

# Idaho Enrollment Landscape Analysis

June 2026



# Goal of the Landscape Analysis

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- Support long-term charter school expansion by providing leaders with a quantitative understanding of key forces impacting the K-12 education landscape including student populations, enrollment, demographics, and academic quality.



- Calculate opportunity scores for each district and county to empower stakeholders to explore priority areas in greater detail. This quantitative analysis can be combined with engaging communities to understand family demand for new school choices.



- This analysis can inform several decisions:
  - Where should we prioritize efforts to engage communities about their relative interest in new schools, including charter schools?
  - Where should we prioritize engaging elected officials, including school boards and district leaders, about the opportunity to open a charter school in their area because of quantitative factors?
  - Where should we be seeking to identify aspiring school leaders who are interested in opening a charter school in their area?

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# This landscape analysis draws upon four quantitative categories at both a district and county level to identify opportunities for charter school expansion

## Student Population

Analyzes the number of 5-to-18 year olds and demographic composition using a range of external-to-education sources like the U.S. Census Bureau and ID Department of Health

## School & District Enrollment

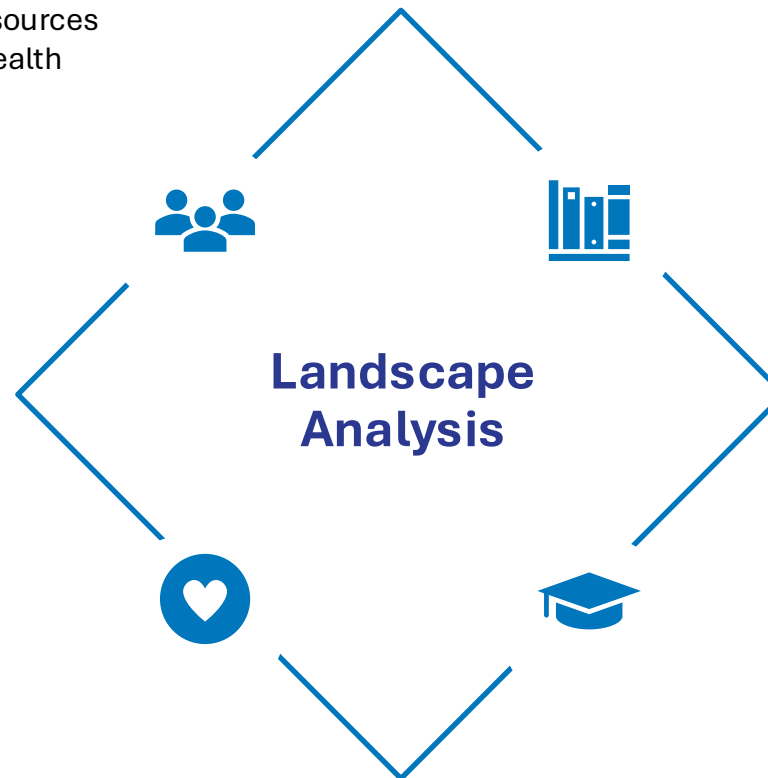
Analyzes district and charter enrollment trends by county and by district using state enrollment data, including race/ethnicity/income

## School Choice Options

Analyzes the number of charter schools operating in an area and their relative ability to maintain enrollment levels

## Academic Quality

Analyzes both academic achievement and student progress for students attending district schools along with report card scores for charter schools



# Update on dynamics since the 2024 Idaho Landscape Analysis

## Dynamics that have continued

## Dynamics that have shifted



**Opportunity Areas**

- Many top areas remain as lead opportunities**
- 4 of the top 5 district opportunities for charter expansion from 2024’s analysis are still in the top 5, showing a level of consistency over time
  - At the county level, Canyon remains #1, Gem #2

- Several new districts present as opportunities**
- Vallivue, as one of few districts with strong enrollment across metrics, has emerged as the top opportunity
  - Boundary County in particular, as well as Wendell and Bonneville, appear more attractive now primarily because of relatively strong enrollment



**Student Population**

- Idaho’s relative birth rates versus peer states**
- Idaho continues to have more favorable birth trends leading to future school-age pops. compared with most Western states

- Encouraging recent birth trends**
- Recent births have increased, at their highest level since 2009, which creates larger school-age pops.



**Enrollment**

- Varied enrollment dynamics by location**
- Some districts and counties have continued to grow, some have declined from recent peaks, and others that had leveled off or had minor declines 2 years ago have declined further

- 3 straight years of state-wide enrollment declines**
- After decades of growth, it has declined each of the last 3 years, including 4,000 students this year, much steeper than the two previous years.



**School Choice**

- Continued charter enrollment growth**
- Charter enrollment increased 2,400 students in 2024 then another 750 in 2025 while district-run schools are down 3% over the same period

- Parental Choice Tax Credit may shift choice patterns**
- Increased private school choice may have played a role in 2025’s public school enrollment declines, but will be a key area of focus for Fall 2026 counts

# Landscape Analysis Headlines

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## Idaho continues to present an opportunity for charter expansion, with variability depending on location and model

- **Encouraging factors include** a recent strong uptick in births and strong in-migration patterns.
- **Potential headwinds** include smaller early grade cohorts, recent enrollment declines, and potential increased competition from private schools with the rollout of the parental choice tax credit.
- Enrollment trends are highly dependent on the time period used, with many districts showing increases over 5 years but decreases from SY23-24 or 24-25 peaks.



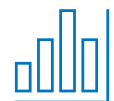
## Priority areas for charter expansion are more granular in geographic scope than in the 2024 analysis, with the highest opportunities in and around Canyon County

- This methodology seeks areas with a large and steady number of students, low access to quality schools, and diversity.
- When excluding access to quality as a consideration, areas in the far North of the state emerge as stronger opportunities.



## Qualitative understanding of family demand will be important

- **Art and Science:** given smaller child populations in many areas, it is key to engage local families on the educational opportunities that they are interested in having access to versus existing options. This becomes increasingly important given competition from **private schools**, in part because of the new parental choice tax credit, and high rates of **homeschooling**.



## Most existing charters have steady enrollment trends, though this should be a continued area for monitoring in the future given smaller school-age populations and increased choice options.

- These can also provide lessons learned for new charter schools to successfully launch and sustain in the state.

# Idaho is favorable on many key population and enrollment metrics compared to other states, creating an attractive long-term education landscape

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4<sup>th</sup>

## Birth trends

Between 2009 (2026 Seniors) and 2024, Idaho's 2% decline in births ranks 4<sup>th</sup>, whereas the **U.S. declined 12% overall**. This creates larger upcoming cohorts of future school-age children. Between 2023 and 2024, Idaho is **2<sup>nd</sup>** with a 4% increase (Colorado).

3<sup>rd</sup>

## In-migration

Between 2020 and 2025, Idaho's 9% rate of net migration is the third highest of any state. This builds upon Idaho having the **highest net migration rate** between 2010 and 2020, showing the continued desirability of the state, particularly attracting western US residents.

2<sup>nd</sup>

## Child populations

Between 2020 and 2025, Idaho's **3% child population growth** is 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the US (Florida), building upon Idaho's **13% growth** in the school-age population between 2010 and 2020 **ranking 3<sup>rd</sup>** in the U.S., which contrasts with 2M fewer children in America.

4<sup>th</sup>

## School enrollment

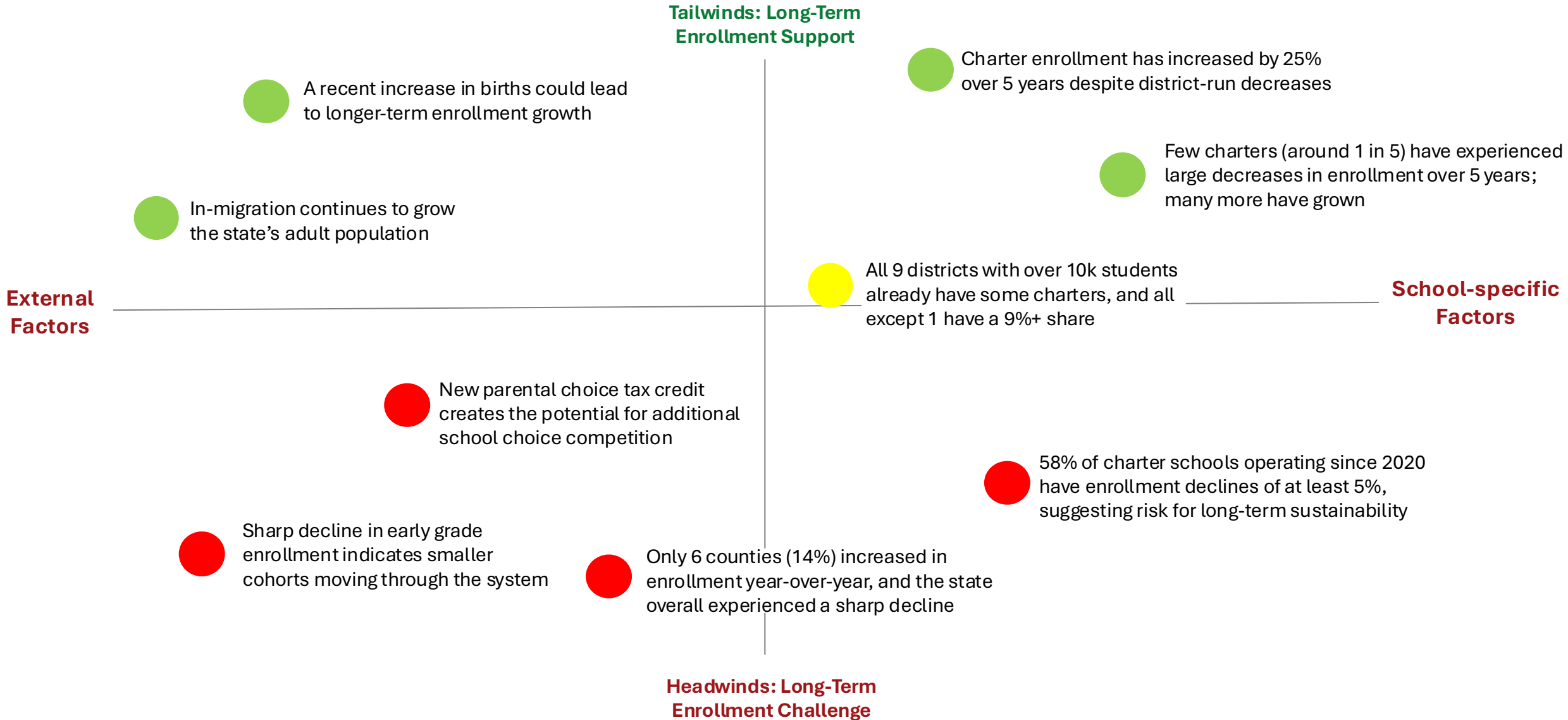
Between 2019 and 2024, Idaho's **1.6% enrollment growth** is 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the U.S. and looking longer-term, enrollment growth since 2014 is 8.5%, **3<sup>rd</sup> highest** in the U.S., showing how larger child populations translate to increased enrollment.

1<sup>st</sup>

## Projected enrollment

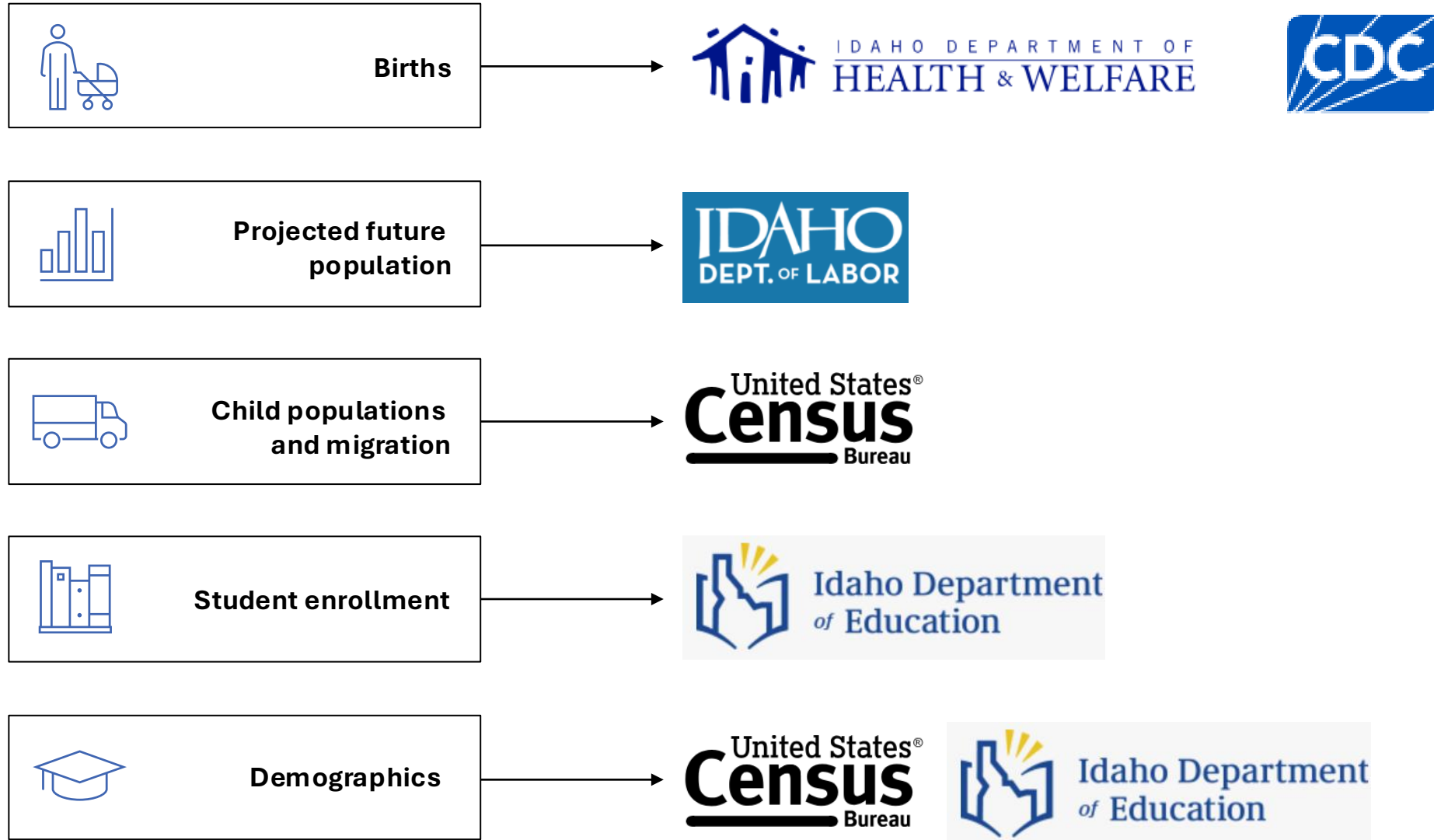
Building upon the foundational births and migration trends, using NCES's latest enrollment projection, between 2022 and 2031, Idaho's 10.8% projected enrollment is the **highest of any U.S. state**.

# Long-term charter expansion planning should account for a range of factors, with recent charter trends in particular appearing favorable in Idaho



# This analysis gathers information from a wide range of data sources to increase accuracy and account for response-rate concerns from different sources

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Approach & Executive Summary

**Statewide Insights**

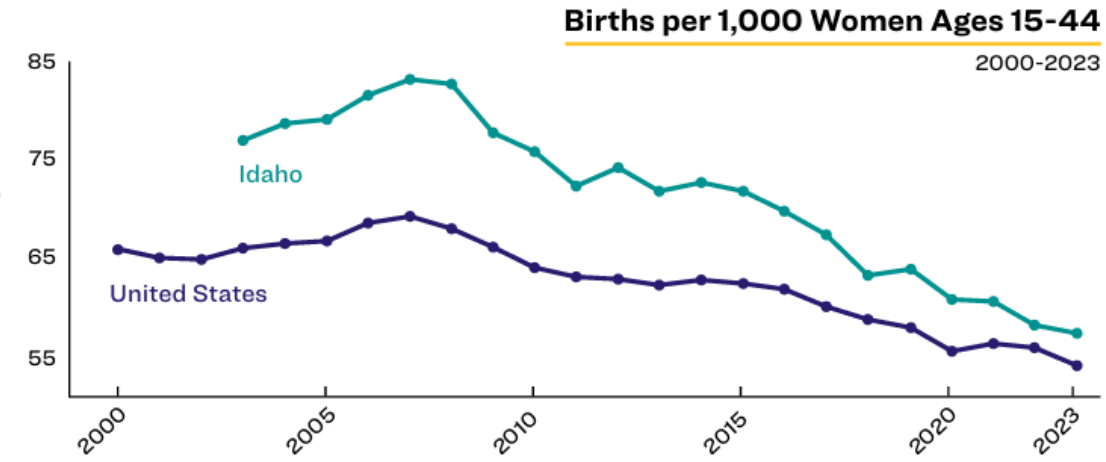
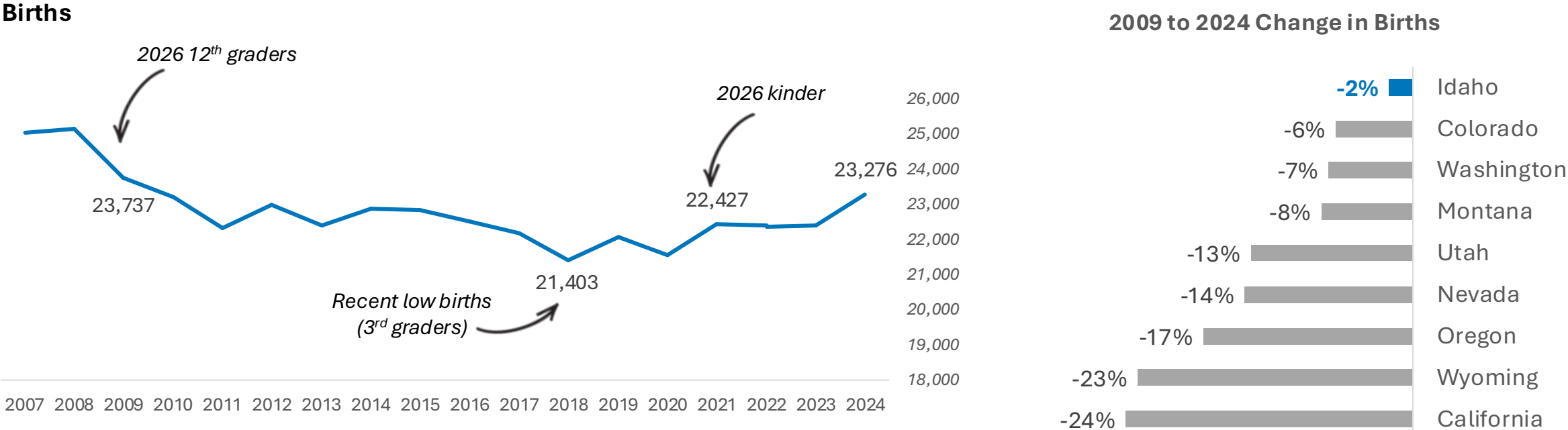
District Insights & Opportunities

County Insights & Opportunities

Charter Risk Analysis



# Idaho births are relatively steady since 2009, in contrast to their Western state peers that have experienced more significant declines, impacting their child population.



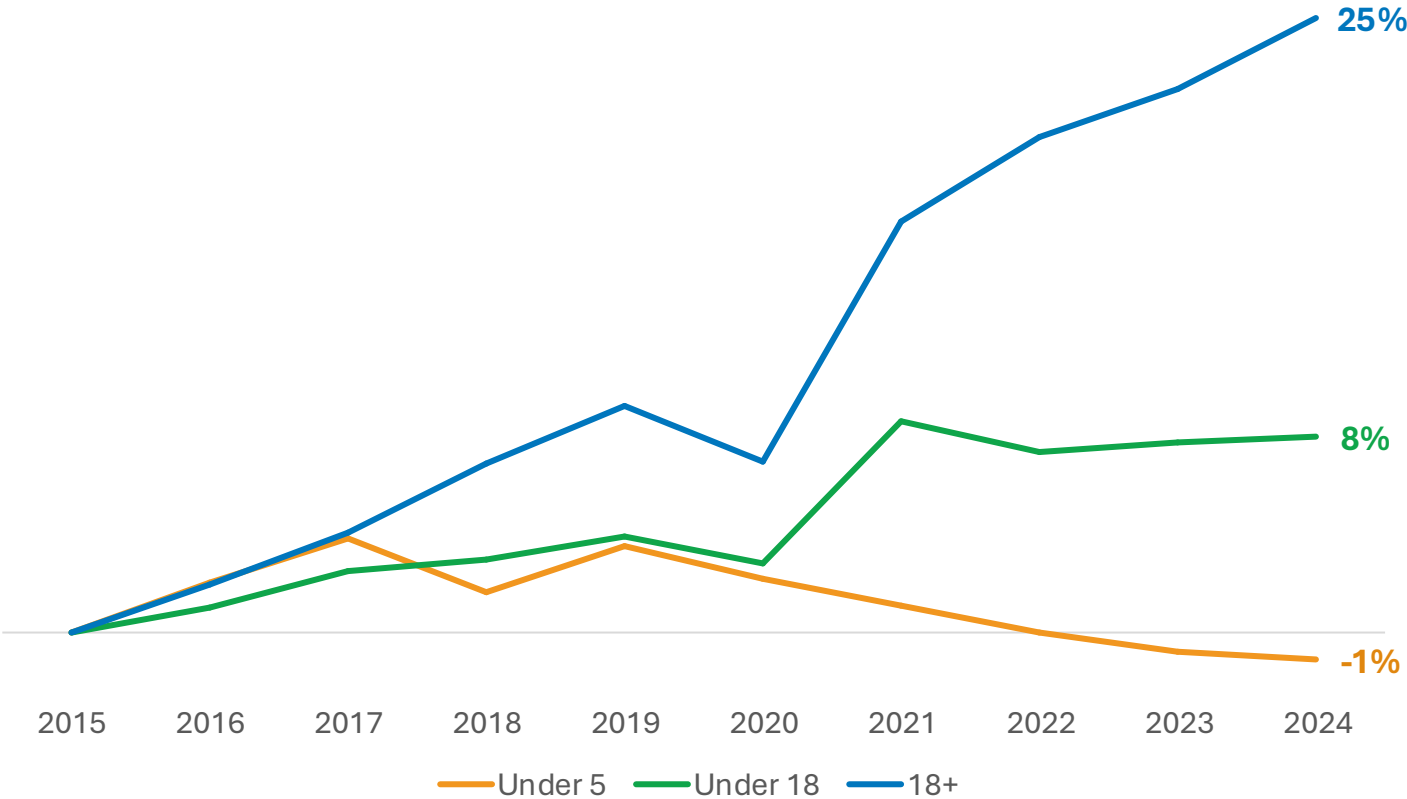
- Since 2009-2010, Idaho has maintained a relatively steady number of births, which contrasts with western states that have experienced much larger declines. Since 2018, births are up 9%, which will create larger cohorts of students reaching school age.
- Within this, a concern is the fertility rate (per 1,000 females age 15-44) has drastically declined from 83 to 59 between 2007 and 2024, which poses a threat to long-term student-age populations.

Data source: National Center for Health Statistics via CDC WONDER. Data for Idaho not available prior to 2003. Data are as of December 31 of the year indicated.

Source: CDC Wonder Natality System

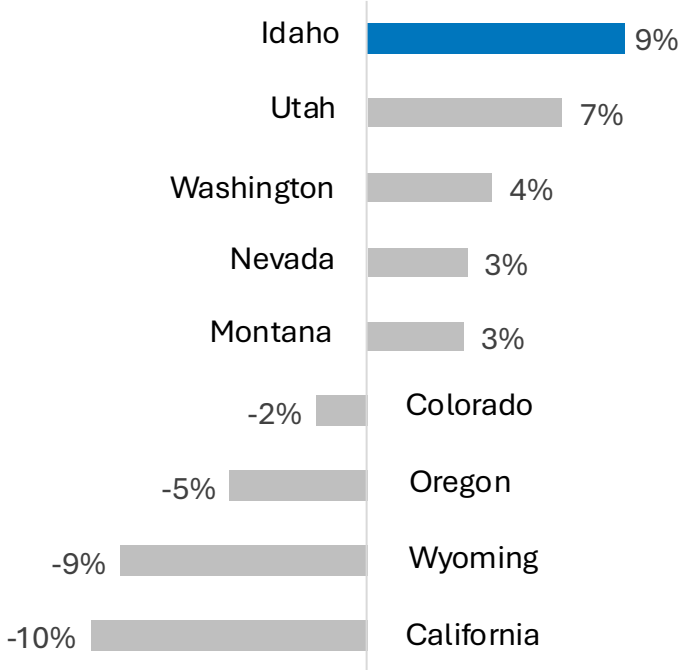
**Idaho’s adult population is growing at a much faster rate than their child population, though Idaho still outpaces their western state peers in child population growth.**

*Change in population versus 2015*

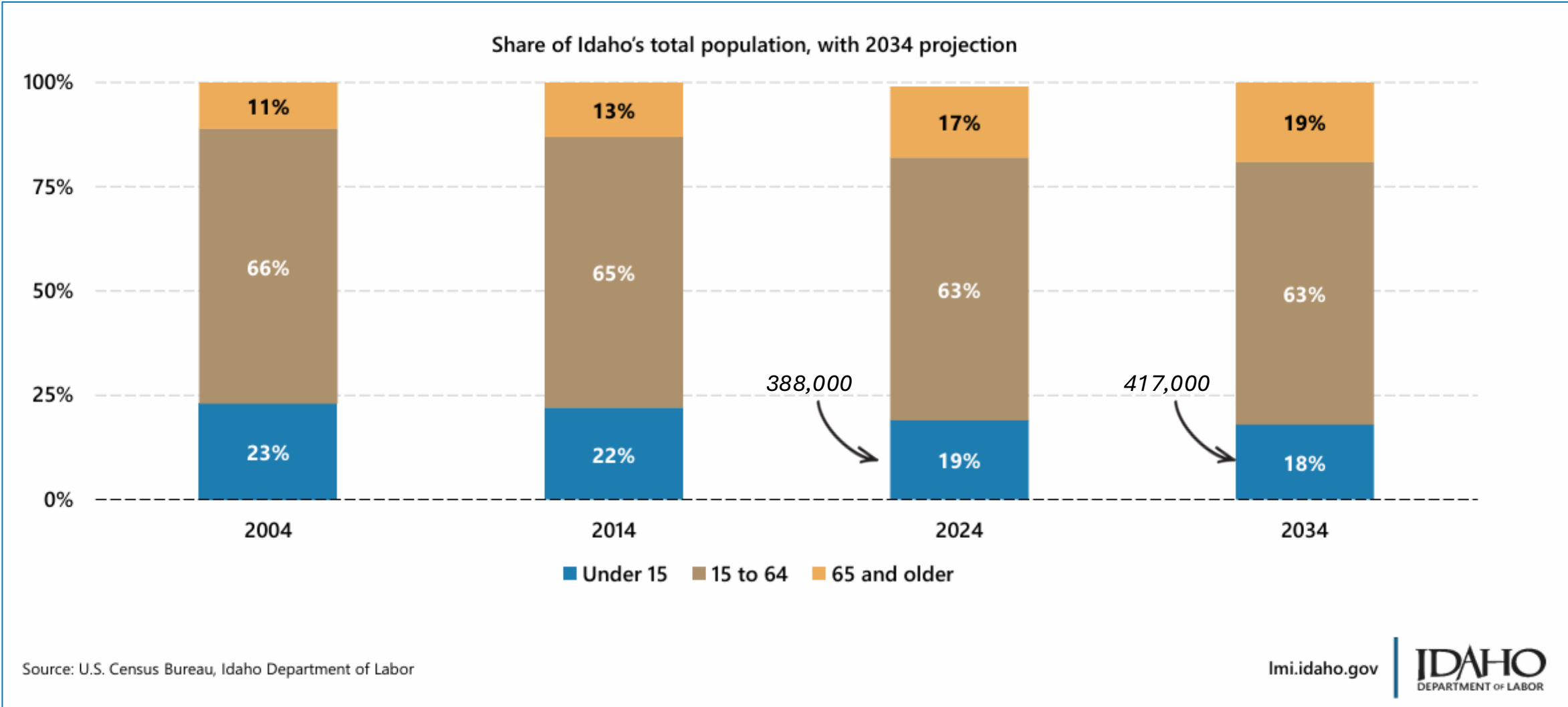


- While Idaho’s 18 and over population steadily increases, the under 18 population has leveled off since 2021 while the under 5 population has slowly declined, though this may stabilize with recent birth increases.

**2010 to 2024 Change in <18 Pop.**

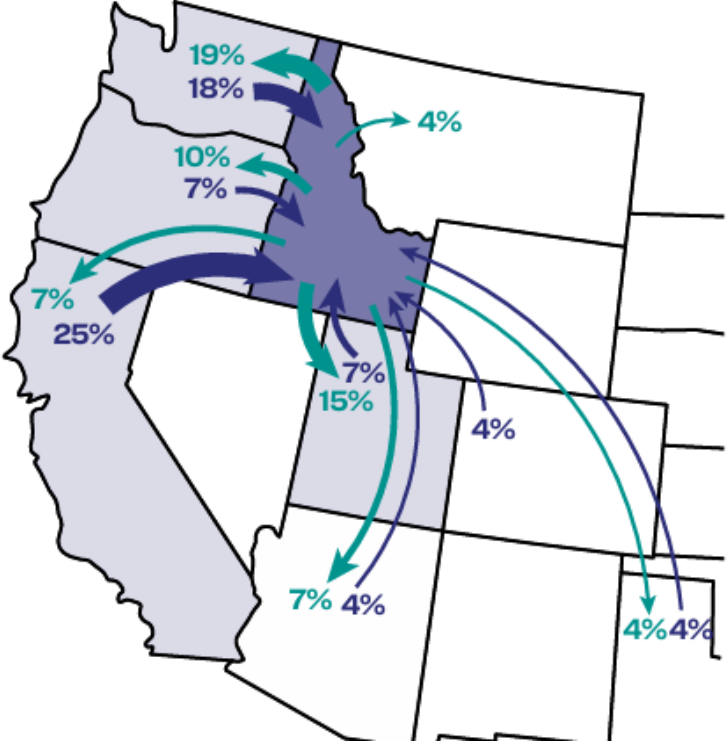
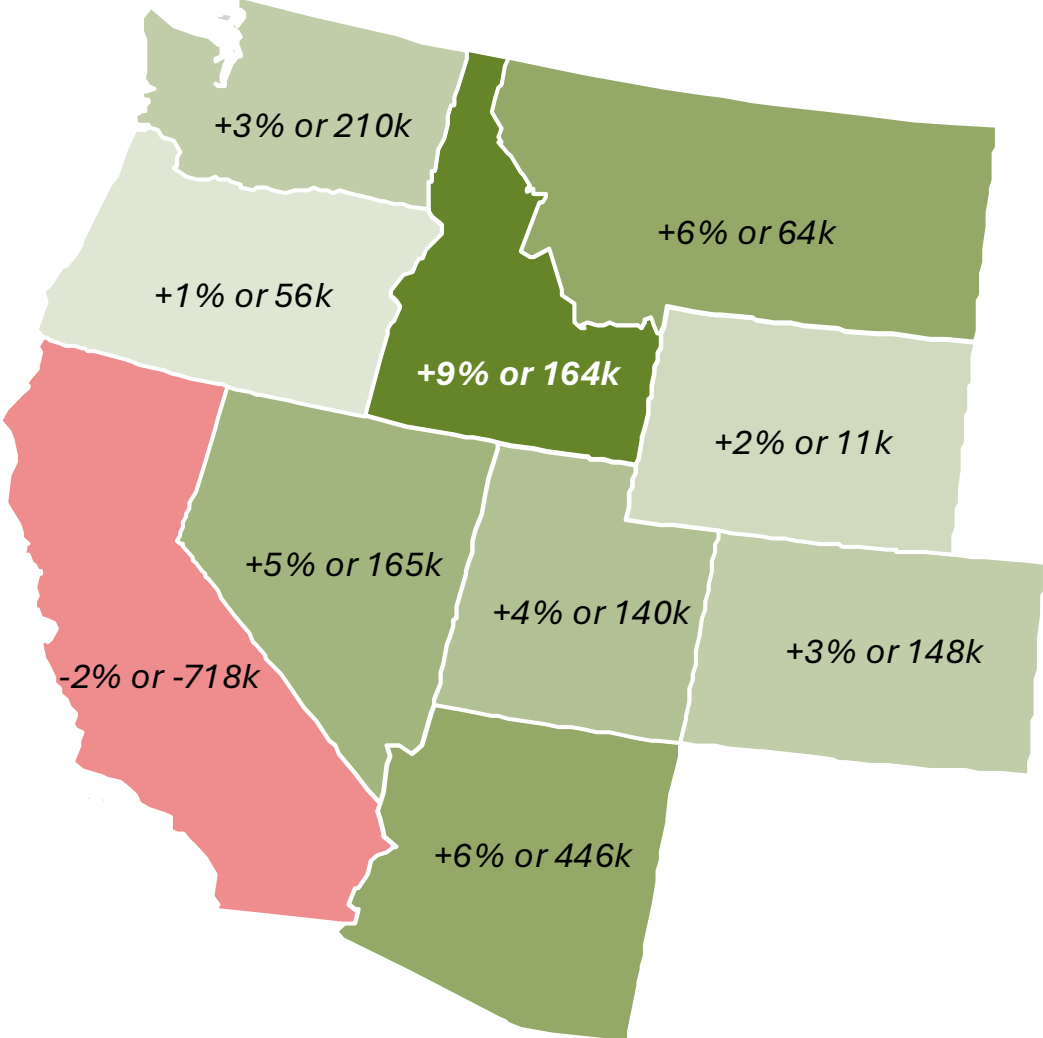


**Idaho Department of Labor projections show minor growth in the under-15 population over the next decade, totaling 29,000 more children.**



# Since the 2020 Census, Idaho has experienced one of the fastest growth rates of any state from migration

Net migration: 2020 to 2025

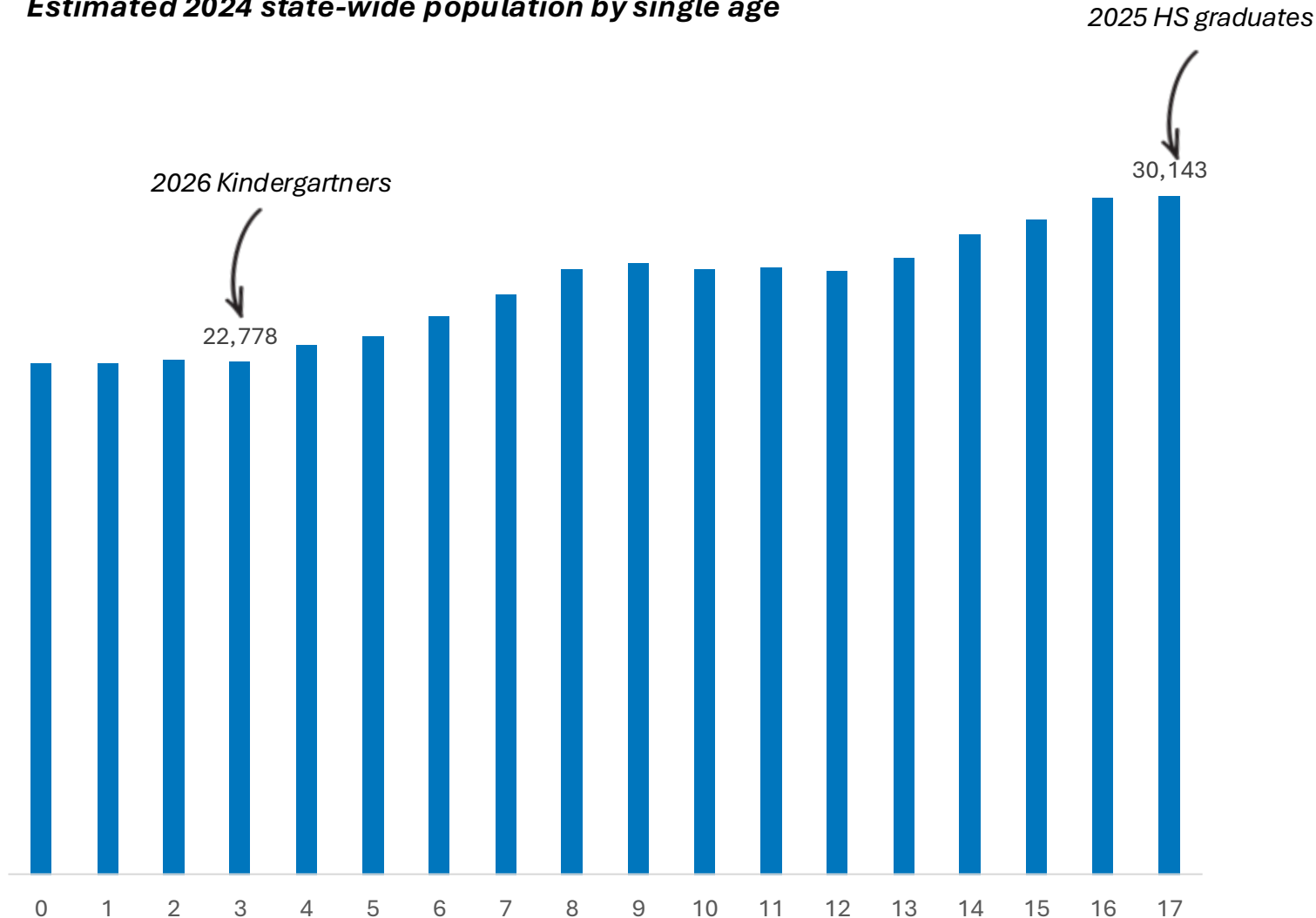


- Along with Utah, Idaho experienced the fastest growth of any state between 2010 and 2020, increasing its population by 17%, more than 2.5 times the growth of the country overall.
- Since 2020, Idaho experienced the 3<sup>rd</sup>-fastest growth rate of any state from migration (both international and domestic).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2025 Total Population and Components of Change Estimates  
 Right visual from University of Idaho, Idaho At a Glance: Population Change in Idaho, May 2025

# Idaho single age population suggests future K-12 risk as larger cohorts graduating high school are replaced by smaller kinder entry cohorts

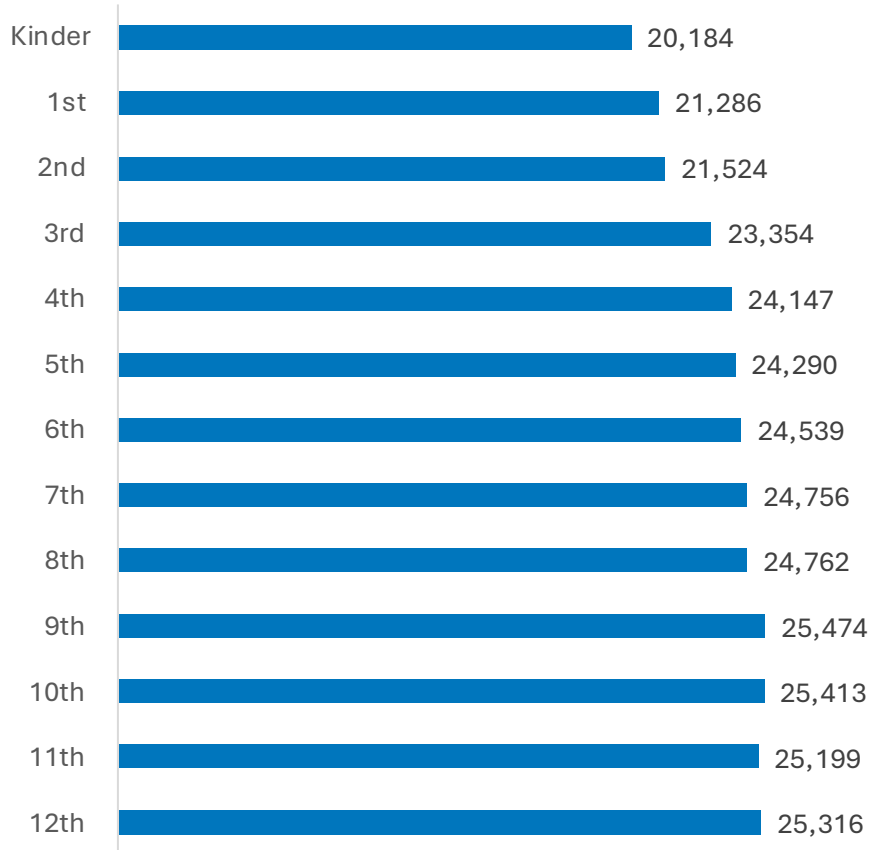
Estimated 2024 state-wide population by single age



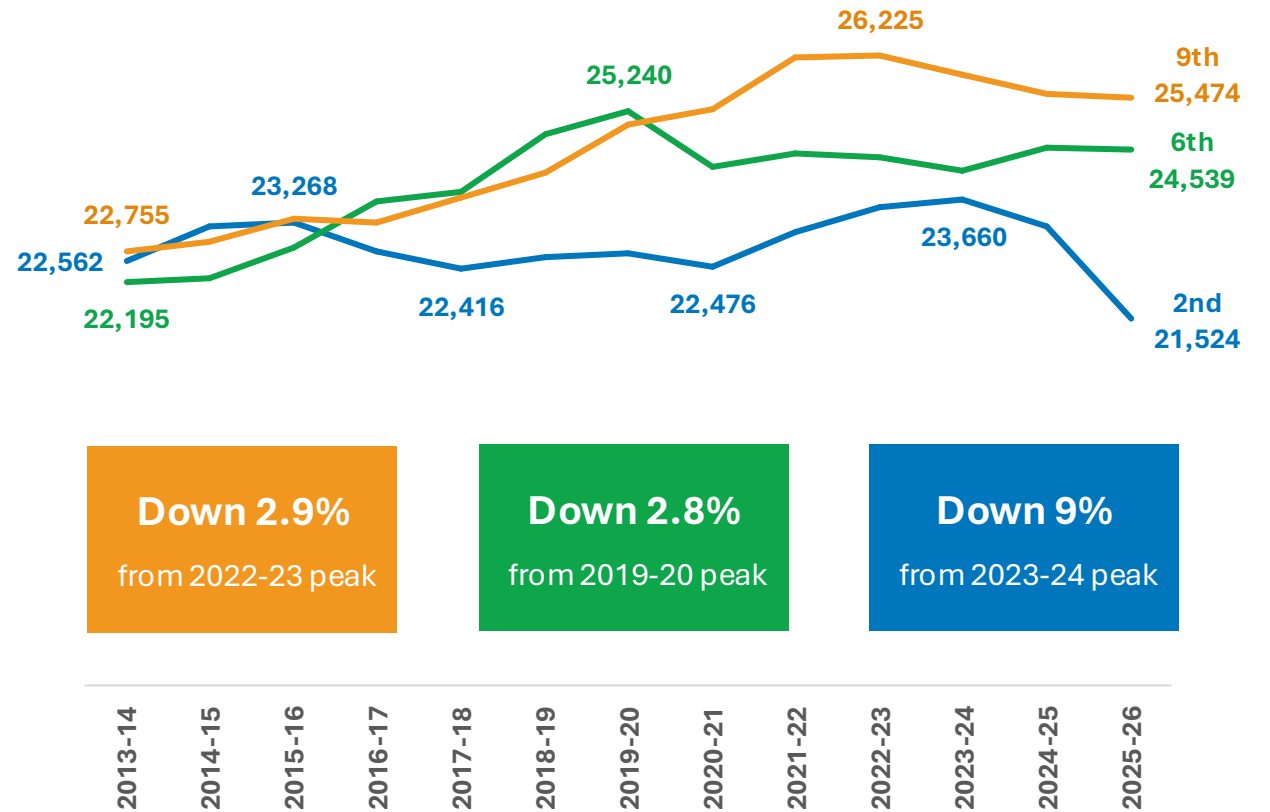
- There are more students of high-school age than elementary, which is likely to create further K-12 enrollment challenges across the state.
- Age cohorts of children not yet in school are smaller than any other age cohort of children currently enrolled in K-12, though with increased recent births, this is stabilizing.
- These population dynamics are clearly reflected in public school grade-level enrollment figures on the next slide.

**Younger grades have the smallest cohorts, indicating fewer students moving through the system over time. This trend began to emerge around 2016-17 and has become more pronounced in recent years.**

State Enrollment by Grade

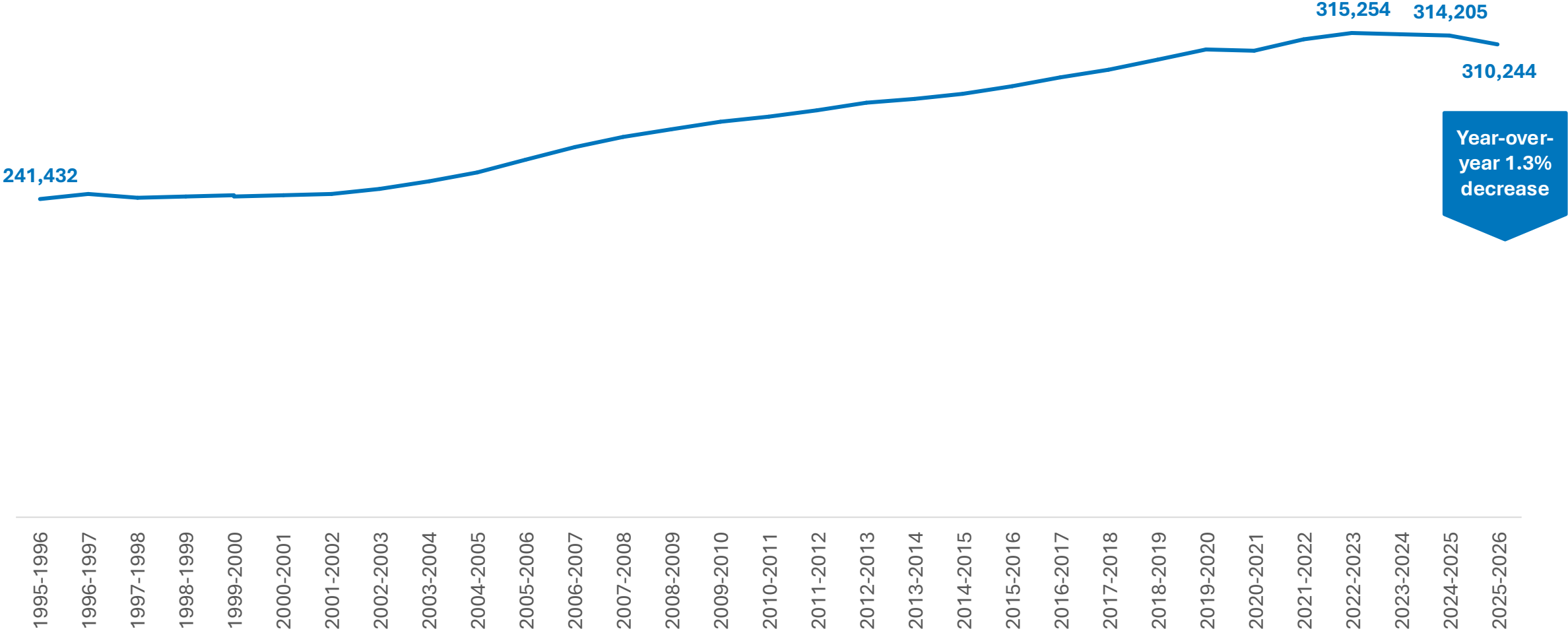


State Enrollment for Select Grades



**Statewide K-12 enrollment experienced its largest year-over-year decrease in SY25-26 of the past 30 years, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive decline after almost unbroken growth.**

### K-12 Public School Enrollment



**Year-over-year 1.3% decrease**

Notes: Preschool not included.  
Source: Idaho Department of Education enrollment data

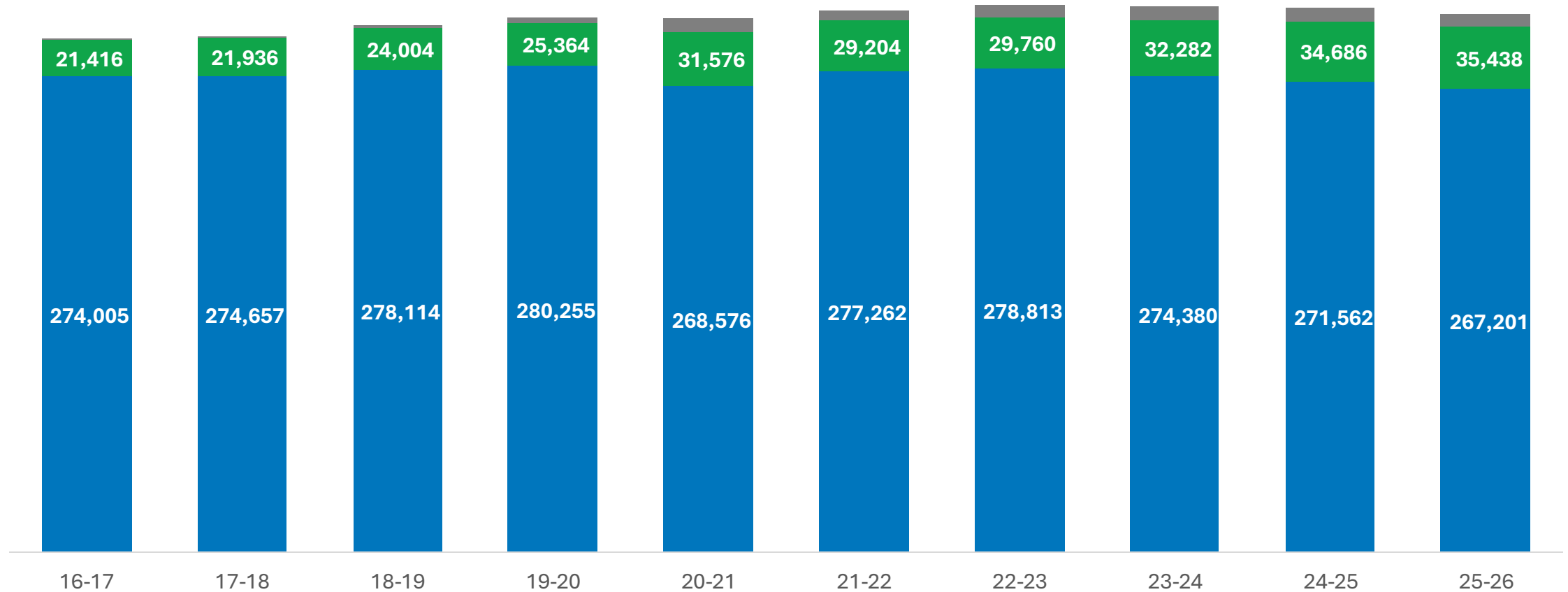
# While the overall pie of public school enrollment has grown since 2016, charters and IHLA have significantly increased while district-run enrollment is down.

IHLA currently enrolls 7,502 students, an increase of **7,299**, or **3,596%**, since SY16-17.

**Charter** enrollment up **14,022**, or **65%**, since SY16-17

**District-run** enrollment down **6,804**, or **2%** since SY16-17 (5% since SY19-20 peak)

### K-12 Enrollment



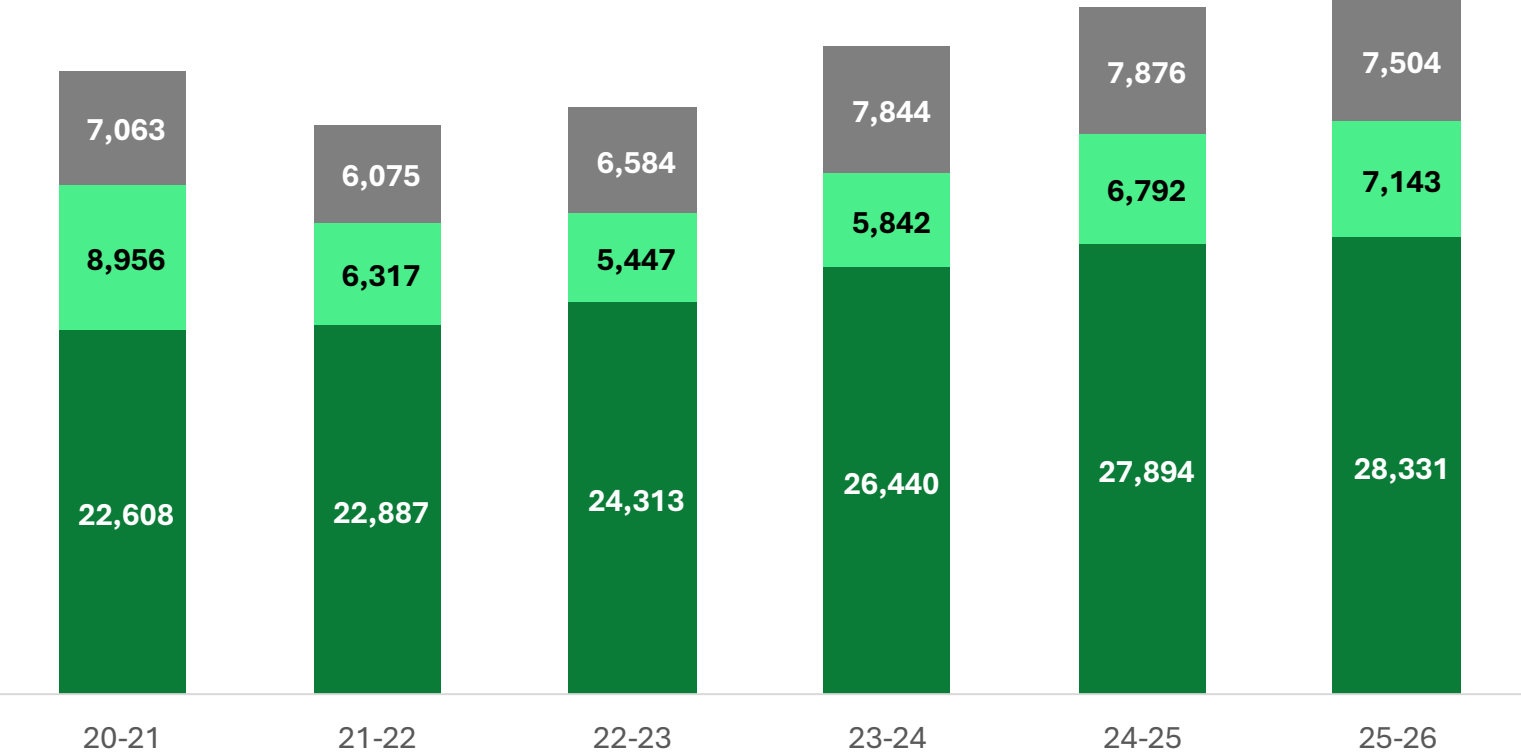
Notes: Preschool not included. IHLA reported separately since switched from district to charter. May not sum to total enrollment because some students may be counted more than once when concurrently enrolled.

Source: Idaho Department of Education enrollment data

**Brick-and-mortar charters have steadily increased enrollment since SY20-21, while virtual charter enrollment has fluctuated and is about half the size of non-virtual charters.**

*K-12 charter school enrollment*

IHLA\*  
 Other virtual charter  
 Open-enrollment charter (non-virtual)



IHLA enrollment is up 6% since SY20-21, but down 5% year-over-year.

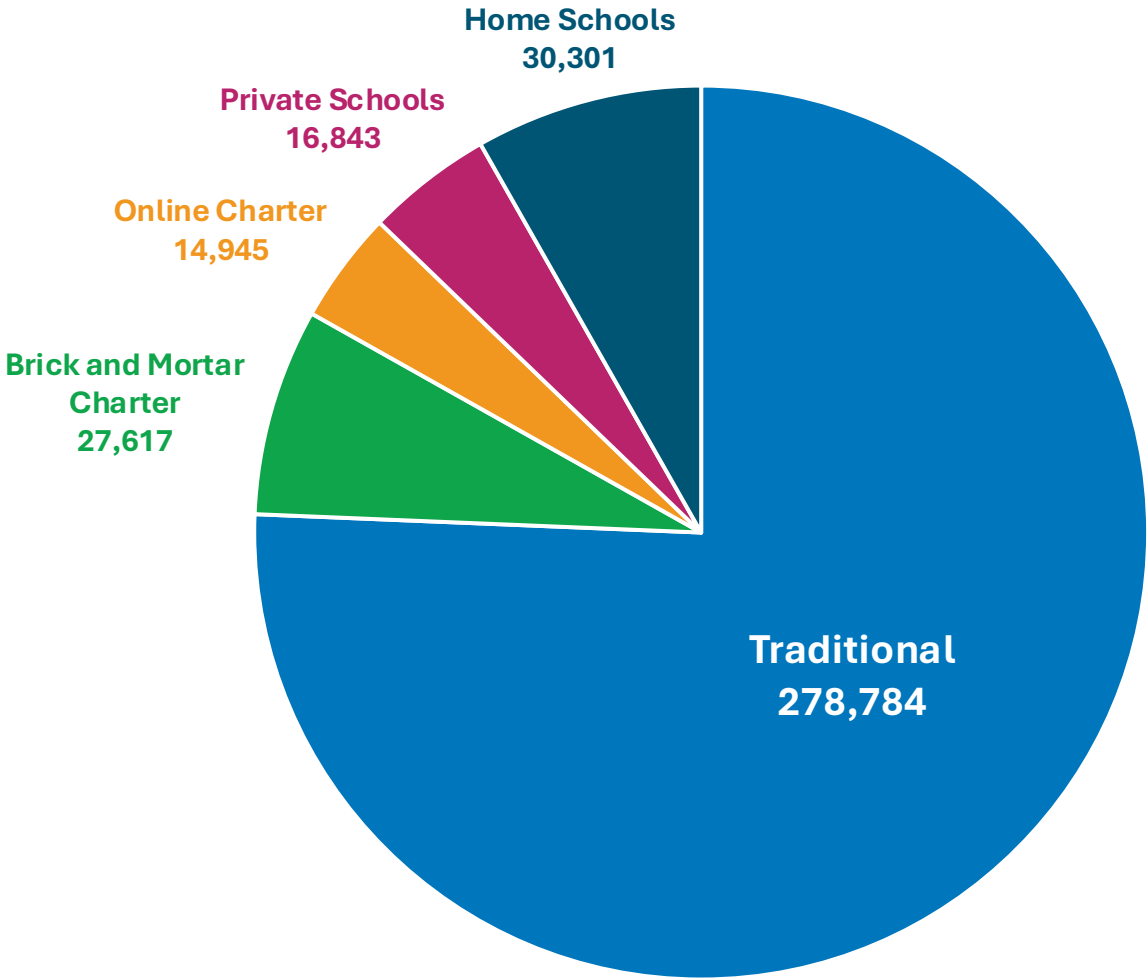
Virtual charter enrollment is down 20% from its pandemic peak, but up 31% from a low in SY22-23.

Non-virtual charter enrollment has steadily increased, and is 25% above SY20-21 levels.

\*IHLA was not a charter school prior to SY24-25  
 Source: Idaho Department of Education enrollment data

# 1 out of 4 children attend a school outside of a traditional public school

## 2023-24 Estimated Enrollment



- Using Bluum’s By the Numbers 2025 report, enrollment is estimated by educational model.
- Traditional schools still serve 3 out of 4 students in the state, though other models have continued to increase enrollment in recent years while traditional schools experienced enrollment declines.

The rollout of the Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit may have already had some impact on public enrollment trends and should be an area of continued focus as additional data become available.

**Final report for submitted applications we've received:**

*Updated April 17, 2026. The application window is now closed.*



**6,069 applications** for  **10,809 students**



## Millions of dollars still available in the parental school choice tax credit fund, here's the latest data



Author: Aspen Shumpert  
Published: 10:36 PM MDT May 11, 2026  
Updated: 10:36 PM MDT May 11, 2026

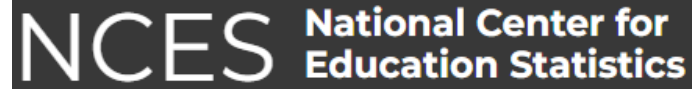
Of the applications received, 2,709 - about 44.6% - came from families with a modified adjusted gross income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. The credit itself has no income cap, but priority goes to those lower-income households.

**We're again accepting applications through Aug. 15 at 11:59 p.m. MDT (dependent on fund availability).**



**0 applications** for  **0 students**

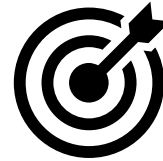
**Estimating private school enrollment is challenging (current estimates are around 5% of the student pop.), but is key to understanding family school choice patterns, especially with the new parental choice tax credit.**



**17,769 K-12 students**

**117 schools**

as reported in the 2023-24 Private Schools Survey



**17,963 students in schools with grades 1-12**

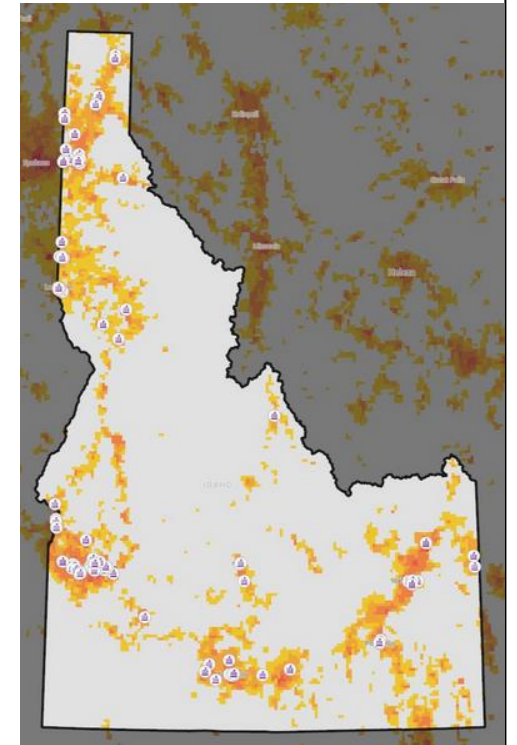
**112 schools**

from *Mapping School Choice in the Gem State*

- Reporting accuracy and timeliness is a concern for private school enrollment, with limited insight into enrollment over the last 2 school years, including the rollout of the Parental Choice Tax Credit.
- NCES's Private Schools Survey reports roughly 18,000 students in 117 private schools attending grades K-12, though critically, not every private school completes this survey. This would equate to around 5% of students (including homeschool) attending a private school in Idaho.
- A May 2026 report from the Idaho State Board of Education reports a very similar number, roughly 18k students in schools offering grades 1-12, through a compilation of the 2021-22 PSS, Idaho Department of Education data, and the Private School review.

“Private schools are not equally distributed across counties. With 27 total, Ada County has by far the highest number of private schools, followed by Kootenai County, which has 18. Canyon County, which has a larger population than Kootenai County, has 9 private schools.

A total of 23 counties have private schools, meaning 21 counties have no private schools. Seven of the counties that have private schools do not have high school grade (Grades 9-12) private options, meaning 28 counties do not have private school options for these grades.”



# Home schooling remains a key factor in K-12 planning, but data limitations lead to market uncertainty of shares state-wide and by specific area, although it is likely almost twice the size of private enrollment.

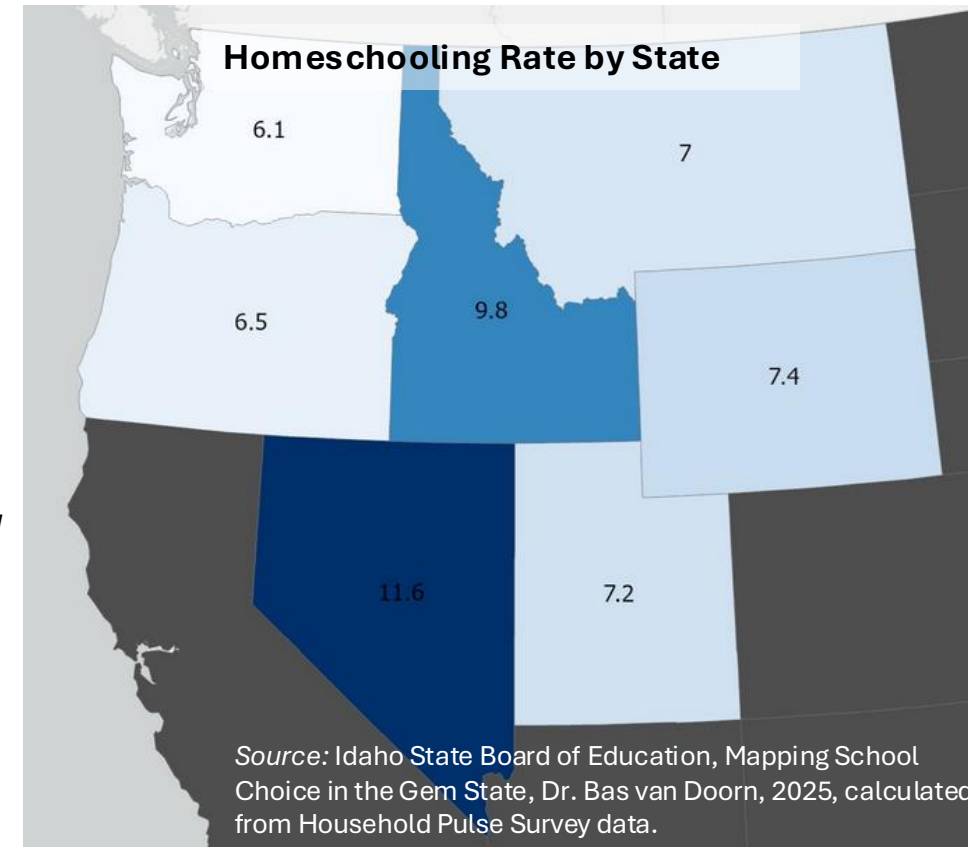


Institute for Education Policy

## State Data


Idaho does not report homeschool participation for the state because it has no reporting requirement. Some information about Idaho's homeschool participation is available through U.S. Census data. [U.S. Census estimates](#) indicate that around 8.0% of Idaho families homeschooled in the spring of 2020 and increased to 10.3% by the fall of 2020. This is close to the national average of 11.1% at that time. Based on [U.S. Census data](#), our calculations indicate that about 7.72% of K-12 students in Idaho were homeschooled during the 2022-23 school year, and **8.66%** during the 2023-24 school year. Due to survey changes, the data from 2020 reflects the percentage of households, while the data from following years reflects the percentage of students.

*Based on this estimate and the total population of school-aged children, Bluum estimates there are **30,301** homeschooled students in the state*



- To what extent can new public school options attract students living in an area but not attending public school, because they are either home schooled or attending private?
- On a local level, where are areas of the state that have higher rates of home school than others to better understand potential market sizes?
- Given that homeschool expenses are currently ineligible, what impact will the Idaho Parental Choice Tax credit have on the desirability of homeschooling?

**Idaho charter schools serve a higher proportion of white students and much lower shares of economically disadvantaged and English Learner students than the state average. Private schools are even less diverse.**



	STATEWIDE	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	221,649	72.2%
Hispanic or Latino	62,919	20.5%
Multiracial	10,818	3.5%
Black/African American	3,831	1.2%
Asian	3,574	1.2%
Native American or Alaskan Native	3,100	1.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1,069	0.3%
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Economically Disadvantaged	129,934	42.3%
Students with Disabilities	38,753	12.6%
English Language Learners	20,536	6.7%

	PUBLIC CHARTER	
	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	PERCENT OF STUDENTS
<b>RACE OR ETHNICITY</b>		
White	30,706	76.9%
Hispanic	6,871	17.2%
Multiracial	1,402	3.5%
Asian or Pacific Islander	539	1.3%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	207	0.5%
Black/African American	228	0.6%
<b>OTHER CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
Economically Disadvantaged	14,614	36.6%
Students with Disabilities	4,336	10.9%
English Language Learner	887	2.2%



**Idaho private schools — where cost is at a premium — have less racial diversity than public counterparts**

Carly Flandro | 03/16/2025

Private schools in Idaho tend to serve more white students and have less racial diversity than their local public counterparts.

In Idaho, nearly 82% of students at private schools are white, as compared to 74% in public schools — or a racial difference of 8%. That’s according to the most recent data, from the 2021-2022 school year.

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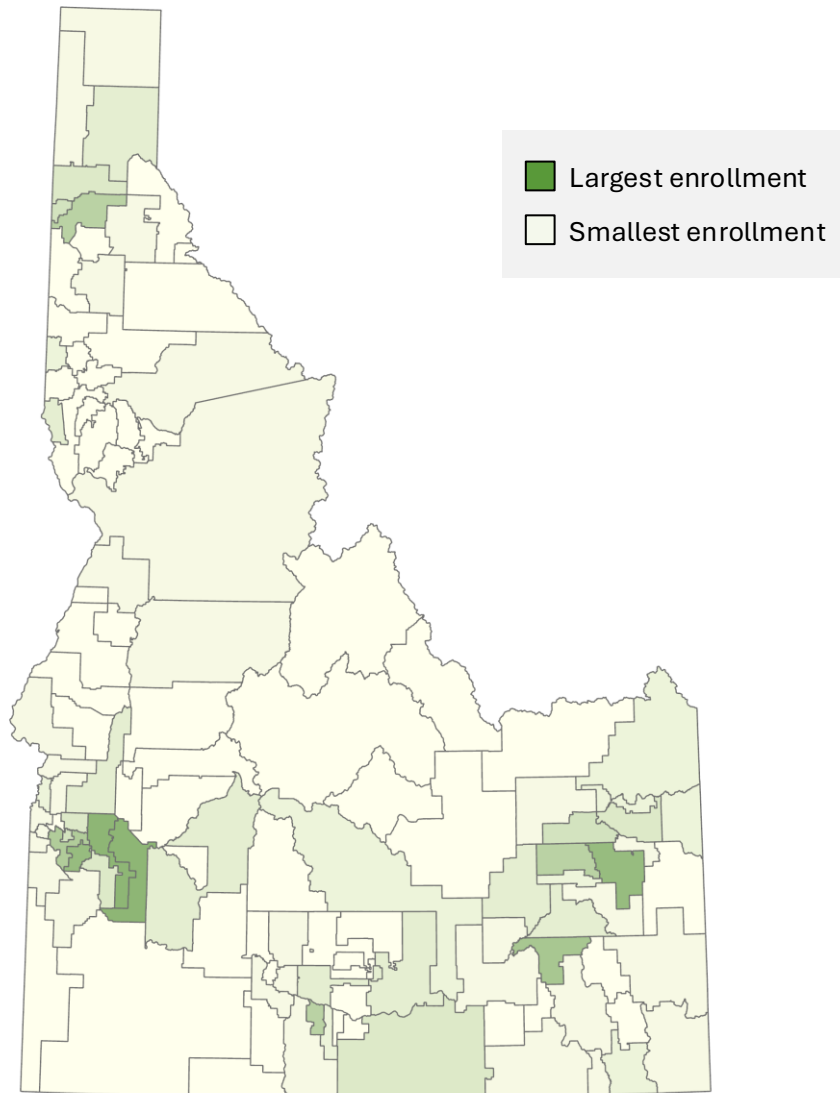
Statewide Insights

**District Insights & Opportunities**

County Insights & Opportunities

Charter Risk Analysis

# Idaho districts have a wide range of size: 9 have more than 10,000 public school students, while 66 have fewer than 1,000 students.



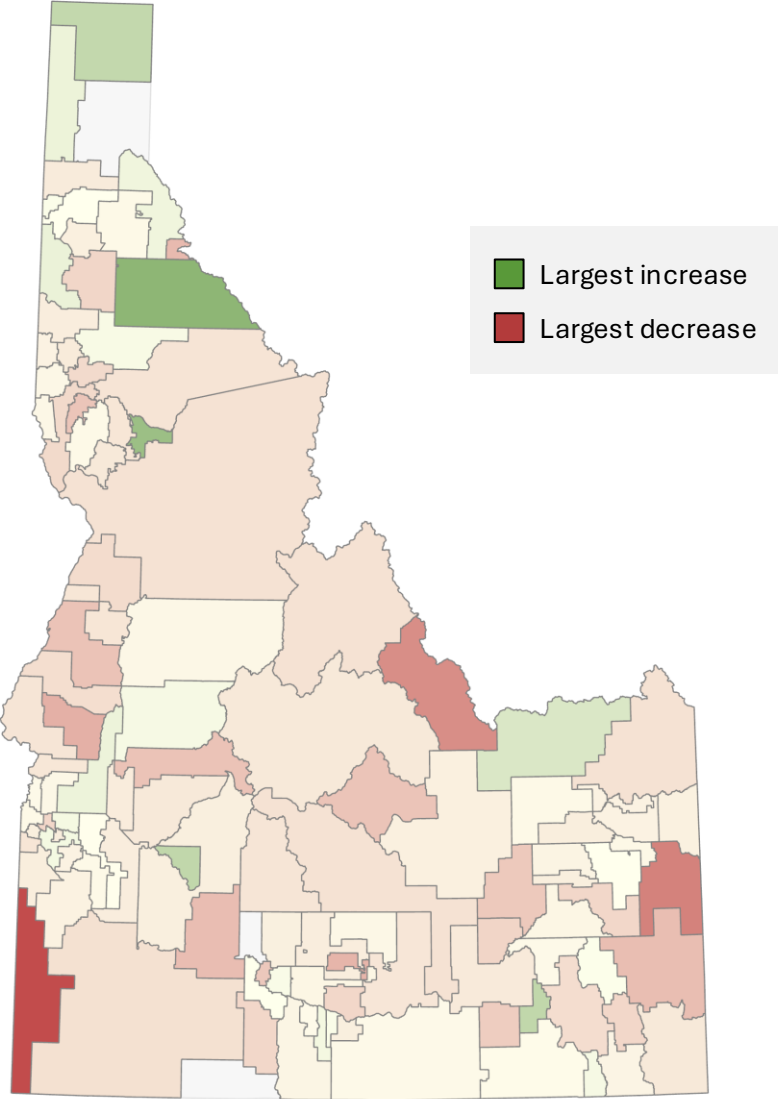
## The top Idaho districts by enrollment (district + charter):

- West Ada (43,047)
- Boise (23,567)
- Nampa (16,232)
- Bonneville (15,492)
- Pocatello (12,982)
- Vallivue (11,619)
- Idaho Falls (10,758)
- Coeur d'Alene (10,209)
- Twin Falls (10,185)

66 of 115 districts have fewer than 1,000 students and are excluded from much of the analysis, though specific sites can be evaluated using the School Explorer.

**State-wide, enrollment declined 1.3%, or 4,000 students.**

**Four times as many districts had enrollment declines this year (88) than grew (20).**

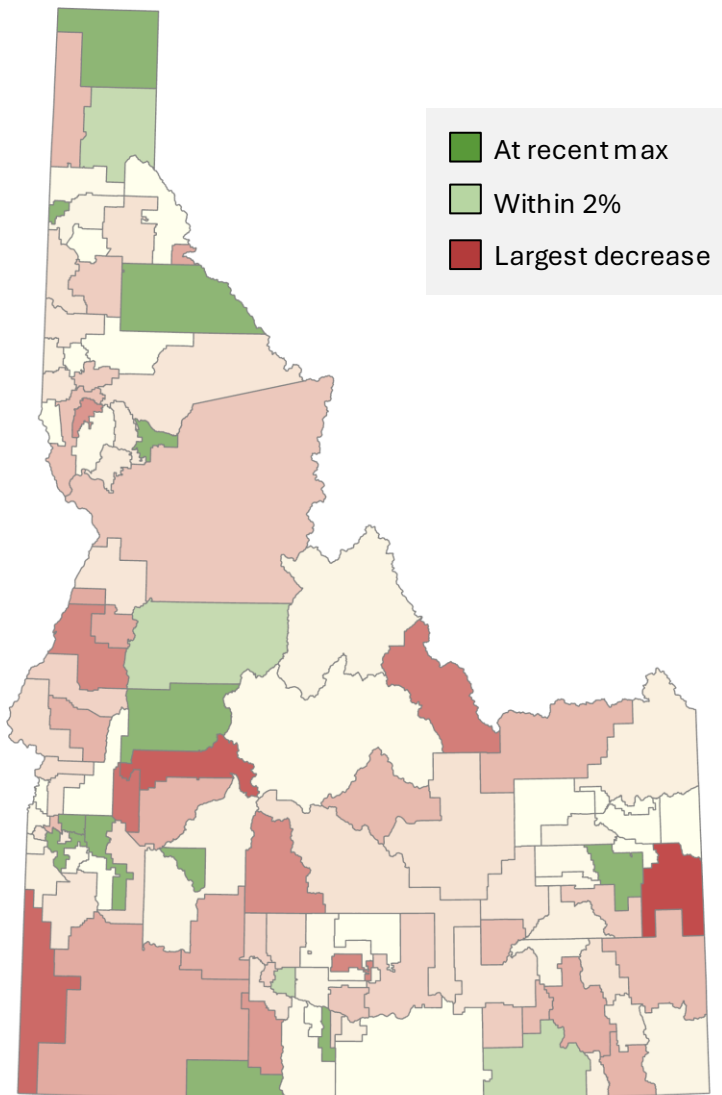


12 districts with at least 1,000 students had stable or growing 1-year enrollment trends.

District	2025-26 Enrollment	1-year Change
<b>BOUNDARY COUNTY</b>	1,669	16%
<b>EMMETT INDEPENDENT</b>	3,264	5%
<b>KIMBERLY</b>	2,273	3%
<b>VALLIVUE</b>	11,619	3%
<b>MIDDLETON</b>	4,930	3%
<b>WENDELL</b>	1,102	1%
<b>POST FALLS</b>	6,669	1%
<b>BUHL JOINT</b>	1,192	0%
<b>COEUR D ALENE</b>	10,209	0%
<b>LAKE PEND OREILLE</b>	4,002	0%
<b>BONNEVILLE JOINT</b>	15,492	0%
<b>WEST ADA</b>	43,047	0%

Note: Includes charters located within district boundaries  
 Source: Idaho Department of Education enrollment data

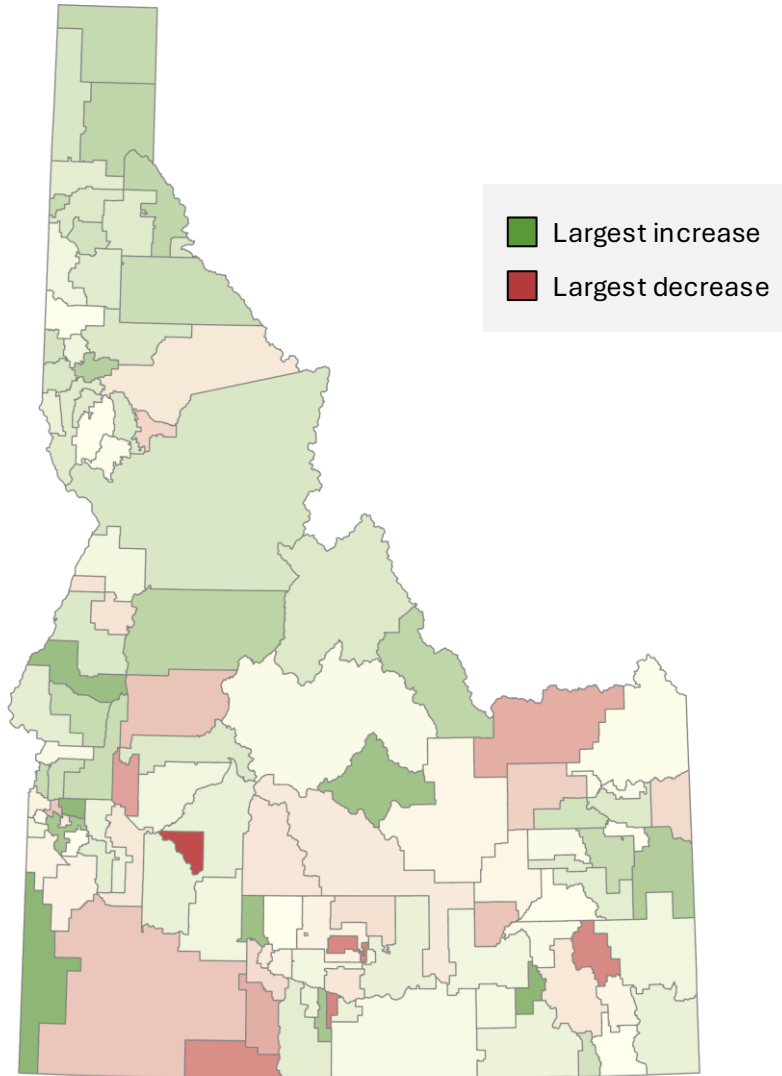
**Looking longer-term, of the 49 districts with 1,000+ students, only 12 (24%) are within 2% of their 5-year max enrollment (4 additional are at 2%), though around half have grown since 2020.**



District	2025-26 Enrollment	Difference from 5-year max	1-year Change	5-year Change
<b>BOUNDARY COUNTY</b>	1,669	Peak	16%	28%
<b>KIMBERLY</b>	2,273	Peak	3%	23%
<b>VALLIVUE</b>	11,619	Peak	3%	17%
<b>MIDDLETON</b>	4,930	Peak	3%	16%
<b>POST FALLS</b>	6,669	Peak	1%	15%
<b>BONNEVILLE JOINT</b>	15,492	-0.2%	0%	8%
<b>WEST ADA</b>	43,047	-0.3%	0%	6%
<b>WENDELL</b>	1,102	-0.5%	1%	2%
<b>MC CALL-DONNELLY</b>	1,434	-1.4%	-1%	13%
<b>LAKE PEND OREILLE</b>	4,002	-1.5%	0%	7%
<b>TWIN FALLS</b>	10,185	-1.6%	-1%	-1%
<b>EMMETT INDEPENDENT</b>	3,264	-1.8%	5%	8%
<b>SUGAR-SALEM</b>	2,229	-2.1%	-2%	43%
<b>KUNA</b>	5,891	-2.2%	-1%	5%
<b>FRUITLAND</b>	2,119	-2.3%	-1%	4%
<b>MADISON</b>	5,552	-2.3%	-2%	5%

## Many larger districts have experienced significant child population growth over 5 years.

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17 districts with at least 1,000 students had increases in the 5-17 population more than 10% over 5 years. Those with over 4,000 students are:

- Middleton (4,930 students): +38%
- Vallivue (11,619): +32%
- Lake Pend Oreille (4,002): +22%
- Bonneville Joint (15,492): +20%
- Post Falls (6,669): +20%
- Jefferson County (6,359): +16%
- Madison (5,552): +12%
- Coeur d'Alene (10,209): +12%

Of districts with 1,000+ students, none declined more than 10% and only 5 declined by 5%. Most are smaller, except Boise (-5%).

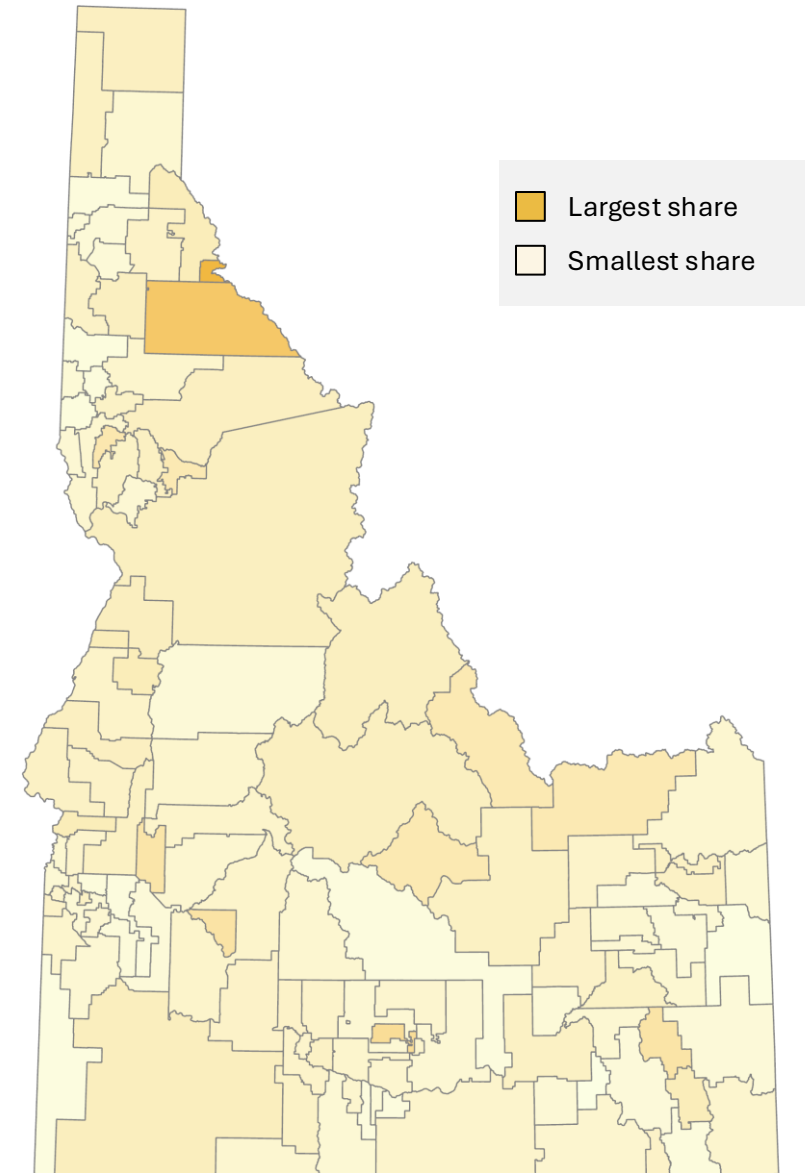
## Smaller districts tend to have the highest shares of students in poverty.

### 10% State Share of Students in Poverty

The 11 districts with the highest shares of students in poverty all have under 500 students; the highest for those with over 1k students are:

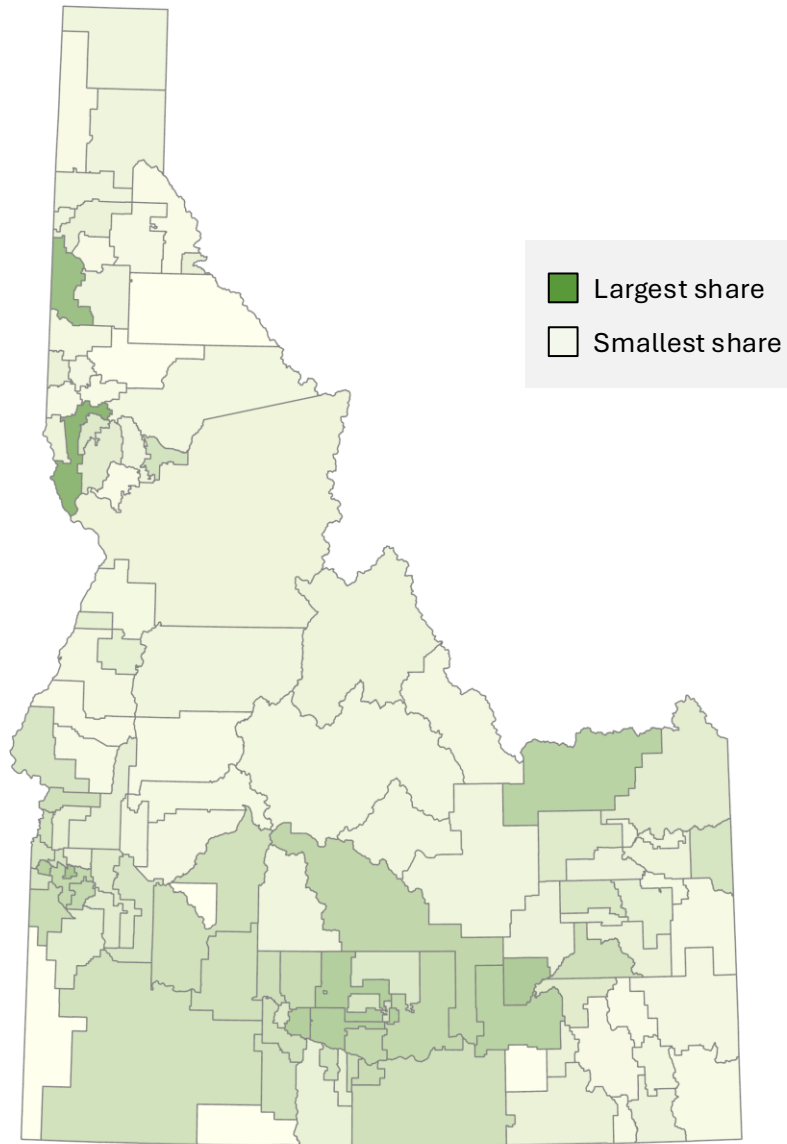
- Payette Joint (1,227): 19%
- Mountain View (1,013): 17%
- Orofino (1,039): 17%
- Boundary County (1,669): 16%
- Emmett Independent (3,264): 16%
- Caldwell (6,387): 15%
- American Falls Joint (1,430): 15%
- Sugar-Salem Joint (2,229): 15%
- Madison (5,552): 15%

West Ada, the largest district, has among the lowest share of students in poverty (6%) of all districts.



## Several mid-sized districts have relatively high percentages of Students of Color.

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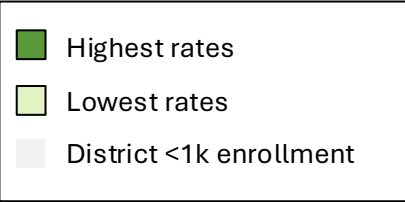
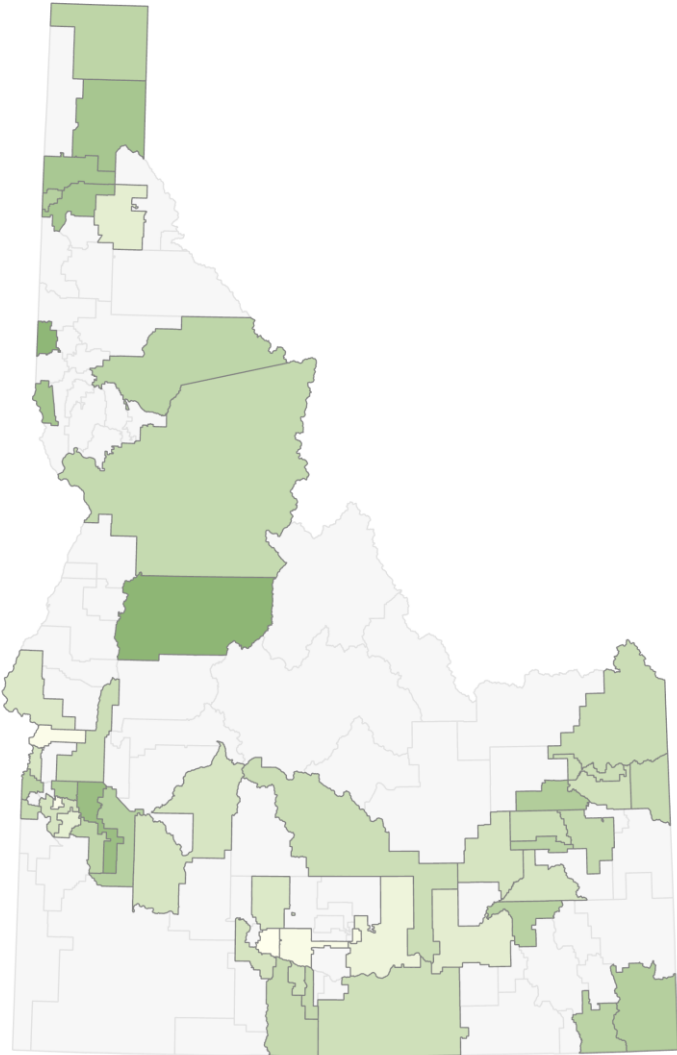


12 districts have a share of Students of Color of at least 50%; those with over 1k students are:

- Caldwell (6,387): 69%
- Wendell (1,102): 62%
- Jerome Joint (4,047): 62%
- American Falls Joint (1,430): 57%
- Blaine County (2,994): 51%
- Minidoka County Joint (4,055): 50%

# Proficiency rates vary across the state for both small and large districts.

*District 2025 Math Proficiency Rates*



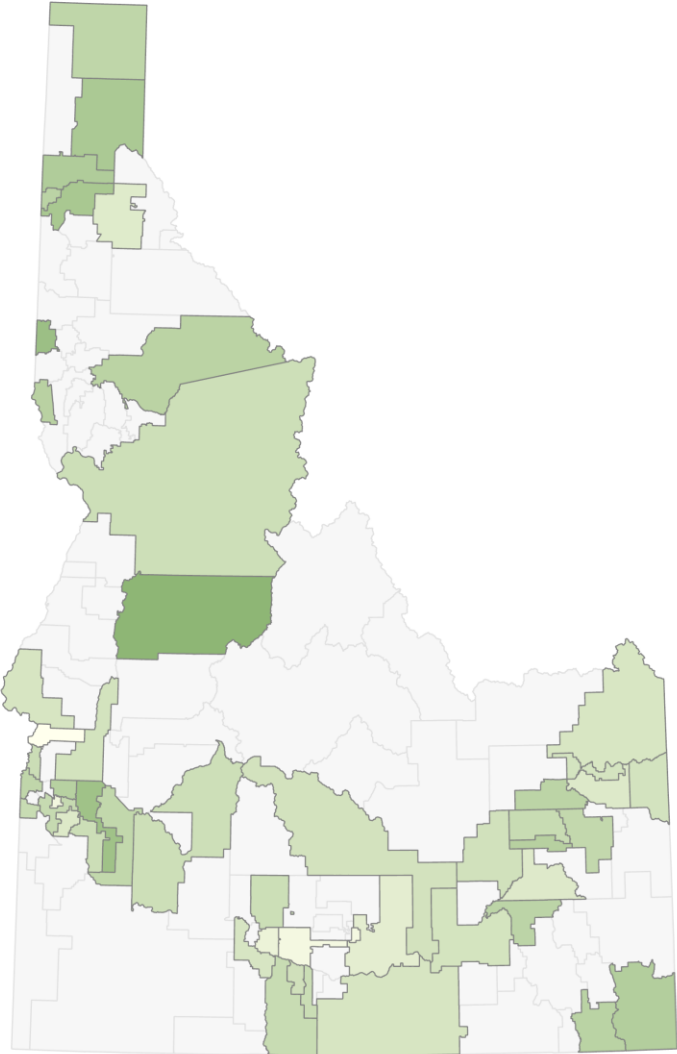
The districts with 4k+ students and the lowest proficiency rates are:

- Caldwell (6,387): 21% Math, 31% ELA
- Jerome Jt (4,047): 22% Math, 31% ELA
- Minidoka Cty Jt (4,055): 26% Math, 38% ELA
- Nampa (16,232): 28% Math, 41% ELA

Those with the highest rates are:

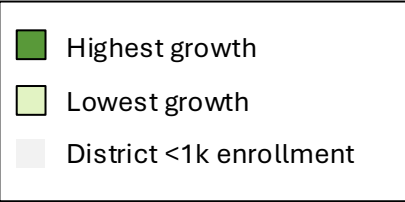
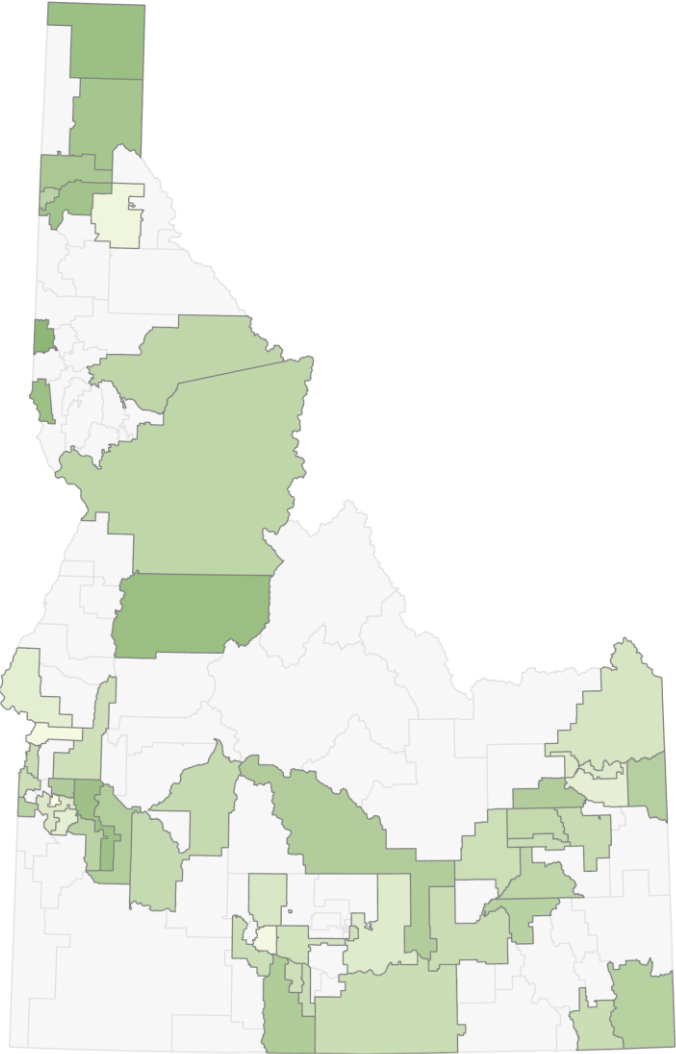
- West Ada (43,047): 57% Math, 69% ELA
- Lake Pend Oreille (4,002): 52% Math, 64% ELA
- Lewiston (4,566): 52% Math, 58% ELA
- Coeur d’Alene (10,209): 51% Math, 65% ELA
- Lakeland (5,554): 51% Math, 62% ELA

*District 2025 ELA Proficiency Rates*



# District ELA and Math growth show a very similar picture to proficiency rates.

**District 2025 Math Growth**



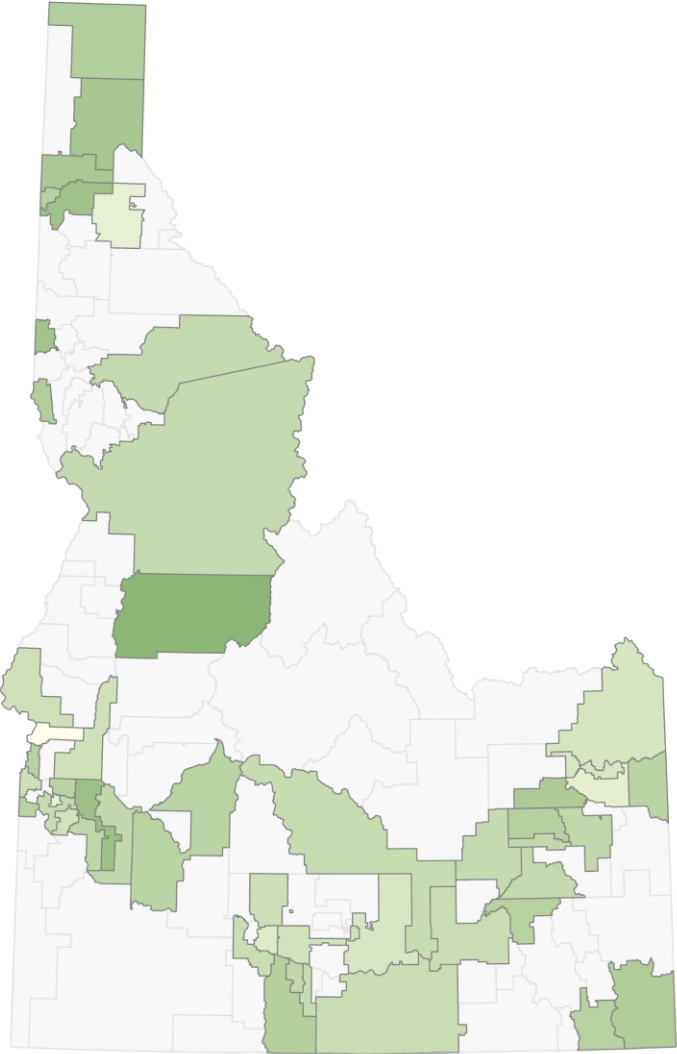
The districts with 4k+ students and the lowest growth also have among the lowest proficiency:

- Caldwell (6,387): 33 Math, 44 ELA
- Madison (5,552): 40 Math, 44 ELA
- Nampa (16,232): 40 Math, 50 ELA
- Minidoka Cty Jt (4,055): 42 Math, 48 ELA





Those with the highest growth also often have the highest proficiency:

- Lewiston (4,566): 61 Math, 60 ELA
- West Ada (43,047): 60 Math, 65 ELA
- Coeur d’Alene (10,209): 59 Math, 65 ELA
- Lake Pend Oreille (4,002): 58 Math, 63 ELA
- Lakeland (5,554): 57 Math, 62 ELA

**District 2025 ELA Growth**



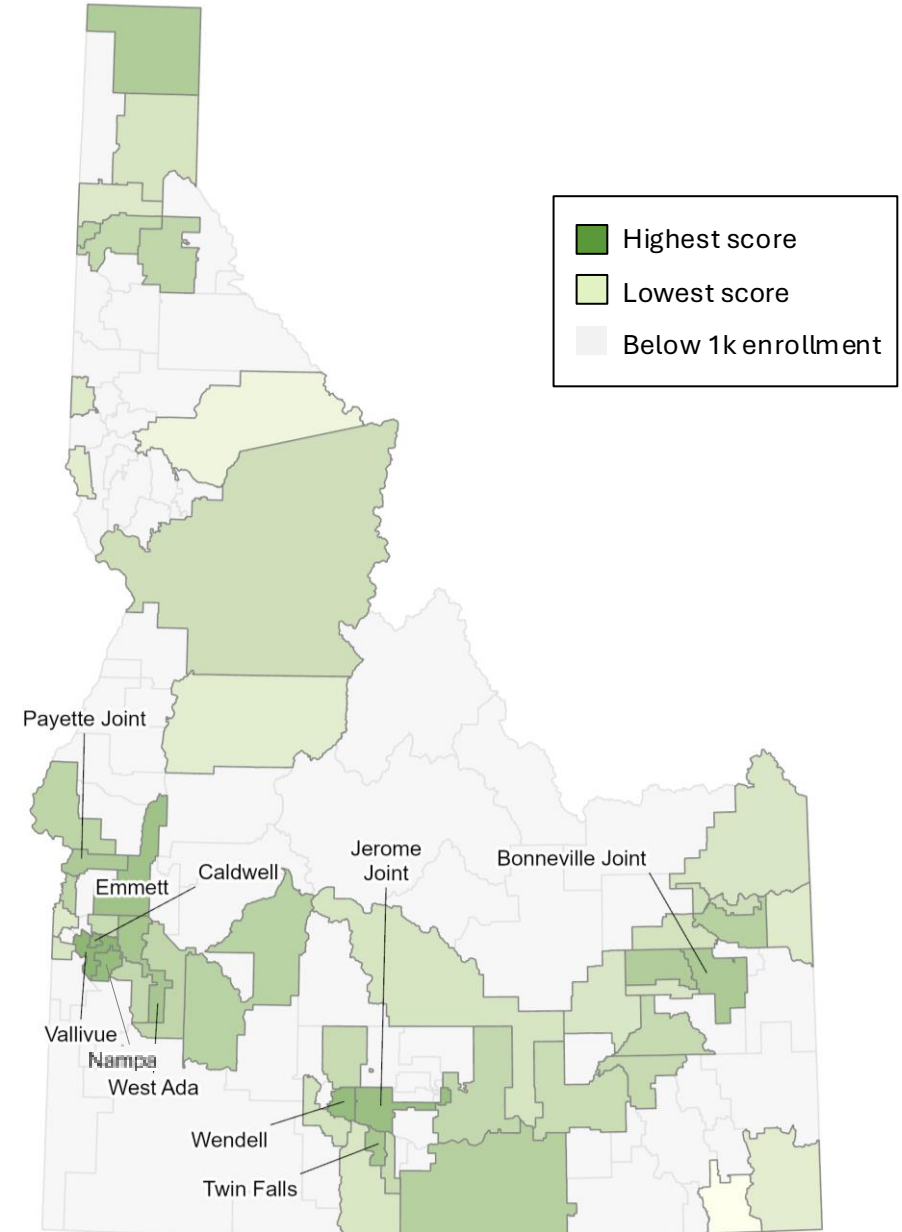
# Identifying district-level opportunities for new charter schools are prioritized by combining a series of metrics from different data sources to increase directional confidence

Category		Indicator	Sample Weight (1-5)
 <b>Enrollment</b> 25%		2025-26 K-12 Enrollment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		1-year Enrollment Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		Difference from 5-Year Max Enrollment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
 <b>Student Pop</b> 25%		2019-24 County Change in Births	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		County under 18 2020-24 Population Change	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		2024 Student Population Size	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		2024 5-Year Student Population Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		County 2024-34 under 15 Forecast	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
 <b>Demographics</b> 20%		2024-25 Percent of Students of Color	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		2024 % 5-17 in Poverty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
 <b>Academics</b> 30%		2025 Math % Proficient	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		2025 ELA % Proficient	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		2025 Math Growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		2025 ELA Growth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		IRI % At Grade Level Spring 24-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		IRI % At Grade Level Fall 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		Chronic Absenteeism 24-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
		4-year Graduation Rate 24-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

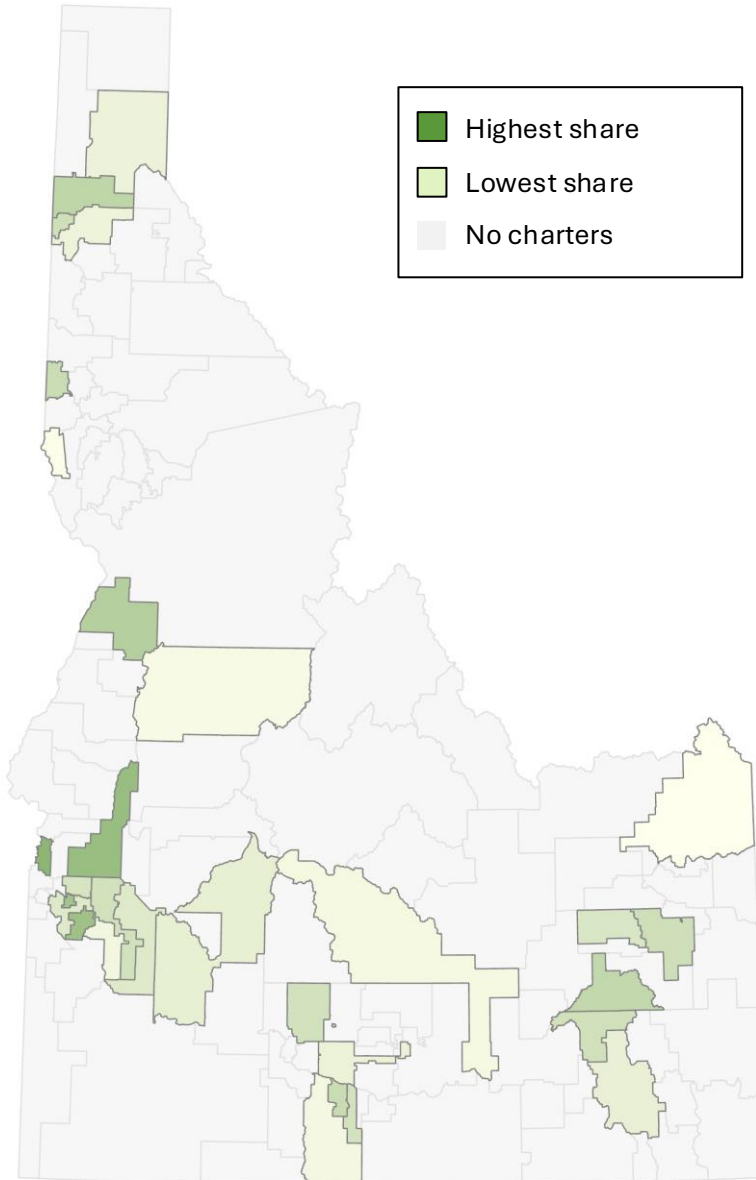
# There are opportunities for charter expansion in dispersed areas across the state given a range of prioritization factors.

The top Idaho districts by opportunity score are:

1. Vallivue (3.7 : 9% charter share)
2. Caldwell (3.6 : 24%)
3. Wendell (3.6 : 0%)
4. Nampa (3.6 : 25%)
5. Jerome Joint (3.5 : 6%)
6. Emmett Independent (3.4 : 26%)
7. West Ada (3.3 : 13%)
8. Twin Falls (3.3 : 15%)
9. Bonneville Joint (3.2 : 14%)
10. Payette Joint (3.2 : 0%)



**All the largest districts have a charter presence with shares as high as 29%.  
Some areas with relatively high population density have no charters.**

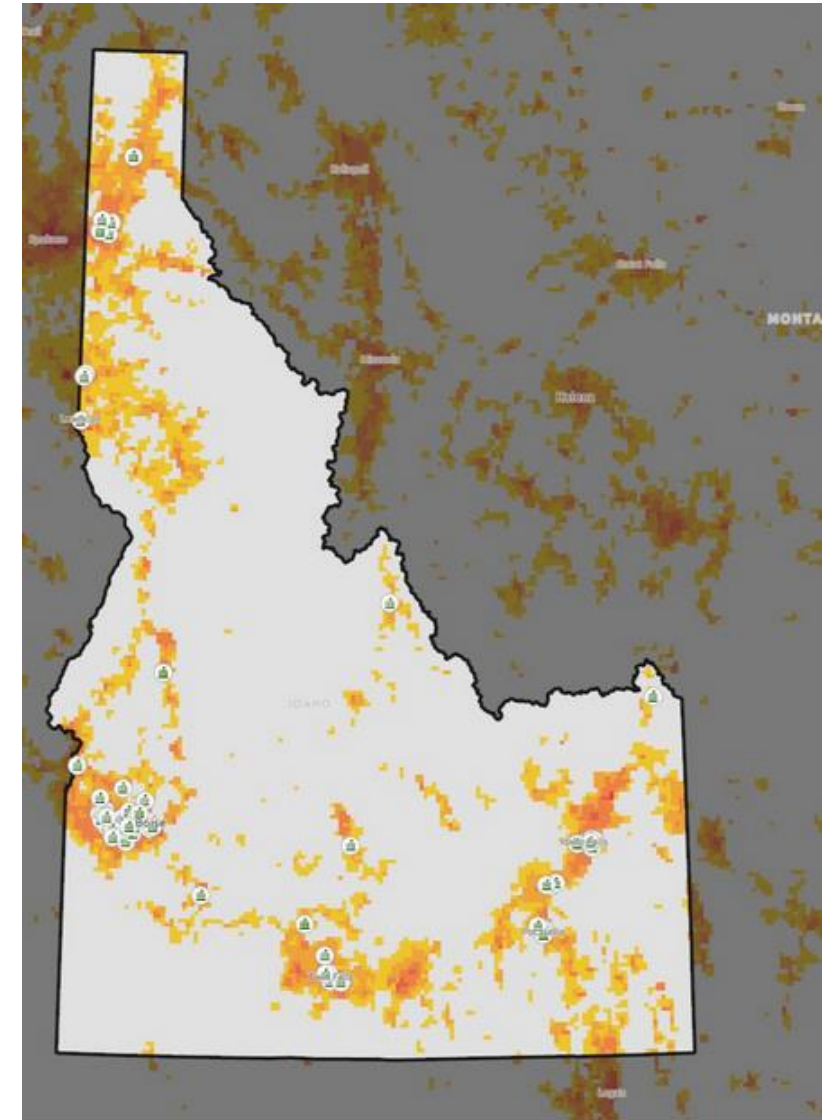


30 districts have non-virtual charters. Those with the highest shares are:

1. Fruitland (29%)
2. Emmett Independent (26%)
3. Nampa (25%)
4. Caldwell (24%)
5. Salmon (20%)

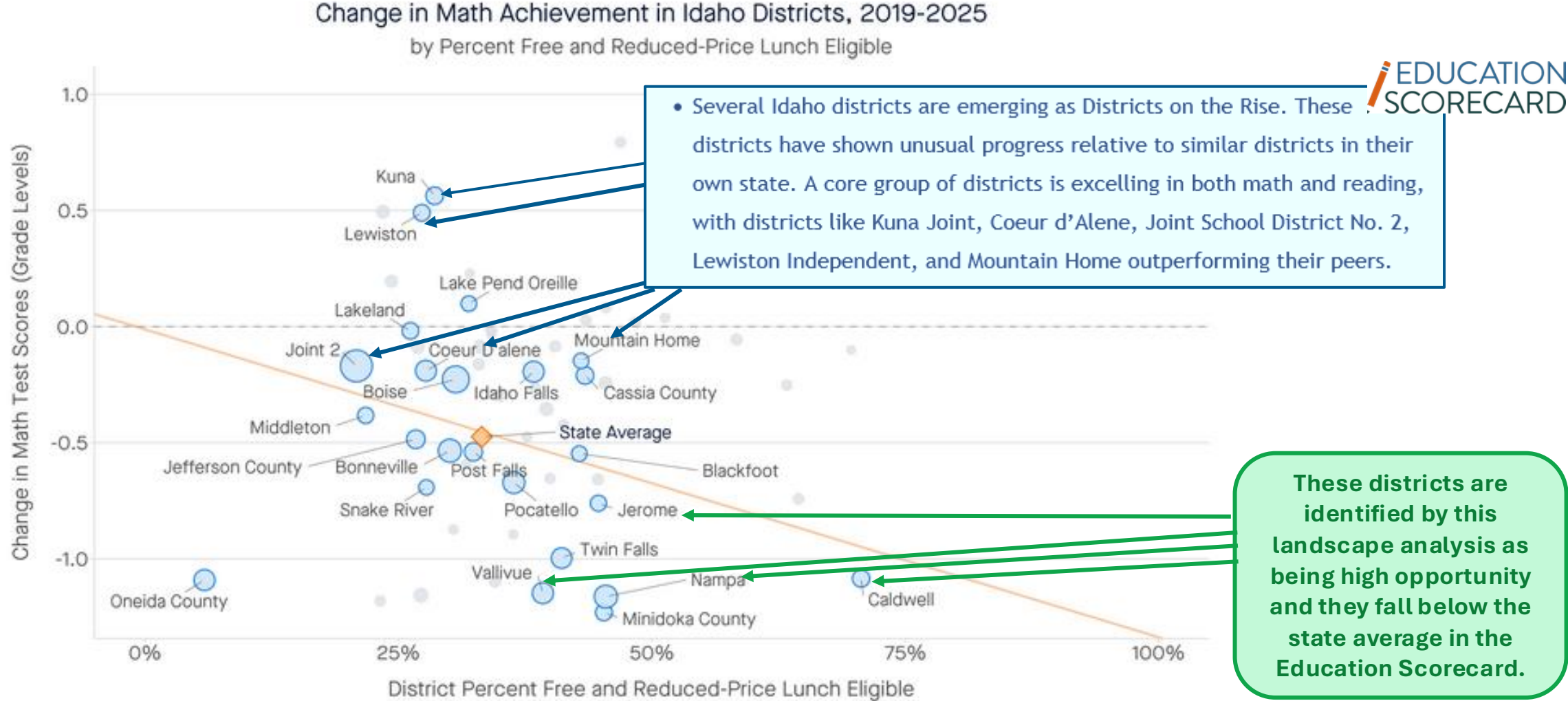
The largest districts with no charters are:

1. Jefferson County Joint (6,359)
2. Madison (5,552)
3. Cassia County Joint (5,381)
4. Minidoka County Joint (4,055)
5. Snake River (3,395)



Idaho Charter Schools (deeper orange indicates higher population density)

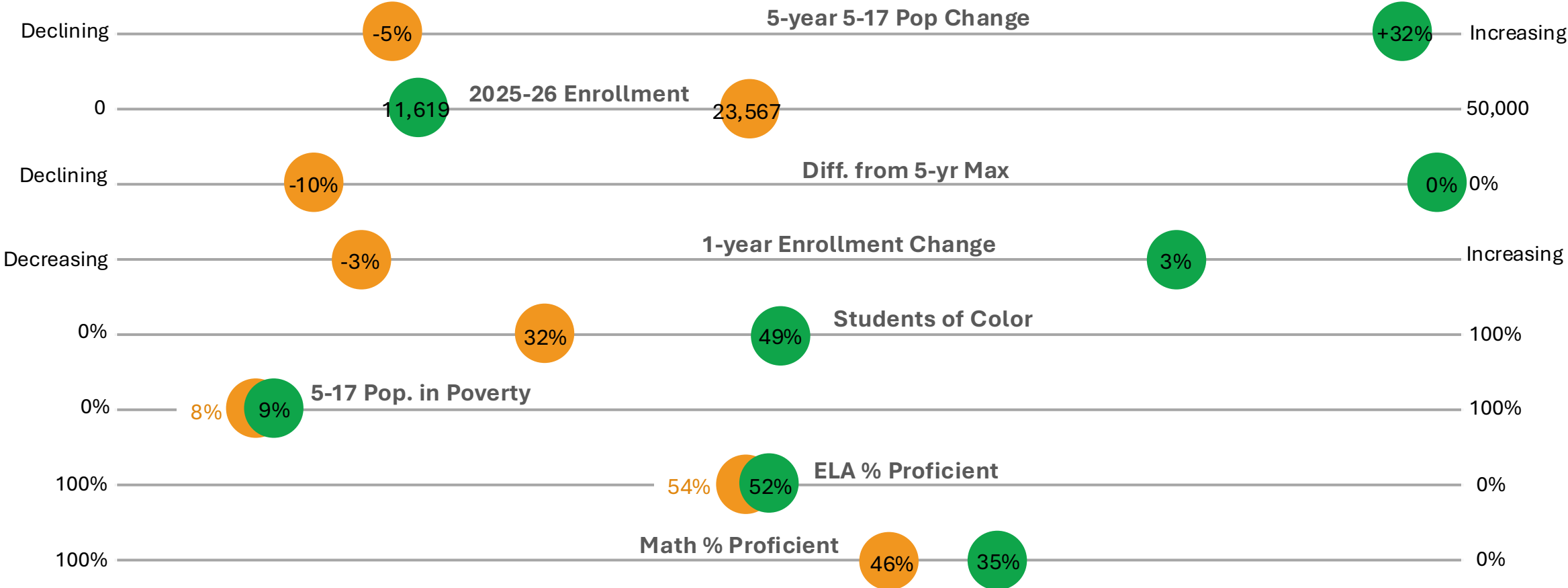
**Districts identified as high opportunity in this landscape analysis are captured in the Education Scorecard as districts that underachieve state averages for change in math achievement since 2019.**



Source: Figure created by the Education Scorecard, a collaboration between Harvard's Center for Education Policy Research and Stanford's Educational Opportunity Project. Data courtesy of the Stanford Education Data Archive (SEDA). For details on the methodology to create the SEDA data, see <https://edopportunity.org/trends/methods>

Side by Side Comparison of Key Metrics reveals several areas where **Vallivue (top overall opportunity)** is more attractive than **Boise (20th)**

Long-term Risk ← → Strong Opportunity



Source: Idaho Department of Education data, U.S. Census Small Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

## Vallivue is even more attractive now than 2024 with many districts remaining as lead opportunity areas.

**2024 Top 20 Districts by Opportunity Score**

School District	Total Score	Rank 2026
NAMPA DISTRICT	3.6	4
JEROME JOINT DISTRICT	3.5	5
CALDWELL DISTRICT	3.4	2
VALLIVUE DISTRICT	3.4	1
EMMETT INDEPENDENT DISTRICT	3.4	6
MERIDIAN JOINT (West Ada) DISTRICT	3.4	7
TWIN FALLS DISTRICT	3.3	8
IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT	3.3	12
WENDELL DISTRICT	3.1	3
MOUNTAIN HOME DISTRICT	3.1	15
BONNEVILLE JOINT DISTRICT	3.1	9
MINIDOKA COUNTY JOINT DISTRICT	3.1	22
BLACKFOOT DISTRICT	3.1	24
WEISER DISTRICT	3.1	16
KELLOGG JOINT DISTRICT	3.1	19
FRUITLAND DISTRICT	3.0	17
PAYETTE JOINT DISTRICT	3.0	10
CASSIA COUNTY JOINT DISTRICT	3.0	13
POST FALLS DISTRICT	3.0	18
BOISE INDEPENDENT DISTRICT	3.0	20

**2026 Top 20 Districts by Opportunity Score**

School District	Total Score	Rank 2024	Change
VALLIVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT	3.7	4	+3
CALDWELL DISTRICT	3.6	3	+2
WENDELL DISTRICT	3.6	9	+6
NAMPA SCHOOL DISTRICT	3.6	1	-3
JEROME JOINT DISTRICT	3.5	2	-3
EMMETT INDEPENDENT DIST	3.4	5	-1
WEST ADA DISTRICT	3.3	6	-1
TWIN FALLS DISTRICT	3.3	7	-1
BONNEVILLE JOINT DISTRICT	3.2	11	+2
PAYETTE JOINT DISTRICT	3.2	17	+7
BOUNDARY COUNTY DISTRICT	3.2	31	+20
IDAHO FALLS DISTRICT	3.2	8	-4
CASSIA COUNTY JOINT DISTRICT	3.1	19	+7
MADISON DISTRICT	3.1	24	+10
MOUNTAIN HOME DISTRICT	3.1	10	-5
WEISER DISTRICT	3.0	14	-2
FRUITLAND DISTRICT	3.0	16	-1
POST FALLS DISTRICT	3.0	19	+1
KELLOGG JOINT DISTRICT	3.0	15	-4
BOISE INDEPENDENT DISTRICT	2.9	20	=

## District metric overview sorted by enrollment (Districts with over 5,000 K-12 public school students)

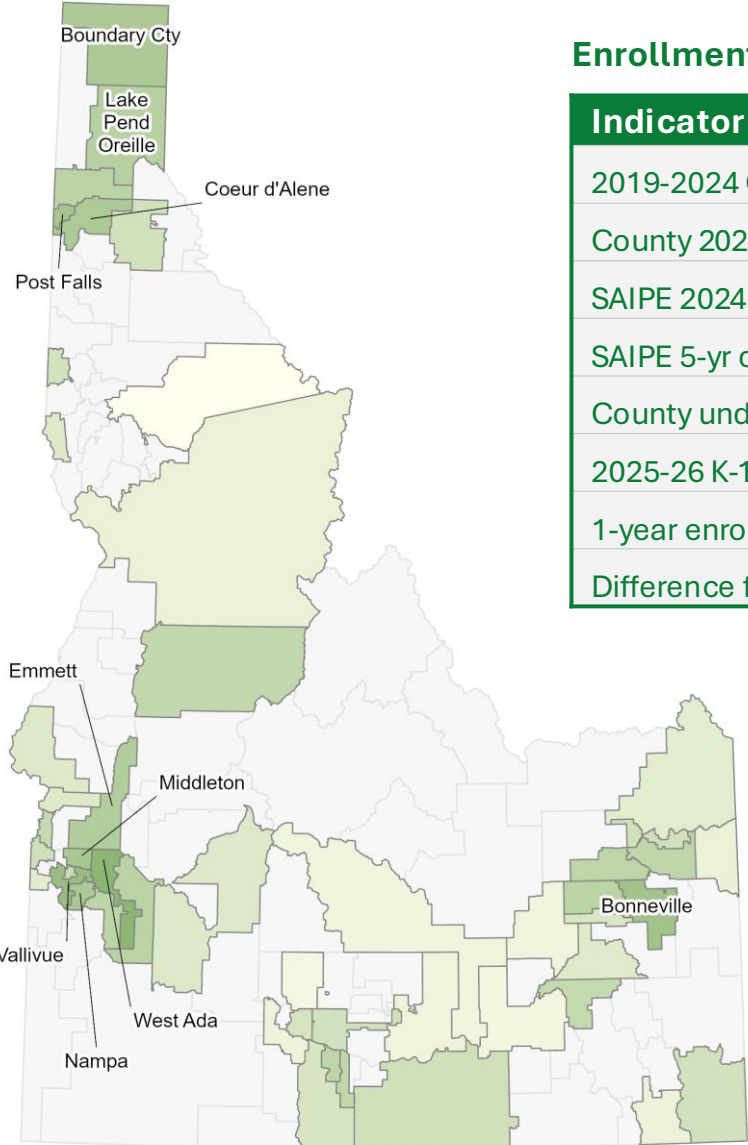
District	Opportunity Score (Rank)	2024 5-yr 5-17 Pop. Change	2025-26 Enrollment	Difference from 5-year max	1-year Change	Charter share (# charters)	Proficient % (ELA / Math)	Students of Color %	5-17 Pop in Poverty %
West Ada	3.3 (7)	6%	43,047	Peak	-0.3%	13% (11)	(69% / 57%)	25%	6%
Boise	3.0 (20)	-5%	23,567	-10%	-2.9%	10% (5)	(54% / 46%)	32%	8%
Nampa	3.6 (3)	0%	16,232	-4%	-2.1%	25% (7)	(41% / 28%)	48%	11%
Bonneville	3.2 (9)	20%	15,492	Peak	-0.2%	14% (5)	(53% / 40%)	20%	8%
Pocatello	2.9 (25)	2%	12,982	-5%	-1.0%	13% (5)	(56% / 45%)	25%	10%
Vallivue	3.7 (1)	32%	11,619	Peak	2.8%	9% (2)	(52% / 35%)	49%	9%
Idaho Falls	3.2 (12)	2%	10,758	-4%	-1.9%	11% (2)	(50% / 38%)	30%	11%
Coeur D'Alene	2.9 (23)	12%	10,209	-5%	0.1%	6% (1)	(65% / 51%)	16%	8%
Twin Falls	3.3 (8)	7%	10,185	-2%	-0.9%	15% (3)	(47% / 36%)	36%	12%
Post Falls	3.0 (17)	20%	6,669	Peak	1.0%	13% (2)	(56% / 47%)	12%	8%
Caldwell	3.6 (2)	-4%	6,387	-7%	-3.0%	24% (3)	(31% / 21%)	69%	15%
Jefferson	2.7 (32)	16%	6,359	-5%	-2.8%	0% (0)	(56% / 48%)	15%	7%
Kuna	2.9 (21)	9%	5,891	-2%	-1.2%	5% (1)	(49% / 43%)	24%	7%
Lakeland	2.6 (41)	10%	5,554	-4%	-3.2%	17% (2)	(62% / 51%)	12%	6%
Madison	3.1 (14)	12%	5,552	-2%	-2.1%	0% (0)	(41% / 37%)	14%	15%
Cassia	3.1 (13)	3%	5,381	-3%	-1.1%	0% (0)	(44% / 37%)	39%	13%
<b>State Median</b>	<b>2.7 (58)</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>-2.6%</b>	<b>0% (0)</b>	<b>(50% / 40%)</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>12%</b>

Sources: Idaho Department of Education; U.S. Census Small Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Note: Enrollment and enrollment change data include charters physically located within district boundaries.

Enrollment and charter data do not include virtual charters.

# Enrollment Scenario: Focusing only on enrollment metrics, Northern districts emerge as higher areas of opportunity, and several districts in the Treasure Valley continue to rank high.

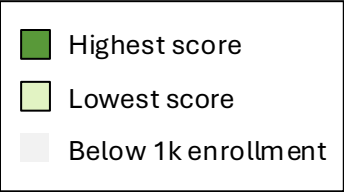


### Enrollment Scenario Weights

Indicator	Weight
2019-2024 County Change in Births	10%
County 2024-2034 under 15 Forecast	10%
SAIPE 2024 5-17 Pop Size	15%
SAIPE 5-yr change	10%
County under-18 2020-24 pop change	5%
2025-26 K-12 Enrollment Size	20%
1-year enrollment change	10%
Difference from 5-year Max Enrollment	20%

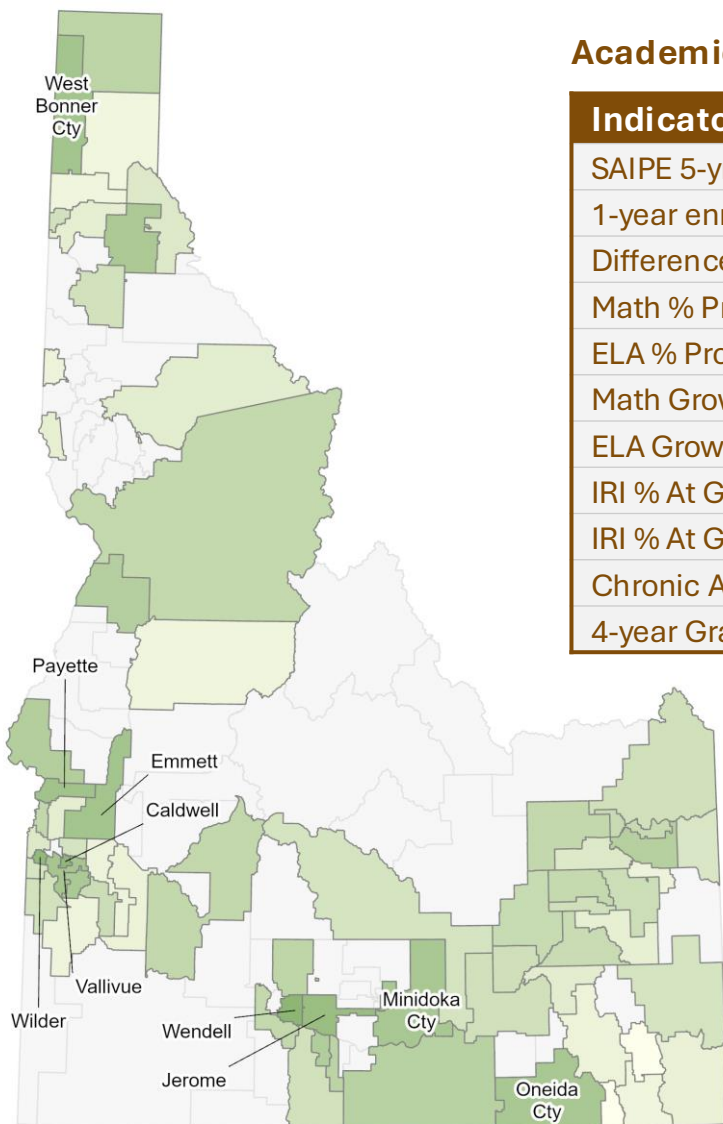
### Top Enrollment Scenario districts:

1. West Ada (4.5)
2. Vallivue (4.2)
3. Bonneville Joint (4.0)
4. Post Falls (3.9)
5. Middleton (3.8)
6. Nampa (3.7)
7. Boundary County (3.7)
8. Coeur d'Alene (3.7)
9. Emmett Independent (3.6)
10. Lake Pend Oreille (3.5)



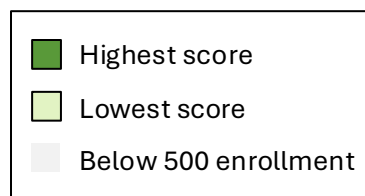
Note: Only districts with at least 1,000 students included.

## Academic Scenario: Focusing mainly on academic metrics, Southern districts emerge as higher areas of opportunity because of their current lower access to quality.



### Academic Scenario Weights

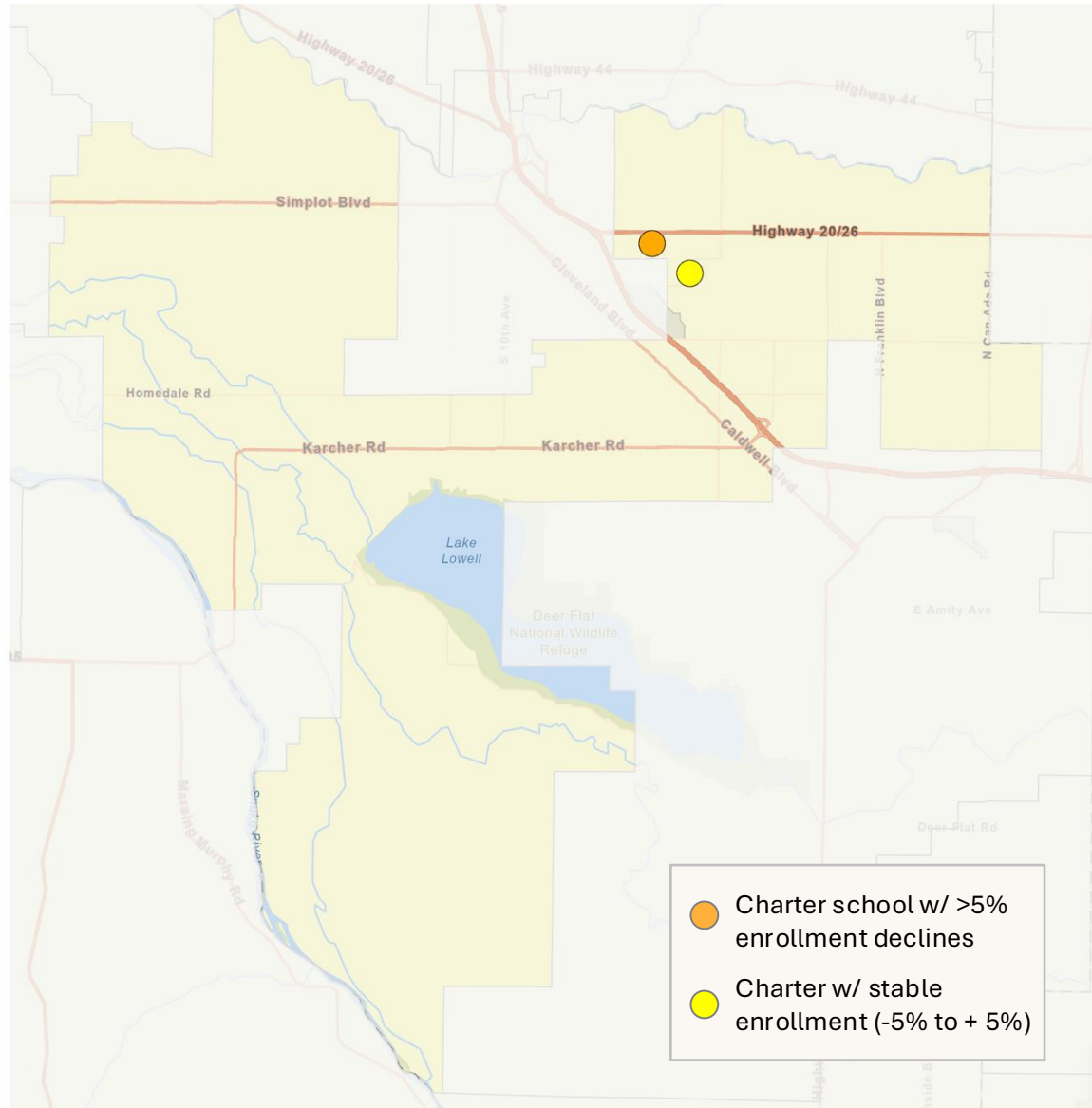
Indicator	Weight
SAIPE 5-yr change	10%
1-year enrollment change	5%
Difference from 5-year Max Enrollment	10%
Math % Proficient	10%
ELA % Proficient	10%
Math Growth	10%
ELA Growth	10%
IRI % At Grade Level Spring 2024-25	10%
IRI % At Grade Level Fall 2025-26	5%
Chronic Absenteeism	10%
4-year Graduation Rate	10%



### Top Academic Scenario districts:

1. Wendell (4.3)
2. Caldwell (4.2)
3. Wilder (4.2)
4. Jerome Joint (4.0)
5. Payette Joint (3.9)
6. West Bonner County (3.9)
7. Emmett Independent (3.9)
8. Vallivue (3.8)
9. Oneida County (3.8)
10. Minidoka County (3.8)

# District Profiles: Vallivue presents the greatest opportunity for charter expansion largely due to very strong population and enrollment growth.



## Almost 12K students

- **Up 17%** since SY20-21 (3% year-over-year)
- 5-17 population **up 32%** from 2019 to 2024

## 9% charter share in 2 schools (excludes virtual)

- Stable charter enrollment over 5 years
- Thomas Jefferson Charter (337 enrollment) has experienced 7% enrollment decreases
- Vision Charter (757 enrollment) has increased by 4%

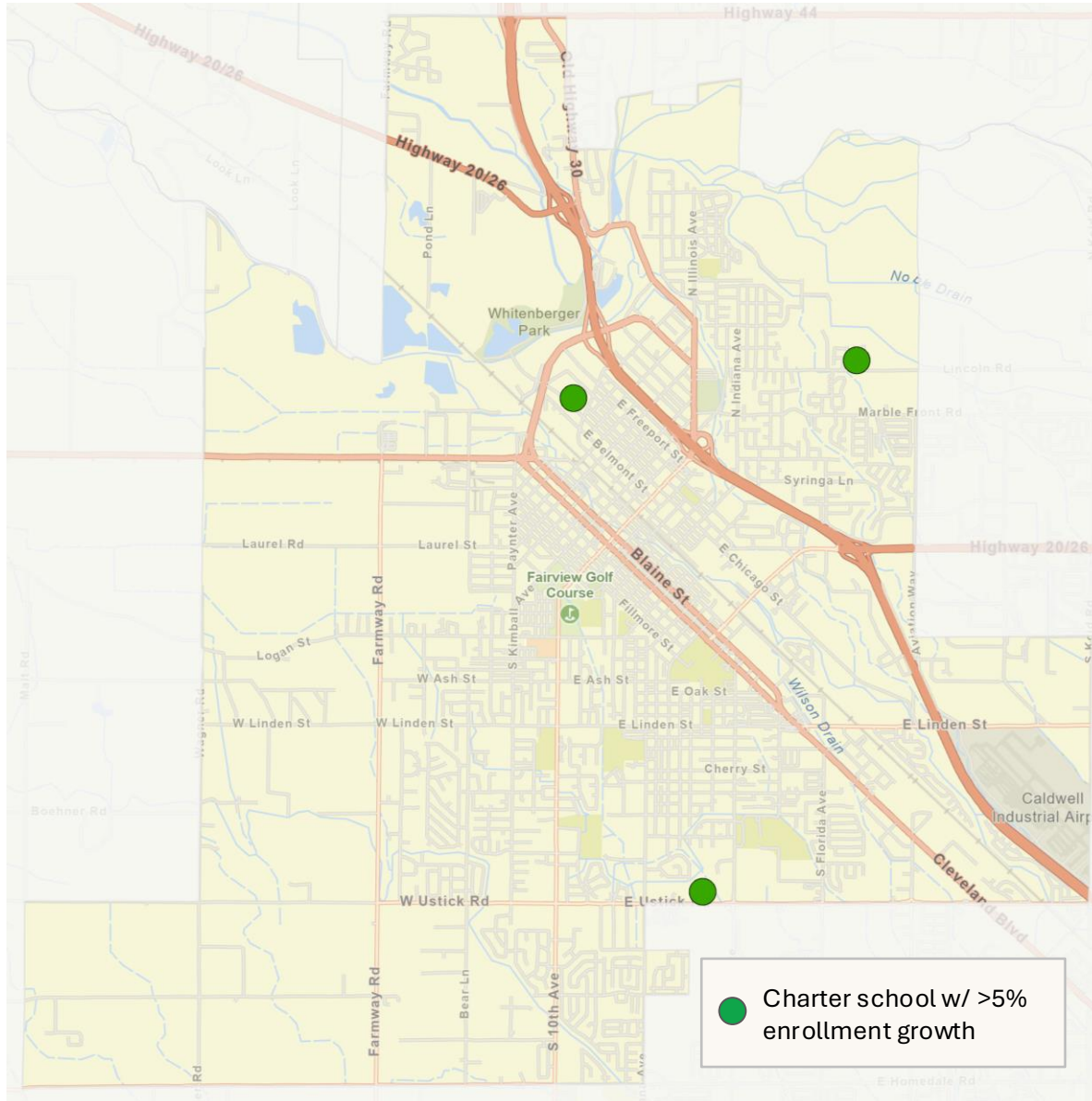
## 49% Students of Color; 9% youth in poverty

- **Much higher share of SoC** than state
- Slightly lower share of youth in poverty than state

## Mediocre school quality

- **Below state** math proficiency, **around state average** ELA proficiency
- **Higher** chronic absenteeism and slightly lower grad rate than state

# District Profiles: Caldwell presents the 2<sup>nd</sup>-highest opportunity for charter expansion due to demographics and low-quality schools, as well as strong enrollment trends for existing charters.



## Over 6K students

- **Down 5%** since SY20-21 (down 3% year-over-year)
- 5-17 population **down 4%** from 2019 to 2024

## 24% charter share in 3 schools (excludes virtual)

- Charter enrollment **up 30%** over 5 years
- Heritage Community Charter (527 enrollment); **up 7%**
- Mosaics Public School (518 enrollment); **up 91%**
- **Elevate Academy (489 enrollment); up 19%**

## 69% Students of Color; 15% youth in poverty

- **Highest share of SoC** of districts with >500 students
- Higher share of youth in poverty than state

## Very low academic quality

- **2<sup>nd</sup>-lowest math and 3<sup>rd</sup>-lowest ELA** proficiency rates of districts over 1k in the state
- **Lowest math growth and 2<sup>nd</sup>-lowest ELA** growth of 1k+ districts
- **Highest** absenteeism and **2<sup>nd</sup>-lowest** graduation rates of 1k+ districts

# District Profiles: Wendell is 3<sup>rd</sup>-highest opportunity despite being small, it has no charters but is diverse and has very low-quality schools with stable enrollment.



## Over 1K students

- **Up 2%** since SY20-21 (2% year-over-year)
- 5-17 population **down 3%** from 2019 to 2024

## No charters

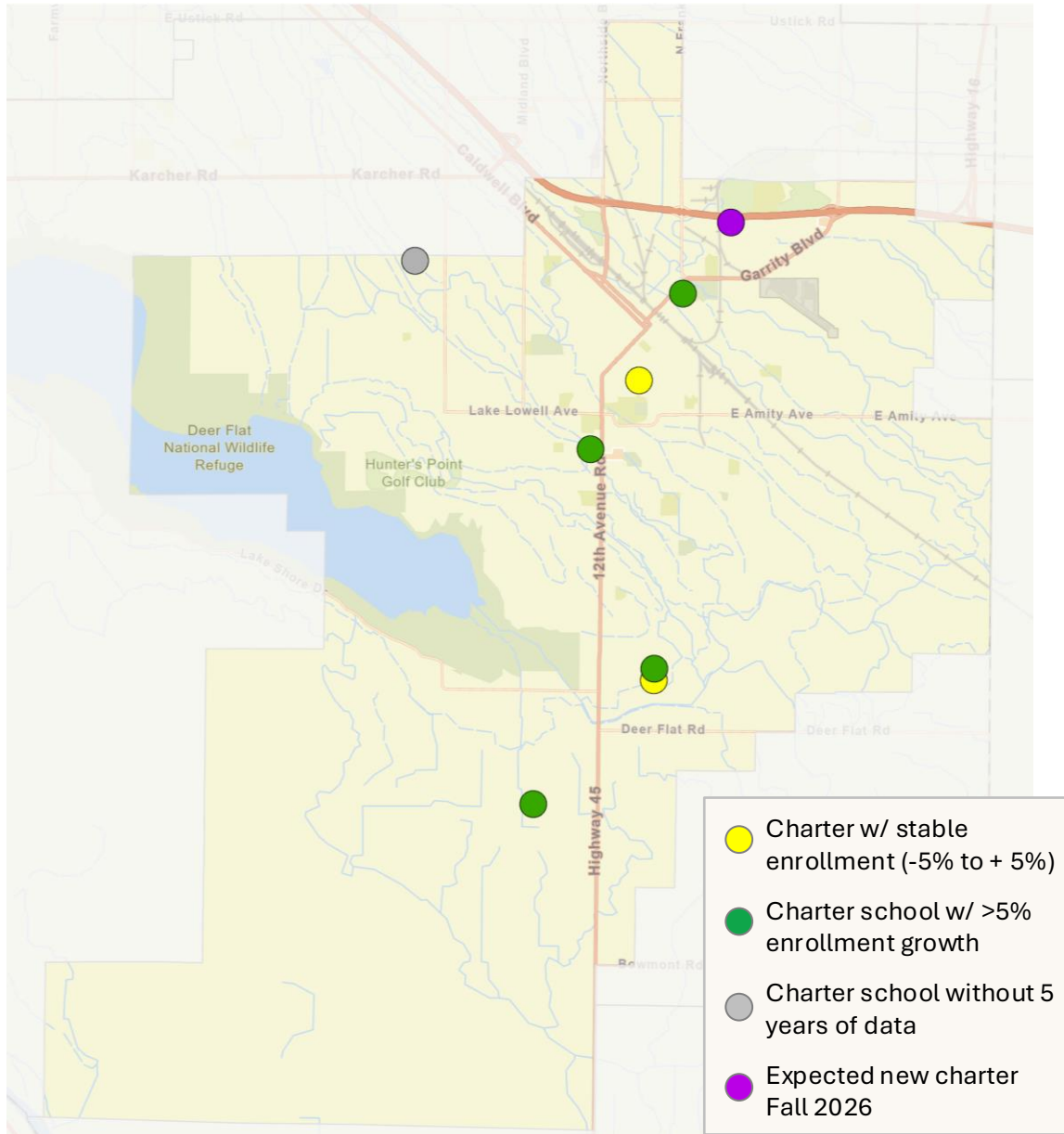
## 62% Students of Color; 15% youth in poverty

- **2<sup>nd</sup>-highest share of SoC** of districts with >1,000 students.
- Higher share of youth in poverty than state

## Very low academic quality

- **Lowest math and 4<sup>th</sup>-lowest ELA** proficiency rates of districts over 1k in the state
- **3<sup>rd</sup>-lowest math growth and 5<sup>th</sup>-lowest ELA** growth of 1k+ districts
- **Slightly lower** chronic absenteeism and than the state
- **3<sup>rd</sup>-lowest** graduation rate of 1k+ districts

# District Profiles: Nampa is ranked 4<sup>th</sup> because of a stable and larger student population, a relatively high share of Students of Color, and lower-performing schools.



## Over 16K students

- **Stable** since SY20-21 (down 2% year-over-year), but down 4% from SY22-23 peak
- 5-17 population **steady** from 2019 to 2024

## 25% charter share in 7 schools (excludes virtual)

- Charter enrollment **up 26%** over 5 years
- 6 of 7 charters have positive enrollment trends, including Elevate Academy Nampa, which opened in SY22-23
- Liberty Charter enrollment within 2% over 5 years
- Brabeion Academy is expected to open in Fall 2026

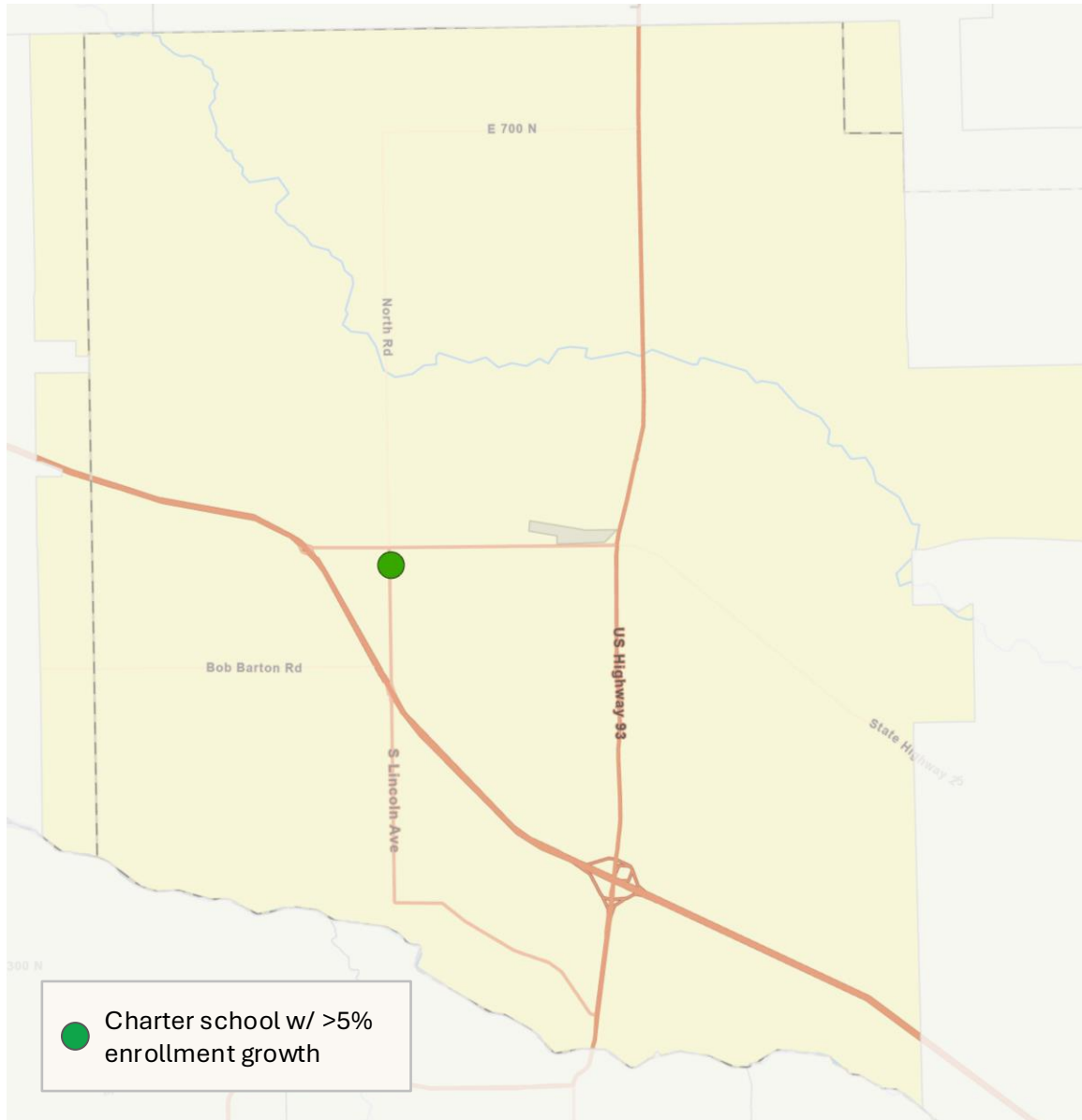
## 48% Students of Color; 11% youth in poverty

- **Much higher share of SoC** than state
- Slightly higher share of youth in poverty than state

## Relatively poor-performing schools

- **6<sup>th</sup> -lowest math** proficiency of districts over 1k in the state **and well below state** rates for ELA proficiency
- **Well below** state-level growth
- **Higher chronic** absenteeism than the state
- Similar graduation rate to the state

# District Profiles: Jerome presents the 5<sup>th</sup>-highest opportunity for charter expansion due to demographics and low-quality schools, as well as favorable population trends.



## 4K students

- **Down 4%** since SY20-21 (down 2% year-over-year)
- 5-17 population **up 5%** from 2019 to 2024

## 6% charter share in 1 school (excludes virtual)

- Charter enrollment **up 49%** over 5 years
- Heritage Academy (249 enrollment); **up 49%**

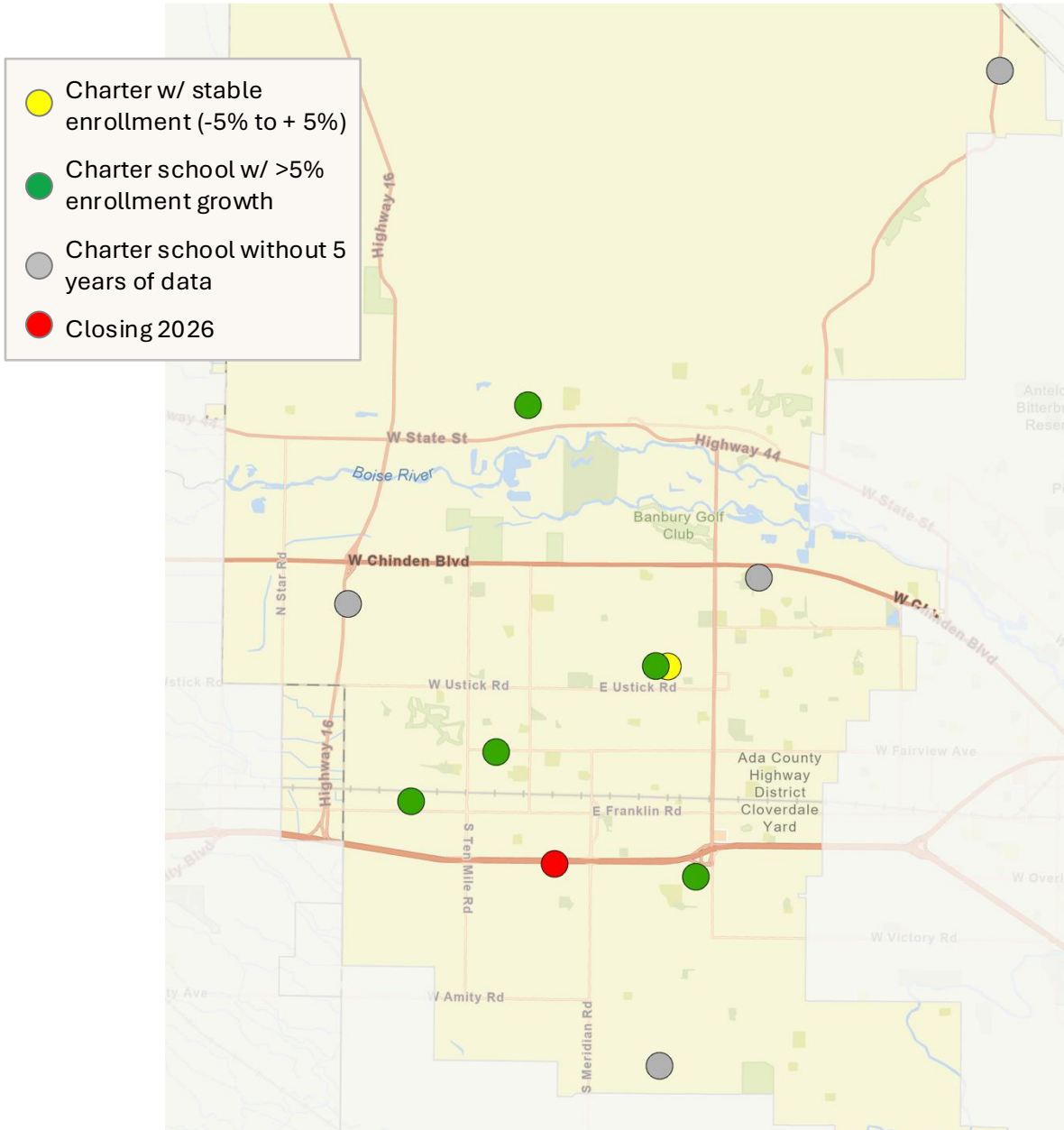
## 62% Students of Color; 15% youth in poverty

- **3<sup>rd</sup>-highest share of SoC** of districts with >1,000 students
- Higher share of youth in poverty than state

## Low academic quality

- **4<sup>th</sup>-lowest math and 2<sup>nd</sup>-lowest ELA** proficiency rates of districts over 1k in the state
- **Well below** state-level growth
- **Comparable** chronic absenteeism to state
- **Lower** graduation rates than state

# District Profiles: West Ada, as the largest district, presents the 7<sup>th</sup>-greatest opportunity for charter expansion due to size and relatively favorable trends, but schools are high-performing



## 43K students

- **Up 6%** since SY20-21 (down slightly year-over-year)
- 5-17 population **up 6%** from 2019 to 2024

## 13% charter share in 11 schools (excludes 5 virtual)

- Charter enrollment **up 60%** over 5 years
- 4 new schools have opened since SY20-21, all with overall and year-over-year enrollment increases: Gem Prep Meridian North (2021), Gem Prep Meridian South (2022), Idaho Novus Classical (2024), and Pathways in Education – West Ada (2024)
- Project Impact STEM Academy closed at the end of SY25-26
- The remaining 6 charters have grown over 5 years, and 5 of 6 are at their recent max (Doral Academy declined 6% year-over-year)

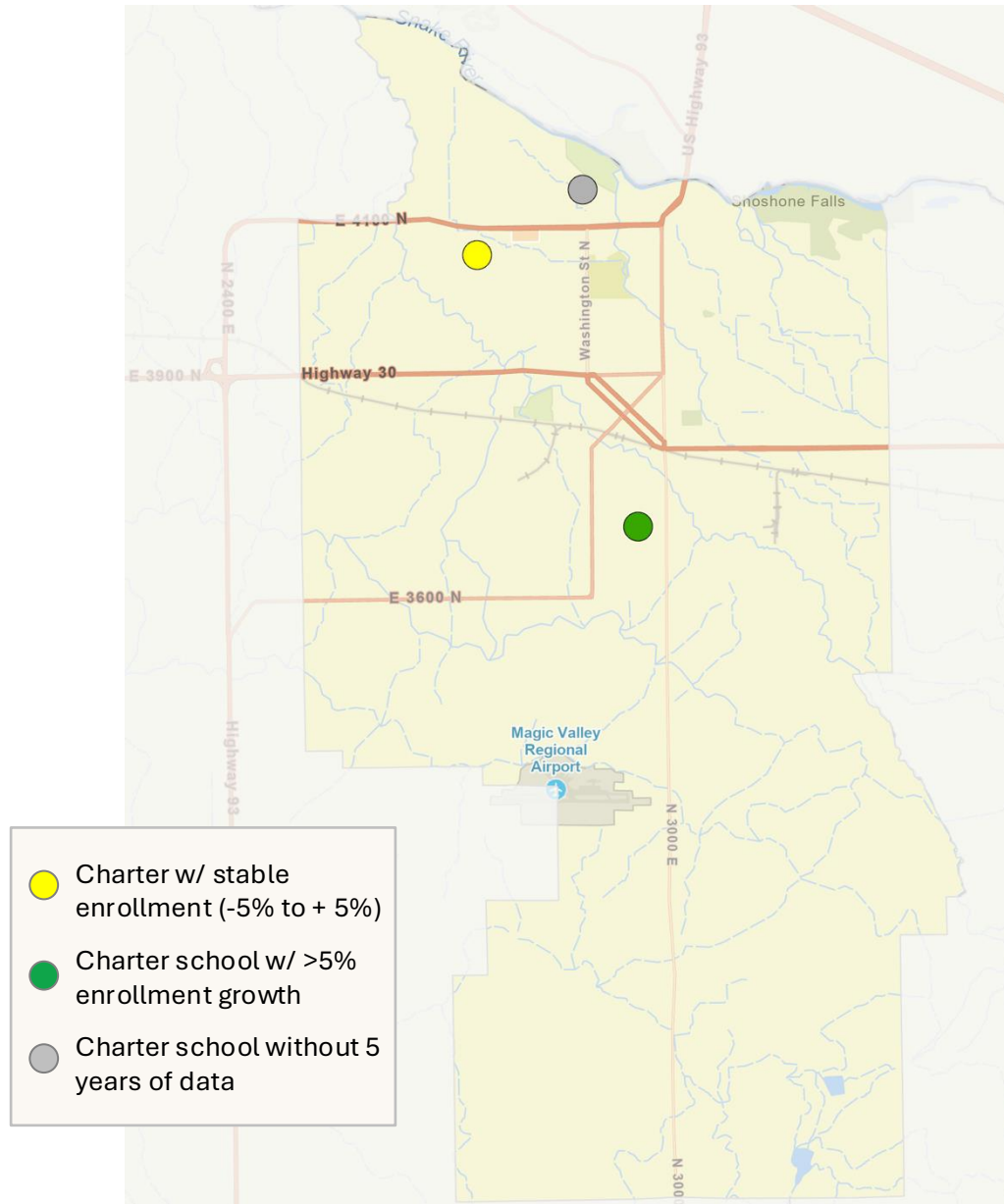
## 25% Students of Color; 6% youth in poverty

- **Slightly lower** share of SoC than state
- **Much lower** share of youth in poverty than state

## High-performing schools

- **3<sup>rd</sup>-highest math and ELA** proficiency rates of districts over 1k
- **5<sup>th</sup>-highest math growth and 2<sup>nd</sup>-highest ELA** growth of 1k+ districts
- **Near state average** chronic absenteeism
- **Above state** graduation rates

# District Profiles: Twin Falls presents the 8<sup>th</sup>-highest opportunity for charter expansion with stable enrollment trends, favorable demographics, and lower-performing schools.



## Over 10K students

- **Down 1%** since SY20-21 (1% year-over-year)
- 5-17 population **up 7%** from 2019 to 2024

## 15% charter share in 3 schools (excludes virtual)

- Charter enrollment **up 25%** over 5 years
- Gem Prep – Twin Falls opened in SY23-24 and has had large enrollment increases every year
- Pinecrest Academy (417 enrollment) and Xavier Charter (675) are both at or within 2 students of their 5-year max enrollment

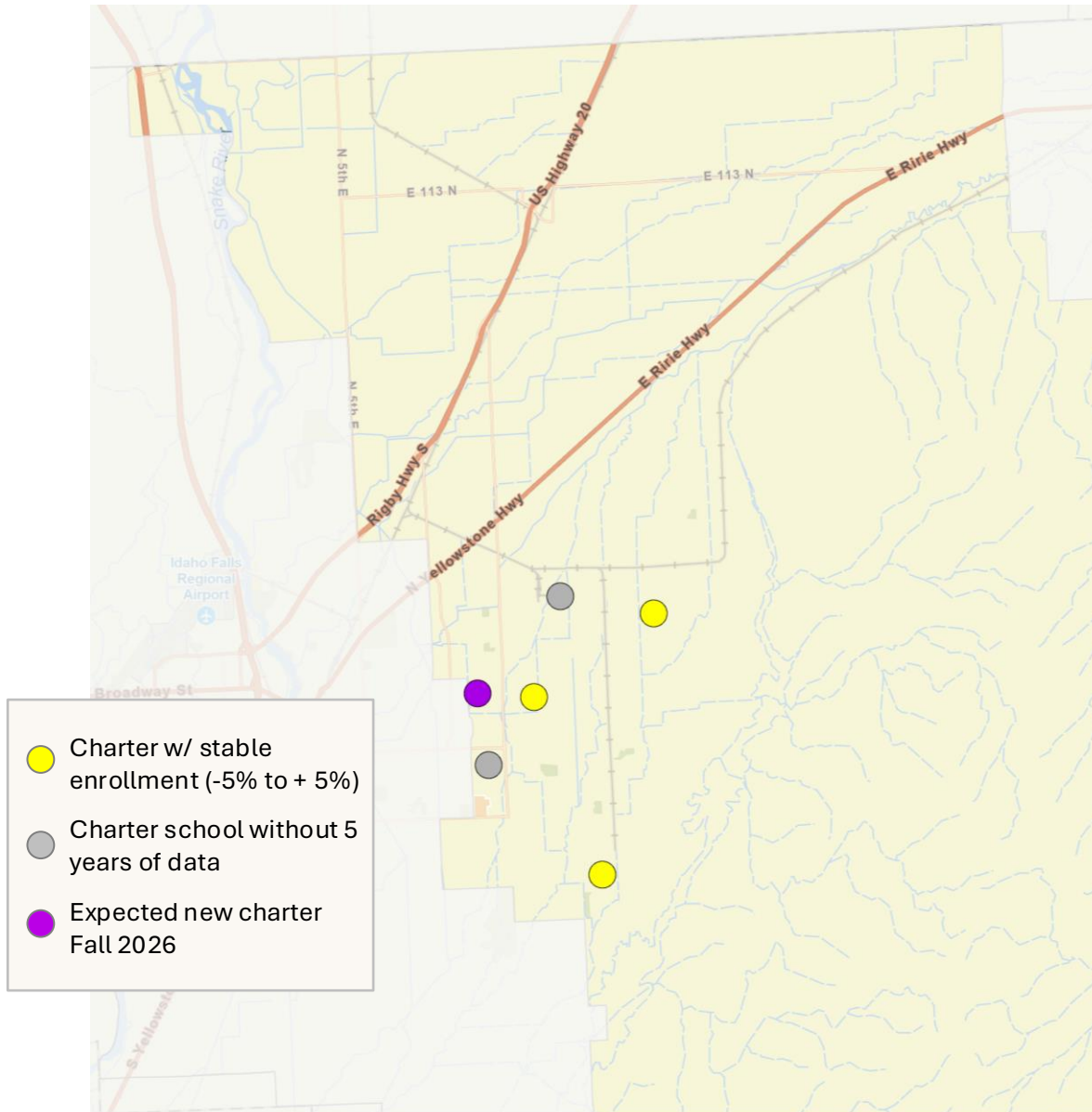
## 36% Students of Color; 12% youth in poverty

- **Higher share of SoC** than state
- Slightly higher share of youth in poverty than state

## Lower-performing schools

- **Below state** overall proficiency
- **Slightly lower** than state-level growth
- **Slightly higher** chronic absenteeism than state
- **Comparable** graduation rates to state

# District Profiles: Bonneville, as the 3<sup>rd</sup>-largest district, has the 9<sup>th</sup>-highest opportunity for charter expansion largely due to size and favorable enrollment and population trends.



## Almost 15.5K students

- **Up 8%** since SY20-21 (down less than half a percent year-over-year)
- 5-17 population **up 20%** from 2019 to 2024

## 14% charter share in 5 schools (excludes virtual)

- Charter enrollment **up 79%** over 5 years
- 2 new schools have opened since SY20-21, both with consistent enrollment increases: Alturas Prep (2021), and Elevate East (2024)
- The 3 remaining have all been stable or grown over 5 years, and 2 are at their recent max (Taylors Crossing declined 4%)
- Gem Prep Idaho Falls is expected to open in Fall 2026

## 20% Students of Color; 8% youth in poverty

- **Lower shares** of SoC and youth in poverty than state

## Mediocre schools

- **Similar** though slightly lower proficiency and growth to state
- **Around state average** absenteeism
- **Higher** graduation rate than state

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**County Insights & Opportunities**

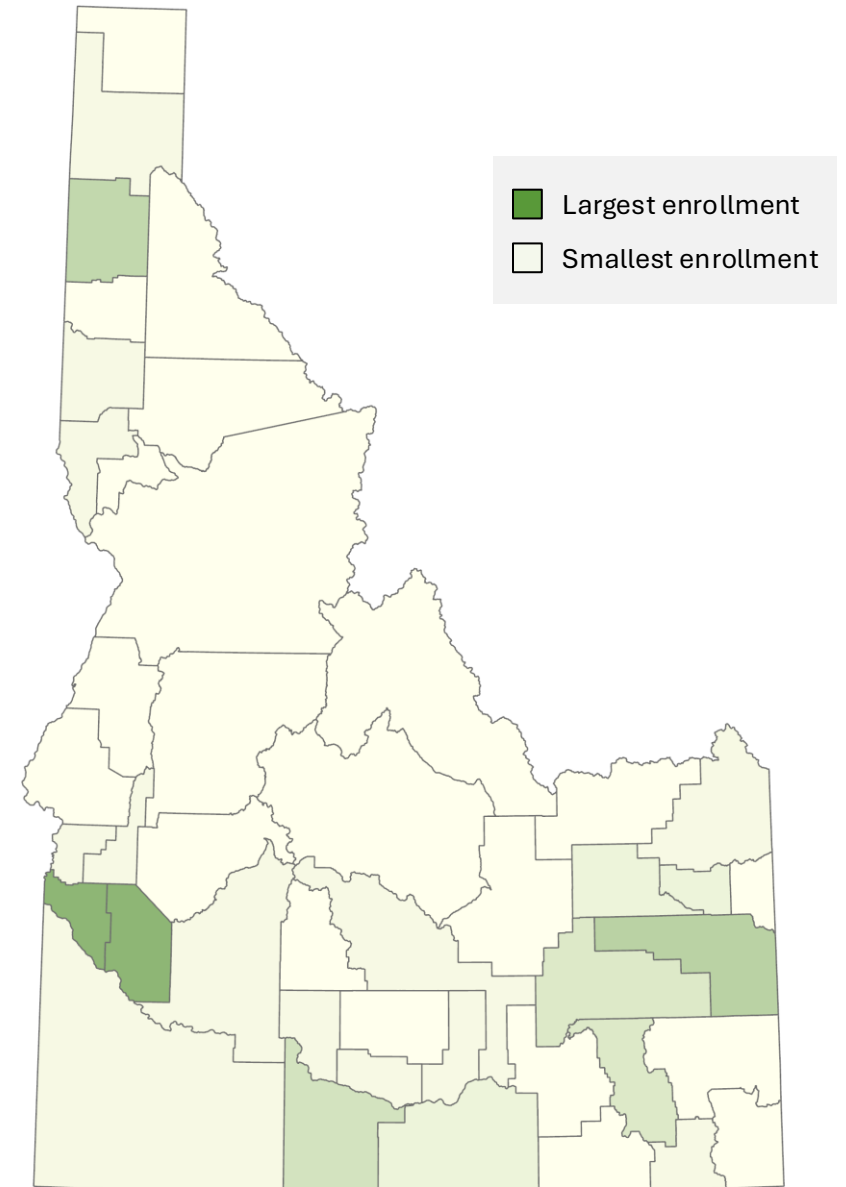
Charter Risk Analysis

## 55% of Idaho students are enrolled in Ada, Canyon, Bonneville, or Kootenai Counties.

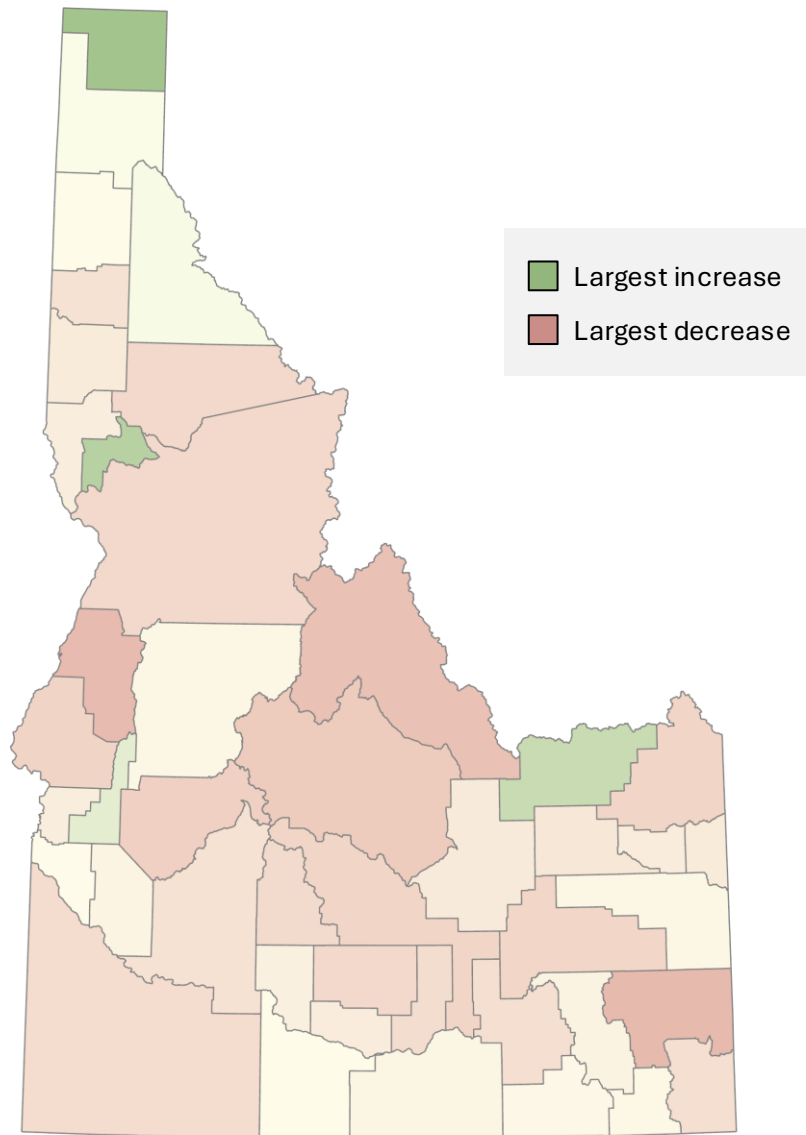
Seven Idaho counties have enrollment above 10k (district + charter):

- Ada (72,505)
- Canyon (41,848)
- Bonneville (26,985)
- Kootenai (22,633)
- Twin Falls (16,103)
- Bannock (13,973)
- Bingham (11,634)

10 of 44 counties have fewer than 1,000 students and are excluded from much of the analysis.



## Only 6 counties (14%) grew in enrollment year-over-year, while 35 decreased.



Only 4 counties with over 1k students grew year-over-year:

- Boundary County (1,669 enrollment): +16%
- Gem County (3,264): +5%
- Shoshone County (1,691): +1%
- Bonner County (4,965): +1%

The three largest counties were stable or shrank slightly:

- Ada (72,505): -1%
- Canyon (41,848): 0%
- Bonneville (26,985) -1%

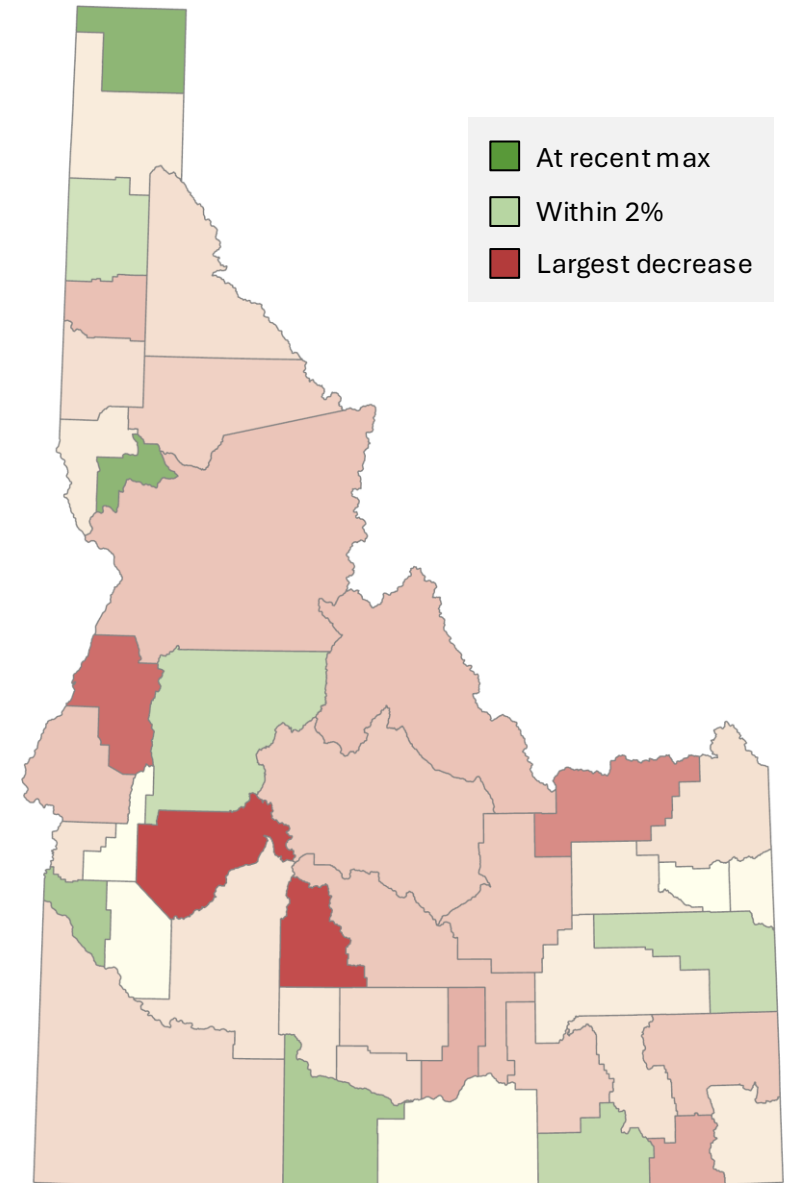
Counties over 1k with the largest decreases were:

- Caribou (1,403): -8%
- Washington (1,662): -5%
- Blaine (2,994): -5%
- Fremont (2,088): -5%
- Bingham (11,634): -4%

# Of 34 counties with over 1,000 students, only 1 is at its recent max enrollment, while 22 have shrunk by 5% or more.

Counties with >1k students closest to their recent max enrollment:

County	2025-26 Enrollment	Difference from 5-year max	1-year Change	5-year Change
BOUNDARY	1,669	Peak	16%	28%
TWIN FALLS	16,103	-1%	0%	1%
CANYON	41,848	-1%	0%	5%
BONNEVILLE	26,985	-1%	-1%	4%
VALLEY	1,642	-1%	-1%	11%
KOOTENAI	22,633	-1%	0%	4%
GEM	3,264	-2%	5%	8%
MADISON	7,781	-2%	-2%	14%
ADA	72,505	-2%	-1%	0%



Note: Includes charters located within district boundaries  
Source: Idaho Department of Education enrollment data

## While more counties experienced increases in births over the past 5 years, these growing areas are widely distributed both geographically and in size.

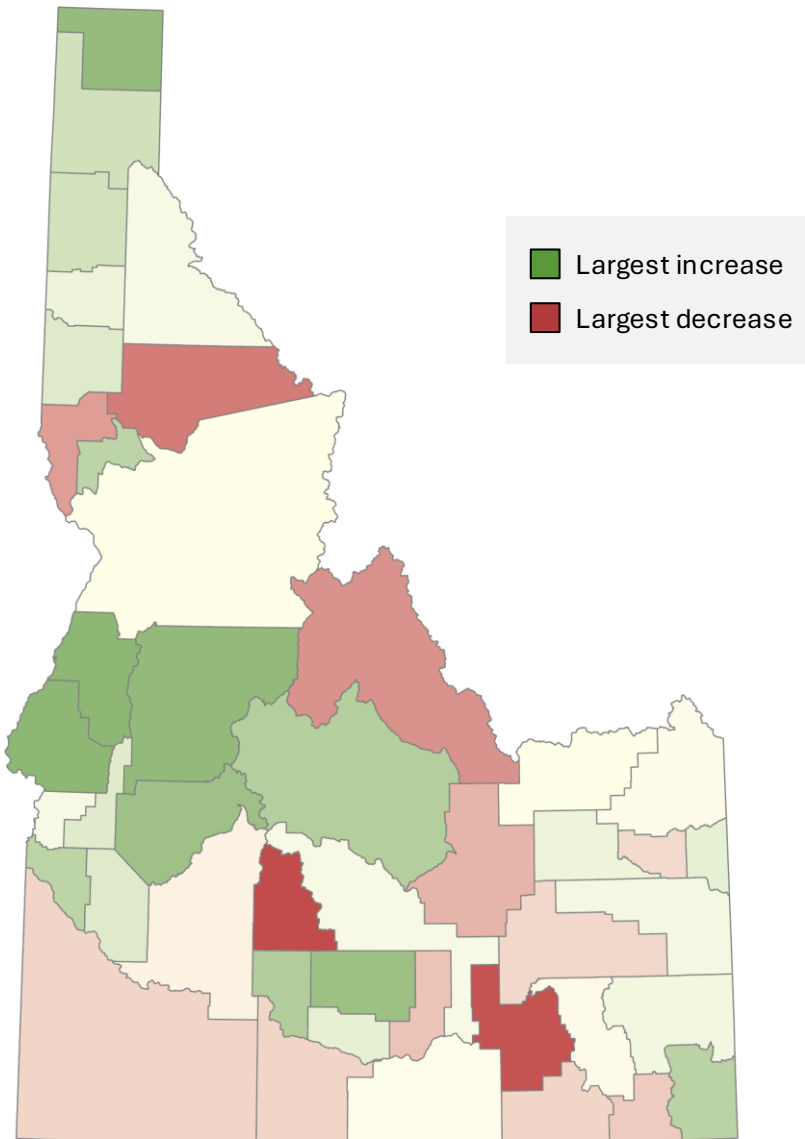
25 counties experienced increasing births from 2019 to 2025. Those with the largest increases and 1k+ students were:

- Washington (+61%)
- Valley (+29%)
- Boundary (+28%)
- Gooding (+21%)
- Bear Lake (+18%)
- Canyon (+18%)
- Bonner (+12%)
- Kootenai (+12%)
- Latah (+9%)
- Ada (+9%)
- Gem (+9%)

Bonneville, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-largest county, had a 3% increase in births.

16 counties experienced decreasing births. Those with the largest decreases and over 1k students were:

- Power (-29%)
- Clearwater (-22%)
- Nez Perce (-16%)
- Minidoka (-10%)

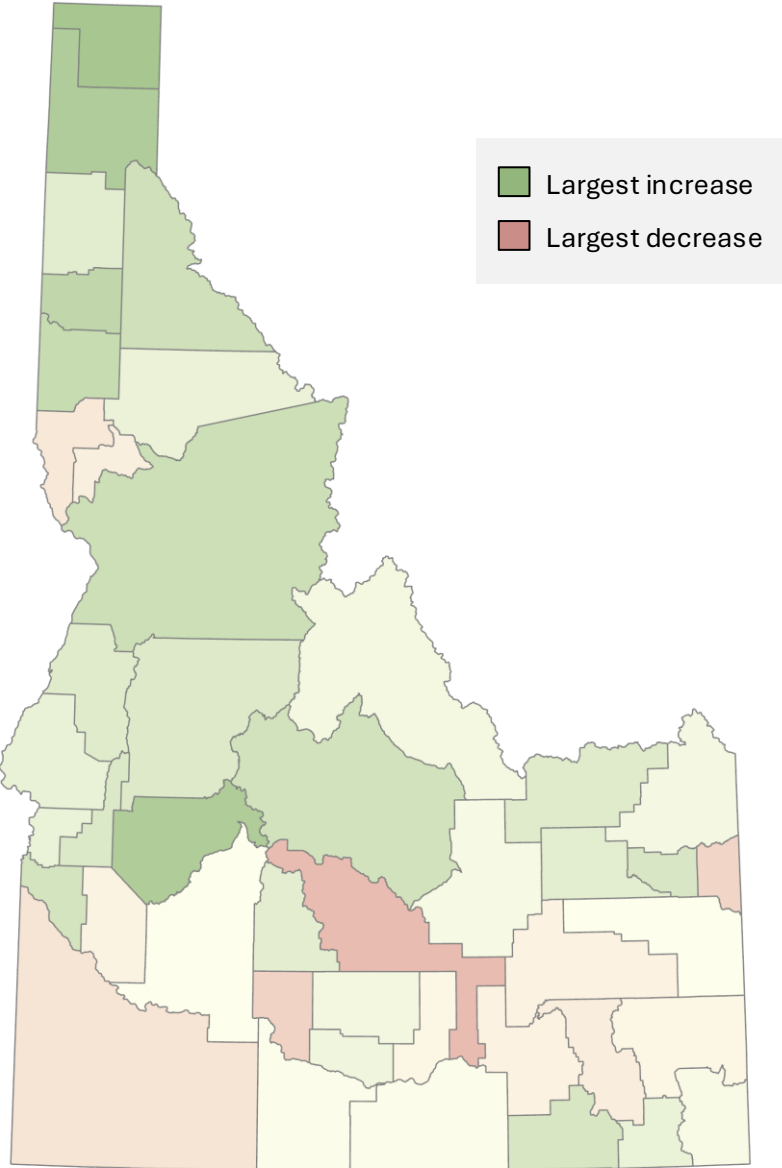


# Many larger counties have experienced significant child population growth over 5 years; 68% of all counties have increases.

Counties with the largest increases in child population:

County	Census 2024 <18 Pop. Estimate	2020-2024 <18 Pop. Change
Boundary	3,263	16%
Boise	1,335	14%
Bonner	10,558	14%
Benewah	2,319	11%
Latah	8,089	10%
Idaho	3,552	9%
Shoshone	2,922	8%
Custer	780	8%
Canyon	69,310	8%
Oneida	1,342	7%
Madison	11,431	7%

Ada, conversely, had a 1% decline in the child population.



Source: U.S. Census 7/1/2024 County Characteristics Resident Population Estimates, released June 2025.

# State Department of Labor projections calculate 57% of counties to grow their under-15 population by 2034, including several of the largest.

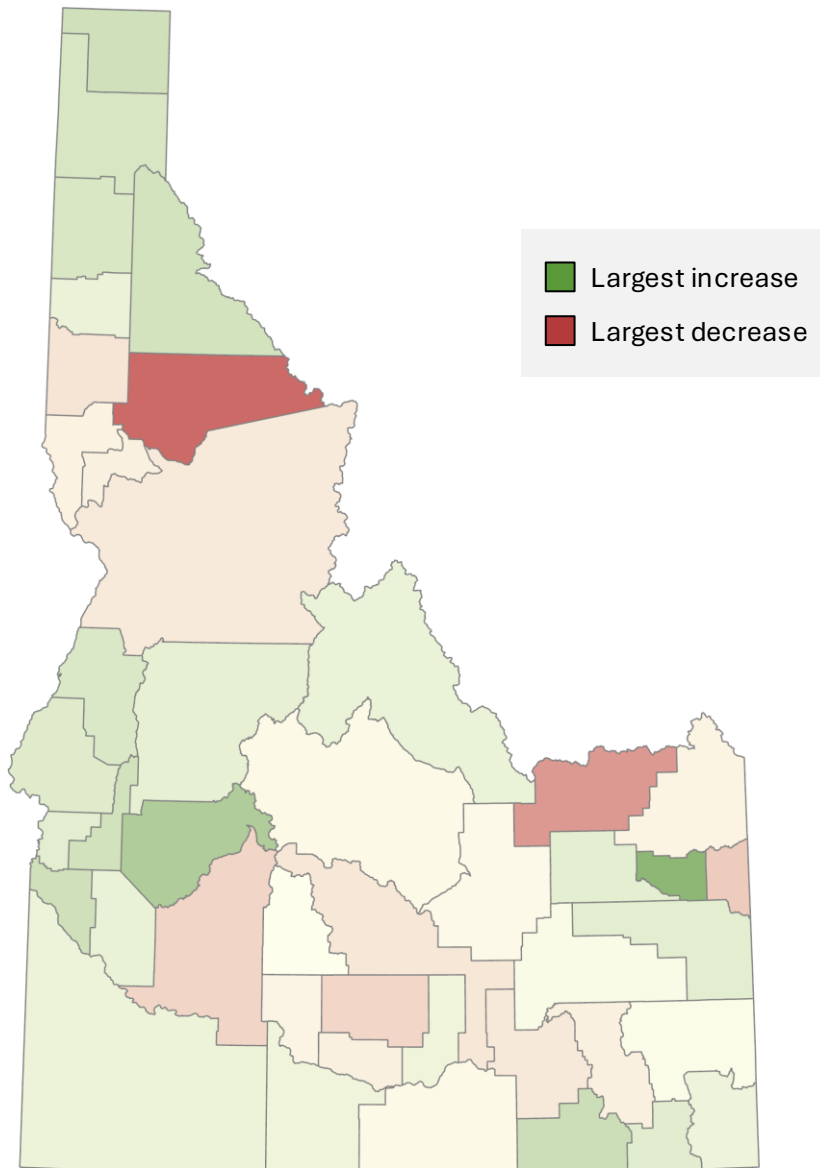
Counties with the largest forecast growth are:

- Madison (+78% or **7,247**)
- Boise (+21% or 233)
- Oneida (+14% or 151)
- Canyon (+13% or **7,094**)
- Boundary (+13% or 344)
- Gem (+12% or 455)
- Shoshone (+12% or 293)
- Bonner (+10% or 881)
- Kootenai (+10% or **3,356**)

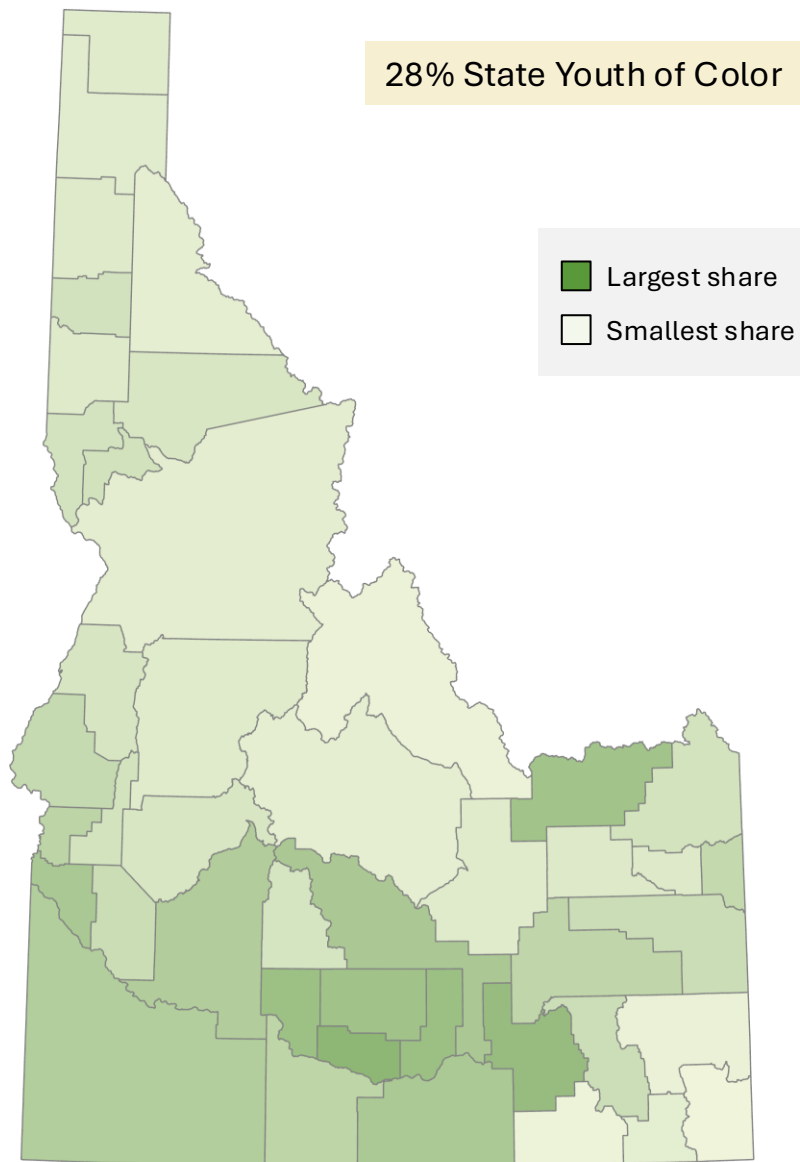
Ada, the largest county by enrollment, and Bonneville, the 3<sup>rd</sup>-largest, also have strong forecast growth (Ada: 6% or **5,267** ; Bonneville: 7% or **2,336**)

Counties with the largest forecast declines are:

- Clearwater (-25% or -280)
- Clark (-17% or -30)
- Teton (-9% or -178)
- Elmore (-7% or -424)



## Counties with the highest proportions of Youth of Color are in the Southern portion of the state.



9 counties have over 40%:

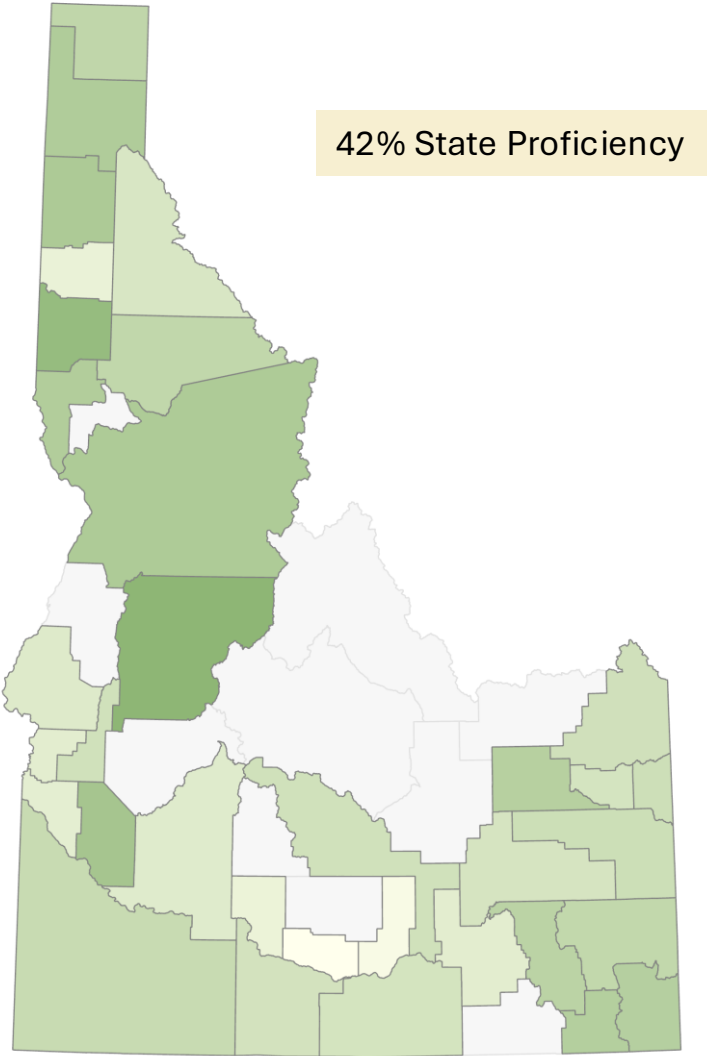
- Jerome: 56%
- Power: 51%
- Minidoka: 49%
- Gooding: 49%
- Lincoln: 47%
- Clark: 46%
- Canyon: 42%
- Blaine: 42%
- Cassia: 42%

The remaining two of three largest counties by enrollment have similar shares of Youth of Color to the state (Ada and Bonneville both at 26%)

19 of 44 counties have over 25% Youth of Color.

# Counties with the highest proficiency rates are generally in the Northern part of the state. State proficiency: 42% Math, 53% ELA

County 2025 Math Proficiency Rates



- Highest rates
- Lowest rates
- District <1k enrollment

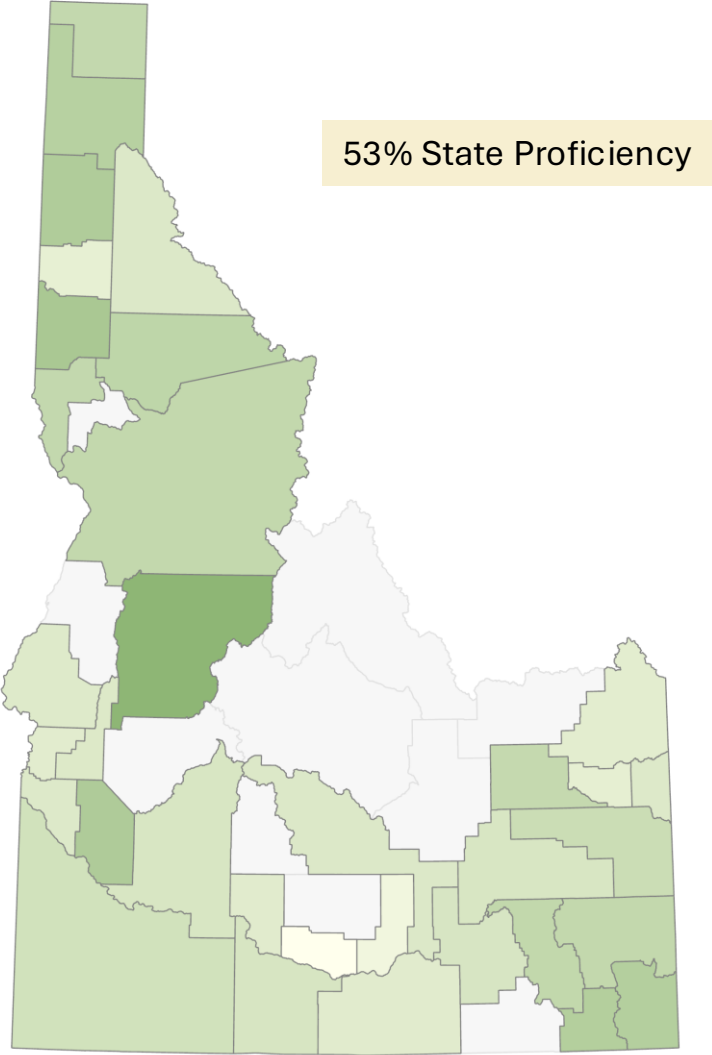
The counties with 4k+ students and the lowest proficiency rates are:

- Jerome (4,511): 23% Math, 33% ELA
- Minidoka (4,055): 26% Math, 38% ELA
- Canyon (41,848): 32% Math, 45% ELA
- Payette (4,230): 32% Math, 44% ELA
- Madison (7,781): 37% Math, 42% ELA






Those with the highest rates are:

- Ada (72,505): 52% Math, 62% ELA
- Kootenai (22,633): 50% Math, 62% ELA
- Bonner (4,965): 49% Math, 59% ELA
- Nez Perce (5,096): 48% Math, 55% ELA
- Bannock (13,973): 45% Math, 55% ELA
- Jefferson (6,941): 47% Math, 54% ELA

County 2025 ELA Proficiency Rates



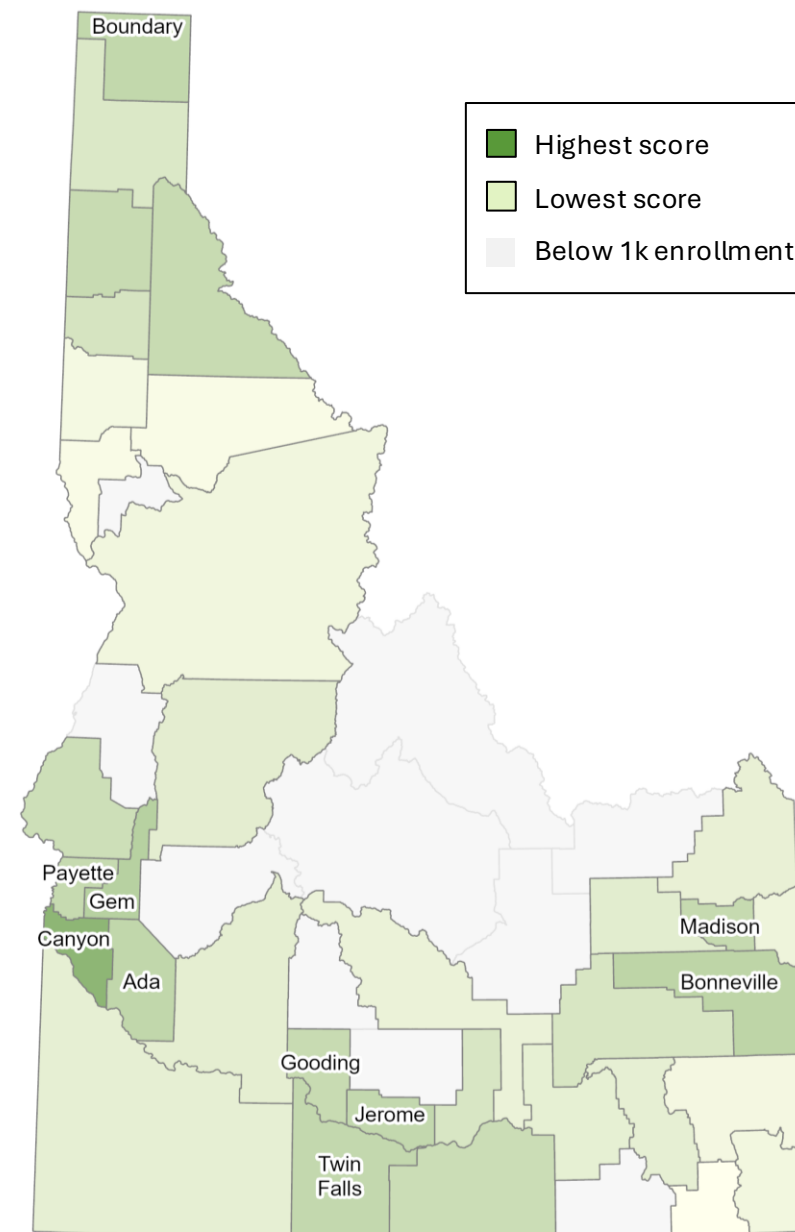
**County-level opportunities for new charter schools combine a similar series of metrics from various data sources to provide a higher-level view of geographic opportunity.**

Category		Indicator	Sample Weight (1-5)				
	<b>Enrollment</b> 25%	2025-26 K-12 Enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		1-year Enrollment Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Difference from 5-Year Max Enrollment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Student Pop</b> 30%	Census 2024 under 18 Population Estimate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Census under 18 2020-24 Population Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		2019-24 County Change in Births	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		County 2024-34 under 15 Forecast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Demographics</b> 20%	2024 % Youth (<20) of Color (Census)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		2024 % 5-17 in Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Academics</b> 25%	2025 Math % Proficient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		2025 ELA % Proficient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		2025 Math Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		2025 ELA Growth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		IRI % At Grade Level Spring 24-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		IRI % At Grade Level Fall 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Chronic Absenteeism 24-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		4-year Graduation Rate 24-25	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Competition</b> 0%	Charter Share	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Canyon clearly presents the strongest opportunity for charter expansion at the county level when considering a range of prioritization factors.

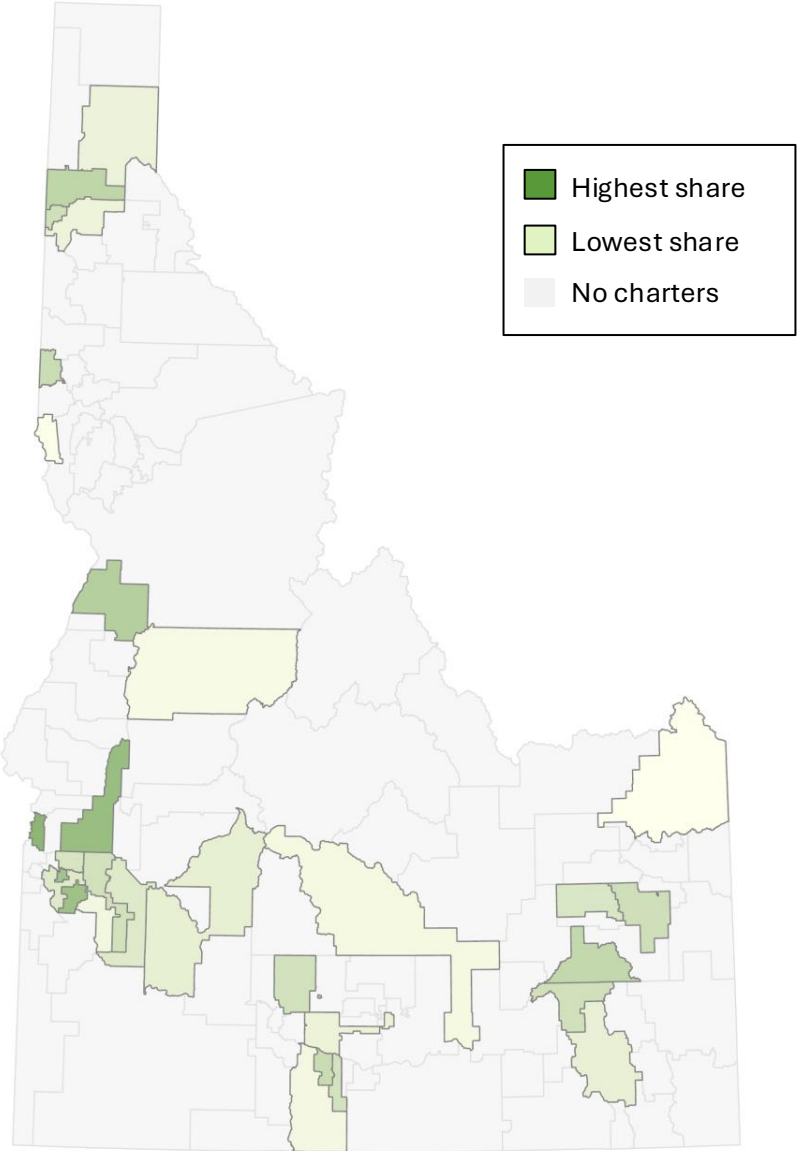
The top 10 Idaho counties by opportunity score are:

County	Total Score	25-26 Enrollment	Diff. from 5-year Max	1-year Change	10-year Forecast	Charter Share
Canyon	4.3	41,848	-1%	0%	13%	17%
Gem	3.5	3,264	-2%	5%	12%	26%
Bonneville	3.4	26,985	-1%	-1%	7%	12%
Ada	3.3	72,505	-2%	-1%	6%	11%
Boundary	3.3	1,669	0%	16%	13%	0%
Jerome	3.3	4,511	-6%	-2%	-3%	6%
Twin Falls	3.2	16,103	-1%	0%	4%	11%
Madison	3.2	7,781	-2%	-2%	78%	0%
Payette	3.2	4,230	-6%	-2%	7%	15%
Gooding	3.2	2,899	-5%	-2%	-2%	6%



Note: Only counties with at least 1,000 students included. Includes charters located within county boundaries

# Fewer than half of Idaho counties currently have a charter presence.



19 of 44 counties have non-virtual charters. Those with the highest shares are:

1. Gem (3,264 enrollment): 26%
2. Lemhi (830): 17%
3. Canyon (41,848): 17%
4. Payette (4,230): 15%
5. Bannock (13,973): 12%
6. Bonneville (26,985): 12%
7. Twin Falls (16,103): 11%
8. Ada (72,505): 11%
9. Kootenai (22,633): 11%

The largest counties with no charters are:

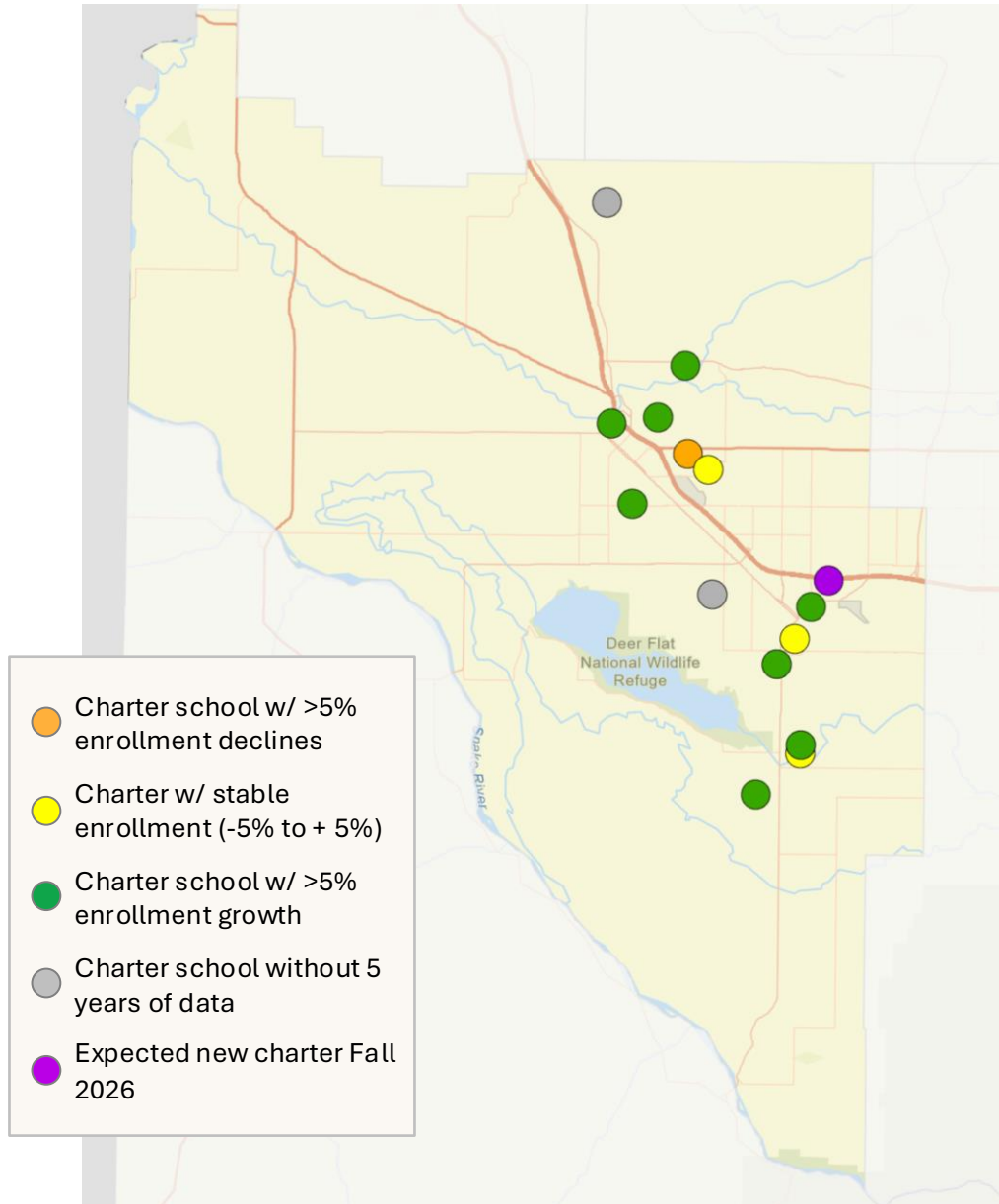
1. Madison (7,781)
2. Jefferson (6,941)
3. Cassia (5,381)
4. Minidoka (4,055)

## Canyon and Gem remain the top opportunity counties in 2026.

2024 Top 15 County Opportunities		
County Name	Total Score	Rank 2026
Canyon County	4.3	1
Gem County	3.6	2
Benewah County	3.5	15
Jerome County	3.5	6
Twin Falls County	3.4	7
Washington County	3.4	14
Bonneville County	3.4	3
Kootenai County	3.3	11
Shoshone County	3.3	12
Bingham County	3.3	16
Cassia County	3.3	13
Madison County	3.3	8
Elmore County	3.2	21
Payette County	3.2	9
Ada County	3.2	4

2026 Top 15 County Opportunities			
County	Total Score	Rank 2024	Change
Canyon County	4.3	1	=
Gem County	3.5	2	=
Bonneville County	3.4	7	+4
Ada County	3.3	15	+9
Boundary County	3.3	21	+16
Jerome County	3.3	4	-2
Twin Falls County	3.2	5	-2
Madison County	3.2	12	+4
Payette County	3.2	14	+5
Gooding County	3.2	23	+13
Kootenai County	3.2	8	-3
Shoshone County	3.2	9	-7
Cassia County	3.1	11	-6
Washington County	3.1	6	-13
Benewah County	2.9	3	-17

# County Profiles: Canyon clearly separates itself as the greatest opportunity for charter expansion due to its enrollment size and trend, as well as demographics and low academic quality



## Almost 42K students in 8 districts

- Contains the #1, #2, and #4 opportunity districts: Vallivue, Caldwell, and Nampa
- **Up 5%** since SY20-21 (flat year-over-year), but **down 1%** from 22-23 peak
- Under 18 pop **up 8%** from 2020 to 2024
- **+13% forecast** under 15 population change by 2034
- **+18% trend** in births (2019 to 2024)

## 17% charter share in 14 schools (excludes virtual)

- 1 charter has declined more than 5% since SY20-21: Thomas Jefferson Charter, **down 7%**
- 2 new schools have opened since SY20-21, both with **stable or increasing** enrollment each year: Elevate Academy Nampa (2022), and Promise Academy (2023)
- Brabeion Academy is expected to **open in Fall 2026**

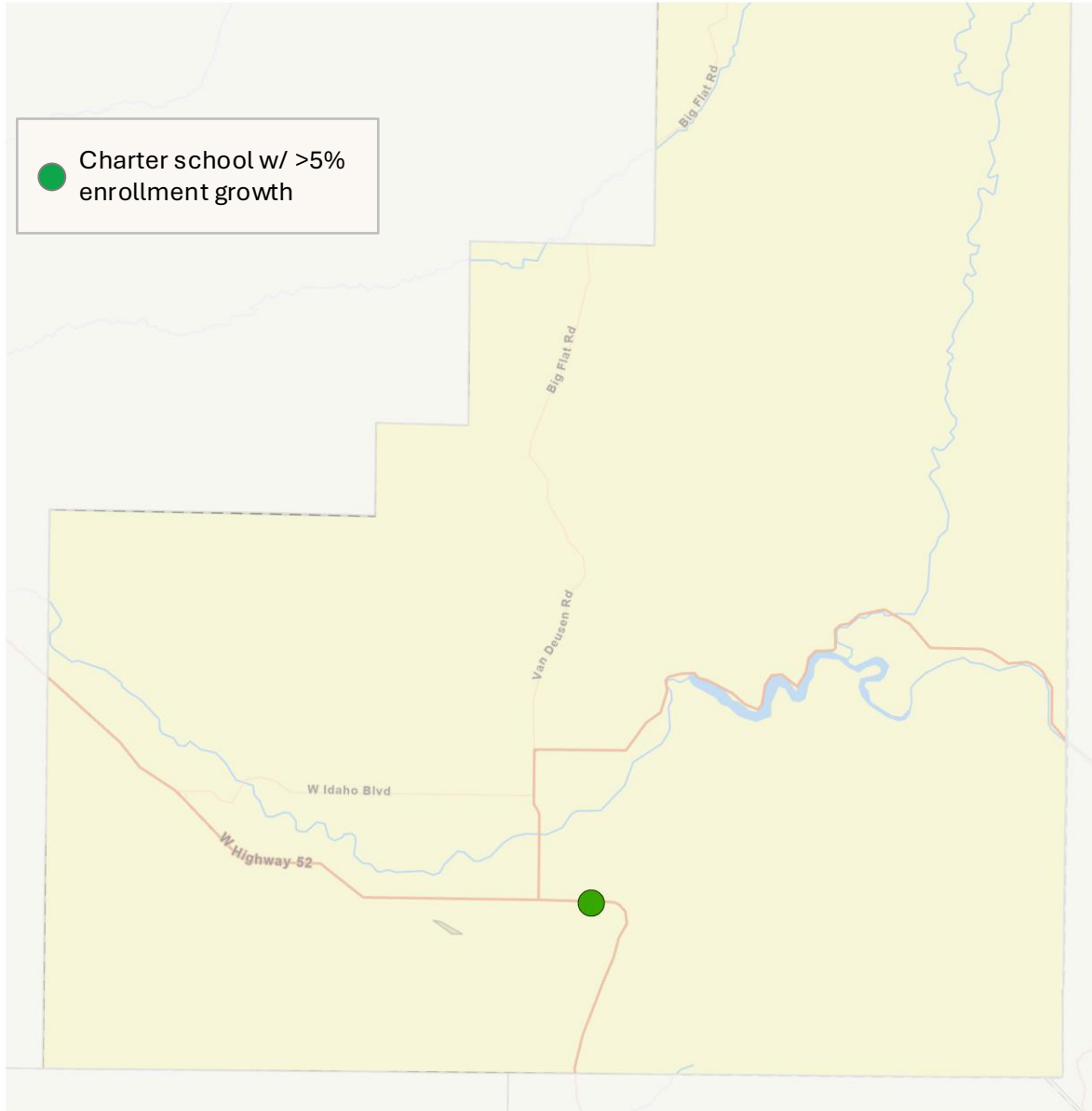
## 42% Youth of Color; 11% youth in poverty

- **Much higher share of YoC** than state
- Comparable share of youth in poverty to state

## Relatively poor-performing schools

- **Well below state-level** proficiency and growth
- **Higher chronic** absenteeism than the state
- **Similar** graduation rate to the state

# County Profiles: Gem presents the 2<sup>nd</sup>-highest opportunity for charter expansion due to favorable population trends, as well as lower school performance.



## Over 3K students in 1 district

- **Contains the #6** opportunity district: Emmett Independent
- **Up 8%** since SY20-21 (**5%** year-over-year), but **down 2%** from 23-24 peak
- Under 18 pop **up 6%** from 2020 to 2024
- **+12% forecast** under 15 population change by 2034
- **+9% trend** in births (2019 to 2024)

## 26% charter share in 1 school (excludes virtual)

- Payette River Technical Academy enrolls 859 students and has increased 50% over 5 years

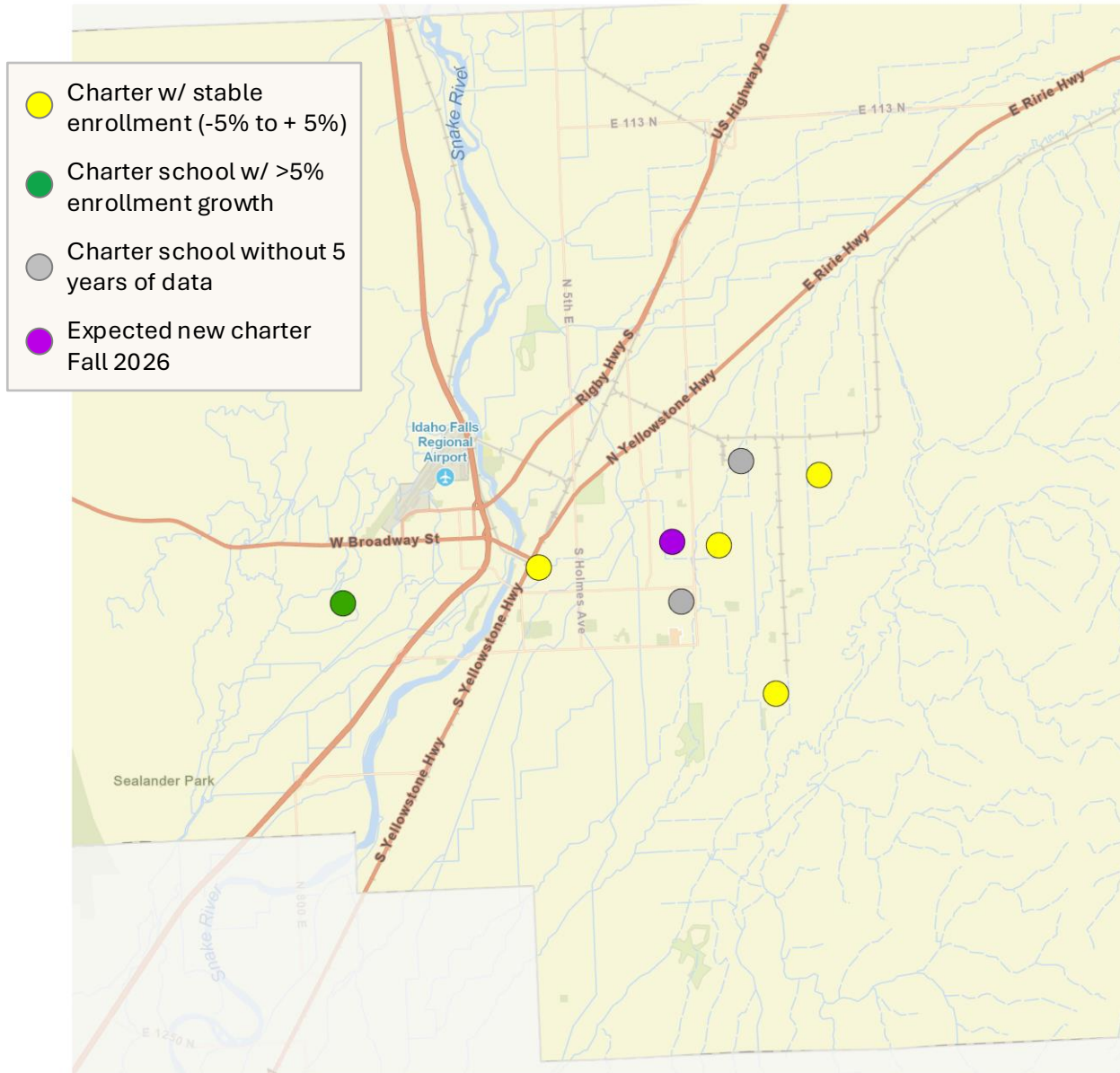
## 22% Youth of Color; 16% youth in poverty

- **Lower share of YoC** than state
- **Higher share** of youth in poverty than state

## Lower academic quality

- **Below state-level** proficiency and growth
- **Comparable** chronic absenteeism to the state
- **Lower** graduation rate than the state

# County Profiles: Bonneville presents the 3<sup>rd</sup>-highest opportunity for charter expansion largely due to flat or growing enrollment and population trends.



## Over 38K students in 4 districts

- Contains the #9 and #12 opportunity districts: Bonneville Joint and Idaho Falls
- **Up 4%** since SY20-21 (**down 1%** year-over-year)
- Under 18 pop **flat** from 2020 to 2024
- **+7% forecast** under 15 population change by 2034
- **+13% trend** in births (2019 to 2024)

## 12% charter share in 7 schools (excludes virtual)

- None have significant enrollment declines
- 2 new schools have opened since SY20-21, both with **consistent enrollment increases**: Alturas Prep (2021), and Elevate East (2024)
- Gem Prep Idaho Falls is expected to **open in Fall 2026**

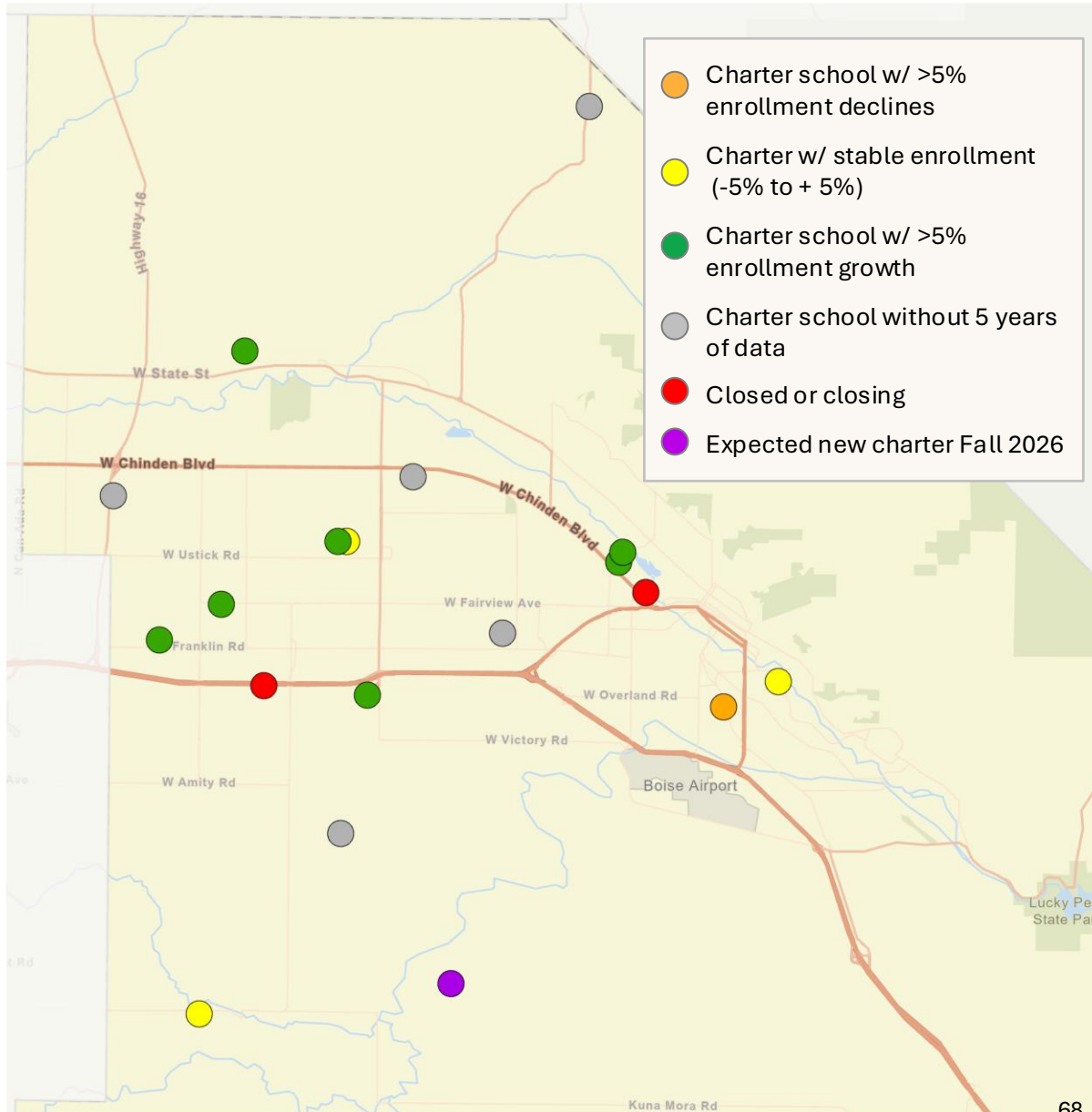
## 26% Youth of Color; 9% youth in poverty

- **Comparable** shares of YoC and youth in poverty to state

## Mediocre schools

- **Slightly below** state-level proficiency rates
- **Comparable** growth to state
- **Comparable** absenteeism to the state
- **Slightly higher** graduation rate than the state

# County Profiles: Ada presents the 4<sup>th</sup>-highest opportunity for charter expansion due to its enrollment size and relatively stable trend



## Almost 72.5K students in 3 districts

- Contains the #7 and #20 opportunity districts: West Ada and Boise
- Flat since SY20-21, but down 1% year-over-year) and down 2% from 22-23 peak
- Under 18 pop down 1% from 2020 to 2024
- +6% forecast under 15 population change by 2034
- +9% trend in births (2019 to 2024)

## 11% charter share in 17 schools (excluding 9 virtual)

- 1 charter has declined >5% since SY20-21: Peace Valley, down 34%
- 5 new schools have opened since SY20-21, all but Cardinal Acad. (2021) with overall and year-over-year enrollment increases: Gem Prep Meridian North (2021), Gem Prep Meridian South (2022), Idaho Novus Classical (2024), and Pathways in Ed – West Ada (2024)
- Project Impact STEM Academy closed at the end of SY25-26 and The Village Charter closed after SY23-24
- Valor Classical Academy is expected to open in Fall 2026

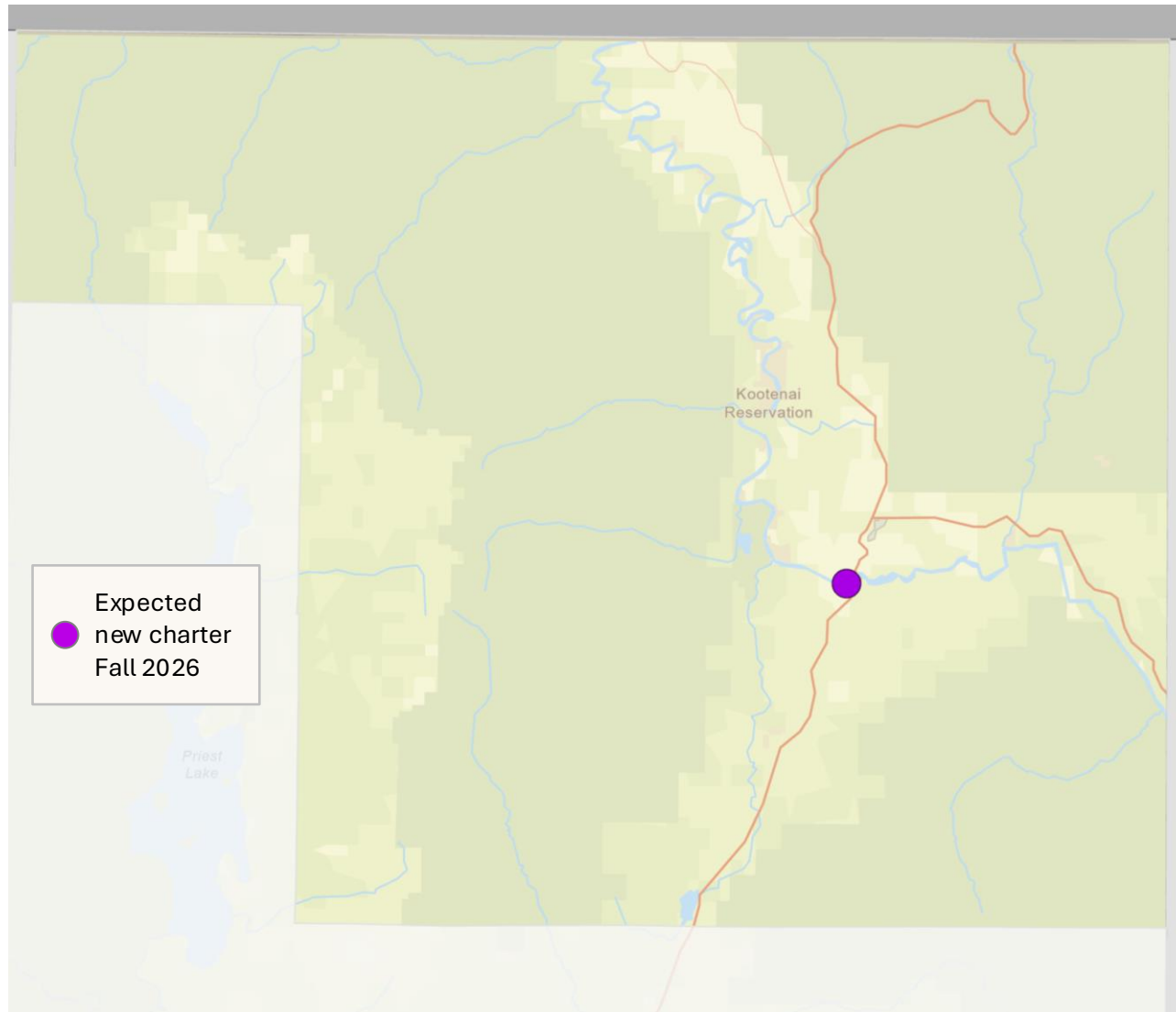
## 26% Youth of Color; 7% youth in poverty

- Comparable share of YoC to state
- Lower share of youth in poverty than state

## Relatively high-performing schools

- Well above state-level proficiency and growth

# County Profiles: Boundary presents the 5<sup>th</sup>-highest opportunity for charter expansion because of very strong enrollment and population growth.



## 1,669 students in 1 district

- **Contains the #11** opportunity district: Boundary County
- **Up 28%** since SY20-21 (**16%** year-over-year), **at 5-year max**
- Under 18 pop **up 16%** from 2020 to 2024
- **+13% forecast** under 15 population change by 2034
- **+28% trend** in births (2019 to 2024)

## No current charters

- North Idaho Classical Academy is planned to open in Fall 2026

## 15% Youth of Color; 16% youth in poverty

- **Much lower share of YoC** than state
- **Higher share** of youth in poverty than state

## Mixed indicators of academic quality

- **Slightly higher** proficiency rates than the state
- **2<sup>nd</sup>-highest** math growth and **above average** ELA growth
- **3<sup>rd</sup>-highest** chronic absenteeism
- **Comparable** graduation rate to the state

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**Charter Risk Analysis**

## Most Idaho charters serve the Treasure Valley, but there is an increasing presence across the state.

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9 Idaho charter schools have opened since Fall 2023:

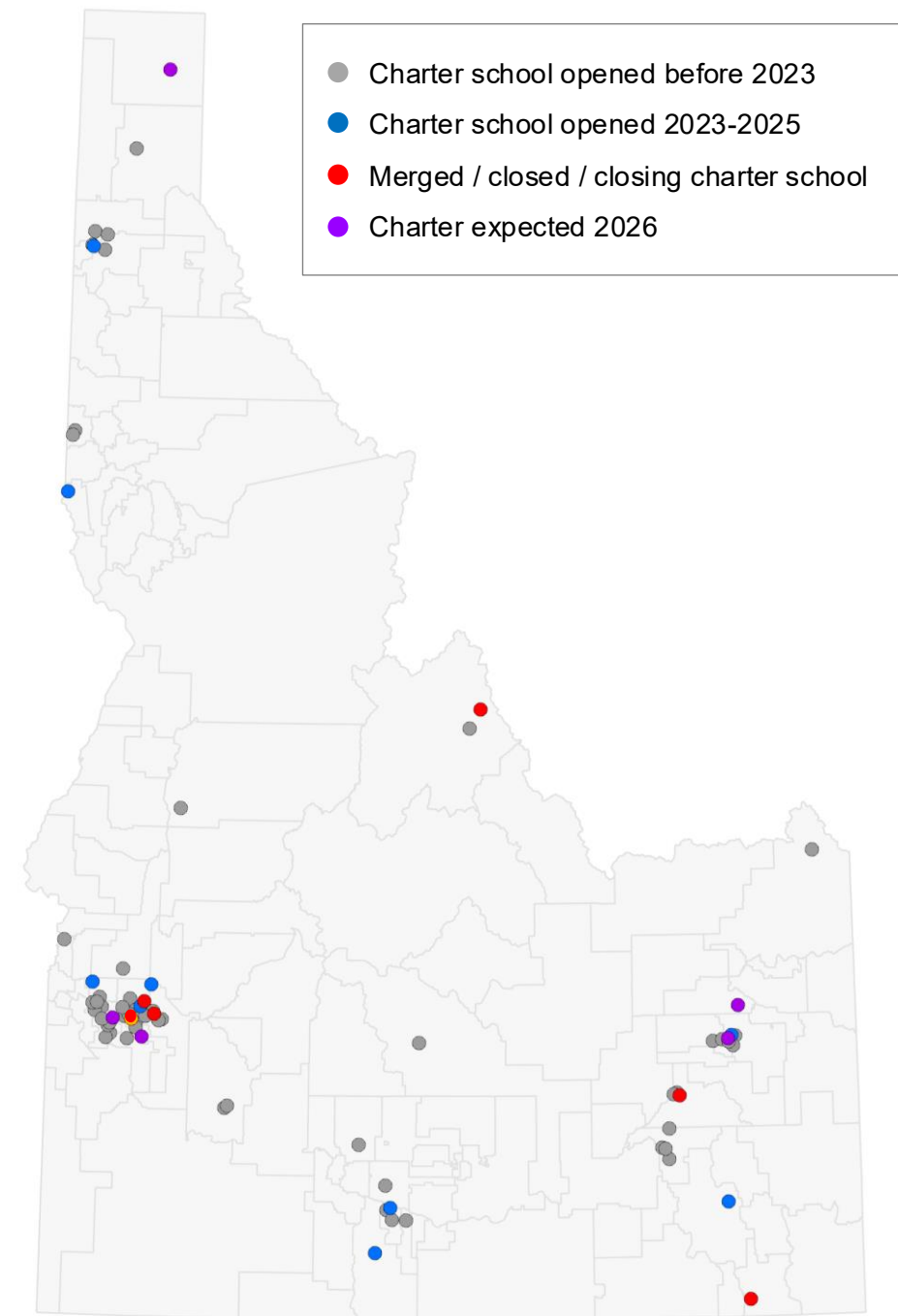
- Gem Prep – Twin Falls (2023)
- Kootenai Classical Academy (2023)
- Pinecrest Academy of Lewiston (2023)
- Promise Academy (2023)
- Elevate Academy East (2024)
- Idaho Novus Classical Academy (2024)
- Pathways in Education – West Ada (2024)
- Hollister Charter School (2025)
- Lava Hot Springs Academy (2025)

5 more are planned to open in Fall 2026:

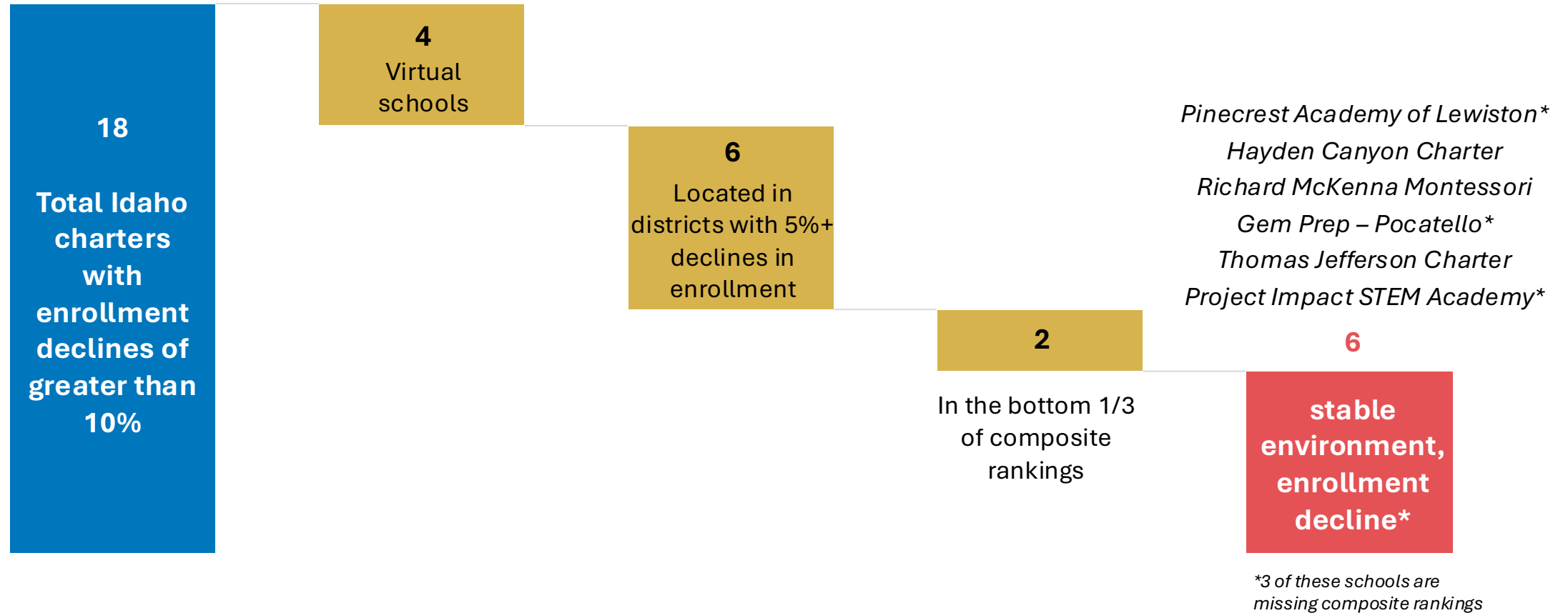
- Brabeion Academy (Nampa)
- Alturas Academy North (Rigby)
- Gem Prep Idaho Falls (Idaho Falls)
- Valor Classical Academy (Kuna)
- North Idaho Classical Academy (Bonners Ferry)

6 have closed or merged over the last 5 years, or are closing:

- The Village Charter School
- Idaho STEM Academy
- Upper Carmen Charter
- Southeast Idaho Professional Technical School
- Rolling Hills Public Charter (merged)
- Project Impact STEM Academy (Closing 2026)



# 21% of all charters are down 10% or more from their recent max enrollment; most of these are virtual or located in declining areas



## Charter schools with enrollment declines of at least 10% from their recent peak enrollment level

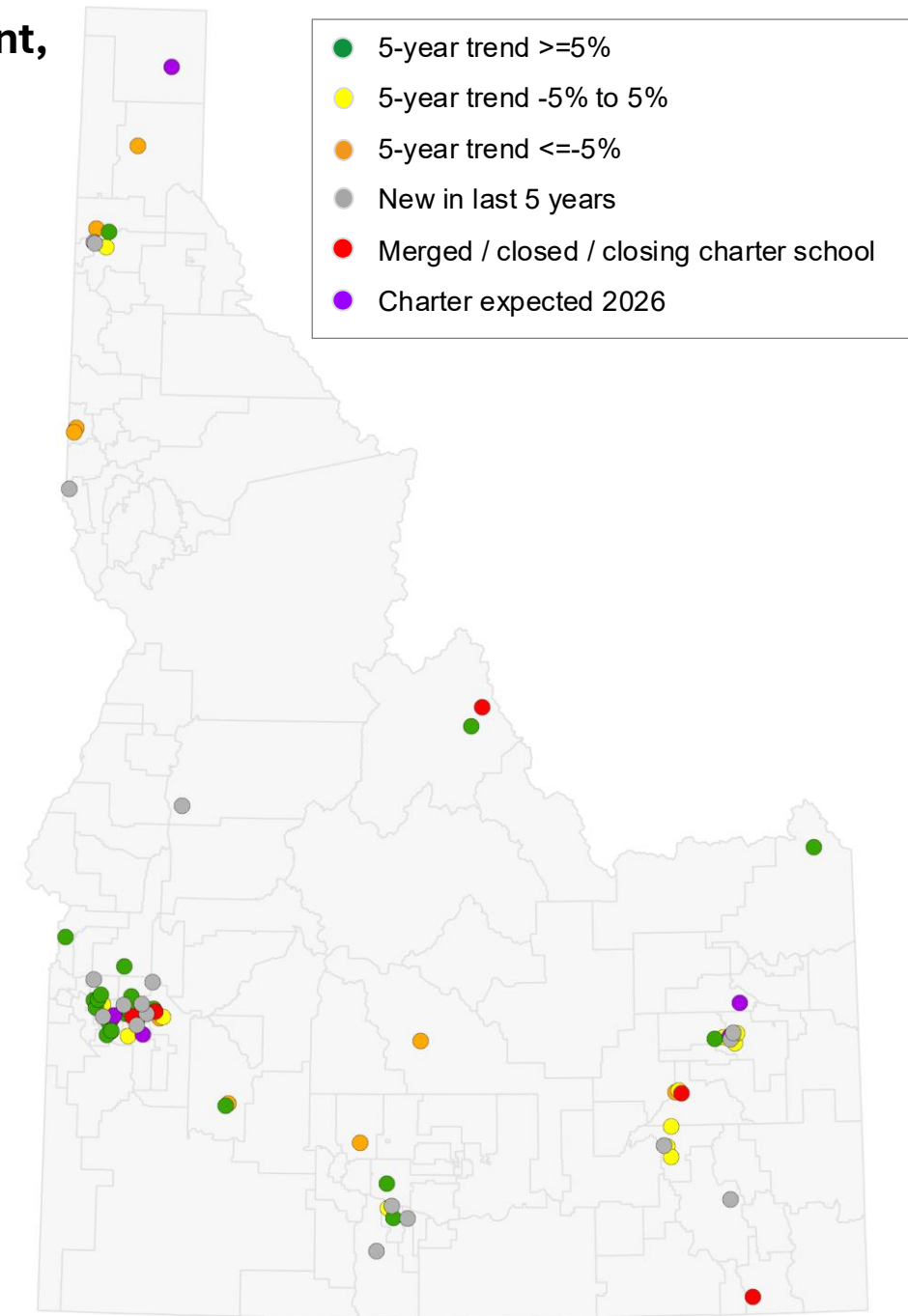
	School	2025-26 Enrollment	Diff. from 5-year max	School District	School District Diff. from Max	2025 Composite Rank
Brick-and-Mortar	PROJECT IMPACT STEM (Closing 2026)	148	-47%	Meridian Joint	-0.3%	<i>Not provided</i>
	MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY	47	-45%	Mccall-Donnelly Joint	-1.4%	<b>476</b>
	PEACE VALLEY CHARTER	205	-42%	Boise Independent	<b>-9.7%</b>	<b>597</b>
	CARDINAL ACADEMY	33	-38%	Boise Independent	<b>-9.7%</b>	<i>Not provided</i>
	PINECREST ACADEMY OF LEWISTON	98	-34%	Lewiston Independent	-3.2%	<i>Not provided</i>
	HAYDEN CANYON CHARTER	413	-28%	Lakeland	-3.9%	361
	NORTH VALLEY ACADEMY	167	-22%	Gooding Joint	<b>-10.5%</b>	<b>509</b>
	IDAHO SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	268	-22%	Blackfoot	<b>-6.0%</b>	<b>513</b>
	RICHARD MCKENNA MONTESSORI	167	-21%	Mountain Home	-4.8%	250
	PALOUSE PRAIRIE SCHOOL	176	-17%	Moscow	<b>-6.5%</b>	101
	GEM PREP - POCATELLO	406	-15%	Pocatello	-4.9%	<i>Not provided</i>
	CHIEFTAHGEE ELEMENTARY	106	-15%	Pocatello	-4.9%	<b>641</b>
	MOSCOW CHARTER	175	-11%	Moscow	<b>-6.5%</b>	130
THOMAS JEFFERSON CHARTER	337	-11%	Vallivue	0.0%	144	
Virtual	IDAHO CONNECTS ONLINE ALT	150	-30%	Boise Independent	<b>-9.7%</b>	397
	IDAHO CONNECTS ONLINE	127	-25%	Boise Independent	<b>-9.7%</b>	<b>666</b>
	IDAHO VIRTUAL ACADEMY	1701	-12%	Meridian Joint	-0.3%	<b>485</b>
	RICHARD MCKENNA ONLINE ALT	221	-11%	Mountain Home	-4.8%	<b>657</b>

## Most charters in the Treasure Valley have relatively stable enrollment, but overall trends by geography are variable

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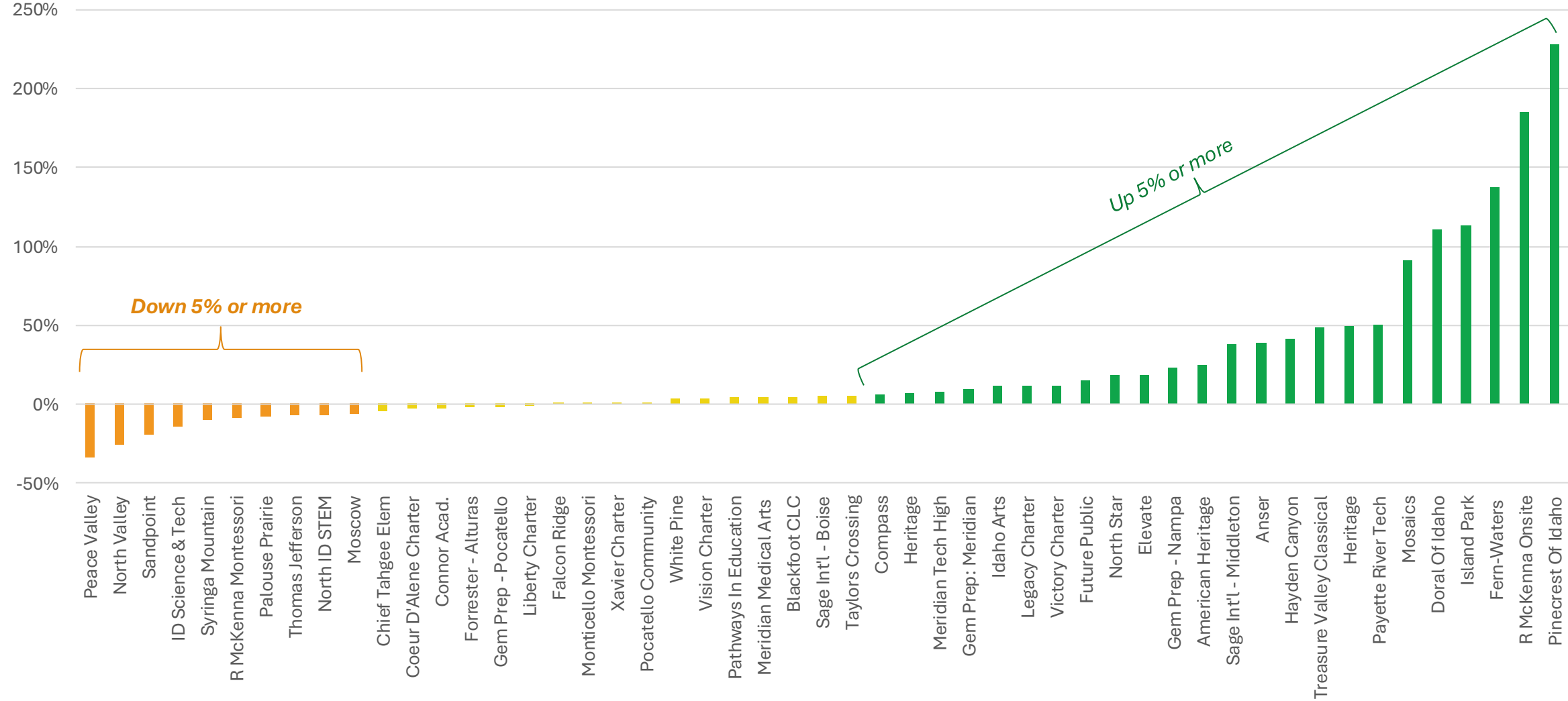
Of 52 schools that have been open over 5 years, 10 schools have enrollment declines of at least 5%, while 24 have increased more than 5%.

18 schools have opened over this period.



# Few charter schools have experienced large decreases in enrollment; many more have experienced large increases.

5-year Enrollment Change for Idaho Charter Schools



Note: Excludes schools without 6 years of data.  
Source: Idaho Department of Education data