

**Charter School Update 2014
Client Advisory Committee
April 3, 2015**

Background

Education Code Section 47602(a)(1) mandates SBE to assign a number to each charter school petition after approval by the local school district, county office of education or the State Board of Education, in the chronological order in which it was received. The numbering ensures they stay within the statutory cap of the total number of charter schools authorized to operate. The statutory cap increases by 100 each school year. For the **2013-2014** school year, the statutory cap is **1,750**.

Since the enactment of the Charter School Act of 1992, SBE has assigned **1,672** numbers to California charter schools as of **June 30, 2014**.

As of June 30, 2014, there were **1,118** active charter schools in California. **990** of active charter schools chose CalSTRS, **84** chose other retirement systems, and **44** with an unknown choice of retirement system.

California Education Code Law for Charter Schools

- California Education Code Section 47605: Gives a charter school the option of participating in CalSTRS, CalPERS or Social Security
- California Education Code Section 47611: Informs charter schools that participation in CalSTRS means that all parts of Teachers' Retirement Law apply
- California Education Code Section 47611.3: Requires school districts of County Offices of Education to report contributions and data to CalSTRS on behalf of charter schools

CalSTRS Offers Retirement Benefits to Charter Schools

Charter schools have the unique ability to decide whether to provide CalSTRS benefits and services to their employees. CalSTRS offers the following benefits to members

- Defined Benefit Program
- Defined Benefit Supplement Program
- Pension2, a voluntary supplemental savings plan



Criteria for a Charter School to Elect CalSTRS

During the initial writing of a charter petition, the school can elect to participate in CalSTRS to provide retirement benefits for their employees. Charter schools must meet the following criteria to participate in CalSTRS retirement programs:

- Recognized as a public charter by the California Department of Education
- Elect participation in CalSTRS and enroll eligible employees (members)
- Provide documentation to CalSTRS confirming participation before reporting contributions
- Report contributions to CalSTRS via school district or county office of education

Required Documents from Charter Schools

Prior to accepting contributions, CalSTRS requires the following documents:

- A copy of the school's charter petition indicating the election or participation in CalSTRS
- If the charter school chooses to collect pre-tax contributions, a completed Employer Paid Member Contributions (EPMC) resolution is required.
- A CalSTRS Questionnaire form that summarizes the school profile and contact information details.

CalSTRS Contribution Reporting

Depending on the agreement between the charter school and the authorizing local educational agency (LEA), CalSTRS contributions reporting from charter schools may come in any of these report structures:

- Through the County Office of Education (COE) – charter school submits contribution data through COE and the charter school's data is comingled with that of the COE. There are **33** charter schools reporting through the COE unit code.
- Through the authorizing LEA or a local District – charter school submits contribution data through this district and the charter school data is comingled with that of the District. There are **344** charter schools reporting through the District unit code.
- Through the charter school district – COE assigns a charter school district unit code to a group of charter schools of the same corporation. The contribution data is comingled with other charter schools of the same corporation. Example: a district report code for all Aspire Schools, Rocketship Schools, CALIVA schools, High Tech High schools, etc. There are **12** charter schools reporting through charter school district unit code.
- Through its own charter school unit code – COE assigns a unique report unit code to the charter school that allows the charter school to submit its own data and contributions directly to the COE. As such, charter school data is distinct from that of the COE or any other school districts. There are **601** charter schools assigned with their own unique report unit code.

Statistical Data: 1992 through June 30, 2014

Statutory Cap

1750 Statutory Cap for FY2013-2014, 100 Statutory Cap Increase per school year

1672 Total Numbered (number series) by SBE

- 13 Unassigned Numbers due to numbering errors
- 1659 Charter Schools numbered by SBE
 - o 7 For-Profit organizations
 - o 1015 (61% of 1659) Non-Profit organizations
 - o 637 (38% of 1659) Unknown (checkbox not marked as non-profit)

 - o 1040 (63% of 1659) Established by corporations
 - o 619 (37% of 1659) Established by LEA (COE/School District)

 - o 1412 (85% of 1659) School District-chartering authority
 - o 212 (13% of 1659) COE-chartering authority
 - o 35 (2% of 1659) SBE-chartering authority

 - o 1118 (67% of 1659) Active Charter Schools
 - 990 (89% of 1118) Active-CalSTRS
 - 601 CalSTRS Reporting using own unique unit code
 - 344 CalSTRS Reporting using District unit code
 - 33 CalSTRS Reporting using COE unit code
 - 12 CalSTRS Reporting using Charter District unit code
 - 83 (7% of 1118) Active, Other public retirement
 - 45 (4% of 1118) Active, Unknown retirement

 - o 541 (33% of 1659) Other Status
 - 55 Abandoned
 - 382 Closed
 - 4 Inactive
 - 24 Pending
 - 72 Revoked
 - 4 Withdrawn

Statistical Data: FY2013/2014

109 Total Numbered by SBE for the FY

- 108 Numbered New Charter Schools
- 1 Withdrawn - Unassigned

- 61 (56% of 108) Non Profit
- 46 Unknown Corporation Status
- 1 For Profit

- 52 (48% of 108) Established by corporations
 - o 160% increase from previous; 20 established by corporations in FY2012-2013
- 56 (52% of 108) Established by LEA (COE/School District)

- 94 (87% of 108) District-chartering authority
- 13 COE-chartering authority
- 1 SBE-chartering authority

- 42 became Active during the FY2013/2014
 - o 23 Active-CalSTRS
 - o 19 Active-Unknown Retirement
- 47 became Active after 6/30/2014
- 16 Pending
- 2 Closed
- 1 Withdrawn

Charter Schools Geographic Distribution – New Charter Schools FY 13/14

108 New Charter Schools in FY2013-2014

QTY	COE	QTY	COE
6	Alameda	1	Sacramento
1	Amador	2	San Bernardino
1	Butte	10	San Diego
3	Contra Costa	5	San Joaquin
1	El Dorado	1	San Mateo
1	Fresno	7	Santa Clara
1	Glenn	1	Shasta
2	Inyo	1	Solano
1	Kern	1	Sonoma
2	Kings	1	Stanislaus
1	Lake	1	Sutter
46	Los Angeles (43%)	1	Tehama
1	Mariposa	1	Tulare
1	Monterey	1	Tuolumne
1	Nevada	1	Yolo
2	Placer		
3	Riverside		

Charter Schools Geographic Distribution – All Active Charter Schools 1992-2014

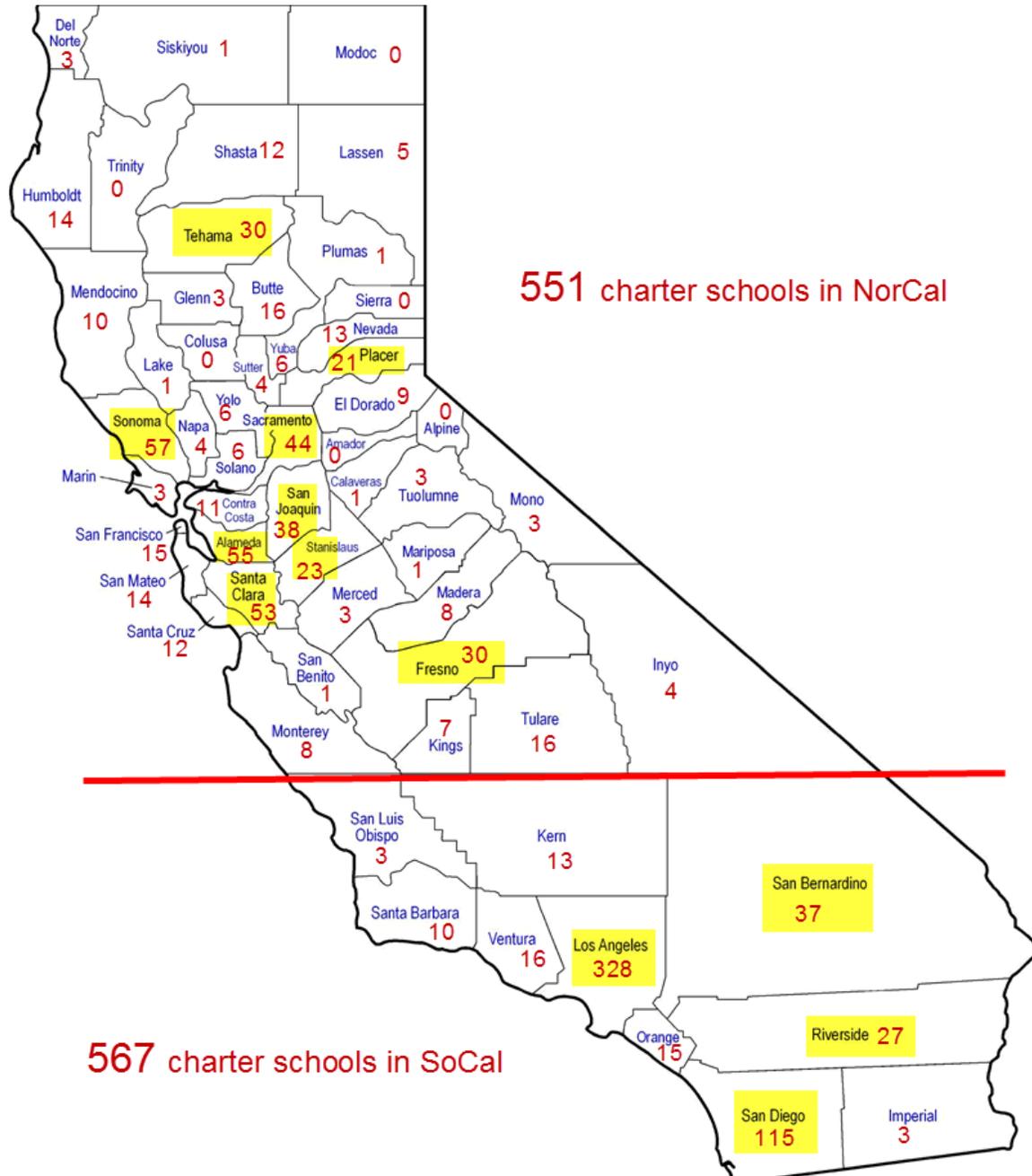
1,118 Active Charter Schools from 1992-2014: Shaded Counties are with over 20 active charter schools.

QTY	COE	QTY	COE
55	Alameda (5%)	21	Placer
16	Butte	1	Plumas
1	Calaveras	27	Riverside
11	Contra Costa	44	Sacramento (4%)
3	Del Norte	1	San Benito
9	El Dorado	37	San Bernardino (3%)
30	Fresno (3%)	115	San Diego (10%)
3	Glenn	15	San Francisco
14	Humboldt	38	San Joaquin (3%)
3	Imperial	3	San Luis Obispo
4	Inyo	14	San Mateo
13	Kern	10	Santa Barbara
7	Kings	53	Santa Clara (5%)
1	Lake	12	Santa Cruz
5	Lassen	12	Shasta
328	Los Angeles (29%)	1	Siskiyou
8	Madera	6	Solano
3	Marin	57	Sonoma (5%)
1	Mariposa	23	Stanislaus
10	Mendocino	4	Sutter
3	Merced	3	Tehama
3	Mono	16	Tulare
8	Monterey	3	Tuolumne
4	Napa	16	Ventura
13	Nevada	6	Yolo
15	Orange	6	Yuba

CALSTRS

HOW WILL YOU SPEND YOUR FUTURE?

The map below displays the geographic distribution of the charter schools in each county in California. 49% (551) of active charter schools are located in Northern California, and 51% (567) are located in Southern California with more than one-half of those schools (328) in Los Angeles.





Resources

California Department of Education, www.cde.ca.gov

- Data and Statistics/Charter School Locator <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/cs/>

State Board of Education <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/>

- Meeting Agendas <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/index.asp>

Questions

If you have questions or if you need more details about this update, please contact us at CharterSchoolQuestions@CalSTRS.com.

You may also contact our Charter School Administrator, Amalia Capcap, at 916-414-5422.