



# Charter School Recess Report

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January 2024

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# Recess Policy in Charter Schools Report

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## Overview of HR 199 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session

House Resolution 199 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session urged and requested that the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) survey all charter schools about whether they provide at least fifteen minutes of recess, consisting of supervised, unstructured free play, each school day for students in grades kindergarten through five. The findings are requested to be reported to the House Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the convening of the 2024 Regular Session of the Legislature.

## Introduction to Recess Policy

Until the 2023 Regular Legislative Session, offering recess to students was not required by state law nor by Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) policy.

The Louisiana State Legislature passed Act 219, which the governor signed into law, during the 2023 Regular Legislative session. This act requires that each public school that includes any of the grades kindergarten through five shall provide at least fifteen minutes of recess, consisting of supervised, unstructured free play, each school day. Charter schools are exempt from this requirement.

House Resolution 199 of the 2023 Regular Legislative session seeks to gather information regarding current charter school recess policies by requiring the LDOE to survey all charter schools in the state of Louisiana. This resolution does not require charter schools to change their current recess policies.

## Charter Survey

To execute the required component of HR 199, the LDOE developed a survey. A survey link was shared with all charter school leaders in the state through email. The survey question is outlined below.

**Does your school offer 15 minutes or more of supervised unstructured recess time to students in Kindergarten to fifth grade daily?**

- *If the answer to the question above was “no”, the survey requested the additional information below.*
  - Provide the reason 15 minutes or more of supervised unstructured recess time is not offered to students in kindergarten to fifth grade daily.

## Charter School Recess Survey Findings

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Louisiana has 101 charter schools that serve students in Kindergarten to fifth grade. A total of 97 charter schools completed the survey, which is 96% of the specified charter school population.

The survey data shows that 94 of the charter schools surveyed provide 15 minutes or more of supervised unstructured recess time to students in kindergarten to fifth grade daily. The data shows that despite there not being a recess requirement for charter schools, 93% of Louisiana's charter schools that offer grades kindergarten to fifth grade have recess practices that align with those of public schools. Less than 3% of the schools surveyed do not offer recess. The 3% includes a virtual school and schools that offer dance class instead of recess.