

THE Center for Education Reform



January 2001

Charter Schools Today: Changing the Face of American Education*

CLOSURES: THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

With the number of charter schools at an all-time high of approximately 2,000 schools open and operating, the attention on their progress, missteps and activities is ever sharper. And with every charter school closure, there is a rush of news stories and questions raised about whether or not a reform measure like charter schools is as good as it sounds.

While the vast majority of charter schools are not in question, some schools simply fail to do what they are supposed to do. The question for observers and policy makers shouldn't be whether or not charter schools fail, but whether or not all schools, regardless of their category, are so sufficiently accountable that their lack of progress would lead to their closure. Whether it be traditional public schools in Baltimore where less than 20 percent of elementary students can read, or a charter school in Minnesota that failed to provide necessary accommodations, the public should be able to agree that accountability for all schools is paramount.

As reported in CHARTER SCHOOLS TODAY: CHANGING THE FACE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION when it was released nearly a year ago, far from being an indictment of charter schools, closures provide real contractual accountability, which is all too often missing at many traditional public schools.

MEASURING THE CLOSURES

As of fall, 1999, CER reported that of the 1,674 public schools that had begun operating in 32 states and the District of Columbia, 39 charters had closed their doors for failure to meet their charter, which was 2.3 percent of all schools that had ever opened for business.

In the ensuing months, reports from Arizona, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas and other states led observers to believe that the numbers were much larger and it began to appear that the failures were hastening.

Researchers at CER then undertook the routine task of delving into every single school that was reported closed, and investigated with state and local agencies the conditions under which schools closed.

What we found is that the conventional reports, and those of critics as well, tend to lump together a wide variety of closed charter schools as failures when, in reality, there is much more complexity to this issue than is readily apparent. For example, earlier this year *The Washington Post* in reporting about Texas included in its estimates for the state's failures nine schools that never opened. Some states have several "closed" charter schools that in actuality were consolidated back into their districts. Clearly, states with more charter activity have a proportionately larger number of closed charters.

To ensure that people have access to the facts about the universe of charter school closures, this report details the status of each charter or contract for charter that has ever been issued that is no longer or never was a school.

SUMMARY

This report separates charter school closures into two main categories: failures and consolidations. As of December 2000, the number of failed charter schools stands at 86, and makes up 4 percent of the overall number of charter schools ever opened in the U.S.

There are an additional 26 charter schools that were consolidated into their local school districts for a variety of reasons. Finally, charter schools that never opened are often counted in charter failure rates when, in actuality, a school that never opens cannot fail. There are approximately 50 such entities, and they are not counted as a closure, though we've sought to clarify for the public the extent to which the organizers pursued the opening of a school in Appendix A.

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The Center for Education Reform is a national, independent, non-profit advocacy organization providing support and guidance to individuals, community and civic groups, policymakers and others who are working to bring fundamental reforms to their schools. For further information, please call (202) 822-9000 or visit our website at <http://edreform.com>

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January 2001 — Closures At-A-Glance

State	Number of Schools	Number of Closed Schools	Percent of Total
United States	2150	86	4.0
Alaska	18	1	5.6
Arizona	451	21	4.7
California	282	6	2.1
Colorado	82	2	2.4
Connecticut	17	1	5.9
Delaware	8	1	12.5
D.C.	40	2	5.0
Florida	160	7	4.4
Illinois	24	1	4.2
Massachusetts	43	2	4.7
Michigan	191	6	3.1
Minnesota	74	6	8.1
Nevada	8	1	12.5
New Jersey	57	2	3.5
North Carolina	98	8	8.2
Ohio	72	2	2.8
Oklahoma	7	1	14.3
Pennsylvania	66	1	1.5
South Carolina	11	3	27.3
Texas	169	10	5.9
Wisconsin	91	2	2.2

Of the charter schools that have opened, 26 were consolidated into the local school district, and are not counted as closed. An additional 50 schools received a charter but never opened, and are not counted as closed.

Note: No charter schools have been revoked or voluntarily closed in Arkansas, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, and Virginia.

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	School	Date Opened	Date Closed	Reason	Explanation	Sponsoring Agency
Alaska	Walden Pond Charter School	Fall 1997	Dec-00	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	Anchorage School District (SD)
Arizona	Alternative Learning Center: Benson	1997	Feb-98	Financial	Grew too fast and became fiscally unstable; declared bankruptcy.	Window Rock SD
	Alternative Learning Center: Cascabel	1997	Feb-98	Financial	Grew too fast and became fiscally unstable; declared bankruptcy.	Window Rock SD
	Alternative Learning Center: Mesa	1996	Feb-98	Financial	Grew too fast and became fiscally unstable; declared bankruptcy.	Window Rock SD
	Alternative Learning Center: Wilcox	1997	Feb-98	Financial	Grew too fast and became fiscally unstable; declared bankruptcy.	Window Rock SD
	American Grade Schools - Asimov Campus	1996	Jun-00	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	State Board of Education
	American Grade Schools - Cervantes Campus	1996	Jun-00	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	State Board of Education
	American Grade Schools - Socrates Campus	1998	Jun-00	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	State Board of Education
	American Grade Schools - Webster Campus	1996	Jun-00	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	State Board of Education

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Arizona (cont.)

American Grade Schools - Webster Upper Campus	1998	Jun-00	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	State Board of Education
Arizona Vocational Training: Destiny Advanced Learning Center	Fall 1997	Feb-98	Mis-management	Poor management	Window Rock SD
Arizona Vocational Training: Arizona Career & Technical High School	Fall 1998	Mar-98	Mis-management	Poor management	Window Rock SD
Citizen 2000	1995	1996	Mis-management	Fiscal mismanagement: School inflated enrollment estimates. One of the state's first charter schools, it closed and filed for bankruptcy.	State Board of Education
Community High School	1999	2000	Academic	Inadequate enrollment due to inadequate academic program. Charter program did not meet the needs of students: accreditation, vocational programs, athletics and other extra-curriculum activities.	Lake Havasu City SD
Desert Hills Center	1998	1999	Financial	Not viable enterprise	State Charter Board

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**Arizona
 (cont.)**

Discovery Academy	1996	1999	Mis-management	Turned over their elementary charter to the Leona Group. Charter organizers simply walked away from the school. More effort required to hold school together than the organizers were willing to expend.	State Charter Board
Life School Legends	Fall 1999	Sep-99	Facility	Could not get Occupancy Permit or Fire Marshal Certificate. Re-opened under new sponsorship.	State Board of Education
Sonoita Charter Academy	1996	Fall 1997	Mis-management	School understaffed, personnel quit.	State Board of Education
Star Academy Charter Schools, Inc.	Fall 1997	2000	Mis-management	Inflated enrollment numbers, used extra money for personal expenses, director convicted of falsifying board minutes.	State Charter Board
Sterling Academy of Mathematics and Science	Fall 1999	Fall 1999	Facility	Building never inspected by state Fire Marshall. Closed 3 days after opening. Reopened Fall, 2000 and renamed Bright Ideas.	Peach Springs Unified SD
Success	Fall 1995	Fall 1997	Mis-management	Reporting violations, including inflated enrollment figures. Revocation overturned on due process grounds in court, but during proceedings surrendered charter.	State Board of Education
The School	1996	1997	Facility	Operated for a year, lost lease and could not locate another building.	Cedar Unified SD
CATO School of Reason [CATO II School of	1994 [& 1997]	1997 [& 1998]	Mis-management	Inadequate record-keeping; questionable associations with	Snowline Joint Unified SD [Apple Valley

California

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	Reason]				private and sectarian schools.	Unified SD]
	EduTrain	1993	Dec-94	Mis-management	Fiscal fraud, including inflated enrollment and funds used for personal expenses.	Los Angeles Unified SD
	Idyllwild Charter High School	Fall 1999	Jun-00	Mis-management	Opened without proper teacher credentials, staff finger-prints, other. Efforts to correct came too late to prevent closure by district board.	Hemet Unified SD
	Johnson Urban Elementary	Fall 1995	Nov-96	Other*	Dispute between management partner and school administration.	San Diego City Unified SD
	Oak Tree Charter School	Fall 1999	Jun-00	Mis-management	Faculty had inadequate credentials.	Oakland Unified SD
	Windows	Fall 1996	Sep-96	Financial	Inadequate enrollment, fire-code violations led to district revocation. School was restructured and taken over by another charter school.	San Diego City Unified SD
Colorado	Alpine Charter School	1996	Summer 1999	Academic	Poor academic performance. Mutual agreement between district and school to close.	Summit SD
	Colorado Visionary Charter Academy	Fall 1997	Jul-00	Financial	School in debt due to problems with securing a new facility.	Douglas County SD
Connecticut	Village Academy	Fall 1997	Sep-99	Mis-management	Poor record-keeping and disgruntled staff.	State Board of Education
Delaware	Richard Milburn Academy	Fall 1999	Jun-00	Financial	Enrollment decline (100% of students they served are at-risk of dropping out), and board not meeting	State Board of Education

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					regularly.	
District of Columbia	Marcus Garvey	Fall 1996	Apr-98	Mis-management	Management and leadership troubles: Poor fiscal management and a principal who provoked high-profile public conflicts forced the closure.	DC Board of Education
	Young Technocrats Mathematics and Science Public Charter School	Fall 1998	Jul-99	Mis-management	Management and leadership troubles: significant financial and facilities problems; failure to provide a sound educational program; mismanagement of budget.	DC Board of Education
Florida	Chance Charter School	Fall 1997	Summer 2000	Financial	Alachua County school district provided limited special education assistance, but would not provide the IDEA funds to meet the full needs of students as identified by school and parents. Contracting led to budget short falls. School District closed school.	Alachua County School Board (SB)
	Impact Academy	1999	Dec-99	Mis-management	Closed because of severe management and financial problems.	Duval County SB
	New Light Special Care	Fall 1998	Fall 1998	Financial	Inadequate enrollment - Voluntarily Closed (Open only a few weeks)	Brevard County SB
	Odyssey Charter School	Fall 1997	Summer 1998	Academic	Inadequate enrollment due to inadequate academic program.	Collier County SB
	Orange Avenue School	Fall 1997	Jul-99	Academic	Poor performance on standardized tests.	St. Lucie County SB
	Phoenix	Fall 1998	Fall 1998	Facility	Facility lost its lease in	Gadsen

Florida (cont.)

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	Essential Charter School				dispute with landlord.	County SB
	Stratford Education Institute	Sep-97	Sep-97	Academic	Did not offer a full range of classes required for graduation.	Volusia County SB
Illinois	Chicago Preparatory Charter School	Fall 1997	Dec-98	Mis-management	Mismanagement and inadequate academic program: Disorganized management fostered a school absent of academics or order.	Chicago Board of Education
Massachusetts	Boston University Residential Charter School	Fall 1997	Summer 2000	Financial	Served 33 troubled students with small classes and personalized attention. The school had not been reimbursed enough from state agencies to make financially viable.	State Board of Education
	YouthBuild	Fall 1995	May-97	Mis-management	Management disorganization led to inadequate academic program.	State Board of Education
Michigan	Kenquest	Fall 1995	1996	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	Central Michigan University
	New Horizon	1998	Jun-00	Financial	School for students in danger of dropping out, truancy problems led to budget shortfalls.	Detroit Public Schools
	New School for Creative Learning	Fall 1995	Summer 1997	Facility	Lost facility lease	Central Michigan University
Michigan (cont.)	Northlane School for Math and Science	1995	Spring 1997	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	Central Michigan University
	Sierra Leone Educational Outreach Academy	Fall 1995	Fall 1998	Mis-management	Failed to provide independent financial audit and the last quarter's financial	Central Michigan University

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					statement. School also lost lease.	
	Turtle Island	Fall 1997	Fall 1998	Academic	Failed to abide by and meet educational goals, including demonstrating translation of learning activities into credit requirements.	Oakland University
Minnesota	Dakota Open	Fall 1994	Mar-98	Mis-management	Management disorganization led to inadequate academic program.	Morton SD
	Frederick Douglas Math Science Technical Academy	Fall 1994	Feb-99	Facility	Lease agreement issues. Small enrollment, facilities debt.	Minneapolis SD
	Right Step	Fall 1995	Aug-00	Mis-management	Multiple problems: financial, administrative, management; but also some involving curriculum and special education programs.	St. Paul SD
	Success Academy	Fall 1997	May-00	Financial	Did not have funds to pay teachers and staff. School was \$1.4 million in debt.	St. Paul SD
	Summit School for the Arts	Fall 1997	Jan-00	Mis-management	Administrative and governance problems, difficulty maintaining personnel; curriculum and special education-related problems.	Chisago Lakes SD
Minnesota (cont.)	Toivola-Meadowlands Charter School	Fall 1993	Aug-00	Facility	Early incurred facility renovations costs forced limits on teacher salaries and led to high turnover of faculty.	St. Louis County SD
Nevada	Techworld Charter School	Fall 2000	Dec-00	Facility	The school was unable to secure a permanent site.	Clark County SD

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New Jersey	REACH Charter High School	Sep-99	Apr-00	Financial	Fiscal and programmatic problems	State Commissioner of Education
	Simon Bolivar	Fall 1999	Aug-00	Facility	Failed to secure permanent facility, and ran with budget deficit.	State Commissioner of Education
North Carolina	Arts & Basics Charter	Fall 1998	Oct-99	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	Wilkes County SD
	Bonner Academy	Fall 1997	May-98	Mis-management	Accused of failing to maintain proper records and supply district with requested financial documentation. Also safety concerns, board issues, transcript alteration accusation.	State Board of Education
	Bright Horizons	Fall 1997	Aug-99	Mis-management	Lack of student numbers, poor financial management.	Wayne County SD
	Change for Youth	Fall 1998	Sep-99	Financial	Student Numbers/ Business: Small program, operating costs higher than was sustainable.	Wayne County SD
	Elizabeth Grinton Academy	Fall 1997	Nov-99	Financial	Financial deficits. Parents of special needs children liked school but paperwork did not satisfy regulators.	Wilkes County SD
	Nguzo Saba Charter School	Fall 1997	Jan-99	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	Caldwell County SD
North Carolina (cont.)	School in the Community	Fall 1997	May-99	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	Chapel Hill /Carrboro City Schools
	Wilkes Technical	Fall 1998	Dec-98	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	Wilkes County
Ohio	Monroe Academy of	Fall 1999	Jun-00	Facility	School lost its building.	Lucas County Education

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	Toledo					Service Center
	Riser Military Academy	Fall 1999	Jan-00	Mis-management	Poor financial management, out-door portable restrooms, lack of textbooks, teachers union filed unfair labor practice charges.	Columbus City SD
Oklahoma	W.E.B. DuBois Academy	Fall 2000	Nov-00	Mis-management	Leadership instability, financial problems, curriculum concerns.	Tulsa Public Schools
Pennsylvania	Creative Educational Concepts Charter School	Fall 1998	Jun-99	Academic	Failed to carry out academic plan.	Chester-Upland SD
South Carolina	Charter Alternative School (Voluntary)	Fall 1997	Jan-00	Mis-management	Financial troubles and accountability questions.	Marlboro County SD
	Education Redirection	Aug-97	Oct-99	Mis-management	Financial troubles and accountability questions.	Charleston County SD
	Harbor School for Arts and Sciences	Fall 1998	Aug-00	Financial	School not economically viable.	Georgetown SD
Texas	Academy of Austin	Fall 1999	Dec-99	Facility	Officials at company that ran the school notified the Texas Education Agency, saying the school would "go inactive" because of facility problems.	State Board of Education
Texas (cont.)	All Saints Academy	Fall 2000	Fall 2000	Facility	Lost lease 10 days after opening; owner of building sold it to another charter operator (Prepared Table), who re-opened it the next day.	State Board of Education
	Bolding Academy	Fall 1999	Sep-00	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	State Board of Education

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	Emma L. Harrison Charter School	Fall 1998	Jul-99	Mis-management	School violated laws covering nonprofits, open meetings, public information and federal child nutrition programs.	State Board of Education
	Heritage Academy	Fall 1998	Sep-00	Mis-management	Financial mismanagement. Surrendered charter.	State Board of Education
	Life is Beautiful Education Center: H.O.P.E.	Fall 1998	Summer 1999	Mis-management	Financial and programmatic troubles	State Board of Education
	Life is Beautiful Education Center: L.O.V.E. Charter High School	Fall 1998	Summer 1999	Mis-management	Financial and programmatic troubles	State Board of Education
	Life is Beautiful Education Center: P.O.W.E.R.	Fall 1998	Summer 1999	Mis-management	Financial and programmatic troubles	State Board of Education
	Rameses School	Fall 1998	Jan-00	Financial	Inadequate enrollment	State Board of Education
	Renaissance Charter School	Fall 1996	Sep-00	Mis-management	Financial Mismanagement. School Inactive. Board voted to allow charter to expire in Jan. 2001.	State Board of Education
Wisconsin	Charter Products, Inc.	1998	2000	Financial	Declining enrollment: Developed to meet the needs of school district rather than those of the students the school planned to serve.	Fond du Lac SD
	Kickapoo River Institute	Fall 1997	Summer 1998	Facility	School served multiple districts, but administrators could not agree on location - Voluntarily Closed.	North Crawford SD

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January 2001 – The 26 Consolidations and Causes

	School	Date Opened	Date Closed	Explanation
Arizona	Academy of Lifelong Learning	1995	2000	Converted to private school. Chartered by Life Development Institute. Sponsored by SBE.
	Ash Fork	1995	1997	Reverted back to district, with the district saying that the program was not sufficiently innovative or different.
	Cascabel	1996	1997	The school was already working with Alternative Learning Center (ALC, a different charter school) on a contractual basis and decided that would operate better as a site under ALC.
	Galveston Academy - A Ball Charter School	Fall 1997	Spring 1998	Site closed: Outgrew temporary leased facility; students moved into/consolidated with the Dobson Academy.
	Gila Crossing Community School	Fall 1996	1998	Reverted to a grant school (tribal).
	Greaswood Springs School	1996	1997	Because this was a school within an official reservation and thus qualified for federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funds the state withheld the state's Maintenance and Operation funding. It thus chose to revert to being a BIA grant school.
	Intelli-School – Mesa	Fall 1996	Jan-99	Students moved to another site operating under same charter.
	Kachina Country Day School #3 (Phoenix)	Fall 1998	Dec-98	Facility required extensive modifications. Students moved to another site (Kachina Country Day School #2 in Scottsdale) operating under same charter.
NFL YET Academy - Secondary & College Prep	Fall 1997	1999	Site closed and merged with the other existing NFL YET site	
Arizona (cont.)	Round Valley	1995	1997	District said the school's program was not adequately innovative and it reverted to alternative school under the district.

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	St. John's Alternative	1995	1996	District said the school's program was not adequately innovative or different from the district's; it reverted back to the district.
	Sunray Charter School #101 (Mesa)	Fall 1997	1999	Site Closed. Sunray Charter Schools are now "Schools that Work".
	Sunray Charter School #124 (Glendale)	Fall 1997	1999	Site Closed. Sunray Charter Schools are now "Schools that Work".
California	Folsom Middle School	Fall 1993	Aug-98	Reverted back to traditional public school status.
	International Studies Academy	Fall 1994	Fall 1997	Conversion school that reverted back to traditional public school status.
Colorado	Clayton Charter School	Fall 1994	Summer 1997	Absorbed by a charter in the same district with better resources.
Florida	New Dimensions High School - Closed satellite @ ice rink	Fall 1998	Mar-00	Site Closed (satellite)
Georgia	Midway Elementary School	Fall 1995	May-98	District said the school's program was not adequately innovative or different from the district's; it reverted back to the district.
Illinois	Peoria Alternative Charter School	1996	Summer 1999	Originally a partnership with the Ball Foundation that prompted the district to convert the school, it later decided that being part of the district was preferable.
Louisiana	Academic and Career Education	Fall 1996	Sep-99	Former Alternative School. Three-year charter, three-year study, board voted to revert back.
Michigan	Curtis House Academy	1997	Jun-99	Became "Section 24" school under ISD which gave school access to specialists, etc. Less hassle without need for board and personal liability issues.

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New Mexico

Harrison Middle School	1996	Jun-99	Converted to qualify for funds; reverted to traditional public school.
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Highland High Schools	1994	Jun-99	Converted to qualify for funds; reverted to traditional public school.
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Taylor Middle Schools	1994	Jun-99	Converted to qualify for funds; reverted to traditional public school.
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Wisconsin

Glidden Charter School	1998	Spring 2000	Program within school. State education department did not believe it met charter criteria and converted entire school to Title 1 status.
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Nature and Technology Charter School	Fall 1998	Summer 1999	Was just one class in a public school that is no longer being offered.
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THE CLOSURES: THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

January 2001 — The 50 Schools that Never Opened and Causes

	School	Date Lost	Explanation
Arizona	Academies for Career Exploration	1999	Awarded charter, never signed contract with State.
	Arizona Academy Communications Arts and Technology	1997	Awarded charter, never signed contract with State.
	Attix School	1999	Awarded charter, never signed contract with Charter School Board (CSB).
	Ashton Education Center	2000	Awarded charter, never signed contract with state, charter rescinded.
	Beacon Ahwatukee Charter School	1999	Charter Returned
	Beacon Chandler Charter School	1999	Charter Returned
	Beacon Glendale Charter School	1999	Charter Returned
	Edison Partnership	2000	Awarded charter, never signed contract with CSB, charter rescinded.
	Foothills	Fall 2000	Rescinded charter, never signed charter.
	Frontier	1997	Rescinded on judgement of state; never signed the contract.
Greenlee	1999	Charter returned: Decided not to open.	

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January 2001 — The 50 Schools that Never Opened and Causes

Arizona (cont.)

Tesseract	1999	Tesseract decided to concentrate their efforts into other Tesseract schools.
Theodore Roosevelt Boarding School	1997	Awarded charter. Never opened. Sponsored by Window Rock School District. Jurisdictional dispute: Indian reservation officials objected to school, which was sponsored by outside district.
Virtual Universe	1996	Contract signed, but did not open.
Wellspring	2000	Awarded Charter, Never Signed Contract with CSB, Charter Rescinded.

California

Bear Valley Charter School	Fall 1993	Inactive
Golden Feather Charter School	1995	Inactive: Was structured to be "a school within a school" to provide an "optional situation" for students (K-8) already enrolled in two district schools.
Howell Mountain Charter School	Fall 1996	Inactive - On hold
Magna Carta Secondary School	Mar-94	Charter Returned
Nevada County Academy of Learning High School	1996	Inactive - Never Operational
Options for Youth - Long Beach	Fall 1996	Inactive - Not Renewed
Walden Academy Charter School	Dec-95	Charter Returned
Westport Village School	1997	Inactive - Never Operational
Yulupa Elementary	1993	Inactive

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Illinois	Enterprise Charter School	Summer 1997	Facilities Plans fell through.
	Golden Apple Charter School	Jul-98	The board withdrew the charter it had granted the Golden Apple Foundation, which decided not to launch the school. Conflict between board and school personnel.
	Great Builders	Summer 1998	Facilities Plans fell through.
	North River Charter School	Summer 1997	Facilities Plans fell through.
	Student Builders	Summer 1997	Facilities Plans fell through.
Massachusetts	Horace Mann School of Essential Studies Charter High School	2000	Charter Returned: unable to find an adequate building.
Michigan	Saginaw Preparatory Public School Academy	1997	Building failed to pass fire marshal inspection.
Minnesota	Prairie Island Charter School	Spring 1995	Surrendered - Lack of local support and consequential withdrawal of local funding.
North Carolina	Cabarrus County Charter School	Feb-00	Charter Returned
	Catawba Valley Tech	Apr-99	Charter Returned: inadequate enrollment.
	Harnett Technical Academy	Sep-99	Charter Returned: No facility, no resources, inadequate enrollment.
	Hope Elementary	Feb-00	Charter Returned
	Mecklenburg Tarheel Challenge-West	May-99	Charter Returned

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North Carolina (cont.)

Mountain Pathways	Apr-97	Charter Returned
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Rainbow Mountain Children's School	Apr-97	Charter Returned
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Tarheel Challenge-East	May-99	Charter Returned
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The Odessa	Jan-98	Charter Returned
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Texas

Austin Interactive Learning Academy	Mar-00	Charter Returned
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Cypress Lodge	Jan-98	Revoked - Board problems and a fire destroyed facilities - state pursued school for per pupil payments made.
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El Paso CC	1998	Charter Returned, Community College decided against opening the program
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Freedom School	1998	Charter Returned
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Gateway-West Texas A&M	1998	Charter Returned
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Life is Beautiful Education Center: F.A.I.T.H.	Summer 1999	Charter Returned (Ran by Life is Beautiful Education Center, which had three actual schools closed - see Closures List)
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Neighborhood Pride	1998	Charter Returned
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Sky's the Limit Charter School	1998	Charter Returned
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Space Center Charter School	1998	Charter Returned
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GLOSSARY

Failures: These are schools that failed in the eyes of their sponsor or their customers to fulfill the obligations outlined in their charter. There are normally four reasons for the failure:

- 1) *Financial Inequities* (noted as Financial) which means that the charter itself had budgetary problems resulting from involuntary causes, such as lack of enrollment, not enough money, costs exceeded projected revenues, etc. In most cases, these schools tried for a long time to become healthier but for a variety of reasons, could not sustain the institution.
- 2) *Mismanagement:* Includes deliberate actions on the part of organizers or sponsors that led to the closure, such as mispending, failure to provide adequate programs, materials, etc., and in general lack of accountability overall. This category would most fall into the “bad-apple” category.
- 3) *Academic:* Applies to schools whose sponsors found them unable to meet the academic goals of their charter or as stipulated in some cases, failed to carry out an acceptable academic plan.
- 4) *Facilities:* Applies to schools that got started but because they were unable to contract for a viable facility, were closed or voluntarily gave up their charter. While it is the charter’s obligation to find a facility, the number of roadblocks created by zoning boards, school districts and even community opposition makes up the bulk of facilities problems that result in a school closing. (See CHARTER SCHOOLS TODAY: CHANGING THE FACE OF AMERICAN EDUCATION, Chapter 4, The Obstacles and Opposition to Charter Schools.)

Consolidations: Charter Schools in this category were normally instrumentalities of the school district or sponsored by a district where one party decided that the charter didn’t provide any significant benefits as a stand alone school, and thus was reverted or consolidated into the larger system. Consolidations appear to occur after a district tried to spin off a program or school only to determine that it would have better control and efficiencies if the program were still a part of the district. In some states, districts originally created the charter with a financial benefit in mind as federal charter funds and some state funds are only available to actual charters, but the districts later concluded such an independent institution was not worth the trouble.

Schools That Never Opened: There are 50 schools in this category, which occur because the organization granted a charter was unable to or chose not to open the school, and thus the charter was returned or expired. The reasons schools don’t open vary, from obstacles to personal tragedies, to circumstances in which the charter was obtained changing, etc. However it is important to note that up until now, no institution or reporter has ever accounted for this separate category, and that as such, failure rates are often quoted including charters that were granted but never opened.