

# National Trends and How New Mexico Fits

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# ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS

- ▶ In the 2016-2017, there are more than **7,000 public charter schools**, serving more than **3 million students**.
- ▶ In the 2015-16 school year, **404 new charter schools opened**, and 220 schools closed.
- ▶ In the 2016-17 school year, **322 new charter schools opened**, and 236 schools closed.
- ▶ **200,000 additional students** are attending charter schools in 2018, as compared to last year.
- ▶ Charter schools can operate in **44 states, Washington D.C., and Guam**.
- ▶ Nearly **7 percent of all public schools** are charter schools.

# ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS

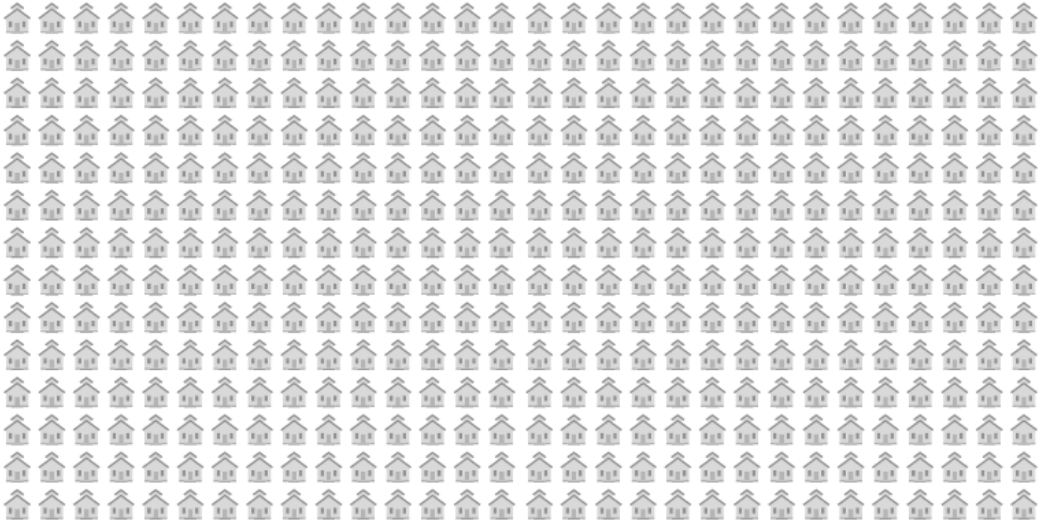
- ▶ **56% of charter schools are located in urban areas**; 26% in suburban; 11% in rural areas; 7% in towns.
  - ▶ **New Mexico: 67% urban; 20% suburban; 12% rural/small towns**
- ▶ **61% of all charter schools are independent**; 26% are CMO affiliated; 13% are EMO affiliated.
- ▶ **67% of charter school students are students of color**, compared to 49% of non-charter school students.
- ▶ **55% of charter school students come from low-income families**, compared to 52% of non-charter school students.

# Charter schools have grown rapidly but...

1992  
**1 school**



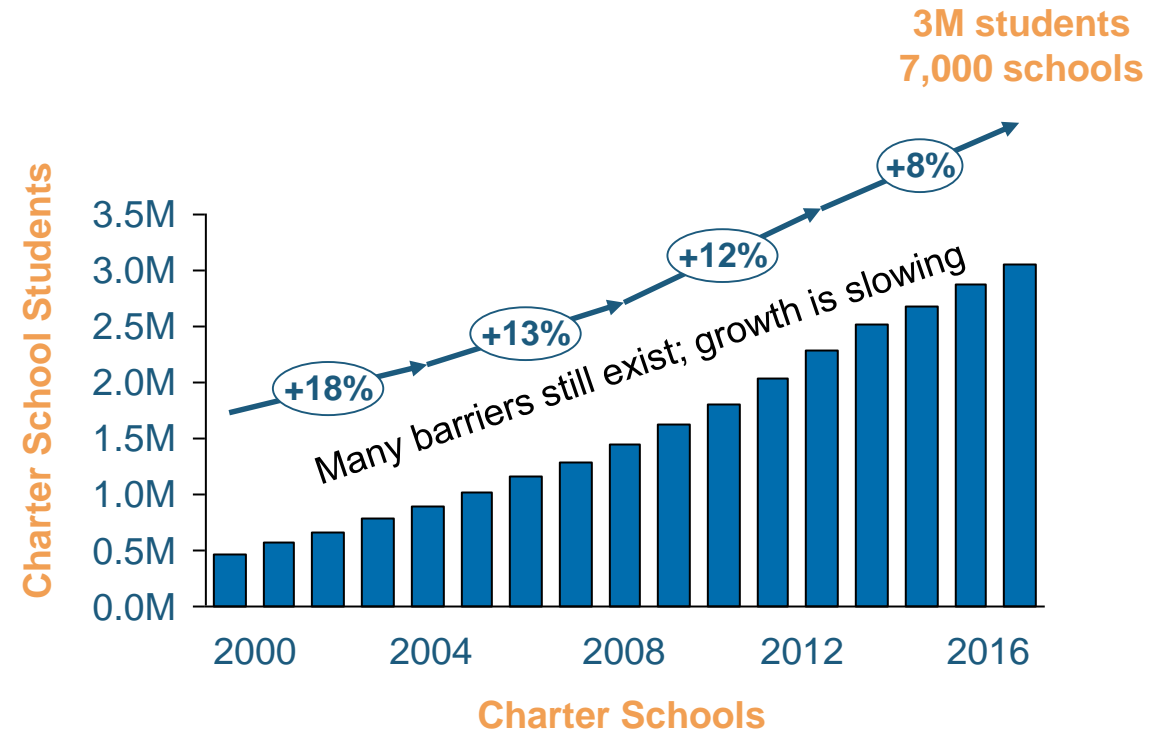
2017  
**6,900+ schools**



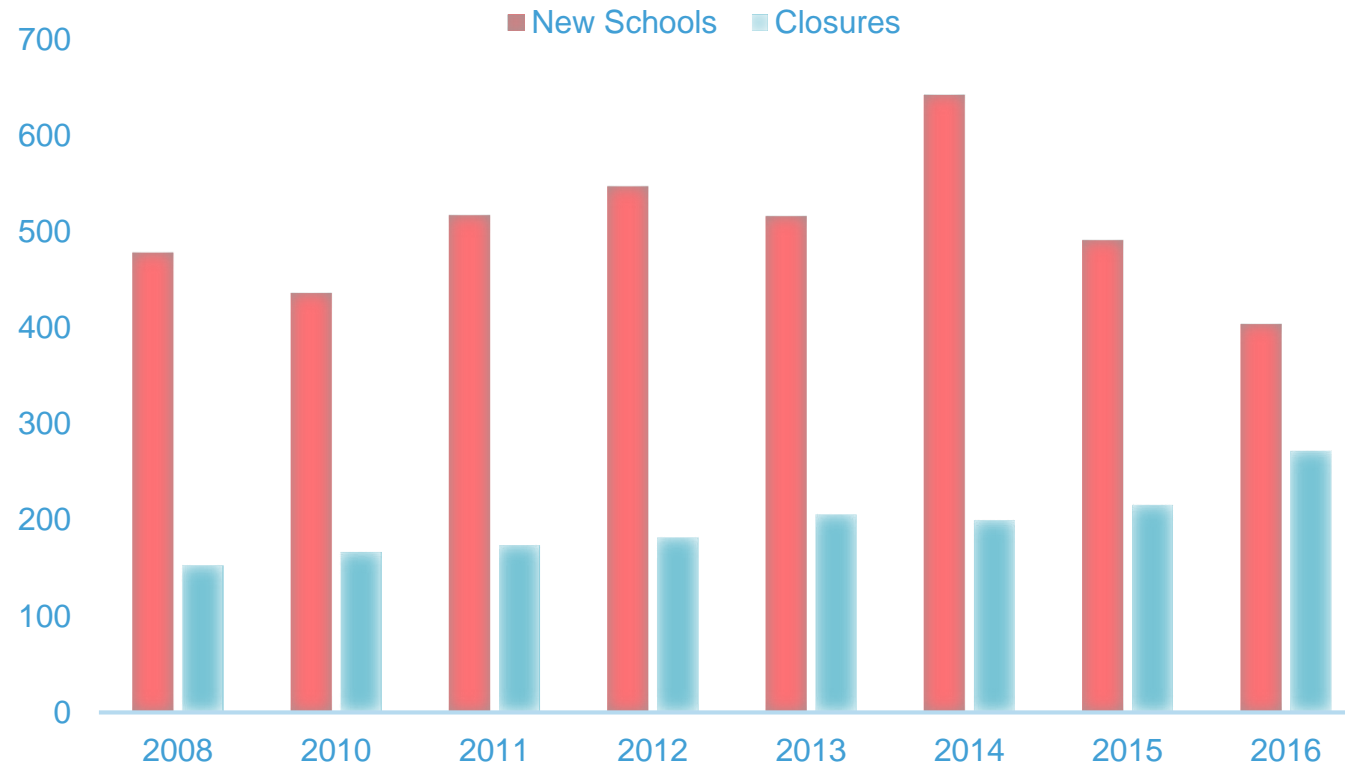
**322 new schools in 2016–17**

# Growth slowed for the first time since 1992 and this trend includes New Mexico

- A cohesive and targeted backlash around school choice
- Lack of available facilities
- Political divisions have created less bipartisanship and Democratic support
- Misunderstanding of charter schools
- More school closures due to better laws



# TRENDS IN NEW SCHOOLS AND CLOSURES



# BUT DEMAND REMAINS DESPITE CHARTER SCHOOLS RECEIVING LESS THAN THEIR PEERS



- Across the country, charter schools receive **28% less per-pupil funding** than traditional district schools.
- Public charter school students receive **\$3,800 less in funding** than the average traditional public school student.



# NEW MEXICO'S CHARTER LAW AND HOW IT FITS





THE TOP 10 CHARTER LAWS INCLUDE A MIXTURE OF STATES WITH MATURE MOVEMENTS:

INDIANA #1  
COLORADO #2  
MINNESOTA #4  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA #8  
FLORIDA #9

...AND STATES WITH NEWER CHARTER SCHOOL MOVEMENTS:

WASHINGTON #3  
ALABAMA #5  
MISSISSIPPI #6  
MAINE #7  
KENTUCKY #10



# NEW MEXICO'S CHARTER LAW



IN 2011, THE LAW RANKED #20 (OUT OF 43)

IN 2012, THE LAW RANKED #4 (OUT OF 43)

IN 2014, THE LAW RANKED #12 (OUT OF 44)

IN 2018, THE LAW RANKED #25 (OUT OF 45)

# WHY THE DROP IN RANKINGS?



## MANY STATES HAVE BEEN MORE AGGRESSIVE IN UPDATING THEIR LAWS (2016-2017)

- 14 STATES ESTABLISHED INDEPENDENT CHARTER COMMISSIONS: MISSOURI, WASHINGTON, MAINE, ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, WISCONSIN, GEORGIA, HAWAII, AND OTHERS)
- 16 INCREASED FACILITY FUNDING: COLORADO, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, ILLINOIS, OHIO, TEXAS, WASHINGTON, TENNESSEE, MICHIGAN, IDAHO, ARIZONA, UTAH, NEW YORK, ALABAMA, SOUTH CAROLINA, ARKANSAS
- 9 STATES IMPROVED AUTHORIZING AND ACCOUNTABILITY: COLORADO, DC, FLORIDA, LOUISIANA, MICHIGAN, OHIO, TENNESSEE, MINNESOTA, VIRGINIA

**“IF YOU’RE NOT AT THE TABLE  
YOU’RE ON THE MENU.”**

**--ANN RICHARDS  
FORMER GOVERNOR OF TEXAS**



# OTHER STATES WITH AN ANTI-CHARTER SCHOOL TRIFECTA

New Jersey      Pennsylvania

Kansas            Maryland

Michigan         Oregon

Delaware

...and **GROWING** as of November 6<sup>th</sup>

Illinois           California

Maine             Minnesota

Wisconsin        Connecticut



Want to guess  
about what  
happened or  
will happen to  
these charter  
movements?

**IN OTHER WORDS,  
NOW WHAT?**



# BUILD A COHESIVE ADVOCACY STRATEGY

- ▶ Create a strong and disciplined advocacy strategy and follow it no matter what!
- ▶ Play a strong defensive game while trying to make positive changes. Push back against re-regulation and authorizer restrictions.
- ▶ Encourage the replication of the highest performing schools and close poor performers.
- ▶ Read the opposition's playbooks (NEA, NAACP's Moratorium, Democratic National Platform).



# BUILD A COHESIVE ADVOCACY STRATEGY

- Create coalitions of partners who support charter schools (policy think tanks, chambers, non-profits, parents, alumni).
- Decide on media messaging and stick to it.
- Create one pagers of your school's successes and visit your local legislator to ask that she/he protect and support charter schools.
- Unify: don't have to agree with everything, but maintain discussions must remain internal

# QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION

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