## 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.


## Table of Contents

Demographics ..... 2
School Grades ..... 3
FSA English Language Arts: All and Subgroup Comparisons ..... 4
FSA Mathematics: All and Subgroup Comparisons ..... 8
Statewide Science Assessment: All and Subgroup Comparisons ..... 12
Social Studies End of Course Exam: All and Subgroup Comparisons ..... 16
Achievement Gap: English Language Arts ..... 20
Achievement Gap: Mathematics ..... 21
Achievement Gap: Science ..... 22
Achievement Gap: Social Studies. ..... 23
Learning Gains Comparison in English Language Arts and Mathematics ..... 24
FSA Proficiency Data ..... 36
FSA Learning Gains Data ..... 39


F L O R \| D A' S
CHARTER

## 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 <br> Schools (TPS) |  | All |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Race/Ethnicity/ <br> 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 <br> Enrollment | $\mathbf{2 7 0 , 9 2 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 5 2 4 , 0 6 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{2 , 7 9 4 , 9 8 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Special
Categories

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

* 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 <br> grades | 624 | 3,129 |
| Number of graded/rated schools | 597 | 2,924 |
| Number of ungraded/unrated schools | 27 | 205 |
| Percent of ungraded/unrated schools | $\mathbf{4 \%}$ | $\mathbf{7 \%}$ |

2015-16 School Grades for Charter and Traditional Schools

|  | Charter |  | Traditional |  | All |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Number | \% of <br> Graded | Number | \% of <br> Graded | Number | \% of <br> Graded |
| A | 182 | $35 \%$ | 570 | $21 \%$ | 752 | $23 \%$ |
| B | 104 | $20 \%$ | 655 | $24 \%$ | 759 | $23 \%$ |
| C | 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 <br> and B | $\mathbf{2 8 6}$ | $55 \%$ | 1,225 | $44 \%$ | 1,511 | $46 \%$ |

*2016 final school grades as of 9/20/2016.

## ENGLISH

## LANGUAGE

 ARTS
## FSA English Language Arts Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

A L L

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

## MATHEMATICS

## Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

FSA Mathematics

A L L<br>STU<br>D<br>E N T S<br>C O M P A R I S O N S<br>2016

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


S U B GROUPCOMPARISONS 2016
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools White Students


## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American Students



Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics


## MATHEMATICS

## Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic Students

## MATHEMATICS

## 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


## MATHEMATICS

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 

AL L
STU
JD
EN T
C
M
MP AR IS O N
2016

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


S U B GROUP COMPARISONS 2016
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Statewide Science Assessment Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools White Students


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


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


## SCIENCE

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


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


## SCIENCE

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


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

ALL S T U DENTS COMPARISONS 2016

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


S U BGROUP COMPARISONS 2016
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exam Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools White Students



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

 Hispanic Students

## 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


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


## 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


## MATHEMATICS

## 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


## 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

## ENGLISH

## LANGUAGE

## ARTS

## 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


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


## ENGLISH

## 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



## 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


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


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


## MATHEMATICS

Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics All Students


Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics African-American Students


## Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics White Students



Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics
Hispanic Students


## MATHEMATICS

## MATHEMATICS

Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics FRL Students


Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Exceptional Education Students


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



Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics African-American Students


## MATHEMATICS

## MATHEMATICS

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


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


## MATHEMATICS

## Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Students with Disabilities

| FSA PROFICIENCY DATA $2015 \mathbf{2 0 1 6}$ | Charter | Traditional |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Total $\#$ of Students <br> with FSA results | English Language Arts | 159,258 | $1,450,773$ |
|  | Mathematics | 165,166 | $1,521,231$ |
|  | Science | 53,946 | 543,288 |
|  | Social Studies | 34,539 | 340,689 |








## LEARNING GAINS DATA

| English <br> Language Arts | All Students <br> \% who made learning gains | African American \% who made learning gains | White <br> \% who made learning gains | Hispanic <br> \% who made learning gains | FRL <br> \% who made learning gains | SWD <br> \% 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 Schools |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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

| English Language Arts | All Students <br> \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | African American \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | White <br> \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | Hispanic <br> \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | FRL <br> \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | SWD <br> \% 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 Schools |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 <br> \% who made learning gains | African American \% who made learning gains | White <br> \% who made learning gains | Hispanic <br> \% who made learning gains | FRL <br> \% who made learning gains | SWD <br> \% 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 Schools |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 | All Students <br> \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | African American \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | White <br> \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | Hispanic <br> \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | FRL <br> \% in the low $25 \%$ who made learning gains | SWD <br> \% 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 Schools |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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.



