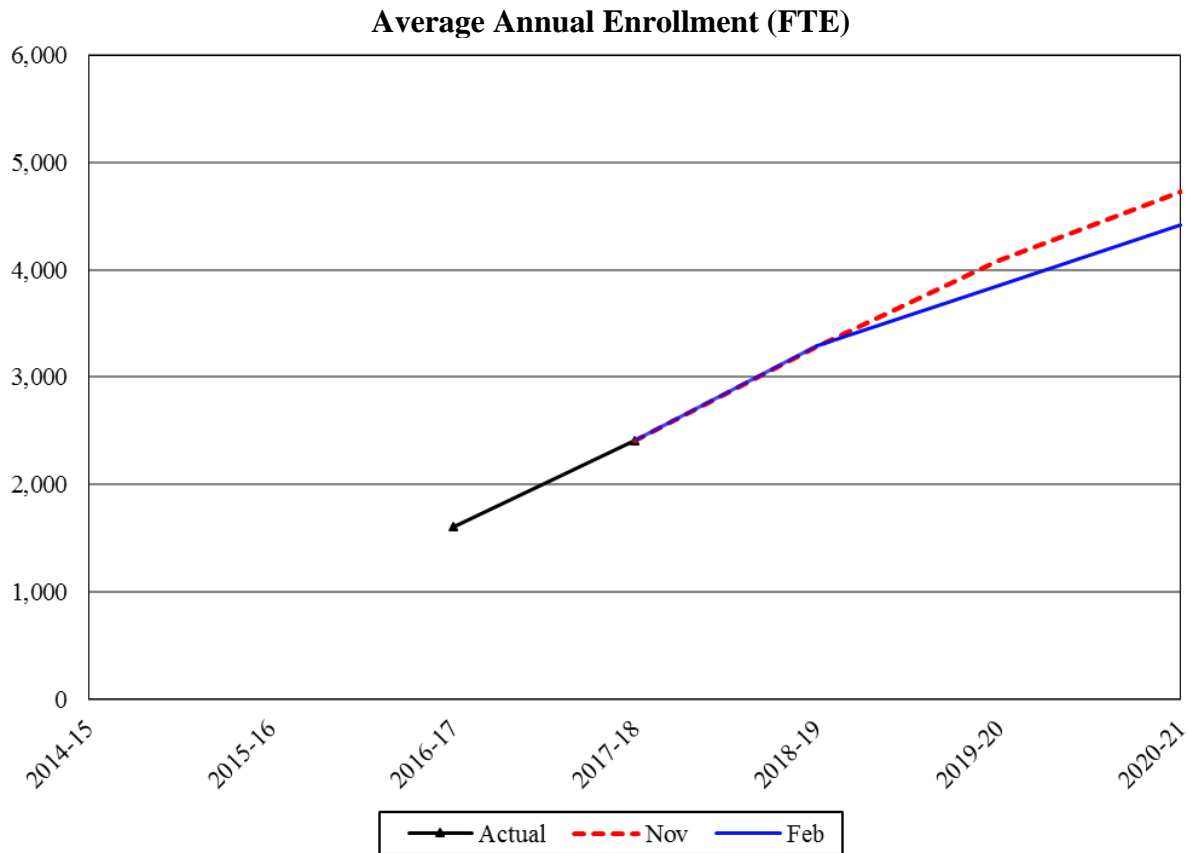


Charter Schools Enrollment

Caseload Forecast Council
February 15, 2019



The charter school forecast includes grade-level enrollments, special education, and bilingual education. The CFC’s current charter school forecast dates to the 2016 Legislative Session, when ESSB 6194 re-established charter schools as an educational system operating separately from the common school system. ESSB 6194 specifically stated that charter schools are not common schools. The 2016 supplemental operating budget directed the CFC to provide a separate forecast of enrollment for charter schools. This reset the charter school forecast to the 2016-17 academic year. The Washington State Charter School Commission (WA CSC) and the Spokane School District (SSD) are the only approved authorizers of charter schools at this time.

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Nov-18 Forecast	Feb-19 Forecast	Nov to Feb Difference	Percent Difference
2018-19	3,285	3,287	1	0.0%
2019-20	4,082	3,855	-227	-5.6%
2020-21	4,734	4,416	-318	-6.7%

The February 2019 forecast is on par with the November 2018 forecast for the 2018-19 school year. It is down 6.2 percent for the 2019-21 Biennium because one school announced it will close at the end of the 2018-19 school year.

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Tracking the Current Forecast

	Nov-18			Percent
	Forecast	Actual	Variance	Variance
Sep-18	3,315	3,315	0	0.0%
Oct-18	3,331	3,331	0	0.0%
Nov-18	3,301	3,299	-2	-0.1%
Dec-18	3,289	3,301	12	0.4%
Jan-19	3,246	3,270	25	0.8%

The November 2019 forecast is tracking well with the current year enrollment data.

Academic Year Caseload Change

	Academic		Change from	Percent
	Year	Caseload	Prior Year	Change
Actual	2014-15	0	0	0.0%
	2015-16	0	0	0.0%
	2016-17	1,603	1,603	0.0%
	2017-18	2,408	804	50.2%
Forecast	2018-19	3,287	879	36.5%
	2019-20	3,855	568	17.3%
	2020-21	4,416	561	14.5%

For the 2018-19 academic year, twelve charter schools are operational with one additional authorized charter school opening in the 2019-20 academic year. However, one currently operating school has announced it will close at the end of 2018-19. Even with that closure, enrollment growth will continue as charter schools open and expand.

Risks to the Forecast

The risks to the charter school forecast are high as they are new to Washington State. It is likely the WA CSC and the SSD will authorize new charter schools during the 2019-21 Biennium. Another risk is overly optimistic expansion plans from authorized charter schools, the lack of historical data for month-to-month enrollment ratios, and charter school student re-enrollment rates.

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