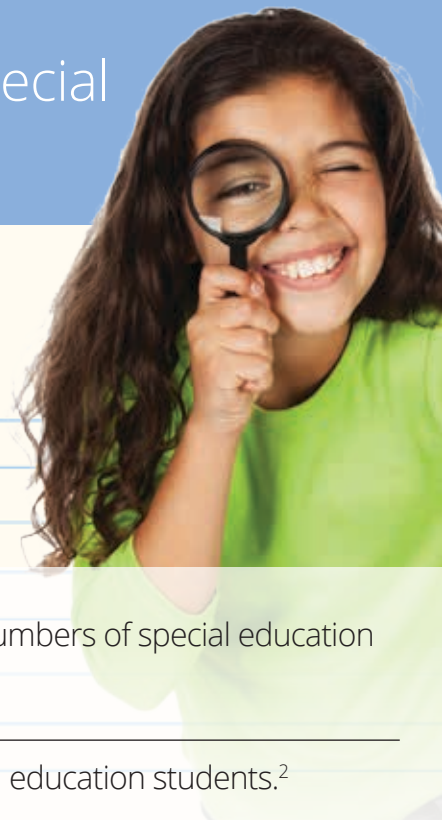


**MYTH:** Charter schools don't serve special education or ELL students.

**FACT:** Charter schools are diverse and often specialize in educating high-need students.



- ✓ Connecticut has 22 active charter schools, some of which educate high numbers of special education or English Language Learners (ELL).<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ For example, Explorations Charter School in Windham serves 38% special education students.<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ ELL-focused schools, like Bridgeport's Great Oaks Charter School, are generating huge demand. Over 400 students applied for 125 seats at Great Oaks for the current school year.
- ✓ Charter schools' small classroom sizes and individualized instruction allows students to improve over time and graduate out of special education or English Language Learner programs.
- ✓ The Connecticut charter school community is working diligently to provide widespread access to school information so as many families as possible know how to enroll their child.

<sup>1</sup> By law, when approving new charter school applications the State Board of Education must give preference to schools designed to educate high-need students. (See CT Gen. Stat. Sec. 10-66bb(c)(3)). <sup>2</sup> Based on number of attending IEP students. School also has a number of 504 students.

## MYTH-BUSTING SCHOOL



### Explorations Charter School

**GRADES 9-12**

**38% OF THEIR STUDENTS ARE SPECIAL EDUCATION.**

Founded in 1997, Explorations is one of Connecticut's first charter schools. The school provides an environment that cultivates a positive attitude toward lifelong learning. They develop students into adults who will be good citizens, good and productive role models, and giving individuals who will make a positive contribution to society.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Special education reflects 2015 school year enrollment.