Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools:

A Comparison of the Performance of Charter School Students with Traditional Public School Students



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Improving K-12 Educational Choice Options



About This Report

Section 1002.33(23), Florida Statutes, requires the Florida Department of Education to prepare an annual statewide analysis of student achievement in charter schools versus the achievement of comparable students in traditional public schools. This report of charter school student performance fulfills the statutory requirement for the 2015-16 school year. The analysis examines the average performance of charter school students and traditional public school students on statewide assessments in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Only students who were enrolled in a charter school or a traditional public school for an entire school year are included in the analysis. Limiting the analysis to include only full-year students is consistent with the state's school accountability system for calculating school grades. The report compares charter and traditional public schools in terms of grade level achievement, learning gains and achievement gap. The data included in this report is based on over 4.2 million test scores from the 2015-16 school year.

The analysis and production of this report was a coordinated effort between the Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice and the Bureau of Evaluation and Reporting in the Division of Accountability, Research and Measurement. Additional information about charter schools and other school choice options is available on the Department's Web site at:

www.floridaschoolchoice.org.

Section 1002.33(23), Florida Statutes (23) ANALYSIS OF CHARTER SCHOOL PERFORMANCE.--Upon receipt of the annual report required by paragraph (9)(I), the Department of Education shall provide to the State Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives an analysis and comparison of the overall performance of charter school students, to include all students whose scores are counted as part of the statewide assessment program, versus comparable public school students in the district as determined by the statewide assessment program currently administered in the school district, and other assessments administered pursuant to s. 1008.22(3).



Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools: Key Findings

The data contained in this report, based on over 4.2 million test scores, is derived from student performance on the Florida Standards Assessments for English Language Arts and Mathematics (including Algebra end-of-course exams) as well as the statewide assessments for Science and Social Studies. This report is designed to allow a comparative analysis of the academic achievement of students attending charter schools versus students attending traditional public schools. Using data from the 2015-16 school year, the report makes 195 comparisons in three areas: absolute achievement, learning gains and achievement gaps. Each of these areas includes overall as well as sub-group comparisons across subject areas and grade levels.

The achievement section of this report measures the percentage of students who scored a level three or above on the statewide assessment. This data is used to measure overall rates of grade level performance by grade groupings and by subgroup. This section of the report contains 77 separate comparisons of student achievement. In 65 of the 77 comparisons, students enrolled in charter schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance. In 12 of the 77 comparisons students enrolled in traditional public schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance.

The achievement gap section of the report contains data that are used to analyze the gap between white students and African-American students and white students and Hispanic students in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Social Studies. This section of the report includes 22 separate comparisons of achievement gaps. The achievement gap was lower for charter school students in 20 of the 22 comparisons while the achievement gap was lower for traditional public schools in 2 of the 22 comparisons.

The learning gains section of the report includes 96 comparisons. The report compares the percentage of students in charter schools making learning gains against the percentage of students in traditional public schools making learning gains by subject, grade level and subgroup. The percentage of students making learning gains was higher in charter schools in 82 of the 96 comparisons. The percentage of students making learning gains was higher in traditional public schools in 10 of the 96 comparisons. There was no difference in the percentage of students making learning gains in 4 of the 96 comparisons.



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Students Served by Florida Charter Schools

Charter schools provide parents with additional choices for selecting the most effective educational programs for their children and offer creative solutions for improving student achievement in Florida. The charter school sector in Florida strives to improve student learning, increase parental choice and foster innovative instructional and leadership approaches. Charter school enrollment has grown by almost 200 percent over the last decade. As shown below, charter schools served more than 270,000 students in the 2015-16 school year.

	Charter Schools		Traditional Public Schools (TPS)		All	
Race/Ethnicity/ Gender	Students	Percent	Students	Percent	Students	Percent
Total White	89,727	33.1%	1,006,514	39.9%	1,096,241	39.2%
Total Black	57,088	21.1%	571,494	22.6%	628,582	22.5%
Total Hispanic	108,496	40.0%	780,608	30.9%	889,104	31.8%
Other	15,609	5.8%	165,445	6.6%	181,054	6.5%
Male	135,613	50.1%	1,300,228	51.5%	1,435,841	51.4%
Female	135,307	49.9%	1,223,833	48.5%	1,359,140	48.6%
Total Enrollment	270,920	100.0%	2,524,061	100.0%	2,794,981	100.0%

Special Categories						
FRPL*	133,112	49.1%	1,553,407	61.5%	1,686,519	60.3%
ELL**	25,236	9.3%	254,512	10.1%	279,748	10.0%
SWD***	25,366	9.4%	353,309	14.0%	378,675	13.5%

^{*} FRPL: Free and Reduced Priced Lunch

^{**} ELL: English Language Learners

^{***} SWD: Students with Disabilities

Grading Charter Schools

Like traditional public schools, charter schools are assigned a performance grade if they meet the eligibility criteria and are not an alternative school or Exceptional Student Education (ESE) center that elects to receive a school improvement rating instead of a grade. To receive a school grade a public school (charter or traditional) must have at least 10 full-time students that have two years of performance data in reading and mathematics.

2015-16 Comparison of Graded vs. Ungraded Schools

	Charter	Traditional
Number of schools with membership in tested grades	624	3,129
Number of graded/rated schools	597	2,924
Number of ungraded/unrated schools	27	205
Percent of ungraded/unrated schools	4%	7%

2015-16 School Grades for Charter and Traditional Schools

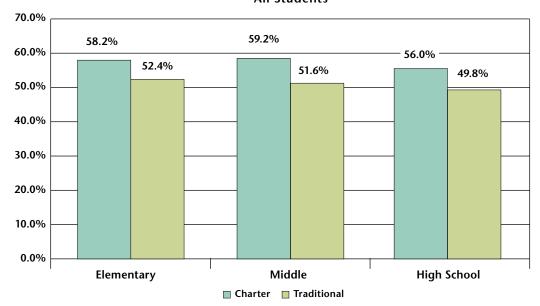
	Charter		Traditional		All	
Grade	Number	% of Graded	Number	% of Graded	Number	% of Graded
Α	182	35%	570	21%	752	23%
В	104	20%	655	24%	759	23%
С	142	27%	1,138	41%	1,280	39%
D	60	12%	325	12%	385	12%
F	30	6%	79	3%	109	3%
Total A-F	518	100%	2,767	100%	3,285	100%
Total A and B	286	55%	1,225	44%	1,511	46%

^{*2016} final school grades as of 9/20/2016.

FSA English Language Arts Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

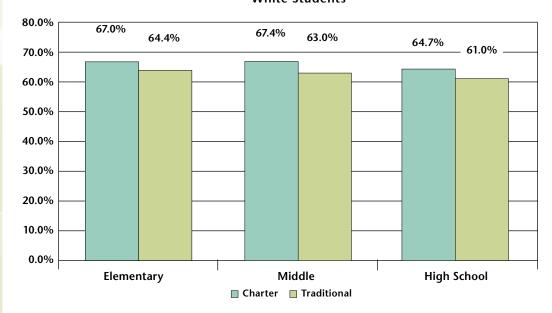
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2016

Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools
All Students

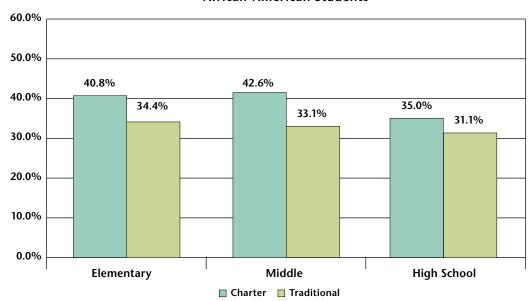


SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2016

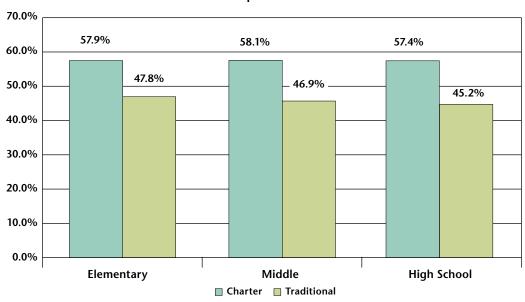
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools
White Students



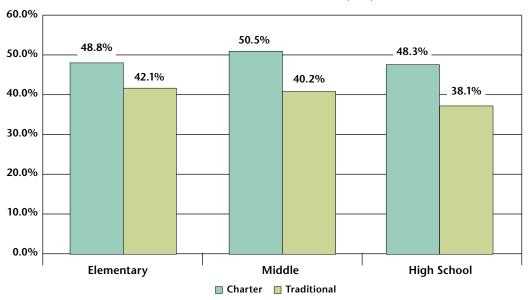
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American Students



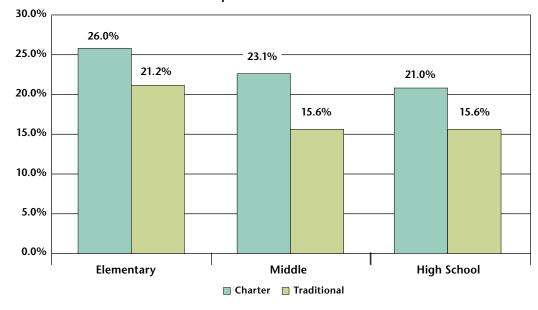
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic Students



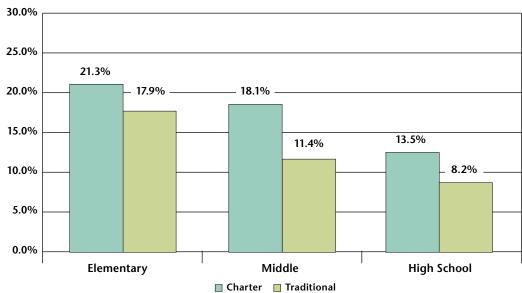
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Exceptional Education Students



Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools English Language Learner Students (ELL)

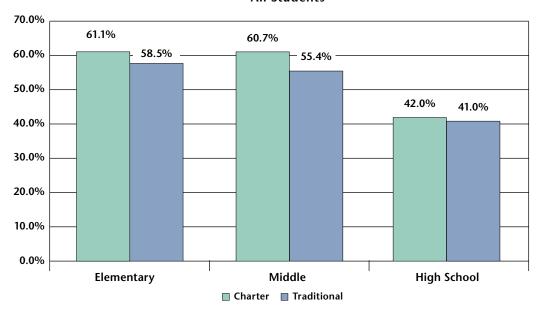


ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

FSA Mathematics Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

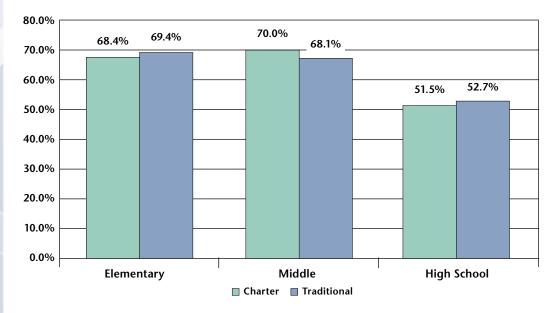
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2016

Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools
All Students

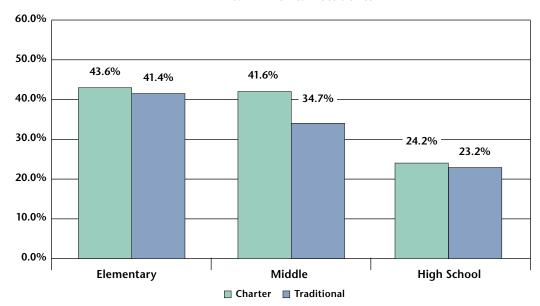


SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2016

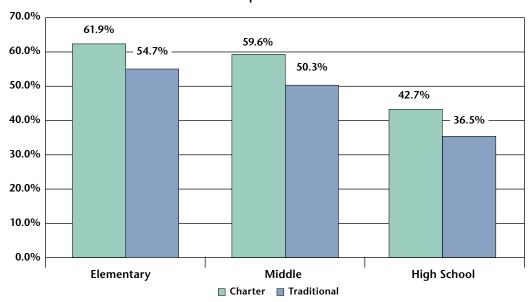
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools White Students



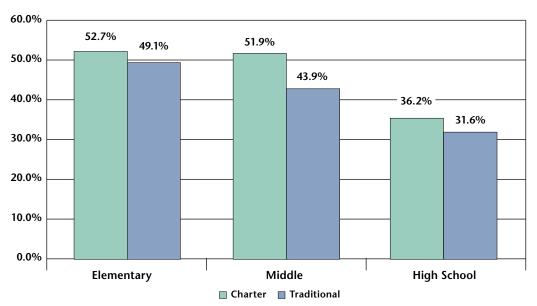
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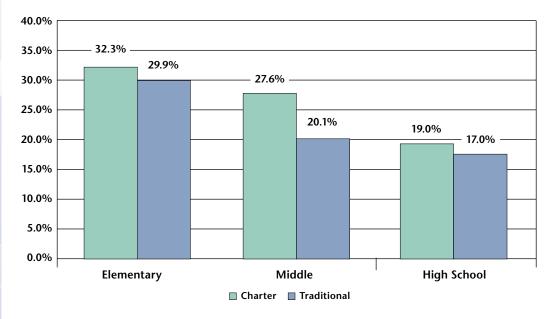
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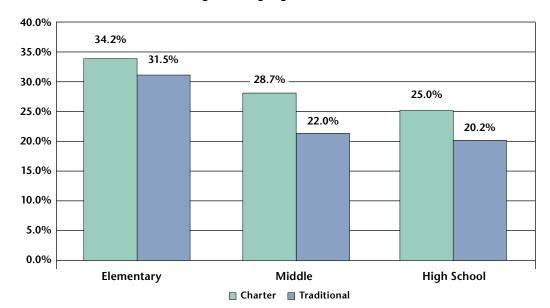
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Exceptional Education Students



Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools English Language Learner Students

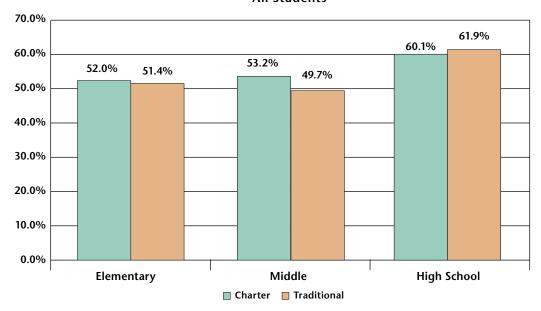




Statewide Science Assessment Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

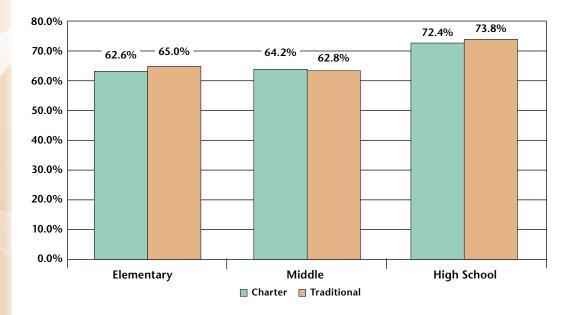
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2016

Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Statewide Science Assessment Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools All Students

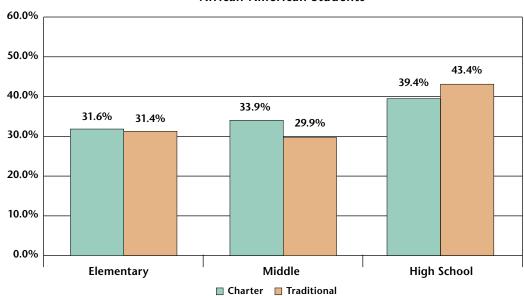


SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2016

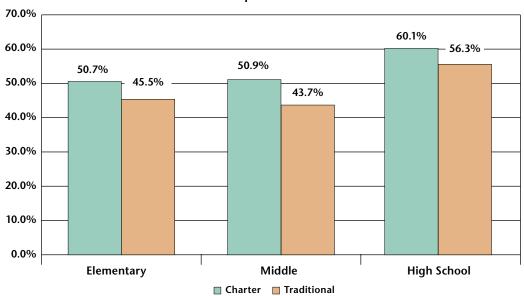
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Statewide Science Assessment Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools White Students



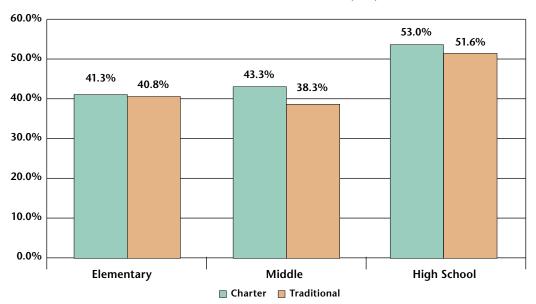
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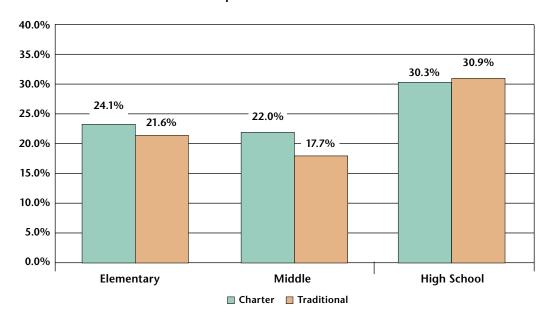
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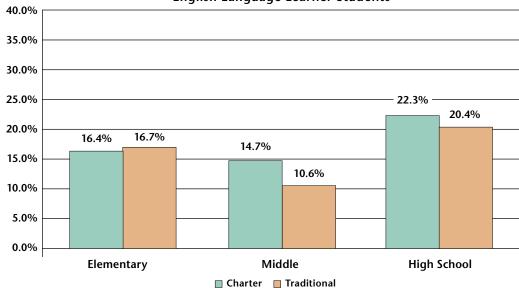
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Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Statewide Science Assessment Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Exceptional Education Students



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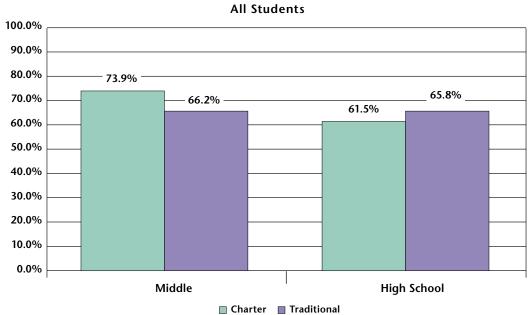


SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies End of Course Exam Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

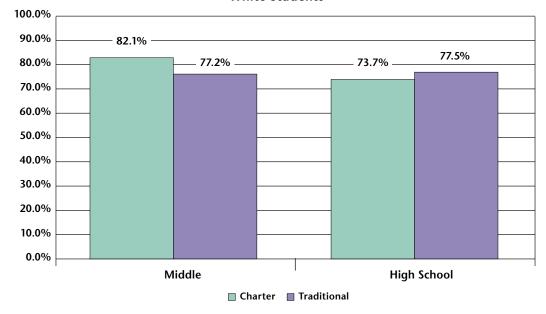
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2016

Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exam Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools

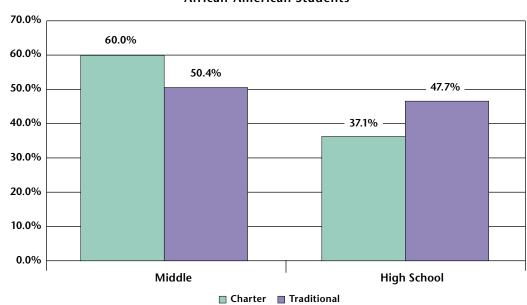


SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2016

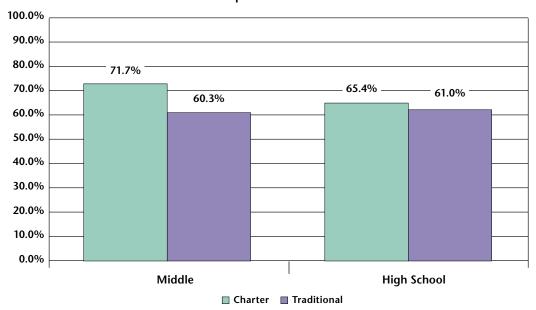
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Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exam Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American Students

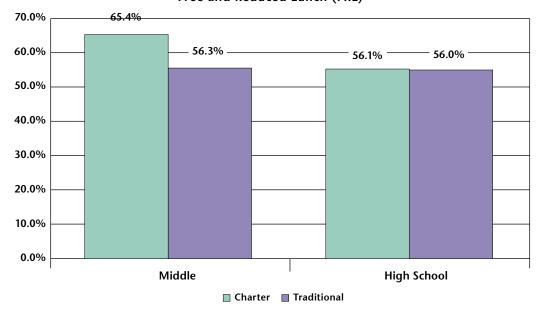


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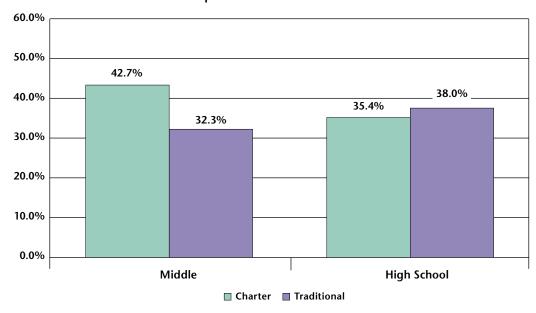


SOCIAL STUDIES

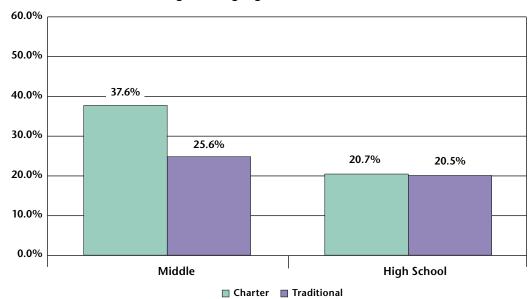
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exam Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exam Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Exceptional Student Education



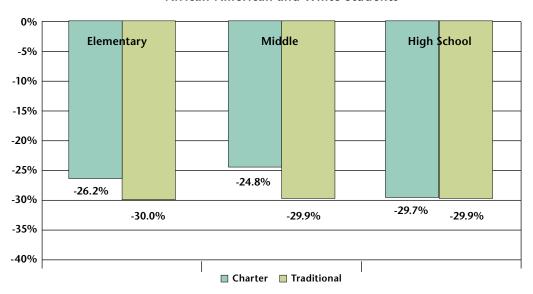
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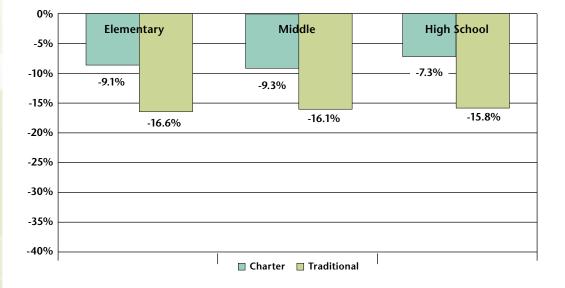
SOCIAL STUDIES

Achievement Gap Summary Data 2015-16 School Year

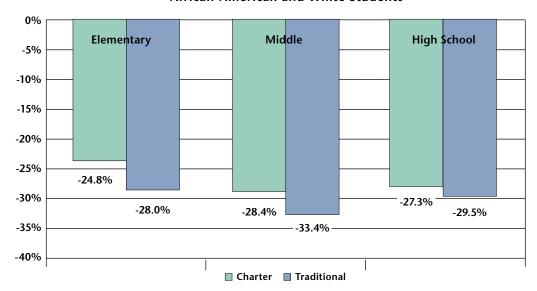
Achievement Gap in English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students



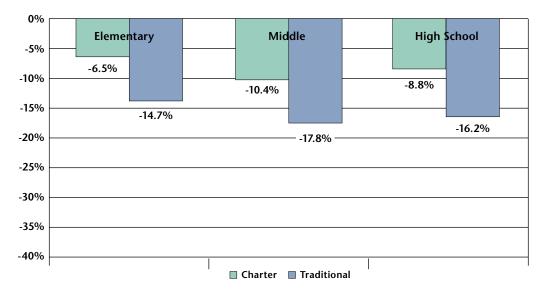
Achievement Gap in English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students



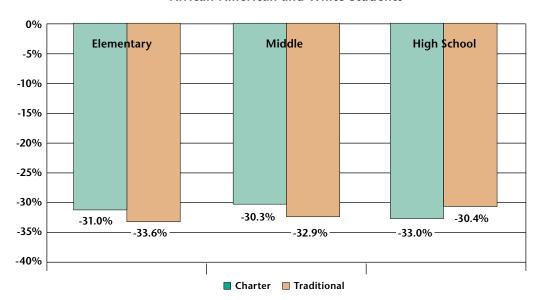
Achievement Gap in Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students



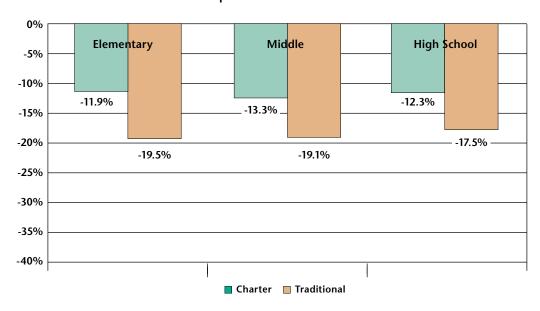
Achievement Gap in Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students



Achievement Gap in Science Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students



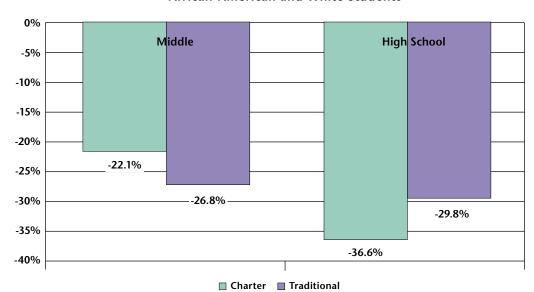
Achievement Gap in Science Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students



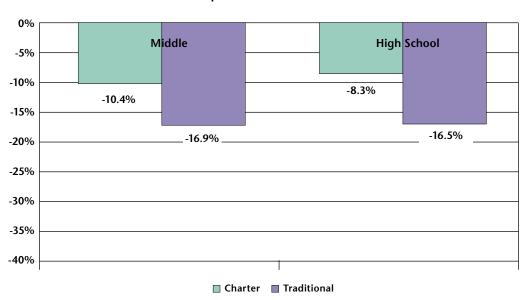
SOCIAL

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Achievement Gap in Social Studies Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students

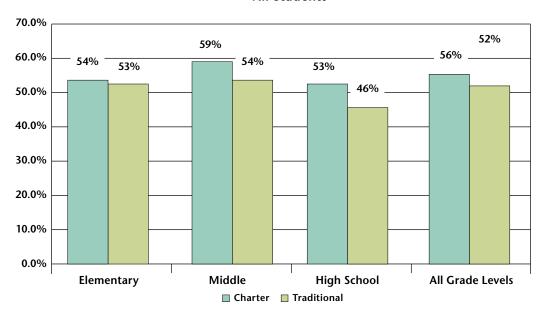


Achievement Gap in Social Studies Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students

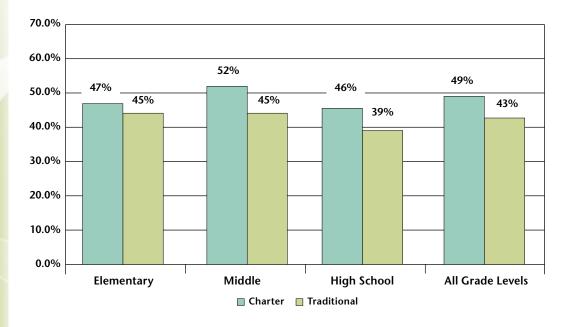


Learning Gains Comparison 2015-2016 School Year

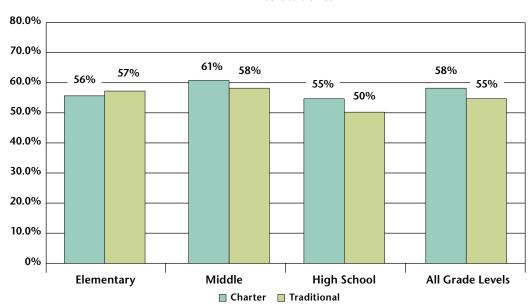
Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts All Students



Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts African-American Students

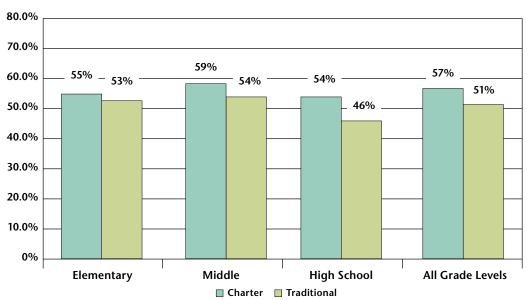


Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts White Students

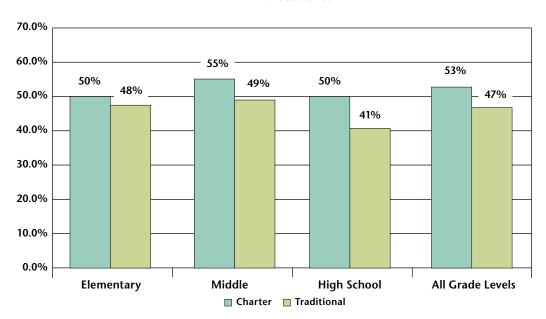


ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

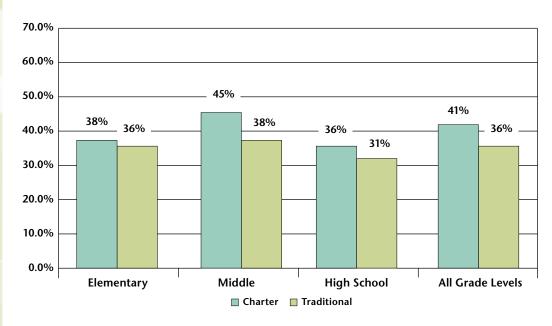
Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Hispanic Students



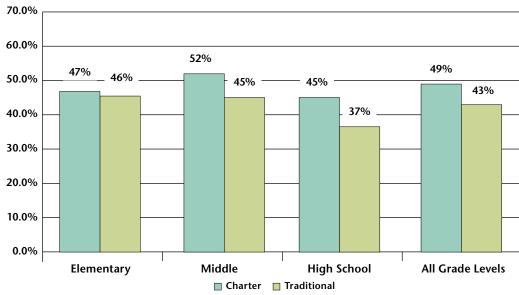
Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts FRL Students



Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Exceptional Education Students

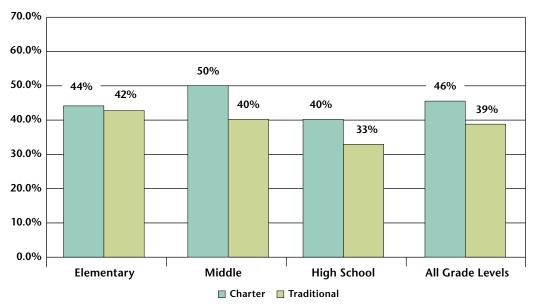


Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts All Students

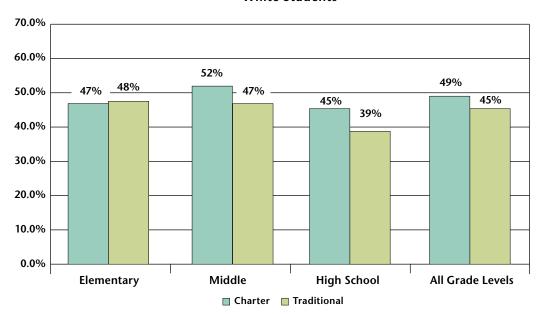


ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

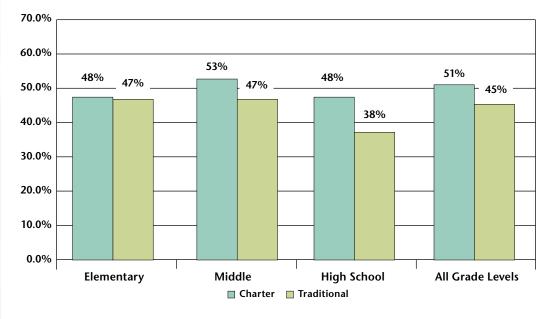
Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts African-American Students



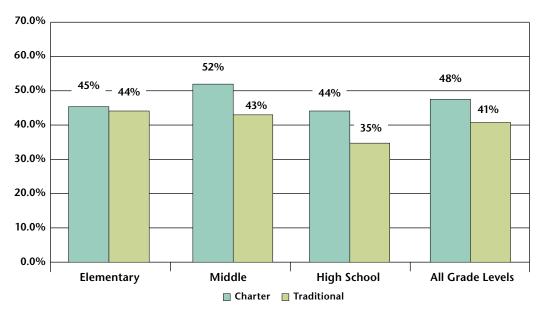
Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts White Students



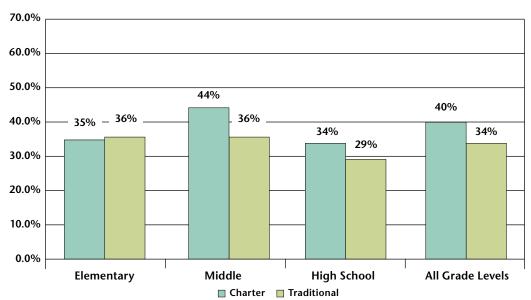
Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Hispanic Students



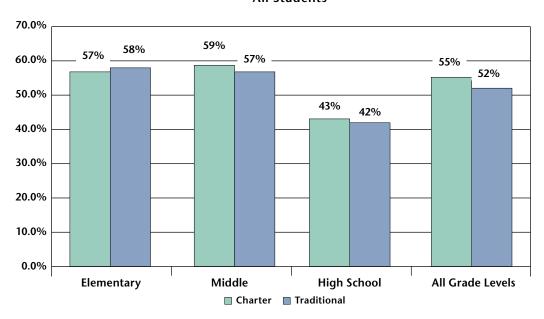
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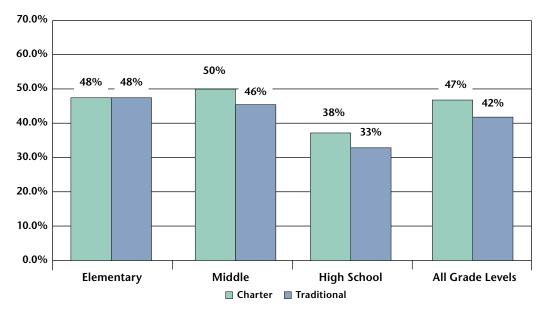
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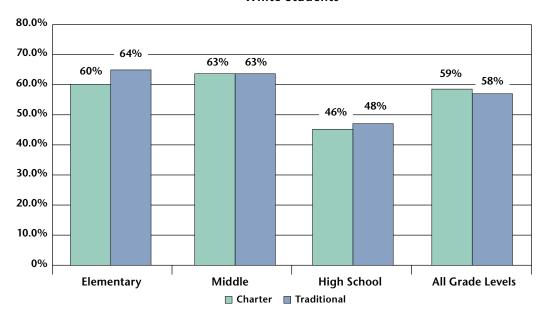
Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics All Students



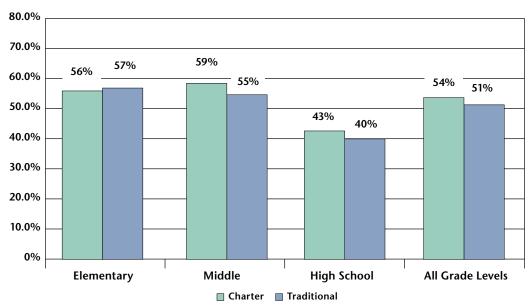
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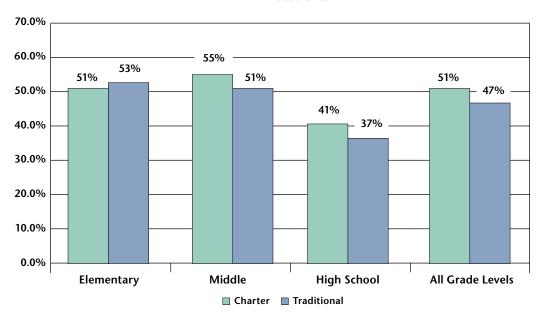
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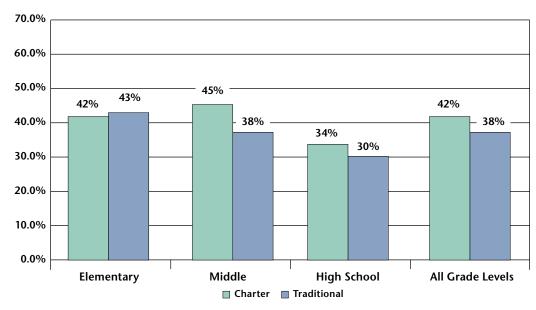
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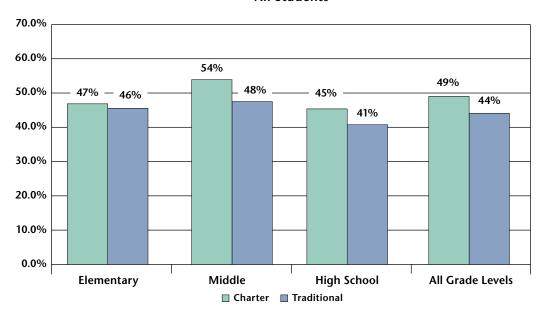
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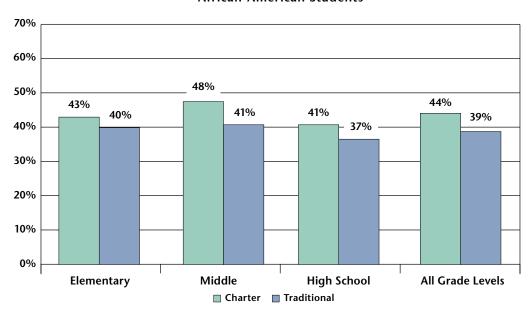
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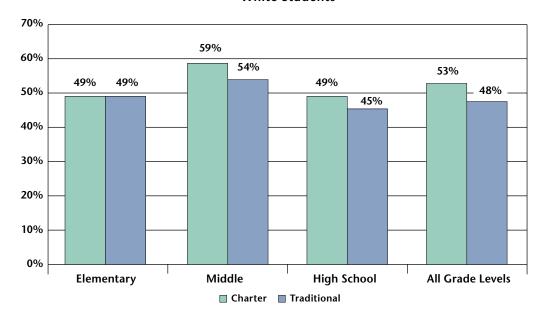
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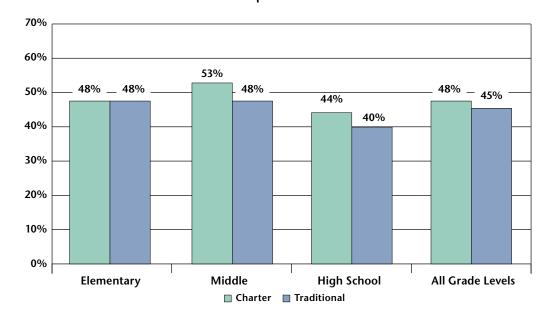
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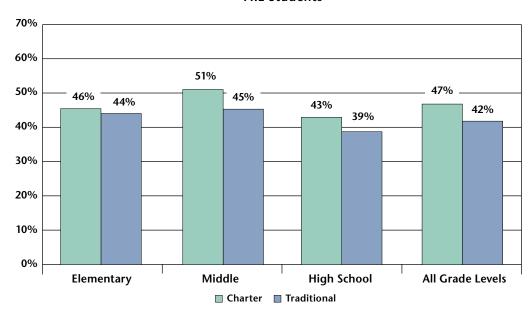
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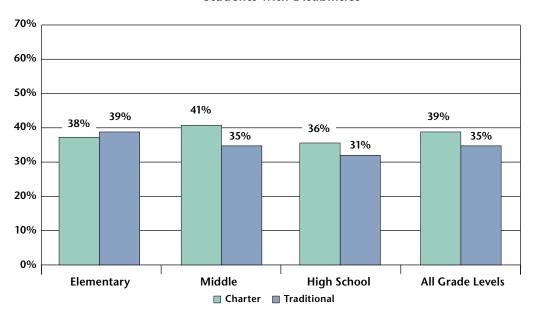
Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Hispanic Students



Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics FRL Students



Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Students with Disabilities



DATA

FSA PROFICIENCY D	ATA 2015 2016	Charter	Traditional
	English Language Arts	159,258	1,450,773
Total # of Students	Mathematics	165,166	1,521,231
with FSA results	Science	53,946	543,288
	Social Studies	34,539	340,689

Total % Proficient		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	English Language Arts				
	Elem	58.2	38,499	52.4	293,714
	Mid	59.2	41,421	51.6	266,484
	High	56.0	12,984	49.8	186,292
	Mathematics				
	Elem	61.1	40,408	58.5	330,212
	Mid	60.7	42,470	55.4	287,645
	High	42.0	12,201	41.0	179,513
	Science				
	Elem	52.0	10,799	51.4	92,607
	Mid	53.2	11,286	49.7	87,590
	High	60.1	7,191	61.9	115,640
	Social Studies				
	Elem	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Mid	73.9	17,460	66.2	116,029
	High	61.5	6,710	65.8	108,764

Total %	Proficien
by	/ Race

White Students

English Langua White	ge Arts			
Elem	67	15,137	64.4	140,843
Mid	67.4	16,248	63.0	132,295
High	64.7	4,710	61.0	94,595
Mathematics	White			
Elem	68.4	15,423	69.4	152,615
Mid	70	16,886	68.1	143,584
High	51.5	4,493	52.7	93,202
Science - White				
Elem	62.6	4,651	65.0	46,735
Mid	64.2	4,705	62.8	45,003
High	72.4	2,782	73.8	57,738
Social Studies -	White			
Elem	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mid	82.1	6,808	77.2	55,019
High	73.7	2,406	77.5	53,432

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	English Langua	ige Arts			
	- African Am.				
	Elem	40.8	5,392	34.4	43,063
	Mid	42.6	5,485	33.1	37,385
	High	35.0	1,490	31.1	25,354
	Mathematics - African Am.				
	Elem	43.6	5,791	41.4	52,017
	Mid	41.6	5,365	34.7	39,524
African-American	High	24.2	1,473	23.2	23,444
Students	Science - Africa	ın Am.			
	Elem	31.6	1,276	31.4	12,319
	Mid	33.9	1,322	29.9	11,688
	High	39.4	1,030	43.4	17,420
	Social Studies - African Am.				
	Elem	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Mid	60.0	2,594	50.4	19,529
	High	37.1	942	47.7	17,648
	English Langua Hispanic	ige Arts			
	Elem	57.9	15,240	47.8	85,828
	Mid	58.1	16,703	46.9	74,418
	High	57.4	6,067	45.2	51,199
	Mathematics - Hispanic	Mathematics -			
	Elem	61.9	16,341	54.7	98,984
	Mid	59.6	17,080	50.3	80,248
Hispanic	High	42.7	5,575	36.5	48,805
Students	Science Hispa	nic			
	Elem	50.7	4,046	45.5	25,870
		50.0	4 455	40.7	

50.9

60.1

N/A

71.7

65.4

4,455

2,985

N/A 6,835

3,060

43.7

56.3

N/A

60.3

61.0

23,619

31,808

N/A

32,214

30,143

Mid

High

Mid

High

Social Studies -Hispanic Elem

38 Student Achievement in	Florida's Charter Schools					
			Charter			aditional
	Total % Proficient by FRL		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	by Inc	English Langua	ge Arts			
		Elem	48.8	15,499	42.1	152,728
		Mid	50.5	17,083	40.2	126,966
		High	48.3	5,709	38.1	79,996
		Mathematics				,
		Elem	52.7	16,723	49.1	179,331
		Mid	51.9	17,556	43.9	139,714
		High	36.2	5,446	31.6	79,481
		Science				
		Elem	41.3	4,050	40.8	46,274
		Mid	43.3	4,383	38.3	40,672
		High	53.0	3,142	51.6	54,302
		Social Studies	N1/A	N.//	21/4	N1/4
		Elem	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Mid	65.4	7,323	56.3	60,328
		High	56.1	3,092	56.0	50,296
	Total % Proficient by ESE					
		English Langua	ge Arts			
		Elem	26.0	1,494	21.2	16,446
		Mid	23.1	1,319	15.6	9,280
		High	21.0	385	15.6	5,805
		Mathematics				
		Elem	32.3	1,856	29.9	23,437
		Mid	27.6	1,590	20.1	12,137
		High Science	19.0	515	17.0	7,696
		Elem	24.1	429	21.6	5,342
		Mid	22.0	365	17.7	3,414
		High	30.3	323	30.9	5,827
		Social Studies	30.3	323	30.7	3,027
		Elem	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Mid	42.7	794	32.3	6,727
		High	35.4	372	38.0	6,124
	Total % Proficient by ELL					
		English Langua	ge Ar <u>ts</u>			
		Elem	21.3	1,193	17.9	11,379
		Mid	18.1	754	11.4	3,847
		High	13.5	160	8.2	1,807
		Mathematics				
		Elem	34.2	1,935	31.5	20,494
		Mid	28.7	1,203	22.0	7,585
		High	25.0	422	20.2	5,638
		Science				
		Elem	16.4	246	16.7	2,996
		Mid	14.7	175	10.6	1,195
		High	22.3	142	20.4	2,326
		Social Studies	N1/4	N1/4	N1/A	N1/A
		Elem	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
		Mid	37.6	539	25.6	3,057
		High	20.7	106	20.5	1,907

LEARNING GAINS DATA

English Language Arts	All Students % who made learning gains	African American % who made learning gains	White % who made learning gains	Hispanic % who made learning gains	FRL % who made learning gains	SWD % who made learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	54	47	56	55	50	38
Grades 6, 7 and 8	59	52	61	59	55	45
Grades 9 and 10	53	46	55	54	50	36
All Grade levels	56	49	58	57	53	41
Traditional Schoo	ls					
Grades 4 and 5	53	45	57	53	48	36
Grades 6, 7 and 8	54	45	58	54	49	38
Grades 9 and 10	46	39	50	46	41	31
All Grade levels	52	43	55	51	47	36

LEARNING GAINS OF THE LOWEST QUARTILE

			1	1		
English Language Arts	% in the low 25% who made learning gains	African American % in the low 25% who made learning gains	White % in the low 25% who made learning gains	Win the low 25% who made learning gains	FRL % in the low 25% who made learning gains	% in the low 25% who made learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	47	44	47	48	45	35
Grades 6, 7 and 8	52	50	52	53	52	44
Grades 9 and 10	45	40	45	48	44	34
All Grade levels	49	46	49	51	48	40
Traditional Schoo	ls					
Grades 4 and 5	46	42	48	47	44	36
Grades 6, 7 and 8	45	40	47	47	43	36
Grades 9 and 10	37	33	39	38	35	29
All Grade levels	43	39	45	45	41	34

Note: Retained 3rd grade students eligible for gains therefore included with grades 4 and 5.

LEARNING GAINS DATA

Mathematics	All Students % who made learning gains	African American % who made learning gains	White % who made learning gains	Hispanic % who made learning gains	FRL % who made learning gains	SWD % who made learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	57	48	60	56	51	42
Grades 6, 7 and 8	59	50	63	59	55	45
Grades 9 and 10	43	38	46	43	41	34
All Grade levels	55	47	59	54	51	42
Traditional Schoo	ls					
Grades 4 and 5	58	48	64	57	53	43
Grades 6, 7 and 8	57	46	63	55	51	38
Grades 9 and 10	42	33	48	40	37	30
All Grade levels	52	42	58	51	47	38

LEARNING GAINS OF THE LOWEST QUARTILE

Mathematics	% in the low 25% who made learning gains	African American % in the low 25% who made learning gains	White % in the low 25% who made learning gains	Hispanic % in the low 25% who made learning gains	FRL % in the low 25% who made learning gains	% in the low 25% who made learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	47	43	49	48	46	38
Grades 6, 7 and 8	54	48	59	53	51	41
Grades 9 and 10	45	41	49	44	43	36
All Grade levels	49	44	53	48	47	39
Traditional Schoo	ls					
Grades 4 and 5	46	40	49	48	44	39
Grades 6, 7 and 8	48	41	54	48	45	35
Grades 9 and 10	41	37	45	40	39	31
All Grade levels	44	39	48	45	42	35

Note: Retained third-grade students eligible for gains therefore included with grades 4 and 5.









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