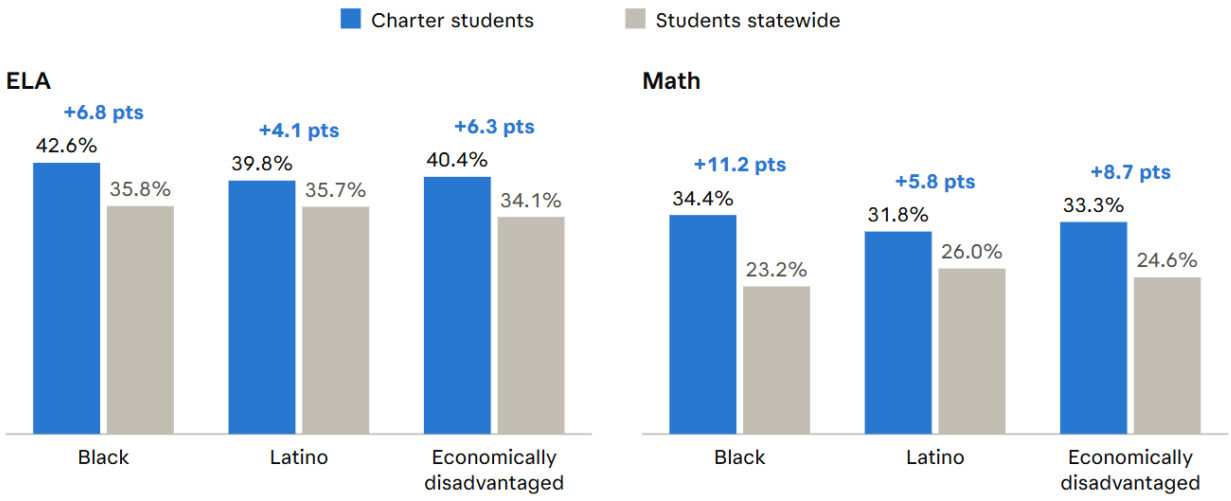
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2026 Test Scores: Black, Latino and Economically Disadvantaged Public Charter School Students Outperform Their Statewide Peers In Every Grade

Black charter students are nearly 50% more likely to be proficient in math than Black students statewide

HAMILTON, NJ – November 9, 2026 – Last week, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) released 2026 scores for the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment–Adaptive (NJSLA-A) for all of New Jersey's public schools. Spring 2026 was the first statewide administration of the NJSLA-A, an adaptive test administered to public-school students in grades 3 through 11 that adjusts the difficulty of questions based on each student's responses. These results establish a new baseline of performance and demonstrate that Black, Latino and economically disadvantaged students in New Jersey's public charter schools outperformed their statewide peers in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in every grade. Overall, Black students in public charter schools, outperforming their statewide peers in math proficiency by 11.2 points, are nearly 50% more likely to be proficient in math than Black students statewide.



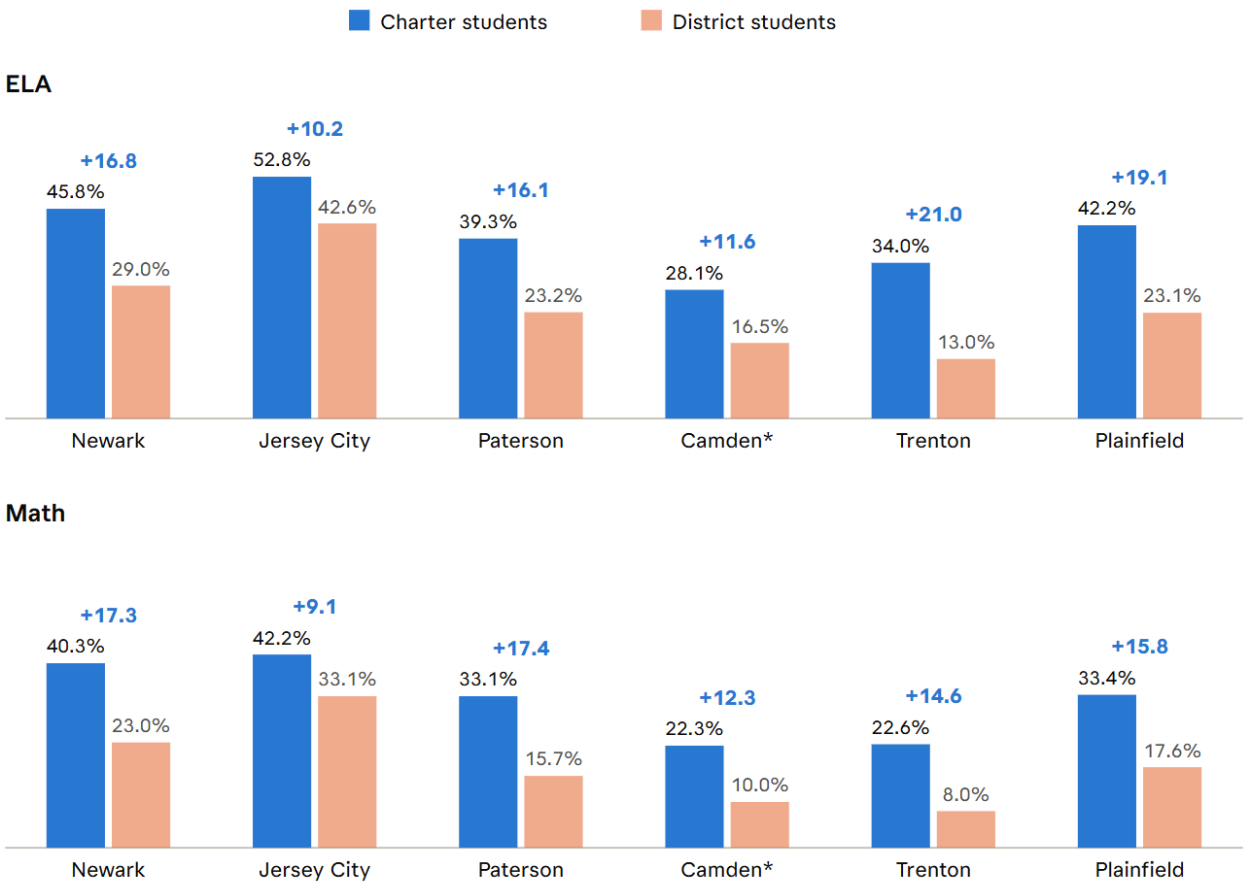
ELA grades 3-9, math grades 3-8 plus Algebra I; proficient = Level 4 or 5.

"The data are clear: when Black, Latino and economically disadvantaged students have access to a high-quality public charter school, they outperform their peers across the state," **said Harry Lee, President and CEO of the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association.** "New Jersey has some of the best public schools in the nation, but there are still significant opportunity gaps. Charter schools are closing that gap, and with 32,000 students on wait lists, families are asking for more of what works."

85% of New Jersey's 64,000 public charter school students are Black or Latino, 74% come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, and 10% receive special education services. The outcomes are consistent across all grade levels. Black and Latino charter students outperformed their statewide peers in ELA in 7 of 7 grades tested and in math in 6 of 6 grades.

Analysis: How Charter Students in New Jersey's Six Largest Charter Cities Performed

In the six cities where most New Jersey charter students attend school (Camden, Jersey City, Newark, Paterson, Plainfield and Trenton), charter students were 56% more likely to read at grade level and 73% more likely to do math at grade level than students in their host district. In all six districts, charter students outperformed the state average or outperformed their district peers by double digits in both ELA and math.



*Camden includes Renaissance schools. ELA grades 3-9, math grades 3-8 plus Algebra I; proficient = Level 4 or 5.

Queen City Academy Charter School in Plainfield, 89% of whose students come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, beat the state average in both ELA and mathematics. “The educational gains achieved by public charter schools have a meaningful, real-world impact,” **Jasmin Lopez, an alum of Queen City Academy Charter School in Plainfield and a human resource executive, noted.** “My time as a student at Queen City Academy Charter School completely changed the trajectory of my life. As a kid from an underserved community like Plainfield, with a single mother who always dreamed I would go to college, I got the personal

attention from my teachers that I needed to ultimately get my MBA from the University of Michigan."

Overall, Jersey City charter school students, 66% of whom come from economically disadvantaged households, outperformed the statewide average in both ELA and math. BelovED Community Charter School's students gained 9.4 points in Math proficiency over last year, beating the state average by a whopping 16.3 points. "Not all students learn the same, and for my children, it has been crucial that they are in a small, nurturing environment where all students are truly seen and supported. Every day, my children come home with new skills and a love for learning that I hadn't seen before. BelovED has created an environment where they feel supported, challenged, and encouraged to be their best selves, regardless of their starting point," **said Eshia Allen, a BelovED Community Charter School Parent.**

In Paterson, where 80% of charter students are economically disadvantaged, charter schools outperformed their district peers by 16.1 points in ELA and 17.4 points in mathematics. KIPP Paterson Prep saw a 6.6 point gain in ELA and a massive 27 point gain in math, the largest math gains for all schools in the entire state of New Jersey year over year. "We're tremendously proud of our scholars' growth, setting the pace for the entire state and showing what's possible for all kids with proper support from highly-effective educators in a safe, nurturing and supportive school environment," **said Sean Healy, KIPP Paterson Head of Schools.**

Newark's 21,558 charter students posted 40.3% proficiency in math, within a point of the statewide average of 41.2% for all students. Latino charter students in Newark (41.6%) topped the overall statewide average in math proficiency. Students at North Star Academy in Newark continue to significantly outperform statewide averages in reading and math, this year by 14 points and 10 points, respectively. North Star - where 85% of students are considered economically disadvantaged - has annually outperformed the state, one of the best public school systems in the country. "The lessons, relationships, and sense of community I gained at North Star continue to shape how I show up as a student and leader on my college campus," **said Yasmina Ouedraogo, a North Star alum currently studying nursing at Seton Hall University.** "My growth is thanks to every teacher, classmate, and supporter who was part of my charter school journey."

About the New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA) is the non-profit membership association that represents the state's charter school community and, by extension, charter school students and their parents. There are currently 84 charter schools in New Jersey serving more than 64,000 students. We are committed to advancing quality public education for New Jersey's children through the cultivation of excellent public charter schools. The Association seeks to influence legislative and policy environments, leverage collective advocacy, and provide resources to support our members in developing and operating high quality, public charter schools.

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