

Public Charter School Funding

December 2023



Every child in New Jersey deserves to go to a school that is funded equitably. All public school students should be treated the same regardless of what school model (public charter or traditional district school) their families chose.

On average, public charter schools receive

\$4,640 less

in per pupil funding when compared to traditional districts.

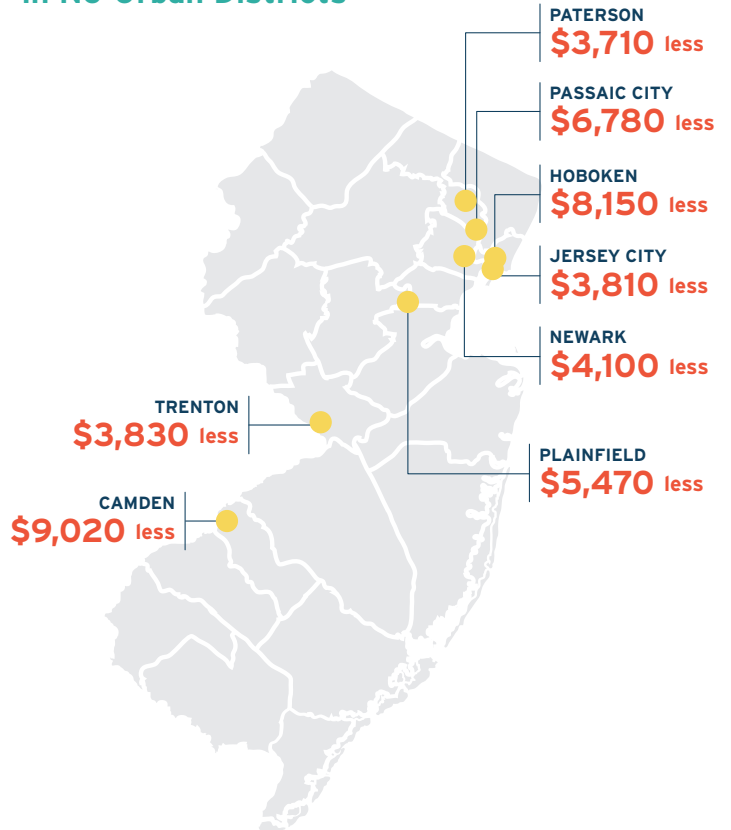
SOURCES OF STATE AID

This table identifies which state aid streams are received by charter schools and traditional school districts.

	Public Charter Schools	Traditional School Districts
EQUALIZATION AID <small>Including Aid to Special Ed & Speech Only Students</small>	✓	✓
LOCAL LEVY	✓	✓
ADJUSTMENT AID	✗	✓
SDA CONSTRUCTION & GRANTS	✗	✓
DEBT SERVICE AID <small>Types 1 & 2</small>	✗	✓
SPECIAL EDUCATION CATEGORICAL AID	✓	✓
SECURITY CATEGORICAL AID	✓	✓
EDUCATIONAL ADEQUACY AID	✗	✓
PRESCHOOL AID <small>(where applicable)</small>	✓	✓
TRANSPORTATION AID	✗	✓
CHARTER SCHOOL HOLD HARMLESS AID	✓	✗
EMERGENT PROJECT AND CAPITAL MAINTENANCE AID	✓	✓

URBAN FUNDING GAPS

Charter Schools are Underfunded in NJ Urban Districts



Every child in New Jersey deserves to go to school in a safe, healthy and secure school building, particularly students in high-need districts.

New Jersey is one of the few states in the country that does not provide facilities aid to public charter schools.



Since 2001, the State has provided \$18.6 billion to districts for school construction, but allocated only \$35 million to public charter schools for minor building improvements.

\$18.6B

\$35M

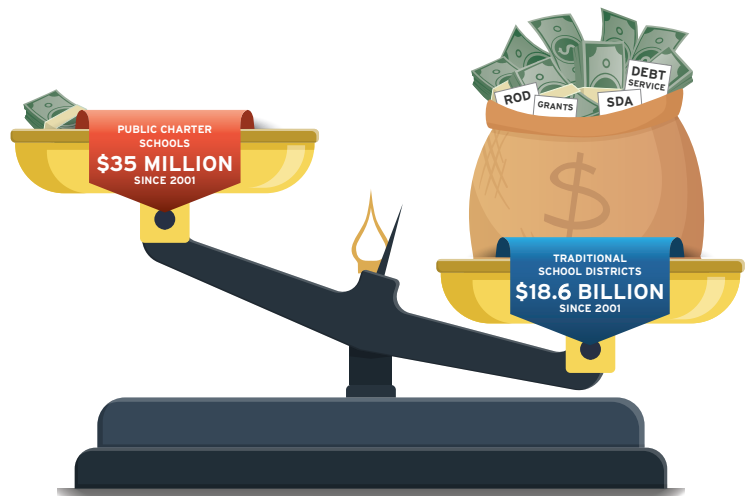


Public charter and renaissance schools are excluded from facilities funding even though they serve 1 in 5 public school students in our 31 poorest communities.

1 IN 5

This lack of state funding has forced charter schools to spend millions of dollars to find school buildings and perform critical safety upgrades, money that could be better spent in the classroom and increasing teacher salaries.

Public charter schools, on average, spend \$2,000 per student for school buildings – money that would otherwise be spent on teachers or students in the classroom – but they have been excluded from most state facilities funding.



Public charter and renaissance schools need over \$1 billion in construction, renovation, or capital improvement funds over the next decade to provide safe and secure school buildings for their students.

over \$1 billion

Nearly 30 public charter school buildings in New Jersey are 100 years old or older, yet they are excluded from state facilities funding.