



One for the books

Charter schools opening in record numbers

Editors Note: This is the second part of two-part series
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Throughout the state, a record-breaking 103 new charter schools opened their doors to students this fall.

Despite the impressive growth, charters can't seem to keep up with high demand throughout the state, according to the California Charter Schools Association.

"The charter school movement continues to expand because charter schools are delivering results and because parents are demanding them," said Caprice Young, president and CEO of the California Charter Schools Association.

"Many charter schools remain oversubscribed, indicating that families want more of the smaller, safer and more responsive learning environments that charter schools are able to provide," she said.

A survey conducted this fall by the California Charter Schools Association found that close to 65 percent of all responding charter schools have waiting lists.

Of the 103 new charters, seven are in San Bernardino County with four here in the Victor Valley: Mirus Secondary School in Hesperia, Riverside Preparatory School in Oro Grande, and in Lucerne Valley, Sky Mountain and Lucerne Valley Career Academy.

And already there are new charters expected to open next year.

Helendale will open its doors to a new charter high school. The charter will place a strong emphasis on academics and career exploration.

And thanks to a \$50,000 grant bestowed to the district by the Helendale Education Foundation, there will also be a fine arts and Spanish as a second language component.

These new components will also be a part of the district's elementary and middle schools, Superintendent Brian Dietz said.

As of this fall, there are 686 charter schools operating in California.



Reneh Agha / Staff Photographer

Zac Chambers, 14, yells 'peak' at the **Lewis Center for Educational Research**. Chambers yells the word as a signal to other data collectors to start writing down data collected from the radio telescope during the space science class.

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