

Charter Districts

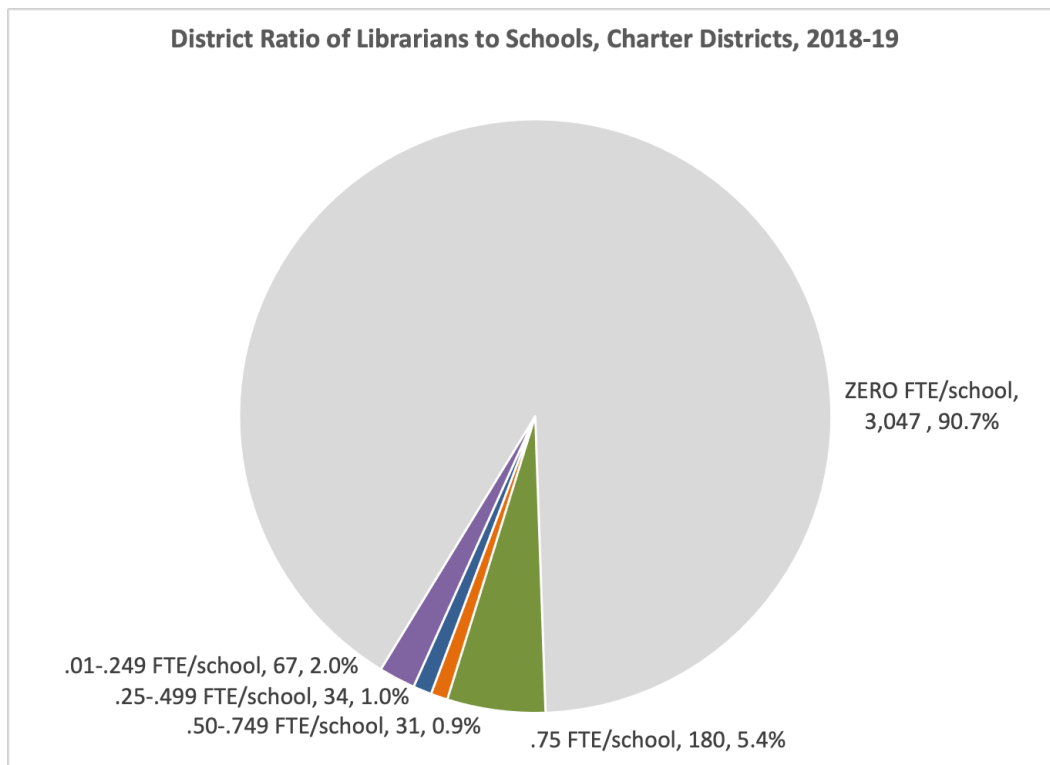
How prevalent were school librarians among U.S. charter schools in 2018-19?

Thirty-four (34) states and D.C. reported having all-charter districts in 2018-19.¹² Nationwide, in 2018-19, there were 4,000 all-charter school districts operating 5,203 charter schools. The total number of school librarians employed in those schools was 321.19 full-time equivalents (FTEs). That amounts to 6 librarian FTEs for every 100 charter schools. In 2018-19, 90.1% of charter districts reported no school librarians. (See Chart 40.)

In 2018-19, 90% of charter districts (excluding charter schools that are part of local school districts) had no school librarians.

The SLIDE project is focusing on regular public schools in local districts. The charter school sector, where school librarians are so rare, should be the focus of a similar study. Because many charter schools pride themselves on innovative organizational structures and staffing models, school library leaders and educators need to gain a better understanding of why most charter school decision-makers eschew having libraries or librarians. What are most of them doing instead? And why don't they seem to miss school libraries and librarians?

Chart 40



¹² The 15 states with no charter districts include: Alaska, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. Any charter schools in these states are part of local districts. Due to the lack of school level data about school librarians, this section addresses only independent charter districts, though notably the vast majority of them are, in fact, single independent charter schools.