

Table 12. Charter School Finance Table

Metric	CC 2023-24	CC 2024-25	CC 2025-26	EE 2023-24	EE 2024-25	EE 2025-26	GO 2023-24	GO 2024-25	GO 2025-26	HC 2023-24	HC 2024-25	HC 2025-26
#Students	229	227	320	N/A	120	190	N/A	198	252.00	50	58	68
Revenue	\$1,908,285	\$3,071,817	\$3,224,978	N/A	\$1,874,571.60	\$1,745,144.00	N/A	\$1,707,133	\$3,200,825	\$320,013.35	\$390,474.12	\$992,121.98
Expenditures	\$2,143,547	\$2,854,217	\$3,254,006	N/A	\$1,763,268.86	\$1,737,359.25	N/A	\$1,934,350	\$3,164,296	\$429,013	\$750,372	\$798,000
Carryover	\$(235,262)	\$217,600	\$(29,028)	N/A	\$111,302.74	\$7,784.75	N/A	\$(227,217)	\$36,529	\$27,134	\$42,671	\$125,000

Metric	HSA 2023-24	HSA 2024-25	HSA 2025-26	SL 2023-24	SL 2024-25	SL 2025-26	WC 2023-24	WC 2024-25	WC 2025-26
#Students	73	153	215	46	49	53	93	104	100
Revenue	\$2,171,686	\$2,344,665.44	\$3,109,703	\$405,320.26	\$565,382.00	\$562,176.80	\$972,205.88	\$1,098,282.30	\$1,018,809.30
Expenditures	\$2,793,350	\$3,012,700	\$3,744,196	\$621,553.91	\$926,526.90	\$852,440	\$1,662,046.36	\$2,068,660.00	\$1,839,300.00
Carryover	\$(621,663.9)	\$(668,034)	\$(634,493)	\$(216,234)	\$(361,144)	\$(290,268)	\$(689,840.48)	\$(970,377.70)	\$(820,490.70)

Note. Data are from section F in each Charter School Annual Report linked in Appendix A. **Bold pink** indicates a negative ending balance.

G. Sustainability and Stakeholder Satisfaction Ratings

Projected enrollment data for the seven charter schools are shown in Tables 13 and 14. Six of the seven schools anticipate enrollment increases over the next two years, with growth ranging from modest (five students) to substantial (over 600 students). Horizon Science Academy-Des Moines plans to expand its grade offerings through Grade 7 by the 2027-28 school year.

All charter schools project continued service to demographically diverse student populations. In particular, Choice Charter, Empowering Excellence, Great Oaks High School and Career Center-Des Moines, and Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter High School are expected to maintain high levels of diversity across race/ethnicity, free/reduced lunch eligibility, special education, and English learner status.

Table 13. Projected Enrollment Data 2026-27 and 2027-28: Grades

Demographics	CC 2026-27	CC 2027-28	EE 2026-27	EE 2027-28	GO 2026-27	GO 2027-28	HC 2026-27	HC 2027-28	HSA 2026-27	HSA 2027-28	SL 2026-27	SL 2027-28	WC 2026-27	WC 2027-28
Grade KG	N/A	60	60	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							
Grade 01	N/A	72	72	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							
Grade 02	N/A	50	72	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							
Grade 03	N/A	50	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							
Grade 04	N/A	50	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							
Grade 05	N/A	25	50	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							
Grade 06	N/A	25	25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							
Grade 07	8	14	N/A	25	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
Grade 08	65	233	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						
Grade 09	20	24	8	10	N/A	N/A	16	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	24
Grade 10	126	284	40	50	50	70	13	18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19	17
Grade 11	144	292	108	135	100	120	22	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34	19
Grade 12	199	330	244	305	175	185	18	23	N/A	N/A	55	56	24	34
Total Enrollment	562	1176	400	500	325	375	69	74	332	404	55	56	94	94

Table 14. Projected Enrollment Data 2026-27 and 2027-28: Demographics, Race/Ethnicity

Demographics	CC 2026-27	CC 2027-28	EE 2026-27	EE 2027-28	GO 2026-27	GO 2027-28	HC 2026-27	HC 2027-28	HSA 2026-27	HSA 2027-28	SL 2026-27	SL 2027-28	WC 2026-27	WC 2027-28
FRL	104	106	280	350	240	280	65	68	77	75	36	37	53	56
IEP	136	303	28	35	58	65	17	17	10	12	25	25	15	18
EL	18	25	2	4	14	18	2	2	9	11	43	44	3	3
Male	253	466	172	215	215	245	38	41	53	52	26	27	38	39
Female	234	393	224	280	110	125	31	33	47	48	29	29	53	55
Nonbinary	18	33	4	5	0	5	1	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	0	0
White	355	877	130	161	105	120	62	65	35	32	5	5	86	85
Hispanic-Latino	120	567	12	15	110	130	7	9	15	20	34	34	5	6
African-American	32	23	156	195	100	115	0	0	44	36	2	2	0	0
Asian	4	7	2	4	3	5	0	0	2	5	13	14	0	0
Native Hawaiian- Pacific Island	2	2	12	15	3	5	0	0	2	5	13	14	0	0
Multi-Race	3	3	76	95	7	10	0	0	4	7	1	1	3	4
American Indian	12	48	12	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A

*Asterisk** = data was not included in the charter school annual report submission.

*Double Asterisk*** = insufficient data to calculate a projection.

H. Findings of noncompliance across charters

During the 2024-25 school year, there were no findings of noncompliance across the schools in operation.

I. Charter School Recommendations

All currently operating charter schools are expected to continue progressing toward their stated mission, vision, and goals. To support this, we recommend the State Board:

1. Continue reviewing data when considering charter renewals, including:
 - Information from this report, such as Mission, Vision, Goals and Progress; Enrollment and Demographics; Attendance, Graduation and Dropout; Student Achievement; Teacher and Administrator Qualifications; Financial Sustainability; Findings; and Recommendations.
 - Appendices containing reports on all required data submissions.
 - Any additional monitoring data deemed necessary.
2. Request performance updates from any underperforming charter at a subsequent State Board meeting.
3. Require independent charter schools with budget deficits for two consecutive years to:
 - a. Submit a brief budget action plan outlining steps to achieve future surpluses, and
 - b. Provide updates on this plan within their annual report.

Note: "Independent charter schools" refers to those not supported by Charter Management Organizations (founding group model) or local school districts (school board model).

IV. Appendix A

See links to the full annual reports of each charter school below.

- [Choice Charter School Annual Report](#)
- [Empowering Excellence Charter School Annual Report](#)
- [Great Oaks High School and Career Center Annual Report](#)
- [Hamburg Charter High School Annual Report](#)
- [Horizon Science Academy- Des Moines Annual Report](#)
- [Storm Lake/Iowa Central/Buena Vista Early College Charter School Annual Report](#)
- [West Central Charter High School Annual Report](#)