

CHARTER OPERATED PROGRAMS

LAUSD | SELPA

INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOL FACT SHEET

MISSION POSSIBLE

The mission of Charter Operated Programs is championing a community of LAUSD-authorized, independent charter schools, dedicated to designing, creating, and implementing innovative, high-quality educational programs for students with special needs.

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles Unified School District has developed an in-depth model for district and independent charter school collaboration in supporting students with unique needs. This model allows for charter schools to choose an option of special education provision that best aligns with the charter school's educational model. Regardless of the option chosen, the district and charter schools it authorizes remain partners in ensuring all students have access to a high-quality education.

INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS AUTHORIZED BY LAUSD:



219

independent
charter schools

190

LEA-like Option 3
schools

3

special education
sub-teams support
independent
charter schools
with technical
assistance



110,000+

students enrolled
(Fall '23)

15,000+

students with disabilities
(Spring '24)

13.53%

of students with
disabilities
(Fall '23 and Spring '24)

2.63%

of students with a low
incidence disability
(Fall '23 and Spring '24)

65.26%

of students are in
grades 6-12
(Fall '23)

5 Leading Eligibility Categories

ELIGIBILITY	INDEPENDENT CHARTERS % of Students with Disabilities (Spring '24)	LAUSD % of Students with Disabilities (Spring '24)	K-12 California % of Students with Disabilities (2022-23 School Year, Pre-School Included)
Specific Learning Disability	46.61%	33.14%	34.62%
Autism	15.69%	29.37%	18.51%
Speech or Language Impairment	12.95%	15.12%	21.17%
Other Health Impairment	19.57%	12.87%	14.35%
Intellectual Disability	2.00%	4.46%	5.01%

"The Charter Operated Programs has been instrumental in the growth and development of Vaughn's special education program. The professional development opportunities provided to us has strengthened our knowledge base to create and provide better supports and services for our students. Furthermore, the Charter Operated Programs has given us a community, an invaluable network of charters from which to learn. Above all, the staff have been a vital resource when we have needed support and the program has become an essential part of our continued progress."

**Ivette Garcia, Director of Support Services,
Vaughn Next Century Learning Center**

"Being a part of Charter Operated Programs at LAUSD has meant a lot to CHIME, as it has provided my school with the autonomy and flexibility to run innovative programs for students with special needs. Through the Option 3 grant programs, my school has been able to add additional equipment and services for our students and we have been able to offer professional development workshops to other schools to share our innovative special education approaches."

**Dr. Erin Studer, Executive Director, CHIME
Institute's Schwarzenegger Community
School**

"The James Jordan Middle School has been a member of the Charter Operated Programs since its inception. We are impressed by the ever-expanding set of services and resources available via our COP membership. COP staff have provided one-on-one support for our most challenging IEPs. The professional development and coaching has been outstanding. Our clean compliance reports are the result of working with and learning from the COP staff."

**Myranda Marsh, EdD., Executive Director/
Founder, James Jordan Middle School**

"The Charter Operated Programs team has been instrumental in our continued growth, development and success at Alliance Schools. There is comfort in knowing that we have a partner to really move the work for academic achievement for scholars with disabilities. Everyone on the team has been accessible, positive and knowledgeable in their area of expertise."

**Courtney Vickers, Vice President, Diverse
Learners**