



Annual Report

ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ERIC G. MACKEY, STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Charter Schools 2020-2021

Background

In 2015, the Alabama School and Student Opportunity Act (“the Act”)¹ established charter schools as part of the public education system of the state. Charter schools can provide school systems and communities with additional tools that may be used to meet the educational needs of a diverse student population. The Act also established processes and procedures for authorization and accountability of charter schools. Expectations include meeting clear and measurable objectives for the educational progress of students and quality organizational and financial best practices. There are two kinds of charter schools in Alabama—start up schools and conversion schools. Conversion schools existed as a non-charter public school before becoming a charter school.

Alabama has two entities eligible to authorize a public charter school—a local school board and the Alabama Public Charter School Commission (APCSC). The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) receives and processes applications of local school boards who request to become an authorizer.

Current Alabama Public Charter School Authorizers

Charter School Authorizers
Alabama Public Charter School Commission
Athens City School System
Birmingham City School System
Elmore County School System
Greene County School System
Macon County School System
Montgomery County School System

Alabama Public Charter School Commission

Commissioner	Area	Appointing Authority	Term Expires
David Marshall, Chairman	Lee County	Speaker of the House	May 31, 2022
Ty Moody, Vice Chair	Jefferson County	Governor	May 31, 2021
Dick Brewbaker	Montgomery County	Governor	May 31, 2022
Marla Green	Montgomery County	Speaker of the House	May 31, 2023
Julie Ann McCulley	Cherokee County	Lt Governor	May 31, 2022
Paul Morin	Jefferson County	Governor	May 31, 2023
Anthony Overton	Jefferson County	President Pro Tempore	May 31, 2023
Sydney Raine	Mobile County	Governor	May 31, 2023
Steve Siple	Jefferson County	President Pro Tempore	May 31, 2022
LaKeisha Wheeler	Madison County	Speaker of the House	May 31, 2021
Rotating Member	Area of charter applicant		

Alabama State Department of Education Charter School Contact
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¹ Ala. Code section 16-6F-1, et. seq. (1975).

Charter Schools

Start-Up Public Charter Schools	Location	Authorizer	Number of Students	Grades	Opening Year	USDOE Grant
Acceleration Day and Evening Academy	Mobile	APCSC	441	6-7 9-12	2017 Renewal Year-2022	Yes
University Charter School	Livingston	APCSC	531	K-11	2018	Yes
Legacy Prep	Birmingham	APCSC	327	K-4	2019	Yes
Lead Academy	Montgomery	APCSC	460	K-6	2019	
I3 Academy	Birmingham	APCSC	420	K-5	2020	Yes
Breakthrough	Marion	APCSC	130	K-8	2021	Yes
Magic City Acceptance Academy	Homewood	APCSC	203	6-12	2021	Yes
Life Academy	Montgomery	Montgomery BOE	207	K-2	2021	Yes
Ivy Classical Academy	Prattville	APCSC	Projected 642	K-6	2022	Yes
Empower Community School	Bessemer	APCSC	Projected 288	K-7	2022	Yes
Alabama Aerospace and Aviation High School	Bessemer	APCSC	Projected 125	9	2022	Yes

Covenant Academy	Mobile	APCSC	Projected	K-5	2023	N0
			250			
			3,774			

Conversion Charter Schools	Location	Authorizer	Number of Students	Grades	Opening Year	USDOE Grant
Davis Elementary	Montgomery	MPS	470	K-5	2021	Yes
Nixon Elementary	Montgomery	MPS	—	—	2022	Yes
Bellingrath Middle	Montgomery	MPS	—	—	2022	Yes

2021 Applications Not Approved	Location	Authorizer	Application Status	USDOE Grant Info
I Dream Big Academy	Montgomery	—	—	—

Data

Alabama Charter School State Test Results 2020-2021

English Language Arts (ACAP) – ALL Students					
	Legacy Prep % Proficient	i3 Academy % Proficient	Birmingham City % Proficient	Jefferson County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 3	20.93	31.43	18.35	38.20	50.60
Grade 4		25.68	19.75	34.69	51.54
Grade 5		20.27	19.28	32.52	45.88

English Language Arts (ACAP) – ALL Students			
	LEAD Academy % Proficient	Montgomery County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 3	30.43	32.93	50.60
Grade 4	27.66	30.30	51.54
Grade 5	27.50	28.70	45.88
Grade 6	48.72	28.61	45.27

English Language Arts (ACAP) – ALL Students			
	University Charter School % Proficient	Sumter County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 3	48.94	22.86	50.60
Grade 4	44.19	20.90	51.54
Grade 5	54.35	16.09	45.88
Grade 6	55.00	20.83	45.27
Grade 7	53.66	17.44	42.89
Grade 8	52.38	23.53	51.33

English Language Arts (ACT) – ALL Students			
	Acceleration Academy % Proficient	Mobile County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 11	6.38	18.53	28.37

Mathematics (ACAP) – ALL Students					
	Legacy Prep % Proficient	i3 Academy % Proficient	Birmingham City % Proficient	Jefferson County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient

Grade 3	6.98	8.57	4.00	16.50	30.00
Grade 4		0	3.95	9.40	23.86
Grade 5		2.67	4.12	10.89	24.39

Mathematics (ACAP) – ALL Students			
	LEAD Academy % Proficient	Montgomery County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 3	2.27	10.59	30.00
Grade 4	0	7.79	23.86
Grade 5	2.56	8.05	24.39
Grade 6	5.13	8.53	22.30

Mathematics (ACAP) – ALL Students			
	University Charter School % Proficient	Sumter County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 3	30.43	2.90	30.00
Grade 4	13.95	0	23.86
Grade 5	15.22	1.15	24.39
Grade 6	32.50	4.11	22.30
Grade 7	12.20	1.18	16.24
Grade 8	15.91	2.35	14.25

Mathematics (ACT) – ALL Students			
	Acceleration Academy % Proficient	Mobile County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 11	1.89	14.97	23.41

Alabama Charter School State Test Results 2020-2021

Science (ACAP) – ALL Students					
	Legacy Prep % Proficient	i3 Academy % Proficient	Birmingham City % Proficient	Jefferson County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 4		9.46	8.72	18.42	34.17

Science (ACAP) – ALL Students			
	LEAD Academy % Proficient	Montgomery County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 4	13.04	17.94	34.17

Science (ACAP) – ALL Students			
	University Charter School % Proficient	Sumter County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 4	31.82	7.35	34.17
Grade 8	42.86	3.53	38.73

Science (ACT) – ALL Students			
	Acceleration Academy % Proficient	Mobile County % Proficient	AL Statewide Average % Proficient
Grade 11	9.80	23.27	30.36

Assessment of Charter Schools

Alabama public charter schools faced many of the same challenges as schools across the county due to the COVID-19 crisis, including but not limited to:

- Lack of state and local student assessment data needed to effectively drive instructional practices
- Abrupt shift to distance learning including meeting the needs of the whole child, virtually
- Maintaining student and staff culture and climate in a virtual world
- Maintaining parent relationships and culture and climate in a virtual world

The five open charter schools have participated in all practices and procedures for the health and safety that were recommended to traditional schools and submitted reopening plans to the Alabama State Department of Education.

The Alabama State Department of Education has been in multiple discussions with the state leaders and the legislature about other ways to improve the state's public charter schools. Although, we do not have any concrete policy recommendations at this time, we are committed to continuing to work with leaders across the state and providing support necessary to strengthen the state's public charter schools.

Charter Schools in Alabama



Opened in 2017

Acceleration Day and Evening Academy

Acceleration (ACCEL) Day and Evening Academy serves students in grades 9-12 from Mobile, Baldwin and Washington Counties. Located in Mobile, ACCEL provides a safe, supportive learning environment for students who may have fallen behind or dropped out of another institution. ACCEL has an enrollment of 337 students and is authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.



Opened in 2018

University Charter School

University Charter School's (UCS) serves students in grades PreK-11 in Sumter County. Located in Livingston, UCS prepares students for personal and professional success through the discovery of individual learning pathways in a rigorous and integrated Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics focused, project-based and place-based curriculum. UCS has an enrollment of 531 students and is authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.



Opened in 2019

Lead Academy

Lead Academy serves students in grades K-7 in Montgomery. Lead Academy prepares students for success by providing innovative programs designed to spark curiosity and maximize learning potential. Lead Academy has an enrollment of 546 students and is authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.



Opened in 2019

Legacy Prep

Legacy Prep serves students in grades PreK-4 in Birmingham. Legacy Prep's mission is to educate and empower scholars to embrace their identity, lead lives of choice and opportunity, and impact communities as the next generation of socially conscious leaders. Legacy Prep has enrollment of 327 students and is authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.



Opened in 2020

i3 Academy

i3 Academy serves students in grades K-6 in Birmingham. I3 Academy's mission is to empower learners to become agents of change who solve problems they see in their world. They envision a world in which all learners are equipped to excel in a global society. I3 Academy has an enrollment of 421 students and is authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.



Opened in 2021

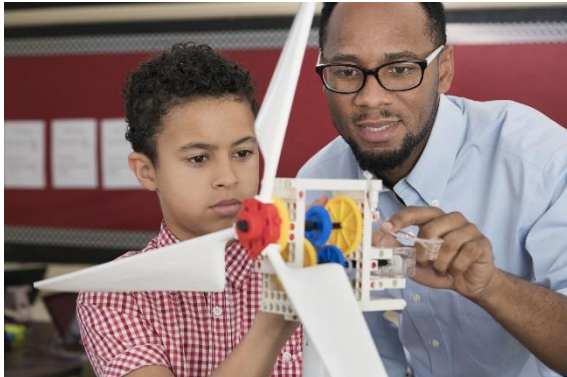
Breakthrough Charter School

Breakthrough Charter School serves students in grades K-8 in Perry County. It is a rigorous, service-oriented, and project-based school that supports the social-emotional development of each child. It is authorized by the Alabama Public Charter School Commission.



Opened in 2021

Magic City Acceptance Academy serves students in grades six through twelve by providing an exceptional, innovative, and quality-driven education. MCAA's purpose is to engage students who have dropped out, are not thriving in traditional schools, and specifically students who are home-schooled but are not thriving in that environment. Mentors and teachers are incorporated throughout the diverse MCAA curriculum to empower students in directing their own education.



Opened in 2021

Life Academy

Life Academy serves students in grades K-8 in Montgomery. Its mission is to prepare students for a productive and successful future in academia, trades, and/or entrepreneurship through the execution of an innovative and culturally relevant dual curriculum. Life Academy is authorized by the Montgomery County School Board.

Opened as a Conversion in 2021

Davis Elementary

Davis Elementary in the Montgomery County School System has been approved to become a conversion charter school in August 2021. The Montgomery Education Foundation will serve as its education service provider. It has been authorized by the Montgomery County School Board.

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