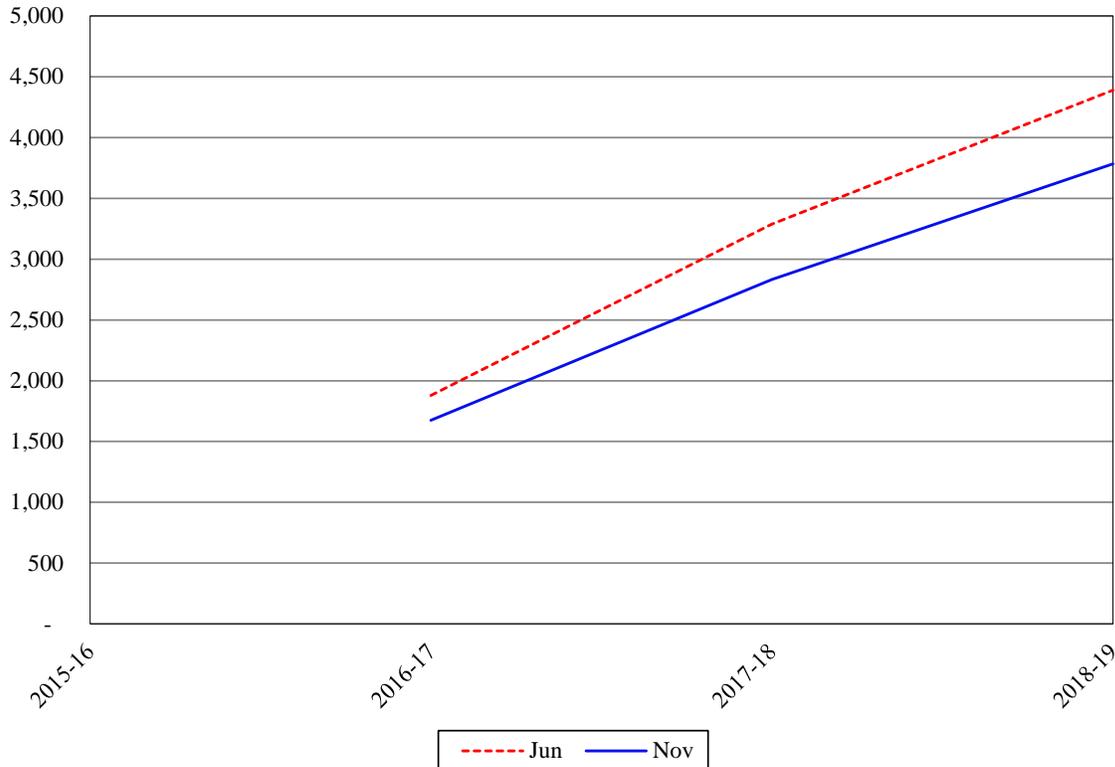


Charter Schools Enrollment

Caseload Forecast Council
November 16, 2016

Average Annual Enrollment (FTE)



The charter school forecasts include a forecast of grade-level enrollments, Special Education, and Bilingual Education. Charter school grade-level enrollment is forecast as a ten month average (September – June), while charter school enrollment in Special Education and Bilingual Education are forecast as a nine month average (October-June).

Forecast Comparisons (Academic Year Averages)

Academic Year	Jun-16 Forecast	Nov-16 Forecast	Jun to Nov Difference	Percent Difference
2015-16	0	0	0	0.0%
2016-17	1,879	1,674	-205	-10.9%
2017-18	3,287	2,833	-454	-13.8%
2018-19	4,389	3,783	-606	-13.8%

In November 2012, Washington state voters approved Initiative 1240, which established charter schools. The first charter school began serving students in the 2014-15 school year. In September 2015, the Washington Supreme Court ruled the charter school law unconstitutional and found that charter schools are not common schools and declined to reconsider the ruling in November 2015. As a result, by January 2016, the majority of these schools were absorbed into the Mary Walker school district as Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) programs and their enrollment was reflected in the forecast of common school enrollment.

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During the 2016 legislative session, Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill 6194 re-established charter schools as an educational system that operates separately from the common school system and specifically stated that charter schools are not common schools. Additionally, the Legislature included a proviso in the enacted supplemental operating budget that directed the Caseload Forecast Council, during the remainder of the 2015-17 Biennium, to provide a separate forecast of enrollment for charter schools.

Academic Year Caseload Change				
	Academic		Change from	Percent
	Year	Caseload	Prior Year	Change
<i>Forecast</i>	2015-16	0		
	2016-17	1,674	1,674	
	2017-18	2,833	1,159	69.2%
	2018-19	3,783	950	33.5%

For the 2016-17 academic year, eight charter schools will be operational with an additional three charter schools opening in the 2017-18 academic year. Charter school enrollment is anticipated to increase through the 2017-19 Biennium as the additional charter schools are opened.

Risks to the Forecast

The risks to the charter school forecast are high. Charter schools are a fairly new component to the delivery of K12 education and over the next few years the number of these schools will likely increase. The lack of historical data on enrollment rates poses the greatest risk to forecast accuracy.