



Parent/family frequently asked questions

*Are you interested in possibly sending your child to one of our [17 charter public schools](#)?
Here are some frequently asked questions that you may find helpful.*

Why should I choose to send my child to a charter public school?

The Rhode Island League of Charter Schools celebrates the successes and valuable learning opportunities charter public schools provide for many students, but recognizes the decision of whether a traditional or charter public school is best for a child is a choice left up to each family.

Our charter public schools provide valuable school choice options to families. Our schools pride themselves on their unique learning opportunities, collaboration and success. To read more about our individual schools, visit our [blog](#) for school highlights, or contact our schools directly, listed [here](#).

How successful are charter public schools?

Our schools demonstrate success in many ways. Our charter public schools, 80% of which were ranked as “Commended” or “Leading” according to the new Rhode Island rating system, are all making strides in education innovation. Showing strong results on state testing and other measures of success, our schools have shown the importance and impact of achievement and accountability.

Although our charter public schools are a small part of the state’s public education system, we are making large-scale change. We challenge our students and educators every day with ways to raise the bar on achievement, and help to improve best practices in public education, to the benefit of all Rhode Island’s students.

Does each charter public school offer something different?

Our charter public schools appreciate that not all students learn the same. We recognize and value innovative approaches to education, and our schools thrive off implementing and sharing best practices.

Our 17 schools focus on unique and innovative ways to inspire students and engage families. These efforts help to drive their individual curriculum, all with different focus areas, including art, sustainability or maritime learning (to name a few) and create strong school cultures.

Our schools provide a variety of learning opportunities and freedom to pursue countless academic avenues. Interests differ from student to student, and our schools encourage their diverse passions and skill sets.

What are my child’s chances of getting a spot in a charter public school?

The demand for our schools continues to grow each year. In 2012, Rhode Island’s charter public schools received over 6,500 applications to fill approximately 700 openings. Although the applications exceed the number of students we can accept, there are equal admission opportunities for all applicants.

By law, each charter public school is required to conduct a blind lottery when the number of applicants exceeds the number of available spaces. To ensure equal admission opportunities, Rhode Island's charter public schools hold blind lotteries on March 1 each year to determine their student bodies for the upcoming school year.

We encourage you to learn more about our schools and apply for admission if you feel a charter public school is the best option for your child.

I'm interested in charter public schools - how do I know which school(s) my son/daughter is eligible to attend?

Our 17 member schools are all public schools and they each serve varying grades, from Pre K to grade 12+. Some schools serve specific districts and others accept students from across Rhode Island. To see which communities and grades each school serves, visit our "[Who We Are](#)" page.

How do I apply for admission at the school I'm interested in?

Applications are unique to each school. The League has provided an [example](#) of an application used, but each school has their own application process. Information on applications for each school is available on the individual school websites or by calling the school directly – contact and website information for each school is listed [here](#).

If my child is not chosen during the lottery process, can I re-apply for admission for the following school year?

Absolutely - we encourage you to re-apply and we provide all applicants, each year, with equal admission opportunities.

If I have a son/daughter that is already enrolled in a charter public school, will my other child/children be able to attend as well?

Rhode Island law allows charter public schools to implement sibling admission policies; however, they are not required. Please check with the school you are interested in to see if they have a sibling admission policy.

Need additional information?

If you need further information, please contact the Rhode Island League of Charter Schools' executive director, Steve Nardelli at (401) 831-3700 ext. 114 or stevenardelli@richarterschools.com.