

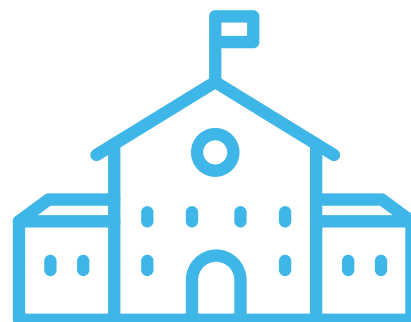
The State of Charter Schools IN NEW YORK STATE

How many are there and where?

There are 360 charter schools across New York. They are primarily located in the state's major cities.*

REGION	ALL AUTHORIZED TO OPEN	OPEN AS OF FALL 2021
Albany	10	8
Buffalo	23	22
Central NY	8	8
Downstate	4	2
Long Island	7	5
NYC	290	271
Rochester	18	14
TOTAL	360	330

*In Albany, Rochester, and Buffalo, some charter schools that serve students from that city are located outside the city



360
CHARTER SCHOOLS
IN THE STATE

What Are Charter Schools?

Charter schools are public schools. They are independent of school districts. Charter schools are held accountable based on performance - not just rules. Charter schools undergo a thorough review every 5 years. If a charter school is failing, it can be closed as a result of that review. According to state law, the purpose of charter schools are to "[p]rovide parents and students with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system" and to "improve student learning and achievement."

Who Can Open a Charter School?

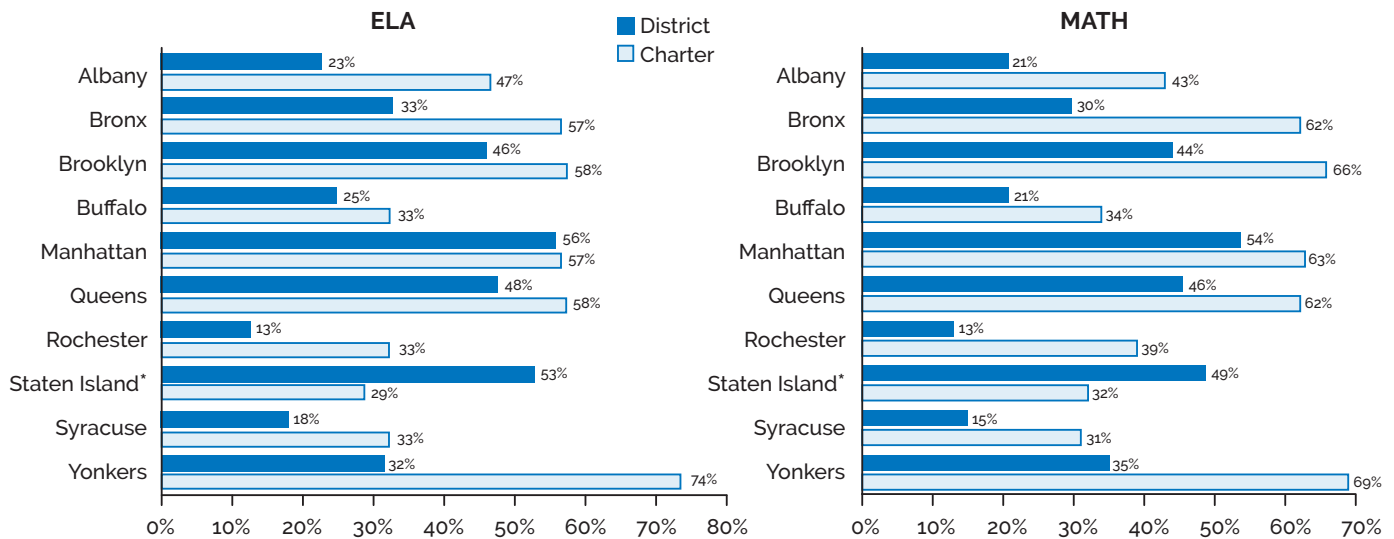
NYS law allows community groups, educators, parents or individual community members to start and operate a charter school. NYS law does not allow for-profit charter schools to open. They must be non-profits.

Do charter schools accept all students?

Yes! Families apply to charter schools using an application to gather only state-required information and optional information that allows the schools to grant some students an at-risk admissions preference, such as economically disadvantaged students, for example. State law also requires charter schools to preference students located within the school district as well as siblings of currently enrolled students. If the school receives more applications than there are seats available, it holds a lottery to allocate students to seats.

How do they perform in terms of student outcomes on state tests?

On average, New York charter school students exceeded the statewide average for proficiency on the 2018-19 ELA and math exams.



*We are proud of the many special-focus charter schools on Staten Island, serving large portions of students with special needs, over-age and under-credited students, and even a school specifically for students with dyslexia. Unfortunately, students in these categories, both in districts and in charters, tend to underperform their peers. While test scores for the students tend to be lower than those of their peers in district and charters, we stand with families, educators and advocates who are continuing to find new and different ways to identify and foster opportunities for students to reach their full potential and for students to express their excellence.

NOTE: SY18-19 data is provided as this is the last year of academic testing data with a statistically representative level of student participation.

Do charter schools serve Special Education Students?

By law, charter schools are open to all students, including special education students. If a student has a provision on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that a charter school is not able to provide (for example, a specialized classroom), the parent has a right to request that the school district change the student's IEP in order to align with the services that the charter school offers. In addition, there are many charters that have a special focus on children with special needs, including autism and dyslexia. In many cases, charter schools appear to enroll lower percent-ages of Special Education students. However, in many cases charter schools offer similar services (pull-out reading groups, individual support from a teacher) and do not require a student to receive an IEP in order to receive these services. However, the law requires that school districts serve the most disabled students and often do so by paying for residential programs. Statewide, at 88 charter schools, almost a third of all schools, special education students outperform the district average.



AT **88**
**CHARTER SCHOOLS, SPECIAL
 EDUCATION STUDENTS
 OUTPERFORM THEIR HOST
 DISTRICT AVERAGE**

We support and advocate for charter schools delivering high quality education for students across New York State. Want to learn more?

Visit www.nycharters.net or call **518-218-6575**.

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