

CHARTER SCHOOLS

OVERVIEW

Charter schools are independent public schools founded by not-for-profit Boards of Trustees. They operate under a contract (or "charter") of up to five years.

Many charter schools have unique educational approaches that may include longer school days, a longer school year, or themed programs. While many charter schools offer rigorous instruction and have high graduation rates, many also have strict discipline codes or promotion policies and may not be the right choice for some students in care. Similarly, some charter schools are designed to support students with special education needs, while others struggle to provide special education services and are not a good fit for students who need substantial supports.

Before enrolling, make sure to visit charter schools with families to learn more about their discipline and promotion policies and their approach to providing special education services, to ensure the school is a good fit for your student.

ADMISSIONS

Most charter schools conduct admissions through a lottery. With support from Coaches, students can apply to multiple charters in the Buffalo area [here](#). Seats are limited, and it is helpful to call schools individually to learn about their programs and about seat availability.

BUFFALO AREA CHARTER SCHOOLS

There are 21 charter schools in the Buffalo area, seven of which serve high school-aged students (*see list below*).

To learn more about individual schools (including reviews, enrollment figures, assessment proficiency rates, and graduation rates), skim data on [Niche](#) or [NYSED](#).

[Buffalo Academy of Science Charter Schools](#)

Two charter schools in Buffalo.

One serves K-12 and a second is newer with grades K, 1, and 9 as of early 2022.

Buff Sci will accept students in any grade and at any point in through December IF seats are available. *Call the school's admissions coordinator for more information.*

[Charter School for Applied Technologies](#)

Serves K-12.

High school is located in Buffalo and offers [innovative college credit/career track programs](#).

[Global Concepts Charter School](#)

Serves K-12 (currently very small).

High school is located in Lackawanna.

[Health Sciences Charter School](#)

Serves 9-12.

Located in Buffalo.

[Tapestry Charter School](#)

Serves 5-12.

High school is located in Buffalo.

[WNY Maritime Charter School](#)

Serves 5-12

High school is located in Buffalo.