

**For Immediate Release**  
October 28, 2009

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## **NUMBER OF CALIFORNIA CHARTER SCHOOLS SURPASSES 800, NEW ENROLLMENT SETS SINGLE- YEAR RECORD**

*88 New Charter Schools Open This Fall for Highest Single-Year Enrollment Increase Ever*

**Sacramento, CA** – The California Charter Schools Association today announced that 88 new public charter schools opened their doors for the first time this fall, bringing the total number of California charter schools in operation to 809 schools, serving approximately 341,000 public school students.

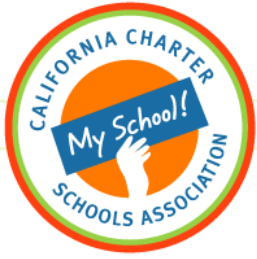
New and existing charter schools added an estimated 56,000 new students this year, the largest single-year enrollment increase in history and equivalent to adding the entire enrollment of the ninth largest school district in the state.

The number of new schools also marked an even greater increase over last year, when 75 new charter schools opened their doors. While it took California's charter school movement 13 years to reach 200,000 students (in 2005) it only took four years to surpass the 300,000 students mark.

“California charter schools are experiencing explosive growth, roughly 20 percent growth for two years in a row,” said Jed Wallace, president and CEO of the California Charter Schools Association. “This consistent growth is phenomenal given this tough economic climate and it speaks to the choices that both parents and teachers are making and their demand for high-quality educational options. The solid growth in charter school enrollment demonstrates that parents – and teachers – realize charters are mainstream options.”

This year also marked the first year that more than half of all new charter schools that opened this fall (45 of 88 schools) are replications of existing, successful charter school models, an increase of 11 percent over the previous year.

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has the highest number of new charter schools in the state. With 19 new charter schools, for a total of 163 in operation, LAUSD also has by far the most charter schools for a single district in the nation. Of all the counties in the state, Los Angeles has the



highest number of new charter schools, adding 27 new schools this year and reaching over 200 charter schools across the county.

Besides Los Angeles County, several other counties had strong charter school gains, including 10 new charter schools in San Diego County, five each in Fresno and Sonoma Counties and four each in San Bernardino and Alameda Counties.

San Diego County now has the second largest number of total charter schools in operation, with 81 schools. Alameda and Sacramento County follow with 45 and 37 total charter schools, respectively. Santa Clara County rounded out the top five with 34 charter schools.

As of this fall, approximately one in every six charter schools nationwide (16 percent) operates in California. According to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, based in Washington, D.C., there are now more than 4,900 charter schools currently educating over 1.5 million children.

“Trends for the future indicate that similar levels of growth in charter school enrollment will continue if not accelerate,” said Wallace. “This signals that a fundamental shift in the way we operate public schools is underway within California. It is then incumbent upon the charter school community to redouble our efforts to make sure that proper accountability systems are in place which will ensure that charter schools generate significantly higher levels of student learning than has historically been available within the traditional public education system. We will do everything we can to help our members continue to lead our state and the nation to develop critically needed improvements to charter school accountability systems.”

### **About the California Charter Schools Association**

The California Charter Schools Association is the membership and professional organization serving over 800 charter public schools that educate more than 341,000 charter school students in the state of California. The mission of the California Charter Schools Association is to lead the charter public school movement in California in order to increase the number of students attending high-quality charter schools. [www.myschool.org](http://www.myschool.org).

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