MORE THAN 20 YEARS OF NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOLS:

A Sector Report – Part 2
As a membership organization, the New Jersey Charter Schools Association (NJCSA) relies on the generous support of the charter schools in the state to ensure it is meeting its mission to advance quality public education for New Jersey’s children through quality public charter schools. We want to thank all New Jersey charter schools for supporting NJCSA’s efforts.

We also want to thank our partners, funders, and fellow advocates who work with us to ensure a strong and vibrant charter school sector in New Jersey. We work in collaboration with these individuals and organizations to realize our vision that every child in the State of New Jersey should have the opportunity to attend a high-quality public school that best meets his or her needs.

ABOUT NJCSA

Formed in 1999, the New Jersey Charter Schools Association is a 501(c)(3) membership association that represents the state’s charter school community and, by extension, charter school students and their parents. NJCSA is committed to improving public education by:

★ **Cultivating** a robust network of new, high-quality charter schools that are able to meet the demands of the parents and the needs of the students they enroll.

★ **Strengthening** the capacity of existing charter schools to achieve strong outcomes for students as they move from good to great.

★ **Promoting** the charter school model and strong charter policy among external stakeholders and decision-makers.

★ **Supporting** success of the sector by creating an environment that encourages innovation, high-quality performance and accountability.
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The release of 2017 PARCC scores confirms what we have already known about New Jersey’s charter schools: they are closing the achievement gap for economically disadvantaged students and in some cases, outperforming the state’s most affluent communities. Charter elementary and middle schools continued to outpace comparative districts in both ELA and math on statewide assessments.

While we recognize that there is more work to be done to ensure that every student is on the trajectory to succeed in college and career, we recognize and celebrate New Jersey’s charter schools for ‘beating the odds’ and improving the future prospects for thousands of students throughout the state.

PERFORMANCE DATA

Statewide

Performance:

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 13.1 point gap between charter schools and the state average in grades 3-8. In 2017, that gap had closed to 4.2 percentage points.

• **Mathematics:** In 2012, there was a 10.1 point gap between charter schools and the state average in grades 3-8. In 2017, that gap had closed to 4.4 percentage points.

Graduation Rate:

In 2017, 89% of charter high school students graduated within 4 years compared to the comparative district average of 80% and the statewide average of 91%.

When comparing graduation rates of economically disadvantaged, Hispanic and Black students, charter schools are graduating students at a higher rate than traditional public schools.

4-Year Graduation Rates by Demographics

- **Economically Disadvantaged:** 89% (Charter) vs. 84% (Statewide)
- **Black:** 86% (Charter) vs. 83% (Statewide)
- **Hispanic:** 92% (Charter) vs. 84% (Statewide)
Top 5 Charter Cities

* Newark:

  • **Elementary and Middle Schools:** In 2017, Newark charter school students outperformed the state average in ELA and mathematics.

  • **High School:** In 2017, Newark charter school students outperformed their district peers by 8 points in ELA and 12 points in Math.

* Camden:

  • **Elementary and Middle Schools:** In 2017, Camden charter school students outperformed their district peers by 21 points in English language arts and 13 points in Math.

  • **High School:** In 2017, 98% of Camden charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 66% and the state average of 91%.

* Trenton:

  • **Elementary and Middle Schools:** In 2017, Trenton charter school students outperformed their district peers by 18 points in ELA and 21 points in Math.

  • **High School:** In 2017, 91% of Trenton charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 70% and on par with the state average of 91%.

* Jersey City:

  • **Elementary and Middle Schools:** In 2017, Jersey City charter school students outperformed their district peers by 8 points in ELA and 8 points in Math.

  • **High School:** In 2017, 93% of Jersey City charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 78% and the state average of 91%.

* Paterson:

  • **Elementary and Middle Schools:** In 2017, Paterson charter school students outperformed their district peers by 20 points in ELA and 10 points in Math.

  • **High School:** In 2017, 97% of Paterson charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 88% and on par with the state average of 91%.

**FAMILY DEMAND**

89 charter schools are serving 50,000 students in 40 cities in 17 different counties throughout New Jersey. There are over 35,000 students on waitlists to attend a charter school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>STUDENTS ON CHARTER WAITLISTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newark</td>
<td>12,852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jersey City</td>
<td>5,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson</td>
<td>3,179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>2,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trenton</td>
<td>1,784</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LACK OF EQUITABLE FUNDING**

Charter schools are not receiving their fair share of funding. While charter schools should receive 90% of per pupil funding compared to traditional district students, on average, charter schools only receive 73% of per pupil funding. In addition, charter schools receive $0 for facilities funding. On average, charter schools in New Jersey spend $1,418 per student from designated per-pupil funding/operating revenue, each year, on facilities costs. NJCSA applauds the Legislature’s efforts in revising the School Funding Reform Act. Redirecting over $600 million in Adjustment Aid into charter-eligible aid categories is a welcomed step towards ensuring that charter schools receive their true 90% of per-pupil funding as intended by law. Additionally, equitable access to capital funding and facilities is necessary to remedy one of the greatest challenges to growth of the charter sector – a suitable building to provide students with a high quality public education.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ACCESS AND EQUITY

More than 20 charter schools in New Jersey are implementing a weighted lottery to increase chances for our most vulnerable students to attend a charter school of their choice. In January 2018, NJCSA released a resource document titled, Best Practices for the Recruitment of Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners to assist schools in recruiting students with disabilities and English language learners through intentional, targeted marketing efforts. NJCSA will continue to work with schools to align with national best practices and to ensure equitable access for our most vulnerable students.

DIVERSITY

In New Jersey, there are many charter schools that are racially, culturally, and socioeconomically diverse. In Part Two, we take a closer look at three schools that have diverse student populations by design: The Ethical Community Charter School, Chartertech High School, and BelovED Community Charter School.

It is important to note that we celebrate all schools that are of high-quality, regardless of racial, cultural, or socioeconomic status. The false narrative that charter schools exacerbate segregation is both erroneous and irresponsible. There are a host of reasons, namely exclusionary housing policies, why schools across the state lack diversity. In New Jersey, charter schools are predominantly located in our urban centers and simply mirror the student populations in those cities.

NEW JERSEY CHARTER SCHOOL BASICS

Charter schools are public schools.

WHAT ARE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS?

- Increased Autonomy, Innovation, and Accountability
- Publicly-Funded
- Tuition-Free and Open to All (via Lottery)
- Run on Four to Five-Year Performance Contracts
- Subject to state laws related to health, safety, civil rights, certification, academic standards and student assessment
- Governed by an Independent Board of Trustees
- Charter Authorization in New Jersey

Authorization: The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is the state education agency and sole authorizer of charter schools in New Jersey. The Commissioner of Education, appointed by the Governor, has final authority in the approval, opening, monitoring and renewal of charters in New Jersey. The NJDOE has partnered with the National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) to authorize charter schools consistent with national best practices in charter school authorizing.

Oversight: Charter schools are granted an initial 4-year charter in New Jersey and all subsequent renewals are for 5-year terms. NJDOE and charter schools in the state sign a Charter Agreement which lays out the terms and conditions of operating a charter school in NJ. NJDOE utilizes a Performance Framework that sets expectations for charter school success in New Jersey. The Framework’s guiding questions are:

- ★ Is the academic program a success?
- ★ Is the school financially viable?
- ★ Is the school equitable and organizationally sound?

For more information on how charter schools are held accountable in New Jersey, visit: http://www.nj.gov/education/chartsch/accountability/
**CHARTER SCHOOLS BY THE NUMBERS**

**ENROLLMENT**

- 6 in Paterson
  - 3,753 students
- 12 in Jersey City
  - 6,240 students
- 3 in Hoboken
  - 970 students
- 5 in Plainfield
  - 1,900 students
- 7 in Trenton
  - 3,122 students
- 5 in Camden
  - 5,122 students
- 19 in Newark
  - 17,633 students

*Includes 1 school in Hamilton and 1 school in Ewing

**IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR...**

81% of charter schools are located in economically challenged* communities.

*At least 60% of students receive free or reduced price lunch.

Percentage of Public School Students Attending Charter Schools in Select Cities:

- Newark: 33%
- Camden: 31%
- Trenton: 22%
- Jersey City: 19%
- Paterson: 13%

**CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

- 11 schools are offering pre-K
- 9 schools focus on STEM or STEAM education
- 6 high schools offering college-level dual credit coursework
- 6 schools focus on environmental/sustainability education
- 4 schools have dual language programs
- 2 performing arts high schools
- 1 high school that serves over-age, under-credited students at risk of dropping out

**KEY DEMOGRAPHICS**

- 53% Black
- 33% Hispanic
- 72% Economically Disadvantaged
- 10% Students with Disabilities
- 3% English Language Learners

**CHARTER SCHOOLS BY GRADES SERVED**

- 17 Elementary Schools
- 38 K-8 Schools
- 18 K-12 Schools
- 6 Middle Schools
- 8 High Schools
- 2 Middle-High Schools (6-12)

**CHARTER SCHOOLS BY OPERATING STATUS**

- 21 schools operating 20+ years
- 26 schools operating 10-19 years
- 25 schools operating 5-9 years
- 17 schools operating 1-4 years
**Charter ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL Performance**

**NARROWING THE GAP; MAKING PERFORMANCE GAINS:** 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 2017, that gap had closed to 4 percentage points. In 2017, charter schools outperformed their comparative districts by 16 percentage points based on students meeting PARCC proficiency standards.

**Mathematics:** In 2012, there was a 10-point gap between charter schools and the state average in grades 3-8. In 2017, that gap had closed to 4 percentage points. In 2017, charter schools outperformed their traditional district peers by 14 percentage points based on students meeting PARCC proficiency standards.

**Charter HIGH SCHOOL Performance**

**High School Performance:** In high school, charter schools lag behind the state average by 12 percentage points in ELA and by 11 percentage points in mathematics. However, charter school students in high school outperform their traditional district peers by 5 percentage points in both ELA and math based on students meeting PARCC proficiency standards in 2017.
The following scatter plots show each New Jersey public school as a dot on a graph with the percentage of students considered proficient on the PARCC assessment as the y-axis and percent of economically disadvantaged students as the x-axis. Given the distribution of schools on the graph, the analysis generates a line which represents the predicted level of performance for all schools given their percent of economically disadvantaged students.

This graph demonstrates that charter schools located in the **TOP 7 CHARTER CITIES** in New Jersey are, in the aggregate, **OUTPERFORMING EXPECTATIONS** in ELA given the number of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in their schools.
Aggregate data was calculated for charter schools and traditional public schools in the seven largest charter school districts. The charter and district school aggregates were then plotted on the graph so they can be seen in relation to expected performance for all schools. In each of the seven largest charter districts, charter schools in the aggregate have higher proficiency rates than predicted for their respective percentages of economically disadvantaged students.

This graph demonstrates that charter schools located in the **TOP 7 CHARTER CITIES** in New Jersey are, in the aggregate, **OUTPERFORMING EXPECTATIONS** in MATH given the number of economically disadvantaged students enrolled in their schools.
**CITY PROFILE: Newark**

**ENROLLMENT**

- Number of Charter Schools: 19
- Charter Enrollment: 17,633
- Charter Waitlist Total: 12,852

**SCHOOLS**

- Achieve Community Charter School (K-8): 65
- Discovery Charter School (K-8): 100
- Gray Charter School (K-8): 347
- Great Oaks Legacy Charter School (PreK-12): 1,451
- Lady Liberty Academy Charter School (K-8): 455
- LEAD Academy Charter School (9-12): 119
- Link Community Charter School (5-8): 288
- Maria L. Varisco-Rogers Charter School (K-8): 540
- Marion P. Thomas Charter School (K-12): 1,386
- M.E.T.S. Charter School (9-12): 217
- New Horizons Community Charter School (K-7): 597
- Newark Educators’ Community Charter School (PreK-5): 299
- North Star Academy Charter School (Uncommon) (K-12): 5,017
- People’s Preparatory Charter School (9-12): 375
- Philip’s Academy Charter School (PreK-8): 439
- Robert Treat Academy Charter School (K-8): 682
- Roseville Community Charter School (K-4): 328
- TEAM Academy Charter School (KIPP NJ) (K-12): 4,045
- University Heights Charter School (PreK-8): 883

**IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR...**

- 34% of public school students are attending Newark charter schools.

**KEY DEMOGRAPHICS**

- Black: 82%
- Hispanic: 16%
- Economically Disadvantaged: 83%
- Students with Disabilities: 11%
- English Language Learners: 1%

**CHARTER SCHOOLS BY GRADES SERVED**

- 3 Elementary Schools
- 2 Middle Schools
- 7 K-8 Schools
- 3 High Schools
- 4 K-12 School

*4 charter schools are also serving PreK students

**ACCESS AND EQUITY**

**WEIGHTED LOTTERIES:**

- 13 Charter Schools (90% of charter enrollment)

- are implementing weighted lotteries to serve more economically disadvantaged and special needs students through Newark’s universal enrollment system.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT:**

- 11%

- The percentage of Newark charter schools serving students with disabilities has doubled since 2009 to 11% in 2017.

Newark Data Sources:


Graduation Rates: Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate: 2017 Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate file publicly released on NJ DOE website.

* Charter school graduation rate excludes schools closed prior to the 2017-18 school year. If included in the graduation rate calculation, the graduation rate would have been 75%.
PERFORMANCE

NEWARK CHARTER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

In 2017, Newark charter school students were even with the state average in ELA and outperformed the state average in Math.

NEWARK CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

In 2017, Newark charter school students outperformed their district peers by 8 points in ELA and 12 points in Math.

2017 Overall Student Achievement (Proficiency Rates)

Grades 3-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Charter</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>96.1%</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>43.8%</td>
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</table>

Grades 9-11

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Charter</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>ELA</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH</td>
<td>28.2%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADUATION RATE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Charter</th>
<th>Comparative District</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>81%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>91%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In 2017, 81% of Newark charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 78% but below the state average of 91%.

*2017 graduation rate
CITY PROFILE: Camden

ENROLLMENT

- **Camden’s Promise Charter School (K-12)** is part of the Camden Charter School Network (CCSN) which includes 4 campuses throughout the city. CCSN schools focus on foundational skills, character education, a rigorous college-prep curriculum, and strong partnerships between the school, family, and the community.
- **Environment Community Opportunity (ECO) Charter School (K-6)** ensures that all students develop strong roots, achieving excellence through rigor, relevance, and reflection. ECO nurtures students to become adept learners, community leaders, and environmental stewards.
- **Freedom Prep Charter School (K-12)**, part of the Democracy Prep charter school network, seeks to educate responsible citizen-scholars for success in the college of their choice and a life of active citizenship. In 2012, NJDOE approved Democracy Prep to turn around Freedom Academy Charter School, a perennially low-performing school in Camden, New Jersey.
- **Hope Community Charter School (K-4)** provides a safe, caring, literacy rich learning environment for our students. Hope believes a whole school focus on language acquisition and development can transform a child’s life.
- **LEAP Academy Charter School (K-12)** utilizes a rigorous college-preparatory STEM curriculum to ensure students are ready to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. As a holistic community school, LEAP also provides services (early childhood education, physical therapy, mental health counseling, medical support, and health and wellness) to its families from birth through adulthood.

IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR...

- 31% of public school students are attending Camden charter schools.
- 66% of per pupil funding compared to Camden district schools.

KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

- **38%** Black
- **60%** Hispanic
- **89%** Economically Disadvantaged
- **12%** Students with Disabilities
- **7%** English Language Learners

CHARTER SCHOOLS BY GRADES SERVED

- 1 Elementary School
- 1 K-6 School
- 3 K-12 Schools

Camden Data Sources:


Graduation Rates: Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate: 2017 Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate file publicly released on NJ DOE website.

* Charter school graduation rate excludes schools closed prior to the 2017-18 school year. If included in the graduation rate calculation, the graduation rate would have been 75%.
PERFORMANCE

CAMDEN CHARTER
ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

In 2017, Camden charter school students outperformed their district peers by 21 points in ELA and 13 points in Math.

CAMDEN CHARTER
HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

In 2017, Camden charter school students outperformed their district peers by 18 points in ELA and 10 points in Math.

2017 Overall Student Achievement (Proficiency Rates)

Grades 3-8

- ELA: Charter 33.7%, District 12.2%, State 22.2%
- Math: Charter 43.8%, District 8.9%, State 11.7%

Grades 9-11

- ELA: Charter 48.2%, District 11.8%, State 11.7%
- Math: Charter 33.6%, District 1.4%

GRADUATION RATE*

- Charter: 98%
- Comparative District: 66%
- State: 91%

In 2017, 98% of Camden charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 66% and the state average of 91%.

*2017 graduation rate
CITY PROFILE: Trenton

ENROLLMENT

7 Charter Schools
3,200 Charter Enrollment
1,784 Charter Waitlist Total

* includes 1 charter school in Hamilton and 1 charter school in Ewing that predominantly serve Trenton students

Key Demographics

58% Black
40% Hispanic
88% Economically Disadvantaged
10% Students with Disabilities
3% English Language Learners

Foundation Academy Charter School (K-12) mission is to ensure 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.

International Academy of Trenton Charter School (K-6) students will show mastery of a rigorous, international, college-preparatory curriculum delivered through proven, research-based instruction.

International Charter School of Trenton (K-4) is a small, tight-knit school community that was created to provide a quality elementary education for Trenton City residents.

Pace Charter School of Hamilton (K-6) instills a lifelong love of learning in its students. Pace was recently named a Blue Ribbon School for Academic Excellence.

Paul Robeson Charter School for the Humanities (4-8) offers a rigorous college-prep curriculum where students are provided double reading and double math time to ensure they are prepared for the best high schools and colleges.

Trenton STEM-to-Civics Charter School (9-12) mission is to use STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) to inspire academic excellence, to promote civic engagement, and to ensure students are ready for college and career.

The Village Charter School (K-8) mission is to create a child-centered community of active learners where each child will succeed in ways that reflect his or her own unique aptitudes and interests. We unite parents, teachers and the community in the common pursuit of excellence.

IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR...

22% of public school students are attending Trenton charter schools.

75% On average, charter schools in Trenton receive 75% of per pupil funding compared to Trenton district schools.

CHARTER SCHOOLS BY GRADES SERVED

2 Elementary Schools
1 Middle School
2 K-8 Schools
1 K-12 School
1 High School

Trenton Data Sources:


Graduation Rates: Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate: 2017 Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate file publicly released on NJ DOE website.

* Charter school graduation rate excludes schools closed prior to the 2017-18 school year. If included in the graduation rate calculation, the graduation rate would have been 75%.
PERFORMANCE

TRENTON CHARTER
ELEMENTARY AND
MIDDLE SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE

In 2017, Trenton charter school students outperformed their district peers by 18 points in ELA and 21 points in Math.

TRENTON CHARTER
HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE

In 2017, Trenton charter school students outperformed their district peers by 18 points in ELA and 14 points in Math.

GRADUATION RATE*

91% CHARTER
70% COMPARATIVE DISTRICT
91% STATE

In 2017, 91% of Trenton charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 70% and on par with the state average of 91%.

*2017 graduation rate
CITY PROFILE: Jersey City

ENROLLMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charter Schools</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Waitlist Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>6,240</td>
<td>5,235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- BelovED Community Charter School (K-7)
- Dr. Lena Edwards Academic Charter School (K-8)
- Empowerment Academy Charter School (K-3)
- Great Futures Charter High School for the Health Sciences (9-12)
- Jersey City Community Charter School (K-8)
- Jersey City Global Charter School (K-6)
- Jersey City Golden Door Charter School (PreK-8)
- Learning Community Charter School (PreK-8)
- METS Charter School (6-12)
- Soaring Heights Charter School (K-8)
- The Ethical Community Charter School (K-8)
- University Academy Charter High School (9-12)

IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR...

19% of public school students are attending Jersey City charter schools.

63% of per pupil funding compared to Jersey City district schools.

KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

- 39% Black
- 27% Hispanic
- 67% Economically Disadvantaged
- 10% Students with Disabilities
- 4% English Language Learners

CHARTER SCHOOLS BY GRADES SERVED

- 2 Elementary Schools
- 1 Middle School
- 7 K-8 Schools
- 1 High School
- 1 Middle-High (6-12)

Jersey City Data Sources:


Graduation Rates: Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate: 2017 Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate file publicly released on NJ DOE website.

* Charter school graduation rate excludes schools closed prior to the 2017-18 school year. If included in the graduation rate calculation, the graduation rate would have been 75%.
In 2017, Jersey City charter school students outperformed their district peers by 8 points in ELA and 8 points in Math.

Jersey City charter schools include some of the most racially/ethnically diverse schools in the entire state. 3 out of the top 10 most diverse public schools in NJ are Jersey City charter schools (out of 2,512 schools).

In 2017, 93% of Jersey City charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 78% and on par with the state average of 91%.

*2017 graduation rate
CITY PROFILE: Paterson

ENROLLMENT

- **College Achieve Paterson Charter School** (K-1, 5-6) prepares its students to excel and graduate from the top colleges and universities in the nation.
- **Community Charter School of Paterson** (K-8) is a full-service community school that provides an array of services designed to remove barriers to learning and promote student and family success.
- **John P. Holland Charter School** (K-8) focuses on individualized learning, a strong applied arts program, character education, and community service and involvement.
- **Paterson Arts and Science Charter School** (K-9) provides students with a high-quality STEAM-based education in a digital learning environment to empower students to succeed in college and careers.
- **Paterson Charter School for Science & Technology** (K-12) is the longest running and only K-12 charter school in the City of Paterson that offers 12 AP courses to ensure that students are ready for the rigors of college.
- **Philip’s Academy Charter School of Paterson** (K-1) provides students with a moral and rigorous education that embraces differentiated instruction to allow students to attend college, and develop a commitment to global citizenship, environmental sustainability, and personal virtue.

**IN THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR...**

- **13%** of public school students are attending Paterson charter schools.
- **84%** On average, charter schools in Paterson receive 84% of per pupil funding compared to Paterson district schools.

**KEY DEMOGRAPHICS**

- **34%** Black
- **62%** Hispanic
- **81%** Economically Disadvantaged
- **8%** Students with Disabilities
- **4%** English Language Learners

**CHARTER SCHOOLS BY GRADES SERVED**

- **1** Elementary School
- **1** K-9 School
- **3** K-8 Schools
- **1** K-12 School

**Paterson Data Sources:**


Graduation Rates: Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate: 2017 Adjusted Cohort 4-Year Graduation Rate file publicly released on NJ DOE website.

* Charter school graduation rate excludes schools closed prior to the 2017-18 school year. If included in the graduation rate calculation, the graduation rate would have been 75%.
PERFORMANCE

PATERSON CHARTER
ELEMENTARY AND
MIDDLE SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE

In 2017, Paterson charter school students outperformed their district peers by 20 points in ELA and 10 points in Math.

PATERSON CHARTER
HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMANCE

In 2017, Paterson charter school students outperformed their district peers by 6 points in ELA and 4 points in Math.

2017 Overall Student Achievement (Proficiency Rates)

Grades 3-8

ELA

Charter: 48.0%
District: 28.0%
State: 28.0%

MATH

Charter: 28.0%
District: 18.0%
State: 43.8%

Grades 9-11

ELA

Charter: 21.0%
District: 18.5%
State: 48.2%

MATH

Charter: 12.6%
District: 8.3%
State: 33.6%

GRADUATION RATE*

97% CHARTER

88% COMPARATIVE DISTRICT

91% STATE

In 2017, 97% of Paterson charter high school students graduated within 4 years - higher than the district average of 88% and on par with the state average of 91%.

*2017 graduation rate
In New Jersey, there are many charter schools that are racially, culturally, and socioeconomically diverse. In Part Two, we take a closer look at three schools that have diverse student populations by design: The Ethical Community Charter School, Chartertech High School, and BelovED Community Charter School.

It is important to note that we celebrate all schools that are of high-quality, regardless of racial, cultural, or socioeconomic status. The false narrative that charter schools exacerbate segregation is both erroneous and irresponsible. There are a host of reasons, namely exclusionary housing policies, why schools across the state lack diversity. In New Jersey, charter schools are predominantly located in our urban centers and simply mirror the student populations in those cities.
The mission of The Ethical Community Charter School is to give students the tools they need to make good choices so that they can thrive academically and socially and positively shape the community and world around them. The Ethical Community Charter School is an intentionally diverse public school that draws strength from the many communities within Jersey City, one of the most diverse cities in the nation. Ethical’s 380 students collectively speak more than 40 different languages!

Achieving Diversity
In Jersey City, neighborhood schools are often segregated by income or ethnicity. As an open enrollment public school serving students in kindergarten through 8th grade, Ethical draws students from across the city’s communities, which range from more affluent families clustered in downtown neighborhoods to lower income families in the southern parts of the city.

“We believe all children can achieve at high levels and benefit from access to a child-centered constructivist curriculum that is well supported by academic fundamentals”, said Marta Bergamini, principal at Ethical. “We believe that the school practices—including project-based and hands-on learning, responsive and restorative discipline, and access to challenging texts that are representative of college-bound learners—are powerful for our diverse student body.”

Location and Transportation
Ethical Community Charter School is located in the Marion district of Jersey City which is within walking distance from many communities, including Marion Gardens public housing. In order to assist families who are not within walking distance, the school offers paid bus service to all parts of the city, through its Family School Association, and have created subsidies for bus fees for families who need it. The school also publicizes free city bus tickets available to students who live farther than two miles from the school and have installed bike racks in front of the school, which several students use daily.
**Outreach**

Ethical recruits widely throughout the city in order to reach families of various socioeconomic backgrounds. Staff from the school meet with families at farmers’ markets, churches, parks, and other community events, including summer camp and education information events. The school also utilizes Spanish-speaking staff to assist with recruitment activities and to ensure that parents who speak Spanish can navigate the enrollment process successfully. Applications to apply to the school’s lottery are also available in multiple languages.

**Strong Academic Results**

The Ethical Community Charter School is producing excellent results for its diverse student population. In the 2016-17 school year, 59% of Ethical’s students met or exceeded expectations on PARCC in language arts, while 46% met or exceeded expectations on PARCC in math, both outpacing state averages.

A major goal of the school is to enroll graduating 8th students into highly competitive magnet schools in Jersey City and Hudson County as well as several long-standing parochial and private schools. In 2017, 25% percent of Ethical’s students enrolled in competitive admissions public high schools, while 93% of graduates went to one of their two top high school choices. Families also received $58,000 in scholarships for private high schools last year.

"Before I came here, I didn’t know what ethics meant. Now I know how it impacts the world and can change it. Now I am doing more community service to help others.”

— current TECCS 8th grader
BelovED Community Charter School is an independent charter school currently serving 960 students in grades K-7 in Jersey City. The school is still growing and will ultimately serve 1,560 students (120 per grade level) in grades K-12.

BelovED’s key design elements include
1) high expectations for all students
2) a carefully crafted, standards-based curriculum
3) a longer school day for instruction and learning as well as time to explore the arts and for creative play
4) strong professional development and teacher support and
5) pervasive use of data to drive not only instruction and tutoring, but also system, program, and school improvement.

Providing a High-Quality Education to Students

BelovED Community Charter School is producing strong results for its students and families. In the 2016-17 school year, 56% of BelovEd’s students met or exceeded expectations on PARCC in language arts, while 41% met or exceeded expectations on PARCC in math, both outpacing district schools by more than 10 percentage points in both subjects.
Recruiting a Diverse Population

America’s neighborhood public schools reflect the economic and ethnic stratification of the nation’s neighborhoods -- and their students, inevitably, learn what social stratification teaches.

“At BelovED, we want our students to learn what inclusion teaches, so our school model begins with bringing the diverse people of Jersey City together,” said Board president Ronnie Calvin-Clark. “Through street corner flyering in every neighborhood of Jersey City, and the provision of free bus transportation from and to every neighborhood in Jersey City, we have successfully recruited a student population that is representative of Jersey City’s economically and ethnically diverse population.”

“At BelovED, as in Heaven, we have all the people of the world gathered together and getting along!”

— Lynn Schundler, Registrar
Chartertech High School for the Performing Arts brings to life the joy of the arts. In each chosen performing arts major, Artists (students) are challenged to meet their artistic potential. Artists choose from one of our six majors - Musical Theatre, Vocal Music, Instrumental Music, Dance, Film, and Animation. "Chartertech celebrates diversity in performance art while complementing each other as a whole. We welcome all children with an interest in the arts and we look forward to serving our artists with a comprehensive college prep high school academic curriculum paired with a unique and artist centered education in the performing arts," stated Principal Brian McGuire.

**A Unique Program Brings Diversity**

Diversity begins with the inclusion of Artists from 24 school districts across southern New Jersey. From Atlantic City to Estell Manor, Vineland to Brigantine, Artists come to Chartertech with a common goal of mastering their performing art; the geographical diversity is like no other in the area.

Of the 358 current Artists, 40% of Chartertech seniors are currently taking at least 1 AP exam/course. 85% of the school's Artists are in at least one club/extracurricular activity through the Intervention/Enrichment Program coupled with the afterschool clubs and activities.
Celebrating Diversity

Artist performances dominate the schedule for students at Chartertech. Each major performs two showcases each year. Prior to all performances, our welcome announcement is made in both English and Spanish.

“The celebration of diversity is the thread that holds our school community together; through the many geographical locations of our sending districts, the economic and special needs populations, the race, the sexual orientation and/or gender of our Artists, we believe that each of us make up an equal part of the whole that is Chartertech High School for the Performing Arts,” said McGuire.

“Chartertech celebrates diversity in performance art while complementing each other as a whole. We welcome all children with an interest in the arts…”

— Principal Brian McGuire