

Division: School Funding Unit

Program/Procedure: Charter School Data Collection (effective July 1, 2019)

The School Funding Unit will send out a form to all charter schools in the spring and ask all charters to fill in anticipated enrollment, poverty count, special education child count data and ELL child count data. Based on the information provided from the charter school, it will be determined if the charter is newly opening or significantly expanding in the upcoming school year. Newly opened or significantly expanding charters must be funded based on current year data. This form will be required to be returned by June 15.

These student counts must include totals by resident district for enrollment and poverty data. For special education child counts, resident district and prior year district attended must be included.

These estimated student counts are used as preliminary data in place of the official October 1 enrollment and poverty counts and December 1 special education child counts for newly opening or significantly expanding charter schools.

When determining final federal allocations, DESE finance will use Cycle 2 data to determine current year student enrollment and direct certification data for new and expanding charter schools. Cycle 4 data will be used to determine current year special education child counts for new and expanding charter schools.

For state funding purposes, the enrollment numbers will be used for calculating state aid until current year ADM data is available for charters that meet the criteria for current-year funding (first year of operation, first year operating under a new license, first year adding a new campus, or adding any grade at any campus). It is critical that the enrollment numbers are accurate to avoid large mid-year funding adjustments. For current-year funded charters, DESE will adjust funding to actual quarter 1 ADM in December, and then will adjust again once current year 3-quarter ADM is available in May.

EDGAR 76.791