

What are the similarities and differences between charter schools and district schools?

	Charter Schools	Both	District Schools, aka "traditional public schools"
Basics	<p>...are operated by individuals and organizations from outside the school district</p> <p>...have a great deal of freedom to operate differently, e.g. having uniforms, extending the school day, creating their own curriculum</p> <p>...must follow some of the California Education Code</p>	<p>...are public schools</p> <p>free: NO tuition</p> <p>open to anyone: NO admissions requirements or exams</p> <p>may not teach a religious curriculum</p> <p>may not violate anyone's civil rights</p> <p>are funded by the government (through taxes)</p>	<p>...are operated by the school district</p> <p>...align their practices with district policy</p> <p>...must follow all of the California Education Code</p>
Governance	<p>...in California must be non-profit as opposed to for-profit organizations</p> <p>...have their own management structure, often a privately-elected board</p> <p>...are independently run but must meet standards outlined in their charter in order to secure state funding</p>		<p>...are government organizations</p> <p>...are managed directly by the publicly elected school board</p> <p>...must adhere to all state school board regulations and laws, governed by school districts which implement state law</p>
Rights		<p>Students in temporary living situations are protected by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.</p> <p>Students with disabilities are protected by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.</p>	
Curriculum	<p>...have freedom to choose or create a curriculum as long as they meet the performance standards set out in their charter</p>	<p>Students must meet state academic standards, e.g. Common Core.</p> <p>Students take the same state assessments each year.</p>	<p>...use the curriculum decided upon by the state education board</p>
Teachers	<p>Only teachers of core or college-prep subjects must be credentialed by the state.</p>		<p>All teachers, regardless of subject matter are credentialed.</p>