

# Information Associated with Parent Choices of Charter and Private Schools

*The information in this slide deck was obtained using Generative AI which tends to collect from a combination of independent, peer-reviewed research sources and less-impartial charter and private school advocates and organizations. While the information presented here represents the most concise summary of information on this topic, it is not endorsed by Western Demographics, Inc.*

# Reading List on the Trends and Rationale Behind the Growth of Private and Charter Schools – Hotlinks Provided in Companion Text File

- **Charter**

- [Understanding Charter Schools vs. Public SchoolsU.S. News & World Report](#)
- <https://www.usnews.com › Education › K12>
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- [Why Parents Choose Charter Schools for Their Children with ...U.S. Department of Education \(.gov\)](#)
- <https://files.eric.ed.gov › fulltext>

- **Private**

- [https://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Taubman/PEPG/research/PEPG17\\_01.pdf](https://www.hks.harvard.edu/sites/default/files/Taubman/PEPG/research/PEPG17_01.pdf)
- [Private School vs. Public SchoolU.S. News & World Report](#)
- <https://www.usnews.com › Education › K12>
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- [Top Benefits of Private School vs. Public SchoolThe Hotchkiss School](#)
- <https://www.hotchkiss.org › top-benefits-of-private-school>

# Private School Choice / Charter School Choice

## – Generative AI Synopsis

- **Charter School** Synopsis (Generative AI Response) - Parents choose charter schools because they believe they provide more educational options and flexibility compared to traditional public schools, allowing them to select a school that best fits their child's individual needs, including specialized curriculum focuses, smaller class sizes, and innovative teaching methods, all while remaining tuition-free; essentially giving them more control over their child's education within the public school system.
- **Private School** Synopsis (Generative AI Response) - Parents choose private schools because they believe they offer a better academic environment with smaller class sizes, higher academic standards, more individualized attention from teachers, a greater focus on extracurricular activities, a safer learning environment, and sometimes, a specific religious or philosophical alignment with the school's values.

# Reasons Cited by Parents Who Chose Charters:

- **Specialized curriculum:**
  - Many charter schools focus on specific areas like STEM, arts, or language immersion, which can cater to a child's unique interests and talents.
- **Smaller class sizes:**
  - Charter schools often have smaller student-to-teacher ratios, enabling more individualized attention for each student.
- **Innovative teaching methods:**
  - Charter schools have more autonomy to experiment with different teaching approaches and technologies.
- **Parental involvement:**
  - Charter schools often encourage high levels of parent participation and engagement.
- **Accountability:**
  - Charter schools are typically held to higher accountability standards, requiring them to demonstrate strong academic performance to maintain their charter.
- **Choice and flexibility:**
  - Parents can choose a charter school that aligns with their child's learning style and educational goals, rather than being limited to their zoned public school.

# Reasons Cited by Parents Who Chose Private Schools:

- **Academic Rigor:**
  - Private schools often have a reputation for more challenging curriculum and higher expectations, which can prepare students better for college admissions.
- **Smaller Class Sizes:**
  - Smaller student-to-teacher ratios allow for more personalized instruction and greater teacher-student interaction.
- **Curricular Flexibility:**
  - Private schools can tailor their curriculum to cater to specific student needs and interests.
- **Extracurricular Opportunities:**
  - A wider range of extracurricular activities like sports, arts, and community service can promote well-rounded development.
- **Parental Involvement:**
  - Many private schools encourage greater parent participation and communication.
- **Safe Learning Environment:**
  - Some parents choose private schools for a perceived sense of increased safety and discipline.
- **Religious or Philosophical Alignment:**
  - Some private schools are affiliated with specific religious denominations or have a distinct educational philosophy that aligns with the parents' values.