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Media Contact:
Donna Siminski
Director of Policy & Advocacy
(609) 989-9700 x. 4414
DSiminski@njcharters.org

**Charter Schools Closing in on State Averages
on Third Year of PARCC Testing
Newark Charters Outperform State Average in Math**

Hamilton, NJ – December 18, 2017 – New Jersey charter schools continue to narrow the achievement gap on the third year of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exams based on data released this fall from the New Jersey Department of Education for the 2016-17 school year.

“The release of PARCC scores confirms what we have known about New Jersey’s charter schools: they are closing the achievement gap for economically disadvantaged students and in some cases, outperforming the state’s more affluent communities,” said Nicole D. Cole, Esq., President and CEO of the New Jersey Charter Schools Association.

Across the state, both traditional district and public charter schools made improvements in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. ELA proficiency rates for charter elementary and middle schools outpaced comparative districts by 15.5 percentage points and charter math proficiency rates outpaced districts by 13.5 percentage points. “We recognize that there is more work to be done to ensure that every student is able to meet and exceed the standards assessed in the PARCC exams. However, we are proud New Jersey’s charter schools continue to significantly outpace comparative districts in both ELA and math,” said Cole.

Charter elementary and middle schools have significantly closed the gap against the state average over the last six years. In 2012, the ELA proficiency gap was 13.1 percentage points compared to 4.2 percentage points in 2017. In 2012, the math proficiency gap was 10.2 percentage points compared to 4.4 percentage points in 2017.

The 2017 PARCC results continue to demonstrate the remarkable progress for students in Newark charter schools. In 2017, Newark charters in grades 3-8 outperformed the state average in mathematics and were even with the state average in ELA.

NJCSA’s recently released report *20 Years of New Jersey Charter Schools: A State of the Sector Report - Part I*, highlights charter schools in the five cities with the largest charter school enrollment: Newark, Camden, Trenton, Jersey City, and Paterson. Some of these schools have produced incredible, breakthrough results for their students. Despite serving a significantly higher portion of educationally disadvantaged students compared to the state, the following schools in these cities outperformed **state averages** in ELA and mathematics:

Discovery Charter School
North Star Academy Charter School
John P. Holland Charter School
Environment Community Opportunity Charter School

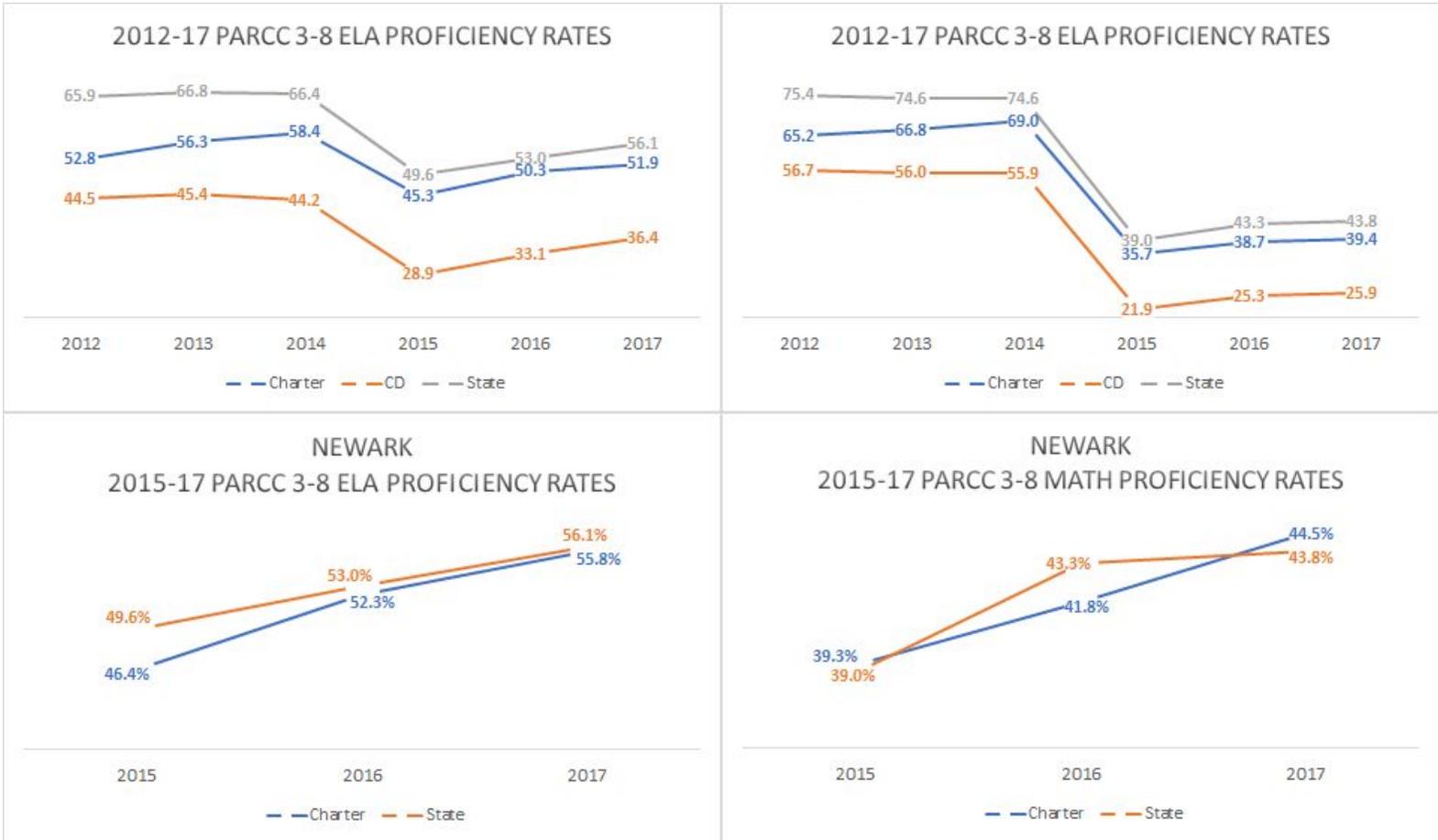
Robert Treat Academy Charter School
Gray Charter School
Soaring Heights Charter School
Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School

[Graphs follow on page 2]

“We will continue to work with our schools to ensure New Jersey’s charter schools fulfill their missions, not only in achieving excellence as defined by standardized assessments, but also in preparing every child for college, career, and life,” Cole said.

Charter School Performance Trends Compared to Statewide Performance

Comparative Districts are those who send the most students to each charter school.



NJ transitioned to PARCC assessments for the 14-15 school year. While proficiency rates are shown for multiple years, results may not be directly comparable for all years.

About New Jersey Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Charter Schools Association (NJCSA) is a statewide association representing the state’s charter sector. New Jersey is home to 89 charter schools, serving more than 50,000 children. NJCSA was formed in 1999 and today is charged with advancing a quality public education for New Jersey’s children through quality public charter schools. Our vision is that every child in the State of New Jersey has the opportunity to attend a high quality public school that best meets his or her needs. For more information, visit www.njcharters.org.

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