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NJPCSA Applauds Murphy Administration’s Approval of 11 Expansions of High Performing Public Charter Schools

More Families Gain Access to High Quality Educational Options During Time of Educational Recovery

HAMILTON, NJ – February 2, 2023 – Yesterday, the Murphy Administration granted approval for 11 high-performing public charter schools to offer more grade levels and seats for students throughout New Jersey. These decisions coming out of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) will allow thousands of students to get off wait lists and enroll in public charter schools over the next several years. 2,299 additional charter seats out of 2,937 seats requested, or 78%, were approved. Recent data collected from NJDOE shows that there are more than [28,000 students currently sitting on public charter school wait lists](#).

“We applaud the Murphy Administration for evaluating the data and making performance based decisions that will put thousands of students on the path to educational success. Communities win when we increase public school options that have a track record of meeting students’ needs,” **said Harry Lee, President and CEO of the NJ Public Charter Schools Association (NJPCSA)**. “Public charter schools work and we are ecstatic that more children will be able to attend excellent schools that put them on the path to social-emotional and academic recovery.”

The list of schools approved to offer additional grade levels and seats are below:

Name of Charter School	District
Achievers Early College Prep CS	Trenton
Central Jersey College Prep CS	Franklin, New Brunswick
Classical Academy CS	Clifton
College Achieve Public Schools (CAPS) Asbury CS	Asbury Park, Neptune
College Achieve Public Schools (CAPS) Paterson CS	Paterson
Ethical Community CS	Jersey City
Hatikvah International Academy CS	East Brunswick
LINK Community CS	Newark
North Star Academy CS (Uncommon Schools)	Newark
Paul Robeson CS	Trenton
Paterson Arts and Science CS	Paterson

“These decisions will allow thousands of Black and Latino children throughout the Garden State to get the education that best meets their individual needs,” **said TJ Best, Senior Advisor of NJPCSA**. “We thank the NJDOE and Murphy Administration for supporting students and families in our urban communities by granting them more access to high quality school options.”

In November, NJPCSA launched the [#LetMyChildLearn campaign](#) to lift the voices of tens of thousands of families seeking

a better education for their children throughout New Jersey. The campaign included highlighting the stories of families who love their schools and want more children in their communities to get access to a top-notch education. Over 22,000 emails were sent in support of high-quality charter school expansion.

In Trenton, 9th graders at Achievers Early College Prep Charter School, who nearly beat the state average in English language arts (ELA) based on the latest state assessment data, will be able to continue their education at the school in 10th grade due to this decision.

“My child has blossomed at our charter school in Trenton,” said **Diana Martinez, a parent at Achievers Early College Prep**. “She is currently on a path to receive college credits and industry credentials at the same time she receives her high school diploma and we are beyond thrilled that she will have that opportunity at Achievers.”

In Newark, North Star Academy Charter School, one of the best public schools in the country, outperformed the state average by 15 points in ELA and 8 points in mathematics based on the NJDOE’s recent test score release.

“We are thankful for the NJDOE’s recognition of the strong educational outcomes that North Star Academy has delivered for Newark students and families for the past 25 years. This approval will allow more students to grow and learn at North Star on their journey to and through college,” said **Brett Peiser and Julie Jackson, co-CEOs of Uncommon Schools, which manages North Star Academy**.

When rendering decisions, NJDOE utilized data that shows that [Black and Latino students enrolled in public charter schools are twice as likely to be proficient in English language arts and mathematics compared to their district peers](#). The December 2022 data release verifies that public charter schools accelerated student learning for economically disadvantaged students of color during the pandemic.

The approvals to expand enrollment at Trenton’s Paul Robeson Charter School and Achievers Early College Prep Charter School also unlocks [millions of dollars in federal funding provided through NJPCSA to these two schools](#). These funds will be reinvested in the community to allow more students access to great public charter schools in Trenton.

Over the last year, public charter wait lists grew from 20,000 students to 28,000.

“We appreciate the thoughtful consideration the Murphy Administration gave to these expansion decisions. However, the work is not done. As the demand for great public school options continues to grow, we look forward to partnering with the NJDOE and the entire Murphy Administration to meet the needs of families across the State,” **concluded Lee**.

About 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 85 charter schools in New Jersey serving 60,000 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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