

Get the Facts

New Jersey's Public Charter Schools

JUNE 2024

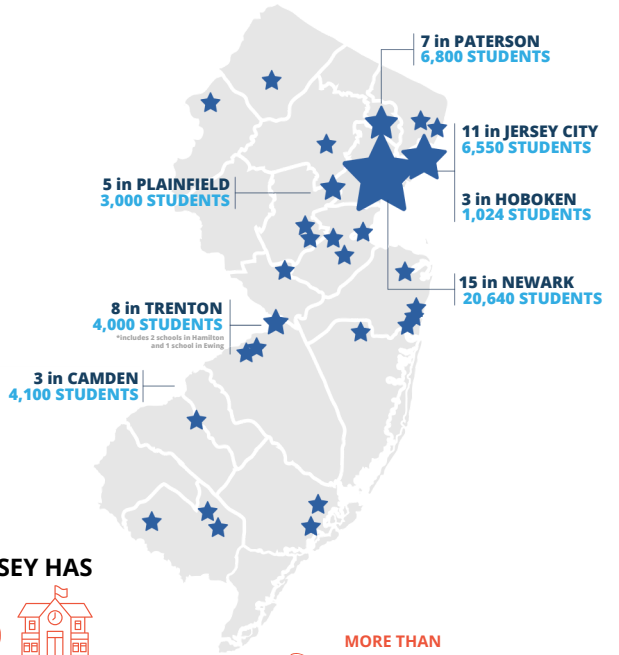
What is a Public Charter School?

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.



1 in 5
STUDENTS

Public charter and renaissance schools serve 1 in 5 public school students in NJ's 31 most underserved communities (former Abbott/SDA districts).



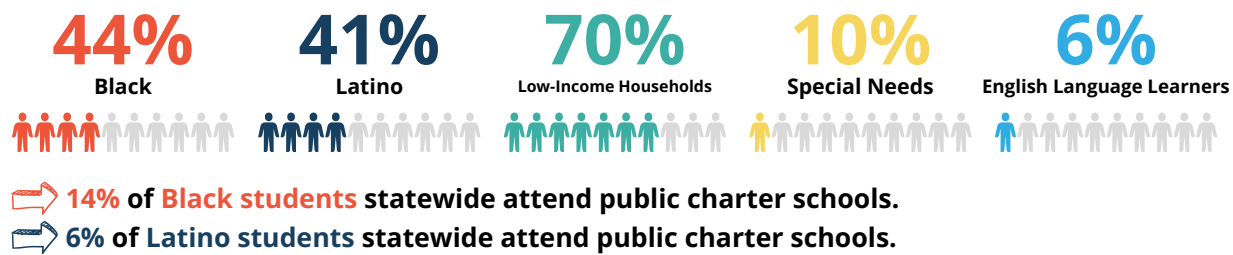
NEW JERSEY HAS
86 CHARTER SCHOOLS
IN **44** CITIES
AND **18** COUNTIES

MORE THAN
63,000 STUDENTS
28,000 CHARTER WAITLIST TOTAL

SOURCES: School count & cities/counties (NJDOE Public School Directory, pulled July 2024); Enrollment (2023-24 NJDOE Fall Enrollment File); Waitlists (Annual Reports and school records)

KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

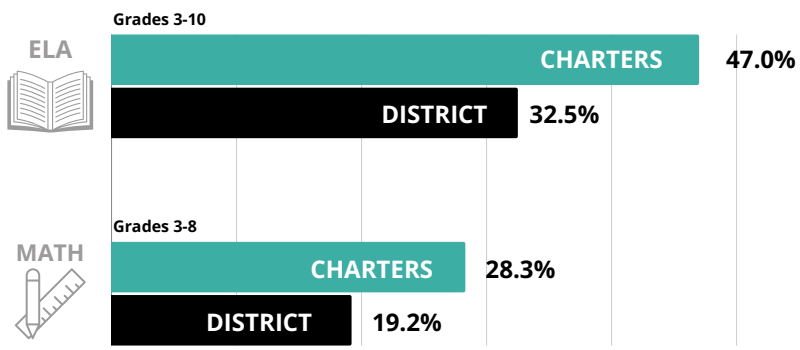
SOURCE: 2023-24 NJDOE Fall Enrollment File)



PERFORMANCE

SOURCE: 2022-23 State Assessment Files

2022-23 Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding Expectations



Black, Latino and low-income students in New Jersey's public charter schools **outperform** their statewide counterparts by double digits in ELA and Math

Economically Disadvantaged Charter Students
+15% in ELA
+10% in math

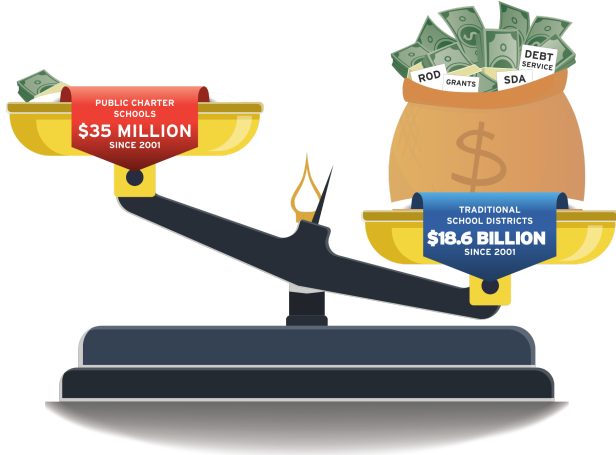
Black & Latino Charter Students
+16% in ELA
+10% in math

Charter students are **45%** more likely to read at grade level, and **47%** more likely to do math at grade level.



PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL FACILITIES

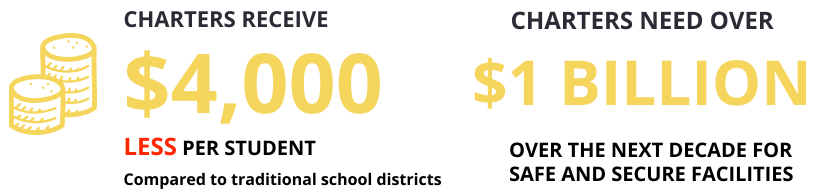
Public charter schools, on average, spend \$2,000 per student for school buildings — money that would otherwise be spent on teachers or students in the classroom — but they have been excluded from most state facilities funding.



FUNDING

Public Charter Schools Are Deeply Underfunded

More than 62,000 public school students in charter schools are not funded equitably in New Jersey. On average, public charter schools receive approximately \$4,000 less per student per year when compared to traditional district schools. Public charter schools also spend, on average, \$2,000 per student on facilities, and while the State has provided \$18.6 billion since 2001 to traditional district schools for school construction, public charter schools have received only \$35 million for minor building improvements.



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.



North Star Academy, part of the Uncommon Schools network, is creating a pipeline of college students to full-time staff teachers at the school. The program focuses on recruiting teachers of color by partnering with HBCUs across the country.



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.

NEWARK'S CHARTER SCHOOLS

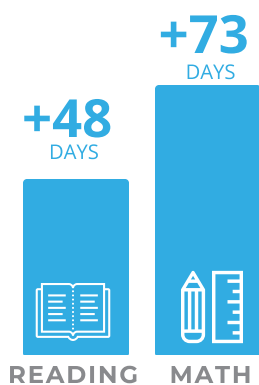
Providing a World Class Education

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 Newark public charter schools with gains of 48 additional days per year in reading and 73 additional days per year in math when compared to the state average accounting for student characteristics. This outpaces the national finding that public charter school students nationally gained 16 days in reading and 6 days in math.

Source: 2022 Newark City Study; 2023 Stanford CREDO Report