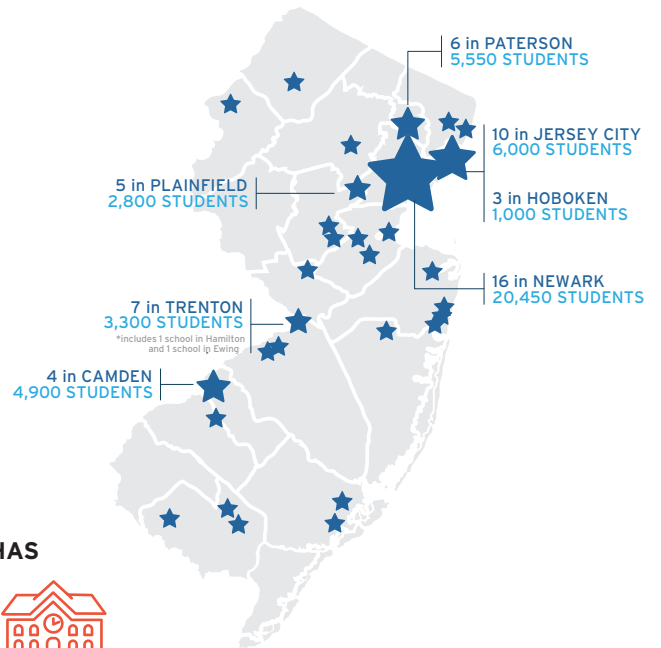


# Get the Facts

## New Jersey's Public Charter Schools

October 2022



### What Is a Public Charter School?

Charter schools are **free, nonprofit public schools** that are open to all students. They operate with more flexibility than traditional public schools in exchange for increased accountability including rigorous financial, academic and operational standards.

NEW JERSEY HAS

**85** 

CHARTER SCHOOLS

IN **40** CITIES

AND **18** COUNTIES

NEARLY

**60,000**

STUDENTS



**28,000+**

CHARTER WAITLIST TOTAL

SOURCES: School count (2022-23 aid notices), Cities/Counties (October 2022 School Directory)



**1 in 5**

STUDENTS

Public charter schools serve **1 in 5 public school students** in NJ's 31 poorest communities (former Abbott/SDA districts).

### KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

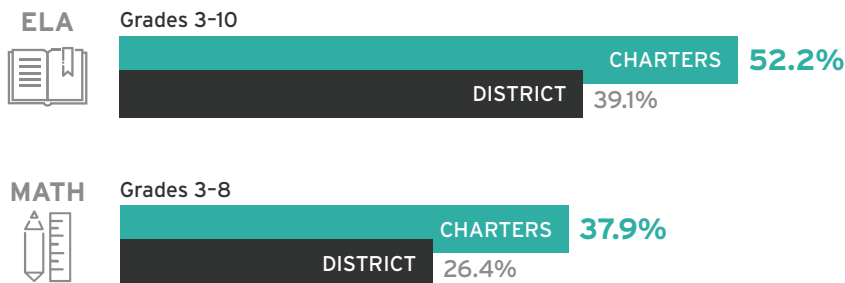


Charter schools serve **13%** of all public school **Black students**.  
Charter schools serve **6%** of all public school **Latinx students**.

SOURCES: Ethnicity & ELL (2021-22 ENR), Enrollment count, Low Income (December revised aid notices), Special Ed (2018-19 Performance Reports), Waitlist (2020-21 Annual Reports)

### PERFORMANCE

#### 2018-19 Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations



Charter students are **33%** more likely to read at grade level, and **44%** more likely to do math at grade level.

#### Black Charter Students

**+12%** in ELA

**+14%** in math

#### Latinx Charter Students

**+5%** in ELA

**+4%** in math

#### Economically Disadvantaged Charter Students

**+9%** in ELA

**+10%** in math

Low-income students of color are **thriving** in New Jersey's public charter schools and **outperforming** their counterparts statewide.



Providing a World Class Education

Newark's public charter school students, **84%** of whom come from low income backgrounds, have **outperformed the state average** on the state test in grades 3-8 two years in a row.

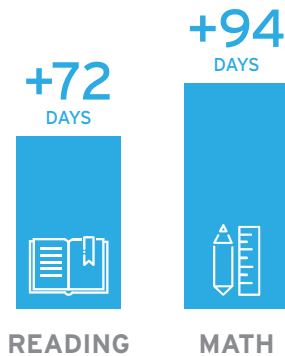


75%

of Newark's charter school students are enrolled in a school beating the odds vs. 16% in the district.\*

\*2020 study from MarGrady Research

Newark charter schools post best student learning gains in the nation



Students learn more in charter schools with gains of **72 additional days per year in reading** and **94 additional days per year in math** when compared to the state average. Newark's charter schools also outperform Newark's selective enrollment magnet schools in Math three years in a row.

Source: 2021 CREDO Stanford University Research

Public Charter Schools Are Deeply Underfunded

60,000 public school students in charter schools are not funded equitably in New Jersey. On average, **public charter schools receive approximately \$4,600 less per student per year** when compared to traditional district schools. Charter schools also spend on average \$1,500 per year per student on school facilities but receive zero dollars from the state while traditional school districts have received more than \$13 billion since 2001 for the same purpose.



CHARTERS RECEIVE  
**\$4,600**  
LESS PER STUDENT  
Compared to traditional school districts

CHARTERS NEED  
**\$900 MILLION**  
OVER THE NEXT DECADE FOR  
SAFE AND SECURE FACILITIES

ACCOUNTABILITY TO FAMILIES

Public charter schools have **greater flexibility** to bring in new and creative approaches, and with that flexibility comes **greater accountability**. Public charter schools:



Provide **financial reports** to the state and conduct an annual audit



Must meet all state and federal **education standards**



Must be **renewed every five years**—and face closure if not delivering results

AUTONOMY EMPOWERS CREATIVITY

Public charter schools have more autonomy over their budgets, curriculum, and personnel than traditional districts. Teachers at public charter schools are empowered to use **creative approaches** to meet the individual needs of students in their classroom. Public charter schools include incredibly **diverse learning models**, including:



**Hoboken Dual Language Charter School** provides an exceptional education in Spanish and English to develop engaged, well-rounded bilingual citizens with a global and multicultural perspective.



**Foundation Academy Charter School** in Trenton ensures that all students secure the academic knowledge and skills to prepare them for the nation's finest colleges and to instill in them the core values of caring, respect, responsibility, and honesty.



**Unity Charter School** in Morristown infuses Education for Sustainability throughout the school culture. Student agency drives critical thinking and inspires advocacy through a constructivist learning approach so that students graduate ready to change the world for the better.