



COLORADO LEAGUE of CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter Schools are Public Schools

Overview: State of Charter Schools in Colorado, 2016

BACKGROUND

- Every three years, as required by statute, the Colorado Department of Education develops a report about the current state of charter public schools in Colorado.
- [The 2016 edition of this report](#) was released in July. What follows is a brief overview of some of the report's highlights and key findings.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Colorado charter public schools are enrolling students of color and English Language Learners (ELLs) at higher rates than the state's traditional public schools.
- Charter public school students — including those who are considered at-risk — continue to outperform their peers in traditional public schools on state performance measures.

SUPPORTING DETAILS

- Charters serve a growing number and share of Colorado's students. For the 2015-16 school year, 226 charter schools operated in Colorado, serving 108,793 students in grades preschool through 12th grade. This represents approximately 12 percent of the state's student population and a 30.3 percent increase from the 83,478 students counted during the 2011-12 school year.
- In 2015-16, charters served 51,052 students of color, representing 46.9 percent of the total charter population and higher than the state average of 45.7 percent students of color in non-charter schools.
- During the 2015-16 school year, ELL students represented 15.4 percent of the state's charter population as compared with a statewide average of 13.9 percent.
- Charter school students generally outperform students in non-charter schools on state performance measures, both overall and with educationally disadvantaged subgroups:
 - 2015 PARCC English Language Arts: Over all tested grades, 43.7 percent of charter students met or exceeded their grade-level benchmarks compared to 39.2 percent of non-charter students.
 - 2015 PARCC Math: Over all tested grades, 34.2 percent of charter students met or exceeded grade-level benchmarks compared to 29.6 percent for non-charter students.
 - Similar trends are seen with students from various educationally disadvantaged subgroups, i.e. FRL-eligible students, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities (see graphs on back).

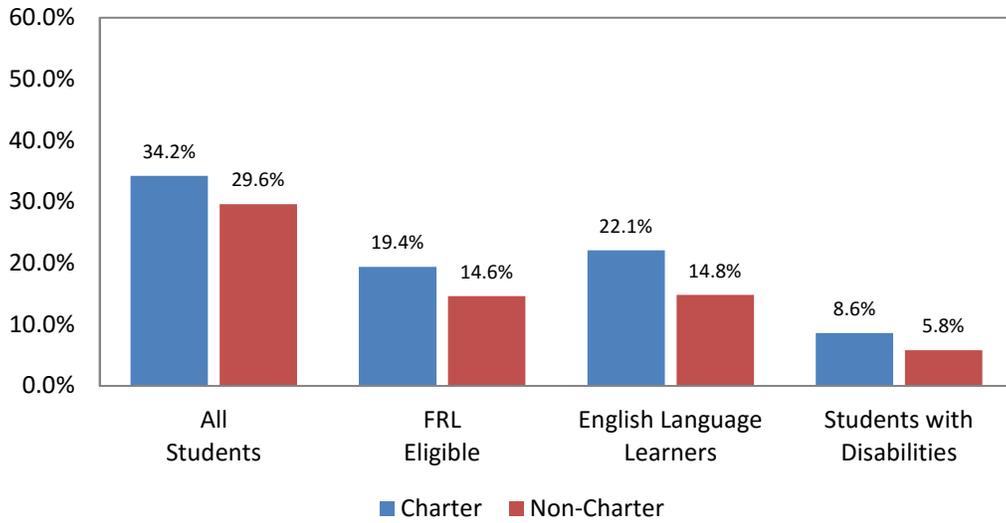
ONGOING CHALLENGES

- Despite these successes, charter school teachers and administrators continue to earn less than their non-charter school peers. In 2015-16, the average charter school teacher earned \$39,052, or \$15,413 less than the average non-charter school teacher, while the average charter school administrator earned \$72,453, or \$17,232 less than the average non-charter school administrator.
- This salary disparity is a direct result of the fact that charter schools in Colorado continue to be funded at only 80 cents on the dollar compared to traditional public schools. As a proven part of Colorado's public education landscape, charter schools deserve to be funded equitably. State leaders should adopt policies to eliminate this ongoing funding disparity.

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Learn more about charter public schools at www.CharterPublic.org.

2014-15 PARCC Math Results
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Grade Level Benchmarks



2014-15 PARCC ELA Results
Percent Meeting or Exceeding Grade Level Benchmarks

