

An Update on Charter Schools

Presentation to the
New Jersey State Board of Education

November 3, 2010



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The Importance of Choice

The establishment of charter schools as part of this State's program of public education can assist in promoting comprehensive educational reform by providing a mechanism for the implementation of a variety of educational approaches which may not be available in the traditional public school classroom. Charter schools offer the potential to improve pupil learning; increase for students and parents the educational choices available when selecting the learning environment which they feel may be the most appropriate; encourage the use of different and innovative learning methods; establish a new form of accountability for schools; require the measurement of learning outcomes; make the school the unit for educational improvement; and establish new professional opportunities for teachers.

CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ACT OF 1995, N.J.S.A. 18A:36A



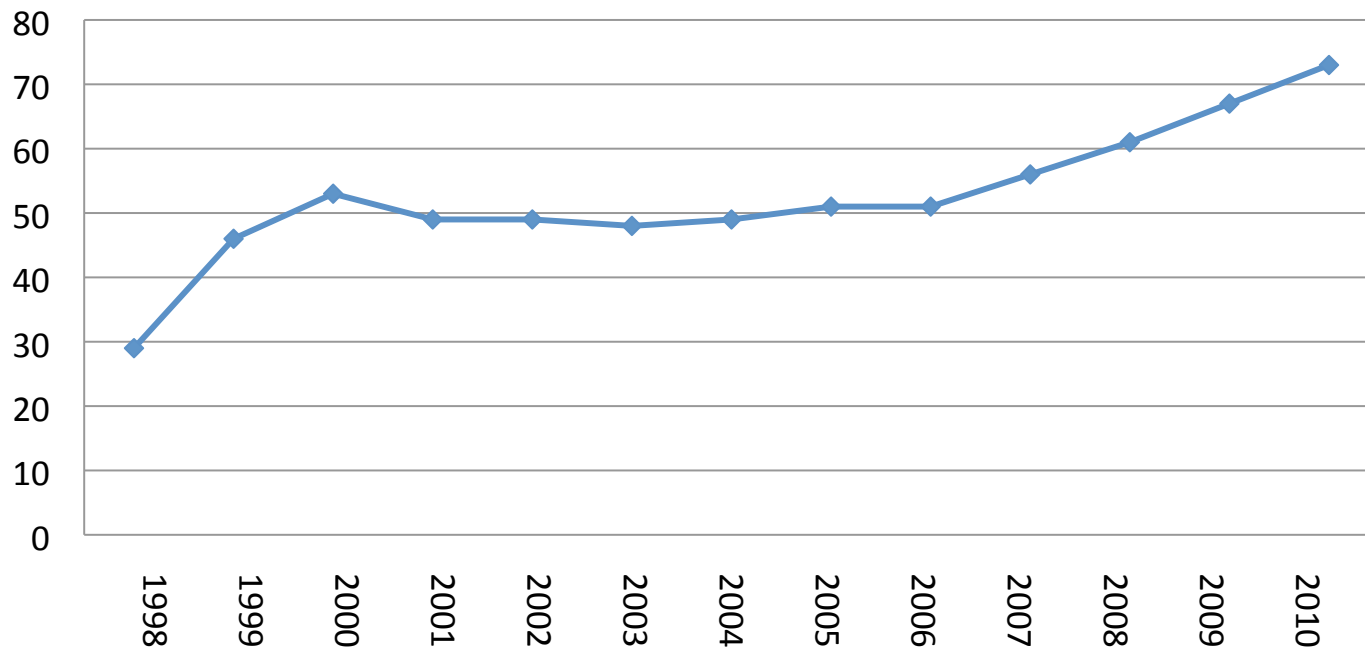
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The Importance of Choice

- Provide all New Jersey families access to great public schools
- Empowering parents, teachers, and communities to create new public schools
- New Jersey's charters are completely compatible with the principles of public education

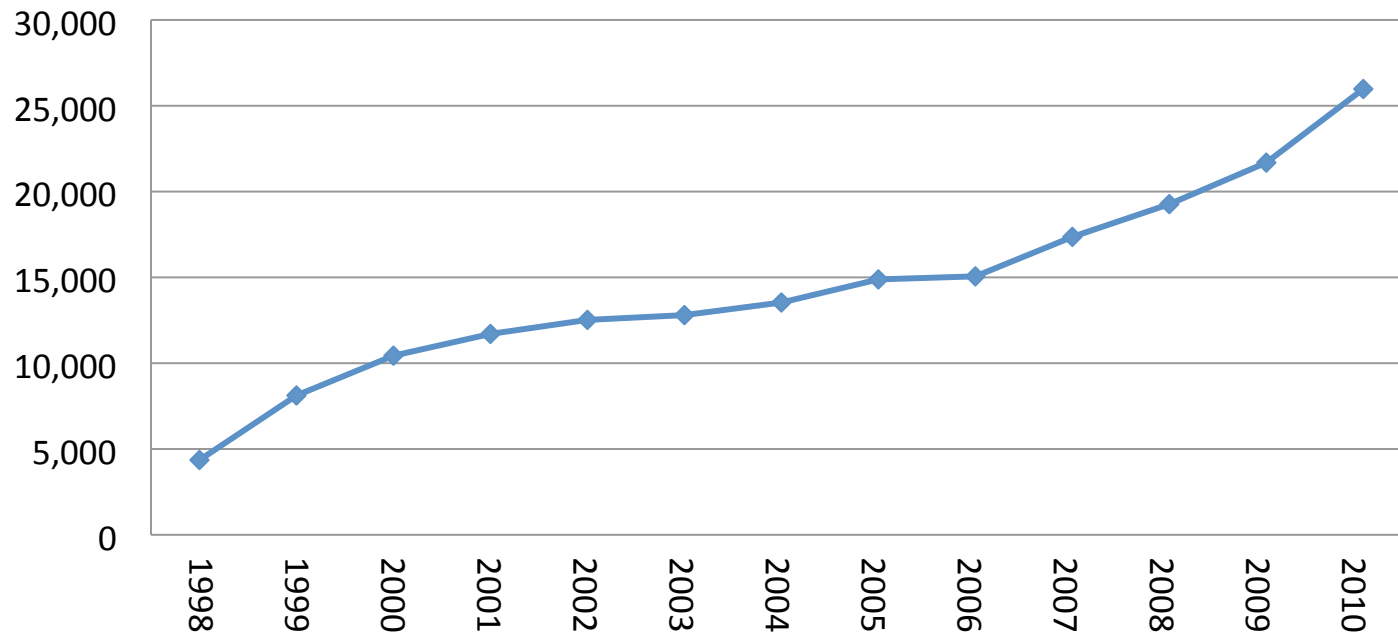


Charter Schools in Operation 1998-2010





Charter School Enrollment 1998-2010





Charter School Facts

Total number of Charter Schools (2010-2011): 73

Enrollment: 25,976 (1.6 percent of state public school enrollment)

Demand : 61 schools have wait lists totaling 12,663 children

* Based on 2009 data when 67 charter schools were in operation

Overall Student Demographics:

99 percent Minority (median across all charter schools)

86 percent Minority (mean across all charter schools)

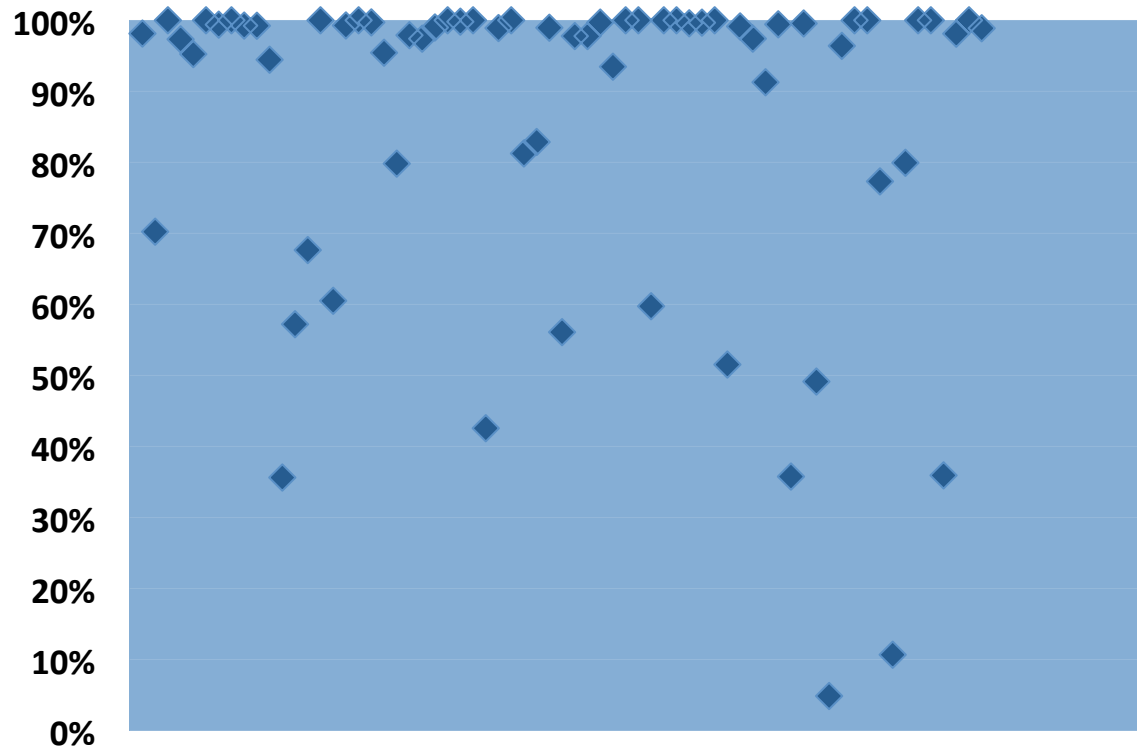
68 percent Students Receiving Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
(32 percent statewide)

2/3 of charter schools located in former Abbott districts



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Charter School Demographics: % Minority Students





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Charter Schools Highlights



Charters in New Jersey provide students and families with public school choice, offering innovative programs including schools that focus on:

Performing Arts
Sustainability and the Environment
Technology
Math and Science
Language Immersion





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Charter Success Stories

NORTH ★ STAR

Academy Charter School of Newark

- 100 percent of North Star graduates attend college
- School is guided by high academic expectations and data-driven instruction
- Developed model teacher evaluation system to ensure that teachers meet high standards and receive needed support
- Currently enroll nearly 1,400 students in grades K-3 and 5-12 with 1,700 + students on the waiting list

“One thing is for sure: this school has raised the bar. This is the example that success can happen not just for one student or one classroom, or one school. North Star is a network of schools that is succeeding. We need to take these islands of excellence to build more schools like this nationwide.”

-US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

During a visit at North Star Academy, June 2009



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Charter Success Stories

NORTH ★ STAR

Academy Charter School of Newark

Proficient or Advanced Language Arts and Literacy

Middle School	89.4%
Grade 11	100%

Proficient or Advanced Math

Middle School	91.3%
Grade 11	100%

Charter Success Stories



Academy Charter High School

- Individual post-grad counseling
- Service learning project
- Competitive sports programs
- Mentoring system

Proficient or Advanced Language Arts and Literacy	
Academy Charter High School	83.3%
Asbury Park HS	33.6%
Proficient or Advanced Math	
Academy Charter High School	66.7%
Asbury Park HS	20.9%
Graduation Rate	
Academy Charter High School	95.0%
Asbury Park HS	71.5%
Per Pupil Funding	
Academy Charter High School	\$14,312
Asbury Park HS	\$24,306

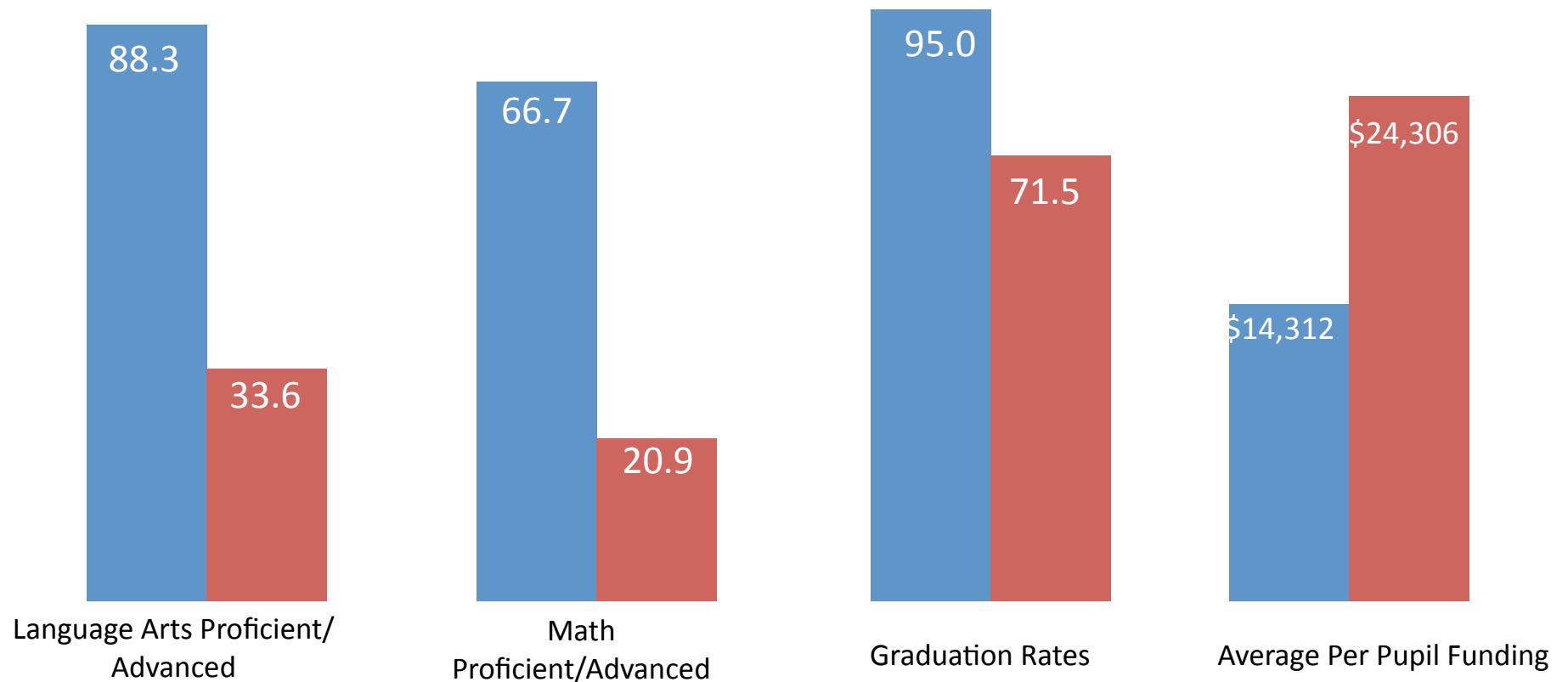


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Charter Success Stories

Academy Charter High School /Asbury Park HS

- Academy Charter High School
- Asbury Park High School





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Governor Christie's Education Reform Agenda

Governor Christie's education reform agenda is aimed at increasing quality and choice in New Jersey's public schools.

- Increase access to facilities for charter schools
 - Under-utilized school buildings
 - Shared space agreements with existing schools
 - Access to \$30m in low-interest bonds
- Facilitate conversion of low-performing District schools to charters
- Promote collaboration between charter schools and district schools
 - Facilities
 - Shared services
 - Professional development



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Governor Christie's Education Reform Agenda

- Allow for greater innovation within the chartering
 - Single sex schools
 - Cyber charters
 - Special education/needs
- Multiple authorizers
 - Colleges and Universities
 - Local school districts



Improvements Underway

- Partnering with National Association of Charter School Authorizers to implement best practices
 - Charter application process
 - Charter renewal process
 - Charter school monitoring
 - Focus on performance and accountability
- Supporting expansion and replication of successful charter schools
 - KIPP TEAM Academy: 33 percent enrollment increase in 2010 (1,200 to 1,600)
 - North Star: 37 percent enrollment increase in 2010 (1,011 to 1,388)
- Attracting charter operators with a track record of success
 - Mastery Charter Schools ready to open in Camden in September 2011