



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Amanda Vega, Director of Communications
AVega@NJcharters.org | (908) 902-4652

NJCSA Releases Comprehensive 20-Year Report; Report Finds NJ Public Charter School Students Perform on Par with Statewide Peers

Hamilton, NJ – October 10, 2017 – The New Jersey Charter Schools Association released a new report Tuesday, [20 Years of New Jersey Charter Schools: The State of the Sector Report, Part I](#). The report, researched and written by NJCSA, provides stakeholders key information and facts about the history of New Jersey’s charter schools, the current landscape for New Jersey’s charter sector, and what the future holds for charter schools in the Garden State.

“Much of the news in this report is positive— public charter schools are serving educationally disadvantaged students with a high-quality public education. Our research demonstrates that, overall, our public charter schools provide strong educational options for students, especially in the urban centers where public charter schools are successfully narrowing the performance gap with the rest of the state,” said Nicole D. Cole, NJCSA President & CEO. “It is paramount that quality, innovative charter schools continue to grow to meet family demand. With over 35,000 students on waiting lists, legislation or executive orders calling for a ‘charter moratorium’ will be vigorously opposed by NJCSA and its partners,” she added.

The research provided in the [State of the Sector Report](#) provides important information about the number of families demanding seats in charter schools, the students that charter schools serve, how students in charter schools are performing, and how charter schools are contributing to and improving the overall public education landscape in New Jersey. Key findings include:

- **Family Demand:** 89 charter schools serve nearly 50,000 students in 40 cities across 17 different counties throughout New Jersey. There are over 35,000 students on waitlists to attend a charter school.
- **Enrollment:** In cities like Camden, Trenton, Paterson and Jersey City, the proportion of students being served by public charter schools continues to grow each year. For example, in Newark, charter schools are serving approximately 35% of all public school students in the city.
- **Performance and Statewide Proficiency (Grades 3-8):** Although charter schools serve a much greater proportion of economically disadvantaged students (72% in charters vs. 38% in the state), charter schools are closing in on state averages on PARCC in grades 3-8.
 - **English Language Arts:** In 2012, there was a 13-point gap between charter schools and the state average in grades 3-8. In 2016, that gap had closed to less than 3 percentage points.
 - **Mathematics:** In 2012, there was a 10-point gap between charter schools and the state average in grades 3-8. In 2016, that gap had closed to less than 5 percentage points.
- **Graduation Rate (High School):** In 2016, 85% of charter high school students graduated within 4 years.

The report profiles the five largest charter cities (Newark, Camden, Trenton, Jersey City, and Paterson) and highlights eight schools that are leading the way in innovation in a variety of areas, including charter-district collaboration, which we encourage.

The release of Part II of the report is anticipated in late January 2018.

About New Jersey Charter Schools Association

The New Jersey Charter Schools Association (NJCSA) is a statewide association representing the state’s charter sector. New Jersey is home to 88 charter schools, serving nearly 50,000 children. NJCSA was formed in 1999 and today is charged with advancing a quality public education for New Jersey’s children through quality public charter schools. Our vision is that every child in the State of New Jersey has the opportunity to attend a high quality public school that best meets his or her needs. For more information, visit www.njcharters.org.

###