

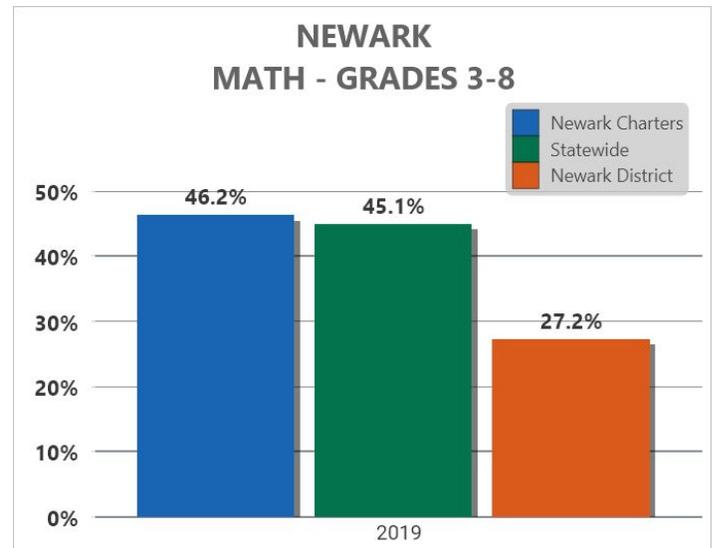
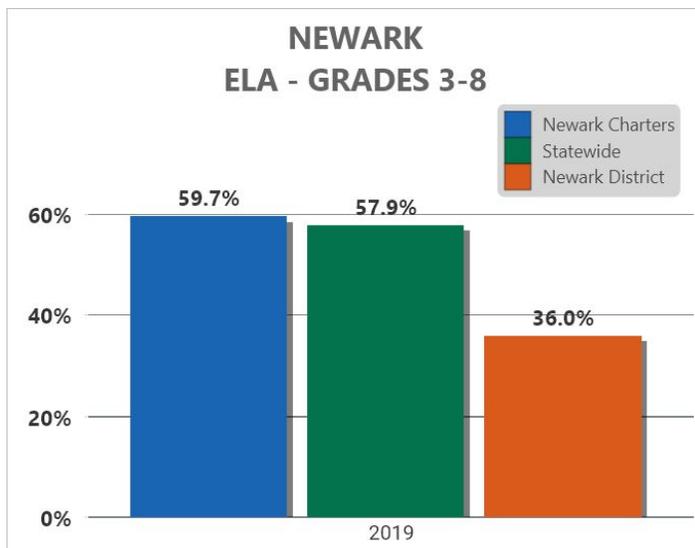
**NEWARK PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS OUTPERFORM
STATE AVERAGE FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW**

Jersey City and Trenton Charter Schools Make Strong Gains Despite Inadequate Funding

Hamilton, NJ – Yesterday, the New Jersey Department of Education released the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) results for the 2018-19 school year. For the second year in a row, Newark’s public charter school students in grades three through eight outperformed the state average in both English language arts (ELA) and mathematics on the annual state assessment. Approximately 20,000 students, nearly all of whom are students of color, attend public charter schools in Newark. Eighty-two percent of Newark’s public charter school students are economically disadvantaged and 11% are students with disabilities.

“The 2019 NJSLA results are yet another proof point that charter schools work. Public charter schools continue their proven record of outstanding academic success, particularly in Newark which continues to outperform the state average in the best public school system in the nation. Our teachers, parents, and students have earned these results and we are so proud of their success,” said Harry Lee, President, New Jersey Charter Schools Association. “Public charter schools deserve fair funding and access to facilities resources just like their counterparts in traditional public schools. These schools are providing life-changing opportunities to families in need all across the State and they should be treated equitably,” added Lee.

Currently, public charter schools, on average, only receive 73 cents on the dollar compared to their traditional district school counterparts. They have also never received facilities funding in any form which forces schools to have to use operating dollars to find and maintain school buildings – money that could be spent in the classroom to better serve students. There are currently 35,000 students on charter school waiting lists.



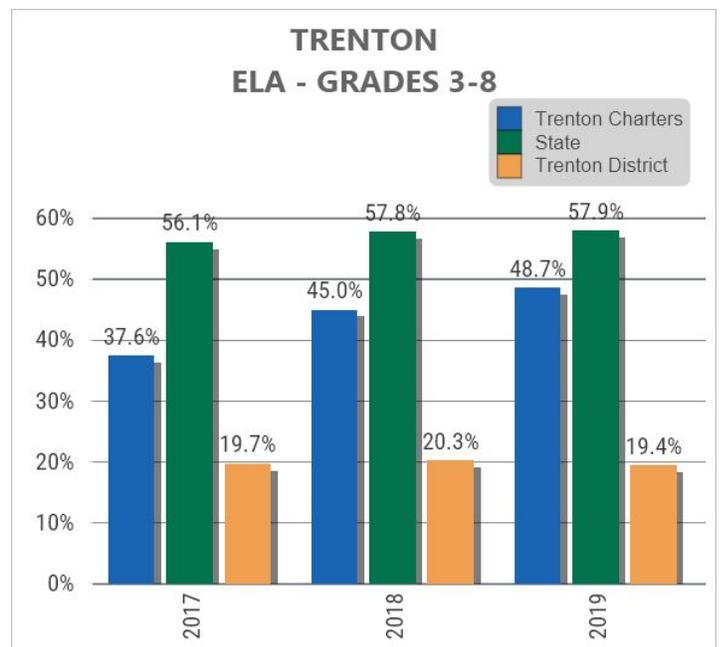
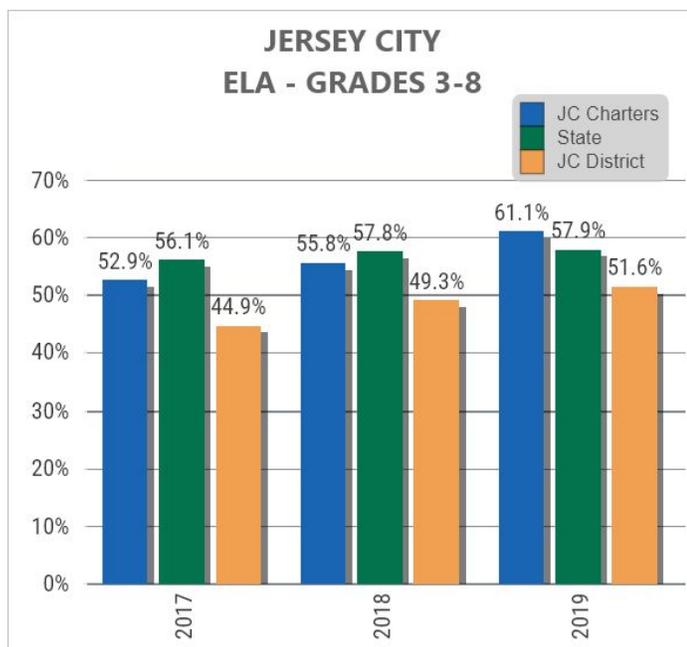
Public charter schools operate in 40 cities in 18 of New Jersey’s 21 counties. 50% of charter school students are Black, 35% are Hispanic and 70% are economically disadvantaged. The recent release of the NJSLA results demonstrates that low-income students of color are thriving in public charter schools. In 2019, Black charter students outperformed Black students statewide by 12% points in ELA and 14% points math; Hispanic charter students outperformed Hispanic

students statewide by 5% points in ELA and 4% points in math; and economically disadvantaged charter students outperformed economically disadvantaged students statewide by 9% points in ELA and 10% points in math. “It is clear why families in our urban districts are enrolling students in public charter schools. Public charter schools are preparing students for high school, college, and the workforce by meeting the individual needs of students throughout the state,” said Lee.

Charter Schools In Jersey City and Trenton Make Strong Gains

While scores statewide remained flat, public charter schools in Jersey City and Trenton saw very strong gains in 2019. Jersey City charter schools in grades three to eight outperformed the state average in English language arts for the first time growing by more than 8 percentage points since 2017. Additionally, Jersey City’s district schools also saw strong gains in ELA demonstrating that public charter schools and traditional public schools can co-exist together and improve outcomes for all students. Trenton’s charter schools in grades three through eight grew by more than double digits since 2017 in ELA and by more than 4 percentage points in math.

“Charter schools in Jersey City and Trenton are knocking it out of the park despite the lack of adequate funding. Currently, charter schools in Jersey City and Trenton receive 62% and 79% of traditional district funding, respectively. Charter schools are public schools that deserve fair funding and access to resources to find appropriate facilities for their students,” said Lee. “Public charter schools, by design, are flexible and highly responsive to their students’ needs. We are encouraged that this, along with a meaningful commitment to accountability, is helping to put students on the road to success,” noted Lee.



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 more than 54,000 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.