

ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**Illinois Charter School
Annual Report**

January 2004

Illinois Charter School Annual Report Requirements

This report is submitted for the 2002-2003 school year in compliance with Section 27A-12 of the Illinois Charter Schools Law (105 ILCS 5/27A-12). This section reads in part:

On or before the second Wednesday of January 1998, and on or before the second Wednesday of January of each subsequent calendar year, the State Board shall issue a report to the General Assembly and the Governor on its findings for the school year ending in the preceding calendar year.

In the annual report required by this Section, the State Board shall (i) compare the performance of charter school pupils with the performance of ethnically and economically comparable groups of pupils in other public schools who are enrolled in academically comparable courses, (ii) shall review information regarding the regulations and policies from which charter schools were released to determine if the exemptions assisted or impeded the charter school in meeting their stated goals and objectives, and (iii) shall include suggested changes in State law necessary to strengthen charter schools.

This report is structured to provide an overview of charter schools in Illinois and to address the required elements.

Illinois Charter School Overview

Charter schools in Illinois are public schools of choice, selected by students and parents for their unique offerings. The Illinois statute governing charter schools was enacted in April 1996 as Article 27A of the School Code to encourage educational excellence and promote new options. In authorizing charter schools, 105 ILCS 5/27A-2 states that it is the intent of the General Assembly:

To create a legitimate avenue for parents, teachers and community members to take responsible risks and create new, innovative and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system. The General Assembly seeks to create opportunities within the public school system of Illinois for development of innovative and accountable teaching techniques. The provisions of this Article should be interpreted liberally to support the findings and goals of this Section and to advance a renewed commitment by the State of Illinois to the mission, goals and diversity of public education.

To help them meet these goals, charter schools are exempt from The School Code mandates except those specified in the Charter Schools Law (e.g., health/life safety, criminal background checks for employees, student discipline, child abuse reporting act, student records act, and state goals/standards/assessment). However, charter schools are **not** exempt from any civil rights laws or any federal special education requirements. They are accountable for meeting rigorous school content standards as defined in the Illinois Learning Standards, and students must participate in the state assessments. Thus, schools exchange accountability for flexibility.

The orientation of charter schools varies widely. Some are designed to serve specific student populations such as the primary grades or dual language pupils. Others provide a specific curriculum such as Montessori, back-to-basics, or Direct Instruction. Yet others are designed with governance and parent involvement components that are integral to their mission.

During 2002-2003, there were 22 charter schools in operation in Illinois serving approximately 8,500 students. In school year 1998-1999, charter schools reported serving 209 students with disabilities. This number has increased each year since, and for school year 2002-2003 schools reported serving 761 students with disabilities. A brief description of each charter school that operated in 2002-2003 is provided below. Table 1 follows and chronicles the history of Illinois charter schools from the 1996-1997 school year to the present.

Academy of Communications and Technology Charter School (*The Academy*) – Chicago 299

This school serves grades 6-12 and is located on the far west side of Chicago. Founded by two former Chicago public school teachers, the school has a college preparatory curriculum that incorporates a strong focus on communication arts and technological literacy. The Academy cultivates a small school environment and considers all community members (founders, teachers, parents, students, and neighbors) partners in creating a school that attempts to break the cycle of poverty.

Alain Locke Charter School (*Alain Locke*) – Chicago 299

Developed by 21st Century Urban Schools, a partnership of the Inner City Teaching Corps and the Ryan Foundation, this school is dedicated to bringing excellence in academic and social development to children in an under-resourced urban community and to help them achieve their full potential. There is a strong focus on early literacy and enrichment after-school activities to keep the children engaged in the learning process. The school will serve grades preK-12 at full implementation.

Betty Shabazz International Charter School (*Betty Shabazz*) – Chicago 299

Located in the Grand Crossing community on Chicago's South Side, this K-8 school balances core instruction with African-centered themes, arts and humanities, and technology and links students to local community resources as well as those in South Africa, Brazil, and Ghana. Parental involvement is central to this "maximum expectation" learning institution.

Chicago International Charter School (*Chicago International*) – Chicago 299

The Chicago Charter School Foundation runs this multi-campus school. The Foundation's mission is to operate K-12 charter schools that provide a rigorous, college preparatory education to every student.

Fort Bowman Academy Charter School (*Ft. Bowman*) – Cahokia 187

Located in Cahokia District 187, this school is sponsored by Educating for the Future, a group founded by parents. It will serve grades K-12 at full implementation.

Global Village Charter School (*Global Village*) – Chicago 299

The multiple campuses of this school shared a mission to provide a specialized curriculum based on Chicago's rich multicultural heritage and world-renowned cultural, artistic, and scientific traditions. A unique social studies curriculum for the younger students taught world studies through the eyes of a refugee child, and because it is the root of a large percentage of all English words, Latin was taught. Art, music and science are also emphasized. The two campuses of this school were granted separate charters for the 2003-2004 school year.

Keep Every Youth Successful Charter School (*KEYS*) – Edwardsville 7

This school was the first district initiated charter school. A result of collaborative efforts with the Edwardsville District, this small school served at-risk middle school students in grades 6-8. By mutual agreement with the authorizer, this school closed at the end of the 2002-2003 school year.

Lawndale Educational And Regional Network Charter School (*LEARN*) – Chicago 299

Serving students in grades K-8, this school provides a rigorous academic program utilizing the Core Knowledge curriculum and a low student-teacher ratio to prepare students for success in high school, college and beyond. LEARN also focuses on bringing parents into the school.

Noble Street Charter High School (*Noble Street*) – Chicago 299

Led by two former Chicago public high school teachers in partnership with the Northwestern University Settlement House, this charter school prepares urban youth in grades 9-12 to function successfully in society by emphasizing commitment to educational excellence; civic responsibility; and respect for the community, the environment, and others. A unique feature of the schools is the daily Advisory class, which covers study skills, career exploration and college preparation, conflict resolution and ethical behavior, ecological awareness, and physical fitness and nutrition. The school also requires students to do 20 hours of service learning per year.

North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School (*North Kenwood*) – Chicago 299

Affiliated with the University of Chicago's Center for School Improvement, this school provides an education to students in grades preK-8 while also serving as a school development center for urban teachers. The curriculum is based on the most current research in literacy and mathematics, and its technological infrastructure supports the curriculum.

North Lawndale Charter School (*North Lawndale*) – Chicago 299

This college preparatory high school integrates high academic expectations with community service, work experience, and technology education to encourage and enable students in the North Lawndale community to successfully attend college. The school serves grades 9-12 and offers block scheduling, extended study and intercessions in which students pursue learning goals through long-term projects.

Octavio Paz Charter School (*Octavio Paz*) – Chicago 299

Affiliated with the United Neighborhood Organization, this school serves students in grades K-8 and provides a highly structured curriculum based on the Direct Instruction method. It uses repetition, reinforcement, and mastery to improve student achievement and it provides a disciplined environment, high academic standards, and intensive English instruction. It serves a diverse student population from Pilsen and the Near West Side.

Perspectives Charter School (*Perspectives*) – Chicago 299

This school provides a rigorous education program and a character development plan called A Disciplined Life for students in grades 6-12. This plan focuses on creating positive self-perceptions, building strong communication techniques, and helping students recognize their responsibility to make a valuable contribution to the community. Students experience internships, community service, and one-on-one mentoring travel programs.

Prairie Crossing Charter School (*Prairie Crossing*) – Woodland 50 and Fremont 79

Located in Grayslake, this school serves youngsters from two Lake County districts. The environment is the school theme. Prairie Crossing will serve grades K-8 at full implementation and is the only school for which the Illinois State Board holds the charter directly.

Robertson Charter School (*Robertson*) – Decatur 61

The result of a community member's desire to provide more resources to an underserved population, this school has a focus on at-risk students. The school will serve students in grades K-8 at full implementation.

Southern Illinois University East St. Louis Charter School (*SIU-E. St. Louis*) – East St. Louis 189

This school is a partnership between Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and the district and serves at-risk students in grades 9-12. Students have access to a wide range of health and social services as a result of the university connection.

Springfield Ball Charter School (*Springfield Ball*) – Springfield 186

This school has a theme of literacy and numeracy, operates an extended school year, and offers Spanish language instruction for all grades as an integral part of the curriculum. It is designed to serve grades preK-8 at full implementation.

Thomas Jefferson Charter School (*Thomas Jefferson*) – Community Consolidated District 59

The school served students in grades K-8 and used the Core Knowledge curriculum. The school's charter was not renewed at the end of the 2002-2003 school year.

Tomorrow's Builders Charter School (*Tomorrow's Builders*) – East St. Louis District 189

In association with YouthBuild USA, this school serves at-risk youth aged 14 through 21 to rebuild their lives through education, counseling, and leadership development while they are rebuilding the community by renovating abandoned buildings and constructing new units for low-income housing.

Triumphant Charter Middle School (*Triumphant*) – Chicago 299

This school serves grades 6-8 and is committed to transforming the average or below average student into a scholar poised for success in high school, college and beyond. Classes are of mixed age and ability. The curriculum includes foreign language, algebra, and integrated thematic, project-based humanities teams that explore identity, community and justice. Students enjoy the opportunity to take college courses at the nearby Olive Harvey City College and to take study trips throughout the state, country and world.

Young Women's Leadership Charter School (*Young Women's*) – Chicago 299

This school follows the small schools model and will serve grades 6-12 at full implementation. The focus is on a rigorous career and college preparatory curriculum emphasizing math, science, and technology; leadership; and personal and social development.

Youth Connection Charter School (*Youth Connection*) – Chicago 299

This is an alternative-type high school program operating at multiple sites throughout Chicago. Youth Connection Charter School students often enroll after months, and sometimes years, of being out of school. The educational environment emphasizes basic skills, life skills, social development, and job readiness.

Table 1. Illinois Charter Schools To Date: Operation and Enrollments

<i>Charter School</i>	<i>1996-1997</i>	<i>1997-1998</i>	<i>1998-1999</i>	<i>1999-2000</i>	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>Estimated 2003-2004</i>
Choir Academy								250
KIPP								80
Mirta Ramirez								200
Passages								193
Tomorrow's Builders							45	100
Global Village						189	330	*****
LEARN						94	108	112
Robertson						71	97	126
KEYS						23	25	****
Young Women's					150	301	325	325
Governors State					64	67	*	
Alain Locke				132	130	175	289	375
Noble Street				127	256	365	465	475
Prairie Crossing				59	120	159	222	260
Thomas Jefferson				64	62	73	72	****
SIU-E. St. Louis				100	100	112	100	100
Ft. Bowman			136	167	198	234	247	270
North Kenwood			113	165	171	269	313	360
North Lawndale			86	153	236	353	371	382
Octavio Paz			527	700	777	789	783	750
Betty Shabazz			266	246	273	285	295	315
Springfield Ball			175	236	278	259	360	404
Chicago International		1456	1552	1920	2366	2404	3079	4300
Perspectives		117	130	148	149	154	154	160
The Academy		132	155	244	238	273	305	300
Nuestra America		100	117	150	179	171	**	
Youth Connection		1013	1475	1450	1550	1484	2554	2800
Triumphant		160	170	170	176	185	195	200
Chicago Preparatory Charter School		113	***					
Peoria Alternative Charter School	75	100	100	**				

*Governors State – charter revoked at end of 2001-2002 school year

**Nuestra America and Peoria Alternative – schools did not renew charter at end of initial charter period

***Chicago Preparatory – Ceased operations mid-year of 1998-1999 school year

****Ceased operation at the end of the 2002-2003 school year

*****The two campuses of this school were granted separate charters for the 2003-2004 school year (Choir Academy and Passages)

Tables 2A – 4B display additional information regarding the 22 charter schools in operation in Illinois throughout 2002-2003. Much of the charter school information is self-reported. Annual school report card data supplements information when available. Please note that two schools closed before providing information, and one school failed to respond to requests for information.

Part of the flexibility of charter schools is the freedom to select their own school calendar and hours of operation apart from the district they serve. They can also select the grades or ages they wish to serve. Once that determination is made, enrollment is open across the district to all students of that age or grade range. If there is an enrollment larger than the potential number of students allowed, a lottery must be held. In many instances, the charter schools had more applicants than seats available.

Table 2A. Charter School Demographic Data for 2002-2003

<i>Name of Charter School</i>	<i>Grades Served in 2002-2003</i>	<i>Full Planned Grade Range</i>	<i>Number of Sites</i>	<i>Lottery Use for 2002-2003</i>	<i>Number of Instructional Days</i>	<i>School Hours</i>
The Academy	6-12	6-12	1 site	111 applications, 111 new students	180 days	8:00-3:30
Alain Locke	PreK-4	K-12	1 site	211 applications, 58 new students	192 days	8:30-5:00
Betty Shabazz	K-8	K-8	1 site	120 applications, 30 new students	176	8:15-3:30
Chicago International	K-12	K-12	7 sites	1,700 applications, 1,000 new students	195	7:45-4:00
Ft. Bowman	K-10	K-12	1 site	149 applications, 22 new students	176 days	7:30-3:30
Global Village	PreK, K 4-7	PreK-12	2 sites	290 applications, 214 new students	185 days	8:00-5:00
KEYS	6-8	6-8	1 site	*	*	*
LEARN	K-8	K-8	1 site	88 applications, 28 new students	200 days	8:30-3:00
Noble Street	9-12	9-12	1 site	325 applications, 140 new students	190 days	7:55-4:15
North Kenwood	PreK-8	PreK-8	1 site	230 applications, 50 new students	178 days	8:20-3:00
North Lawndale	9-12	9-12	1 site	285 applications, 110 new students	181 days	8:00-3:20
Octavio Paz	K-8	K-12	2 sites	None needed	177 days	8:15-3:00
Perspectives	6-12	6-12	1 site	258 applications, 36 new students	176 days	8:30-3:15
Prairie Crossing	K-5	K-8	1 site	127 applications, 30 new students	185 days	8:00-3:30
Robertson	K-4	K-8	1 site	None needed	180 days	8:30-3:10
SIU-E. St. Louis	9-12	9-12	1 site	43 applications, 12 new students	176	8:15-3:15

Table 2A (continued). Charter School Demographic Data for 2002-2003

Name of Charter School	Grades Served in 2002-2003	Full Planned Grade Range	Number of Sites	Lottery Use for 2002-2003	Number of Instructional Days	School Hours
Springfield Ball	PreK-7	PreK-8	1 site	174 applications, 46 new students	200 days	9:00-3:30
Thomas Jefferson	K-8	K-8	1 site	*	*	*
Tomorrow's Builders	9-12	9-12	1 site	None needed	175 days	8:00-3:00
Triumphant	6-8	6-8	1 site	123 applications, 91 new students	184 days	7:50-4:00
Young Women's	7-11	6-12	1 site	350 applications, 75 new students	169 days	8:30-3:30
Youth Connection	9-12	9-12	24 sites	3,372 applications, 1,616 new students	180 days	8:30-5:00

*Data not provided.

Table 2B. Student Demographic Data for 2002-2003

Name of Charter School	Low Income % School and [District]	Limited English Proficient	% Drop Out	% Suspended	% Expelled	High School# Graduates
The Academy	90.8% - [84.95%]	1.0%	4.0%	8.0%	Less than 1.0%	11
Alain Locke	91.9% - [84.95%]	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	N/A
Betty Shabazz	75.8% - [84.95%]	0.0%	N/A	15.7%	0.0%	N/A
Chicago International	33.2% - [84.95%]	16.9%	0.0%	25.0%	1.0%	35
Ft. Bowman	74.8% - [76.0%]	0.0%	0.0%	21.0%	0.0%	N/A
Global Village	29.0% - [84.95%]	8.5%	N/A	10.0%	0.0%	N/A
KEYS	31.6% - [13.8%]	0.0%	N/A	*	*	N/A
LEARN	5.6% - [84.95%]	0.0%	N/A	1.0%	0.0%	N/A
Noble Street	84.6% - [84.95%]	1.7%	1.1%	15.0%	0.0%	80
North Kenwood	74.5% - [84.95%]	0.0%	N/A	5.0%	0.0%	N/A
North Lawndale	12.7% - [84.95%]	0.3%	2.4%	7.5%	Less than 1.0%	43
Octavio Paz	87.5% - [84.95%]	8.2%	N/A	*	0.0%	N/A
Perspectives	83.9% - [84.95%]	1.9%	1.1%	14.0%	0.0%	21
Prairie Crossing	0% - [6.2%/0.9%]	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	0.0%	N/A
Robertson	96.9% - [67%]	0.0%	N/A	*	1%	N/A
SIU-E. St. Louis	95.0% - [91.9%]	0.0%	14.0%	6%	2%	22
Springfield Ball	23.1% - [46.4%]	0.0%	N/A	10.0%	0.0%	N/A
Thomas Jefferson	0.0% - [25.6%]	29.7%	N/A	*	*	*

Table 2B (continued). Student Demographic Data for 2002-2003

Name of Charter School	Low Income % School and [District]	Limited English Proficient	% Drop Out	% Suspended	% Expelled	High School# Graduates
Tomorrow's Builder	100.0% - [91.9%]	0.0%	115.6%	*	*	*
Triumphant	92.9% - [84.95%]	1.0%	N/A	2.0%	0.0%	N/A
Young Women's	63.1% - [84.95%]	0.3%	4.9%	12.0%	0.0%	N/A
Youth Connection	89.1% - [84.95%]	1.2%	42.9%	0.0%	0.0%	659

*Data not provided.

Table 2C. Student Retention Data for 2002-2003

Name of Charter School	# Of Students Leaving for District Public School	# Of Students Leaving for Public School out of the District	# Of Students Who Did Not Return in 2002-2003 (other than graduates)
The Academy	26	25	51
Alain Locke	*	*	21
Betty Shabazz	10	5	25
Chicago International	238	27	265
Ft. Bowman	9	12	21
Global Village	20	26	46
KEYS	*	*	*
LEARN	2	2	4
Noble Street	16	3	45
North Kenwood	12	13	25
North Lawndale	12	16	28
Octavio Paz	*	*	41
Perspectives	6	6	12
Prairie Crossing	3	10	18
Robertson	2	3	*
SIU-E. St. Louis	8	2	10
Springfield Ball	5	5	5
Thomas Jefferson	*	*	*
Tomorrow's Builders	*	*	*
Triumphant	3	3	6
Young Women's	3	19	22
Youth Connection	25	39	301

*Data not provided

With students attending charter schools by parent choice, the student body is determined by parent selection plus a lottery process when the school is oversubscribed. This selection process means that the district population is not necessarily mirrored in the school's demographics. Table 2D lists racial ethnic data for each school by district, as well as the district data.

Table 2D. Charter School Racial Ethnic Enrollment Data by Percentage for 2002-2003

<i>Name of Charter School</i>	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Native American</i>
The Academy	0.0	98.4	1.6	0.0	0.0
Alain Locke	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	0.0
Betty Shabazz	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chicago International	7.4	47.5	43.0	1.2	0.8
Global Village	9.1	53.4	15.9	21.0	0.6
LEARN	0.0	99.1	0.9	0.0	0.0
Noble Street	4.0	11.0	82.7	1.7	0.6
North Kenwood	0.0	99.4	0.3	0.3	0.0
North Lawndale	.3	91.9	7.8	0.0	0.0
Octavio Paz	0.9	48.9	50.3	0.0	0.0
Perspectives	2.6	51.6	45.8	0.0	0.0
Triumphant	0.0	99.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
Young Women's	15.2	65.2	18.0	1.2	0.3
Youth Connection	6.4	66.7	26.3	0.5	0.1
Chicago 299	9.3	50.4	36.8	3.3	0.2
Ft. Bowman	73.6	26.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cahokia 187	17.2	81.3	1.4	0.1	0.0
KEYS	84.2	15.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Edwardsville 7	88.0	9.3	0.8	1.8	0.2
Prairie Crossing	82.8	2.3	5.0	8.6	1.4
Woodland District 50	71.2	6.5	12.7	9.4	0.2
Fremont District 79	88.3	0.8	5.3	5.3	0.3
Robertson	9.4	88.5	0.0	2.1	0.0
Decatur 61	53.4	44.4	1.1	0.9	0.1
SIU – E. St. Louis	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tomorrow's Builders	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
East St. Louis 189	0.2	98.7	1.1	0.0	0.0
Springfield Ball	65.7	29.5	1.7	3.1	0.0
Springfield 186	60.6	36.2	1.4	1.7	0.2
Thomas Jefferson	16.2	10.8	12.2	60.8	0.0
District 59	59.1	3.3	25.2	12.3	0.2

*Data not provided

Charter schools must enroll students in the district of the appropriate age and grade range if parents choose that school. Students with disabilities must be accepted on the same basis as other students. If there is an oversubscription of students, then a lottery is held. Charter schools must observe all of the civil rights protections for students in their enrollment processes. Services included on an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for children and youth with disabilities must be provided. Frequently, there is a contract between the charter school and the home school district to provide such services and the per capita tuition rate is reduced to cover the cost (e.g., 90% rather than 100% per capita tuition).

Table 2E. Students With Disabilities by Type in 2002-2003

<i>Name of Charter School</i>	<i>Unduplicated Students With Disabilities</i>	<i>Learning Disabilities</i>	<i>Speech/Language</i>	<i>Emotional/Behavior</i>	<i>Mild to Moderate Mental Impairment</i>	<i>Traumatic Brain Injury</i>	<i>Visual Impairment</i>	<i>Hearing Impairment</i>	<i>Physical Impairment</i>	<i>Other Health Impairment</i>	<i>Autism</i>	<i>Developmental Disabilities</i>
The Academy	31	23	3	2	4	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
Alain Locke	18	9	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Betty Shabazz	10	7	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Chicago Int'l	223	200	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	2	0
Ft. Bowman	14	6	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Global Village	23	14	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0
KEYS	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
LEARN	9	6	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noble Street	55	50	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
North Kenwood	24	19	8	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Lawnwood	30	26	3	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Octavio Paz	37	15	15	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	1
Perspectives	21	19	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Prairie Crossing	29	8	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0
Robertson	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUI-East St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Springfield Ball	36	17	27	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Thomas Jefferson	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Tomorrow's Builders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Triumphant	32	32	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young Women's	31	24	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Youth Connection	146	103	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Data not provided.

According to the Charter Schools Law in effect for 2002-2003, instructional staff can either hold Illinois teacher certification as required in order to teach in traditional public schools or have a bachelor's degree **and** at least five years of relevant experience **and** pass the state tests of basic skills and relevant subject matter. Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year, at least 50% of the instructional staff in Chicago charter schools established after July 2003 shall hold teaching certificates. In the 2006-2007 school year, the minimum number of certified instructional staff increases to 75%.

Administrative personnel are not required to have certification or particular qualifications.

Table 3A. 2002-2003 Instructional Staff Certification Status

<i>Name of Charter School</i>	<i>Certified</i>	<i>Total Instructional Personnel</i>
The Academy	15	23
Alain Locke	11	12
Betty Shabazz	13	13
Chicago International	75	191
Ft. Bowman	17	18
Global Village	9	25
KEYS	*	*
LEARN	4	7
Noble Street	23	32
North Kenwood	15.5	16.5
North Lawndale	13	26
Octavio Paz	36	36
Perspectives	7	14
Prairie Crossing	10	24
Robertson	6	6
SIU-E. St. Louis	6	6
Springfield Ball	20	20
Thomas Jefferson	*	*
Tomorrow's Builders	1	3
Triumphant	12	12
Young Women's	24	25
Youth Connection	140	140

*Data not provided.

Table 3B. 2002-2003 Administrative Staff Certification Status

<i>Name of Charter School</i>	<i>Certified</i>	<i>Total Administrative Personnel</i>
The Academy	1	2
Alain Locke	2	3
Betty Shabazz	1	1
Chicago International	6	22
Ft. Bowman	1	4
Global Village	0	5
KEYS	*	*
LEARN	1	1
Noble Street	0	3
North Kenwood	2	4
North Lawndale	0	3
Octavio Paz	2	2
Perspectives	0	6
Prairie Crossing	0	1
Robertson	0	2
SIU-E. St. Louis	0	1
Springfield Ball	1	1
Thomas Jefferson	*	*
Tomorrow's Builders	0	1
Triumphant	2	2
Young Women's	0	4
Youth Connection	7	78

*Data not provided.

Charter School Student Performance

Schools have accountability agreements with the charter authorizers and are ultimately accountable at renewal time. However, charter schools are not exempt from state testing requirements. Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) results for four years are presented in Table 4A, along with the districts' composite results; three years of Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) data are available and presented in Table 4B. The notation "Not applicable" indicates that the school did not have any tested grade levels that year or was not open that year. The district total reflects the district's percent of meets and exceeds.

Table 4A. Comparison of ISAT Meets/Exceeds Percentages 2000-2003

<i>Charter School/District Name</i>	<i>Percentage Meets + Exceeds 2000</i>	<i>Percentage Meets + Exceeds 2001</i>	<i>Percentage Meets + Exceeds 2002</i>	<i>Percentage Meets + Exceeds 2003</i>
The Academy	*	15.0	29	21.6
Alain Locke	Not applicable	Not applicable	14	32.4
Betty Shabazz	24	34.1	44	50.9
Chicago International	42	44.6	45	57.2
Global Village	Not applicable	Not applicable	34	43.4
LEARN	Not applicable	Not applicable	46	43.6
North Kenwood	51	53.9	51	54
Octavio Paz	21	28.6	43	45.5
Perspectives	26	41.0	50	38.5
Triumphant	16	19.7	29	28.1
Young Women's	Not applicable	Not applicable	57	45.9
Chicago District 299	36.9	38.3	39.5	41.9
Ft. Bowman	61	42.1	42	54.8
Cahokia District 187	39.5	39.4	41.1	44.9
KEYS	Not applicable	Not applicable	38	55.0
Edwardsville District 7	75	76.9	75.5	78.0
Prairie Crossing	Not applicable	96.0	95	91.1
Woodland District 50	73.6	75.4	75.9	74.8
Fremont District 79	79.3	81.9	82.1	81.7
Robertson	Not applicable	Not applicable	30	52.7
Decatur District 61	53	52.9	50.7	52.8
Springfield Ball	75	64.4	67	74.5
Springfield District 186	51.8	51.8	53.2	54.5
Thomas Jefferson	*	64.6	63	69.7
Community Consolidated District 59	78.3	79.9	77.5	75.4
State	62.7	63.1	62.7	63.9

*Data not available.

Table 4B. Summary of PSAE Meets/Exceeds Percentages 2002-2003

<i>Charter School/District Name</i>	<i>Percentage Meets + Exceeds 2001</i>	<i>Percentage Meets + Exceeds 2002</i>	<i>Percentage Meets + Exceeds 2003</i>
The Academy	12.0	10.7	12.1
Chicago International	18.1	19.6	27.4
Noble Street	Not applicable	45.2	38.5
North Lawndale	14.8	15.0	9.7
Perspectives	17.6	25.5	18.1
Young Women's	N/A	N/A	26.9
Youth Connection	11.1	8.9	19.3
Chicago District 299	29.3	29.9	29.8
SIU-E. St. Louis	3.2	3.1	7.8
Tomorrow's Builders	N/A	N/A	N/A
East St. Louis District 189	13.1	17.7	17.7
State	55.7	56.1	55.2

ISAT results of charter schools in Chicago are mixed, with seven schools above the Chicago Public School District's average and four schools at or below the district average. This is consistent with the results from last year. Of the six charter schools with ISAT test results spanning four years, all revealed performance increases from year one to year four; however, only two showed a marked improvement over last year's scores. Of the remaining five schools, the results of two schools indicate improvement while two schools showed declines and one school remained stable. PSAE results for the charter schools in Chicago indicate an increase in scores for two schools, stable results for one school, and a decline in the scores for three schools. Only one school, Noble Street Charter High School, scored higher than the district average. All Chicago charter school ISAT and PSAE scores remain below the state average.

Performance in the rest of the state indicates three charter schools posted scores above their sending district's average and three charter schools posted scores below the district average on the ISAT. Three of these schools equaled or outperformed the state average, while four underperformed. One downstate charter high school (SIU-E. St. Louis) posted PSAE scores in 2003 that were a slight increase compared to those of 2001 and 2002.

Seven charter schools are on the list of schools in school improvement status as defined under the No Child Left Behind law. These schools are The Academy, Chicago International, North Lawndale, Octavio Paz, Perspectives, Triumphant, and Youth Connection Charter Schools in Chicago.

New Schools for 2002-2003

Tomorrow's Builders in East St. Louis was the sole new charter school opening in the fall of 2002.

School Closures at the end of 2002-2003

At the end of school year 2002-2003, Thomas Jefferson Charter School applied to the State Board of Education for a five-year charter renewal. According to the Charter Schools Law, a school may have its charter revoked or not renewed if the local school board or State Board, as the chartering entity, clearly demonstrates that the charter school did any of the following, or otherwise failed to comply with the requirements of the law:

1. Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards or procedures set forth in the charter.
2. Failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the charter.
3. Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.
4. Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not exempted.

In order to determine whether or not Thomas Jefferson had met the criteria noted above, ISBE staff reviewed numerous documents and conducted an onsite review visit. As a result of this review, the State Superintendent recommended that the charter not be renewed because Thomas Jefferson was not in compliance with all the terms of the original charter or with the requirements of IDEA and the renewal proposal was not in compliance with Section 27-9(c) of the Illinois Charter Schools Law. However, the State Board voted to renew the charter for one year, conditioned upon the school submitting an approved accountability plan and coming into compliance with all special education requirements under IDEA in a prescribed time period. At the end of this time, the school was unable to document compliance and the charter was not renewed.

At the end of school year 2002-2003, by mutual decision with the authorizing school board, the governing board of KEYS Charter School in Edwardsville decided to close.

Denied Proposals

Chicagoland Science, Art and Language Institute Charter School (Ch-SALI) applied to Elgin District U-46 for a five-year charter. The request was denied at the local level, based on noncompliance with the Charter Schools Law. Upon appeal to and review by ISBE staff, the State Superintendent found the proposal was not in compliance and thus did not overturn the district denial.

Charter Renewals

Charter agreements may be renewed by the authorizer at the end of the charter term unless the school meets one or more of the following criteria for non-renewal or revocation of a charter as noted above.

Several charter schools in Chicago participated in the charter renewal process over the spring and summer of 2003 and Chicago Public Schools authorized charter renewals for four schools. These included **Betty Shabazz, North Kenwood/Oakland, North Lawndale**, and **Octavio Paz** Charter Schools.

Charter School Use of Flexibility

The Charter Schools Law exempts charter schools from most School Code of Illinois requirements except those deemed essential. The rationale for this exemption is consistent with the purpose of the law, which is to ensure that charter schools have maximum flexibility for serving students while being held accountable for results. Major decisions such as curriculum, service delivery, and program options are left to the discretion of the charter school governing board rather than being subject to state school mandates.

As in the last several years, the responses from charter schools operating throughout 2002-2003 specified that having personnel flexibility served their school and students well. Nearly every response noted that the current law allows schools to hire teachers regardless of certificate status (although they must meet qualification requirements as outlined in the Charter Schools Law). Another area of flexibility noted by all the schools was the ability to design curriculum independent from the school district.

Other areas of flexibility reported were:

- Flexibility with administrator certification.
- Autonomy to set educational priorities.
- Autonomy to allow teaching methods that are new or different from the school district.
- Autonomy to set unique school and school year schedules.
- Autonomy to manage fiscal affairs independent of the school district.
- Autonomy to set employee compensation rates and/or provide bonuses.

Statutory Changes Suggested by Charter Schools

Facility and Finance Needs

- Allocate additional operating funds to charter schools beyond the per capita assistance from the authorizing district.
- Provide facilities financing.
- Provide state grants to all schools, including those in renewal periods.
- Increase the amount of state start-up grants to up to \$1,000 per enrolled student.
- Provide transportation funding.

- Mandate 100% per capita funding.
- Appropriate monies sufficient to fully fund state start-up grants as well as transition impact aid to districts.

Administrative Needs

- Extend the charter renewal period to up to 10 years.
- Allow ISBE to authorize charter schools without first presenting to local districts.
- Allow multiple campuses for all schools.
- Allow employees children to attend regardless of their home district.
- Allow additional enrollment preferences such as gender, ethnicity and economic status to create a more diverse environment.
- Prohibit districts from charging rent for district buildings used by charter schools.
- Remove the requirement that charter schools give the same standardized tests as the authorizing district.
- Eliminate the teacher certification requirements included in Public Act 093-0003.
- Increase the cap to allow more charter schools to open.
- Allow loan repayment after the initial charter term.
- Allow for-profit management companies for all schools.

State Board of Education Charter School Legislative Agenda

- Amend response timelines from 14 days to 30 days to allow for adequate time to review charter school proposals.
- Set an October 1 deadline for the submission of new charter school proposals to the local districts in order to provide adequate time for the completion of the approval process prior to the beginning of the next school year.
- In addition to school employees, require criminal background investigations for board members of the charter school.
- Add the requirement of a conflict of interest statement for charter school board members.

In summary, charter schools have fulfilled the intention of the General Assembly to create an avenue for parents, teachers, and community members to create new and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system.

Addendum

Table 6. Comparison of 2001-02 Instructional Expenditures and Operating Expenditures*

<i>Name of Charter School</i>	<i>Instructional Expenditures per Pupil</i>	<i>Operating Expenditures per Pupil</i>
The Academy	\$5,992	\$9,177
Alain Locke	\$7,184	\$10,940
Betty Shabazz	\$3,157	\$6,168
Chicago International	\$3,180	\$5,743
Global Village	\$6,040	\$3,538
LEARN	\$6,599	\$10,210
Noble Street	\$4,174	\$5,455
North Kenwood	\$4,845	\$6,717
North Lawndale	\$4,495	\$6,446
Octavio Paz	\$3,440	\$6,936
Perspectives	\$5,507	\$9,693
Triumphant	\$3,034	\$7,258
Young Women's	N/A	N/A
Youth Connection	\$5,553	\$7,473
Chicago 299	\$5,286	\$8,482
Ft. Bowman	\$2,888	\$5,191
Cahokia 187	\$4,179	\$7,218
KEYS	\$6,350	\$7,927
Edwardsville 7	\$4,017	\$7,114
Prairie Crossing	\$4,120	\$5,830
Woodland District 50	\$3,491	\$7,196
Fremont District 79	\$3,687	\$7,475
Robertson	\$3,226	\$7,616
Decatur 61	\$3,431	\$6,653
SIU – E. St. Louis	\$2,997	\$5,023
Tomorrow's Builders	N/A	N/A
East St. Louis 189	\$4,915	\$8,545
Springfield Ball	\$3,973	\$6,413
Springfield 186	\$4,625	\$8,516
Thomas Jefferson	\$3,936	\$7,668
District 59	\$5,447	\$10,034

*Charter schools are not required to report financial information in the same manner as public school districts.

Instructional expenditure per pupil includes the direct costs of teaching pupils or the interaction between teachers and pupils.
Operating expenditure per pupil includes the gross operating cost of a school district excluding summer school, adult education, bond principal retired, and capital expenditures.