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



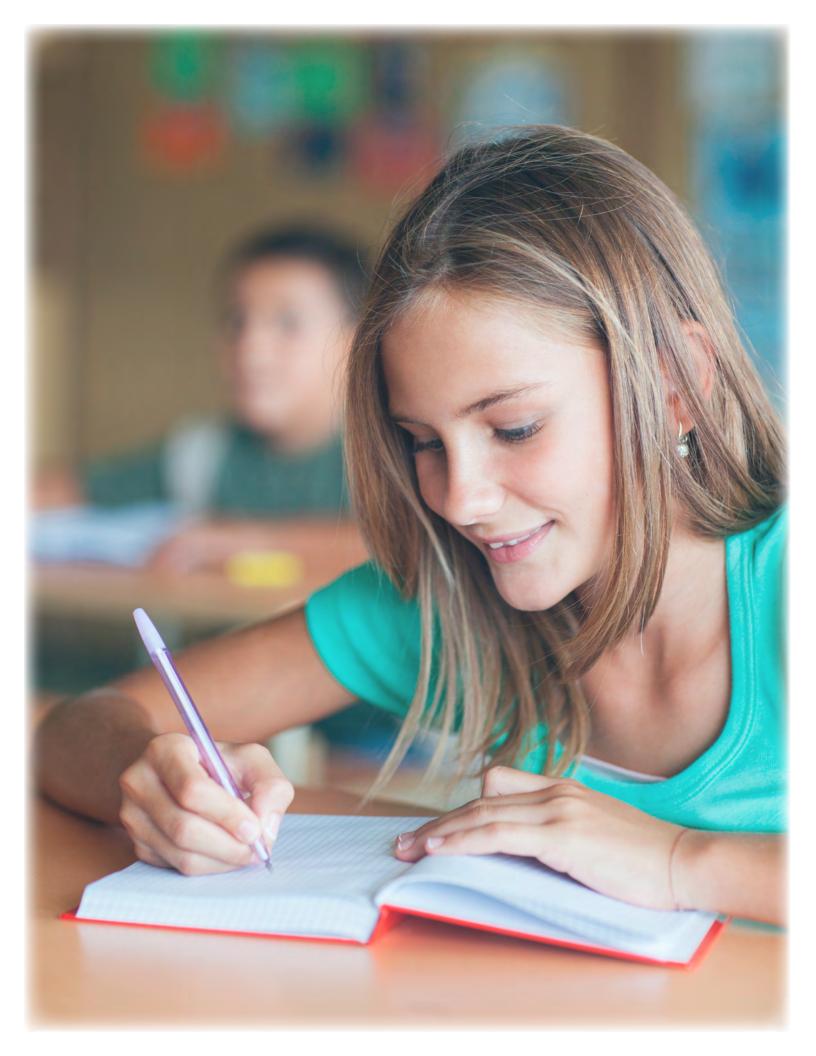
About This Report

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 that annual requirement. 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 test scores from the 2021-22 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 Accountability 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 website at www.floridaschoolchoice.org.



A Comparison of Performance



Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools: Key Findings

The data contained in this report is derived from student performance on the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) for English Language Arts and Mathematics (Mathematics data includes Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry end-of-course exams) as well as the statewide assessments for Science (NGSSS Science and Biology) and Social Studies (Civics and U.S. History). 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 2021-22 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 subgroup 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 58 of the 77 comparisons, students enrolled in charter schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance. In 18 of the 77 comparisons, students enrolled in traditional public schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance. There was no difference in one comparison.

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, 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 18 of the 22 comparisons while the achievement gap was lower for traditional public schools in 3 of the 22 comparisons. There was no difference in one comparison.

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 81 of the 96 comparisons. The percentage of students making learning gains was higher in traditional public schools in 13 of the 96 comparisons. There was no difference in the percentage of students making learning gains in 2 of the 96 comparisons.



A Comparison of Performance

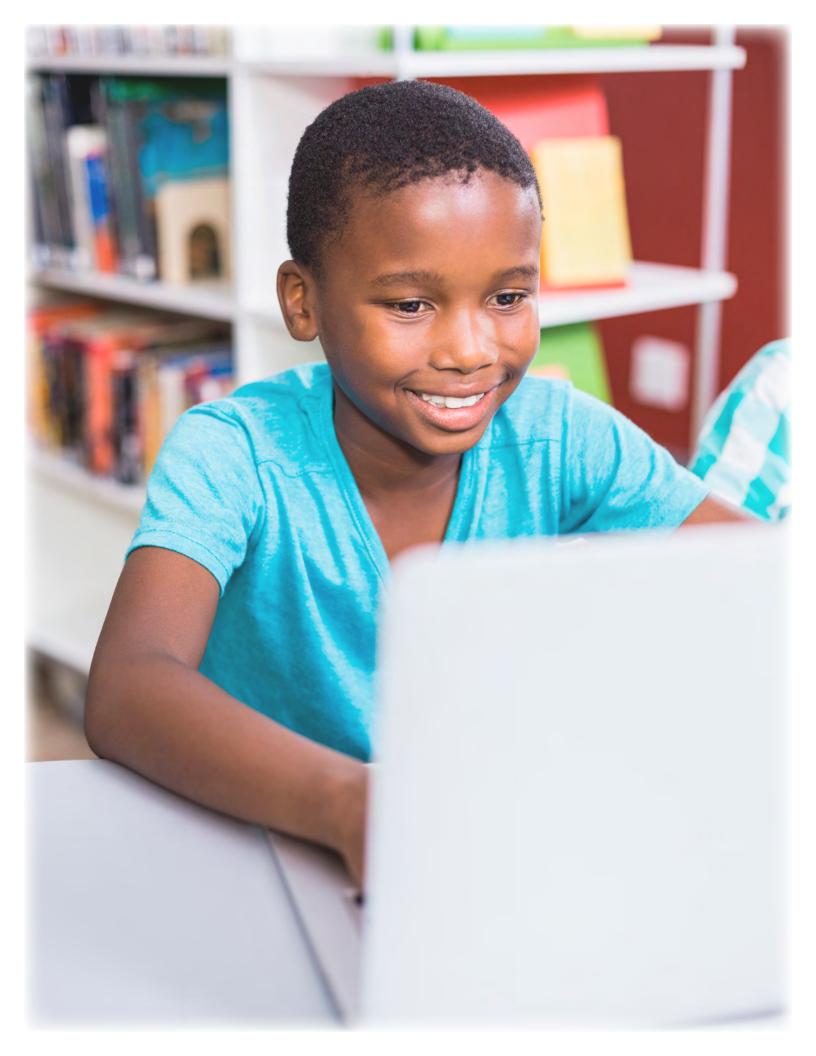
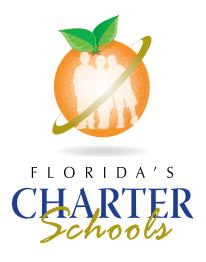


Table of Contents

Demographics
FSA English Language Arts: All and Subgroup Comparisons
FSA Mathematics: All and Subgroup Comparisons
Statewide Science Assessment: All and Subgroup Comparisons
Social Studies End-of-Course Exam: All and Subgroup Comparisons 15
Achievement Gap: English Language Arts
Achievement Gap: Mathematics
Achievement Gap: Science
Achievement Gap: Social Studies
Learning Gains Comparison in English Language Arts and Mathematics 23
FSA Achievement Data
FSA Learning Gains Data







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 more than doubled over the last decade and represents more than 12 percent of public school enrollment in Florida. As shown below, charter schools served more than 361,000 students in the 2021-22 school year.

	Charter	Charter Schools		Traditional Public Schools (TPS)		II .
Race/Color/Sex	Students	Percent	Students	Percent	Students	Percent
White	107,154	29.6%	909,424	36.7%	1,016,578	35.8%
Black	68,072	18.8%	533,647	21.5%	601,719	21.2%
Hispanic	163,160	45.1%	851,807	34.4%	1,014,967	35.8%
Other	23,480	6.5%	181,609	7.3%	205,089	7.2%
Male	181,124	50.1%	1,275,441	51.5%	1,456,565	51.3%
Female	180,742	49.9%	1,201,046	48.5%	1,381,788	48.7%
Total Enrollment	361,866	100.0%	2,476,487	100.0%	2,838,353	100.0%

Special Categories						
FRPL*	184,962	51.1%	1,387,388	56.0%	1,572,350	55.4%
ELL**	35,934	9.9%	252,431	10.2%	288,365	10.2%
SWD***	37,304	10.3%	389,555	15.7%	426,859	15.0%

^{*} FRPL: Free and Reduced Priced Lunch

Data Source: 2021-22 Survey 3 final data; Know Your Data

Advanced Reports Portal (formerly EDStats)

^{**} ELL: English Language Learners

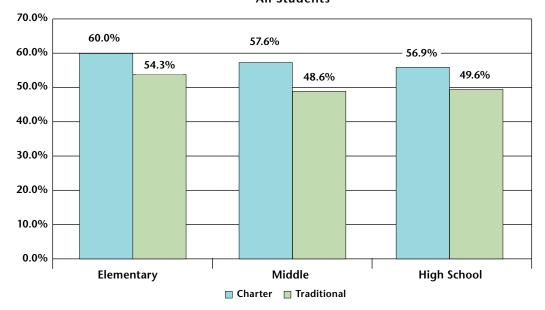
^{***} SWD: Students with Disabilities



ENGLISH FSA English Language Arts LANGUAGE Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

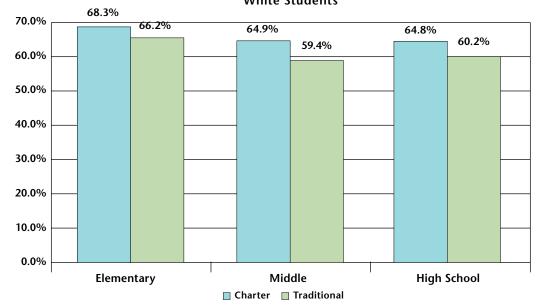
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2022

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

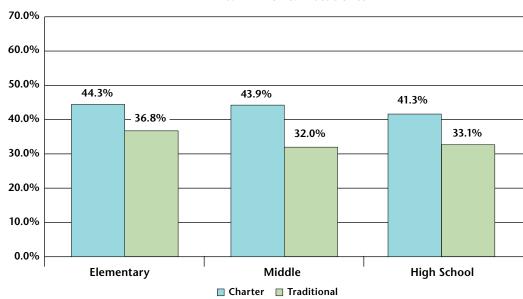


SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2022

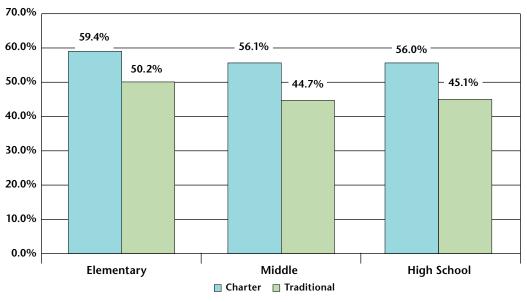
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools
White Students



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

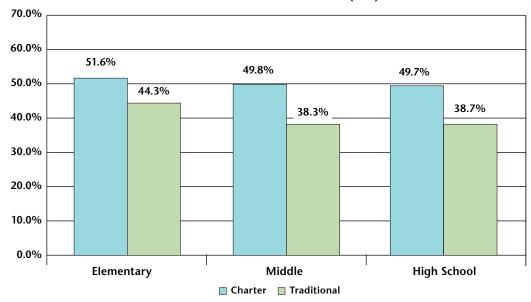




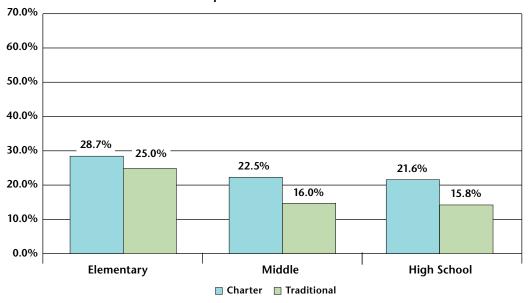
A Comparison of Performance



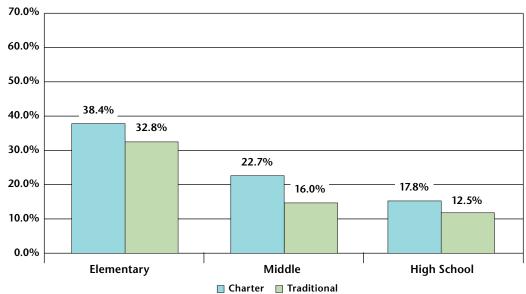
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



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)





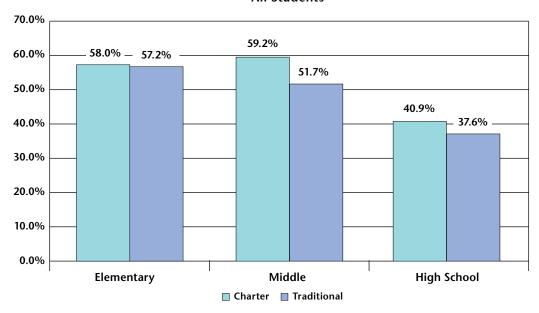
A Comparison of Performance



FSA Mathematics Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

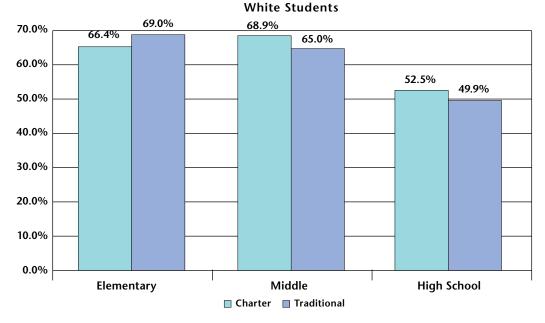
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2022

Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics and End-of-Course Exams (EOCs), Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools All Students

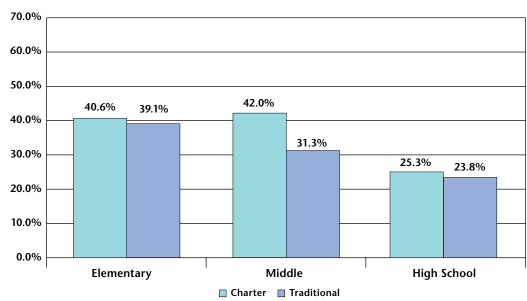


SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2022

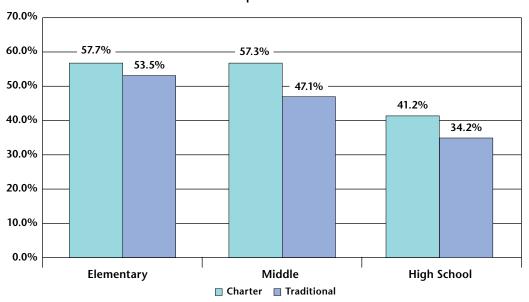
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics and EOCs Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools



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



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

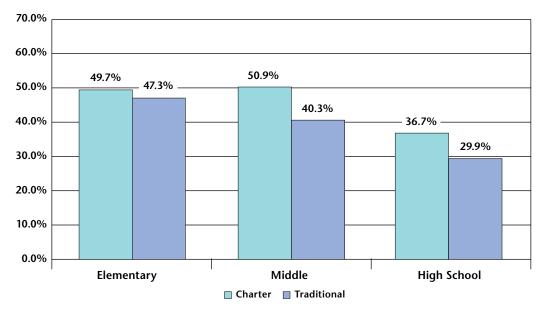




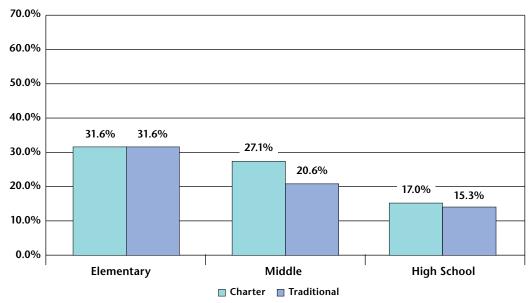
A Comparison of Performance



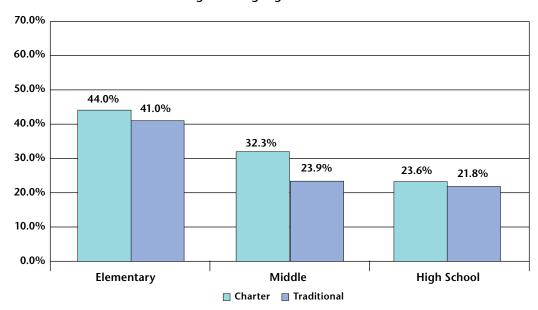
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics and EOCs Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



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



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





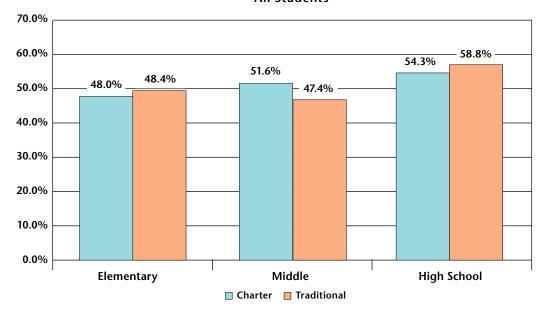
A Comparison of Performance



Statewide Science Assessments Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

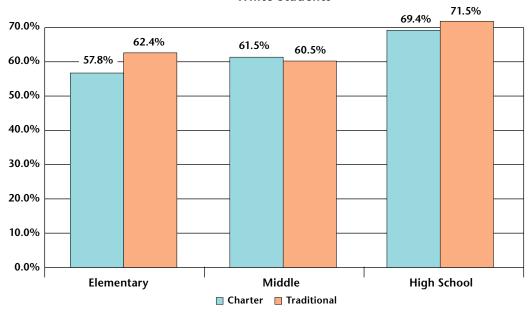
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2022

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

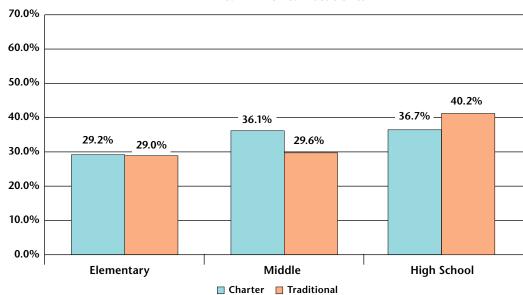


SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2022

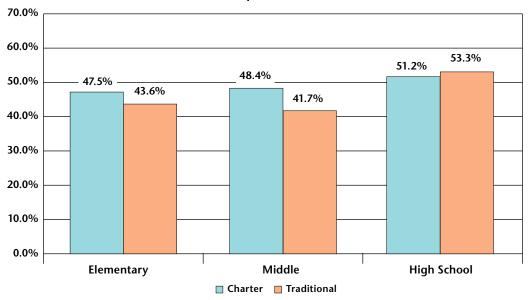
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Science Assessments
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools
White Students



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



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

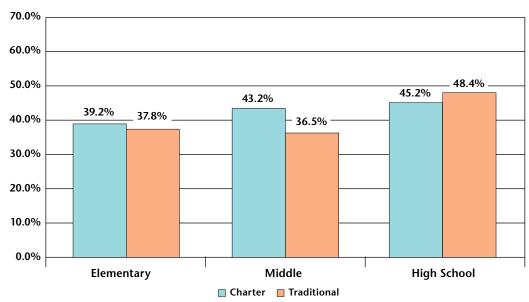




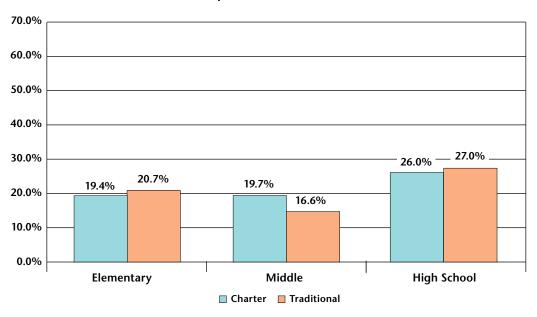
A Comparison of Performance



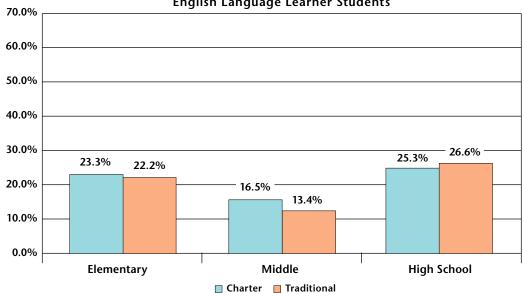
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Science Assessments Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



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



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





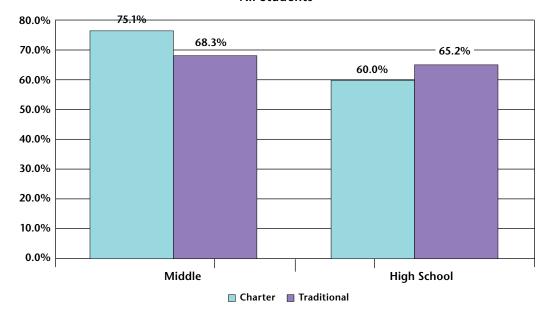
A Comparison of Performance



Social Studies End-of-Course Exams Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

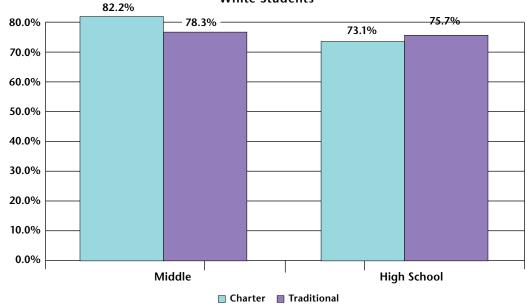
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2022

Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End-of-Course Exams (EOCs), Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools All Students



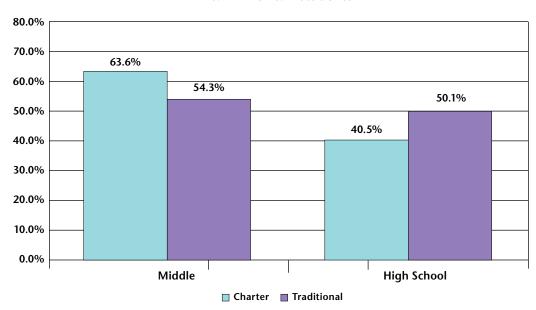
SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2022

Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies EOCs
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools
White Students

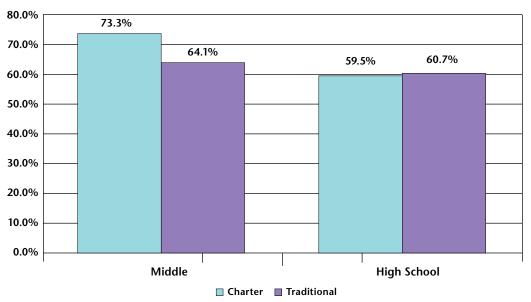


A Comparison of Performance

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



Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies EOCs **Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic Students**

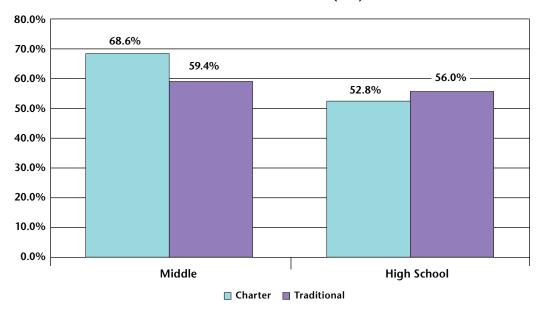




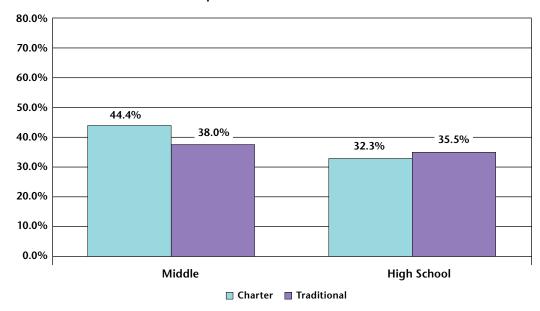
A Comparison of Performance



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

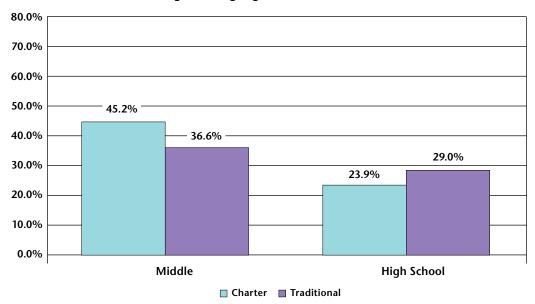


Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies EOCs Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Exceptional Student Education



A Comparison of Performance

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



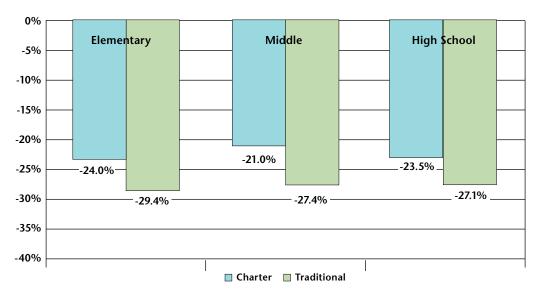


A Comparison of Performance

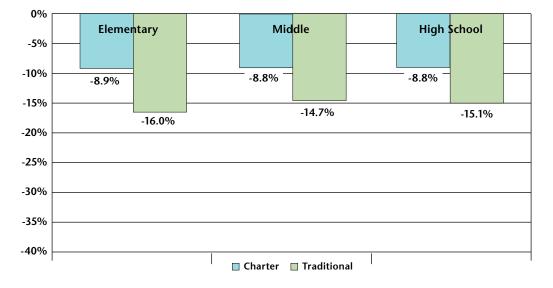


Achievement Gap Summary Data 2021-22 School Year

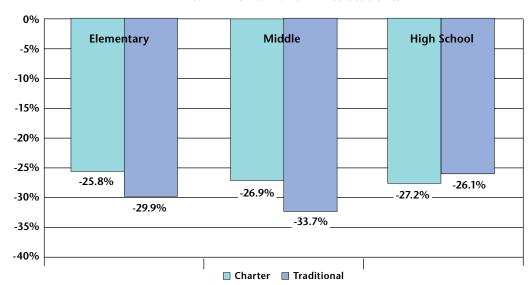
Achievement Gap in English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students



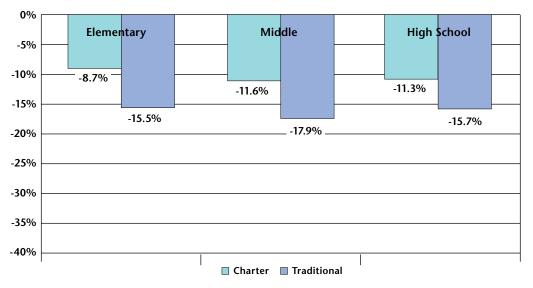
Achievement Gap in English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students



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

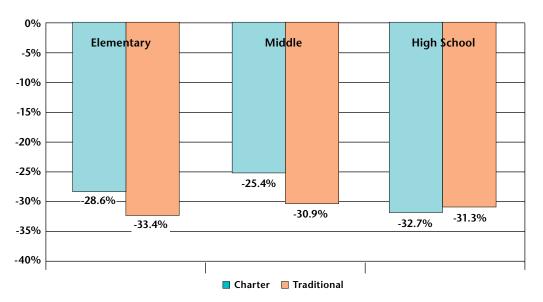




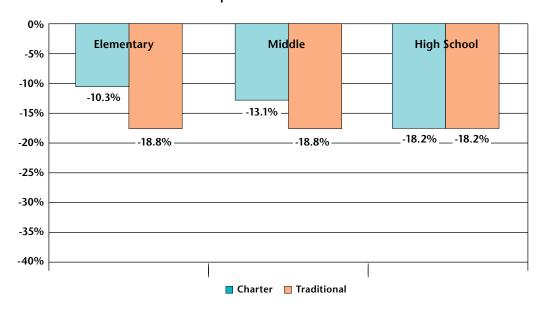
A Comparison of Performance



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

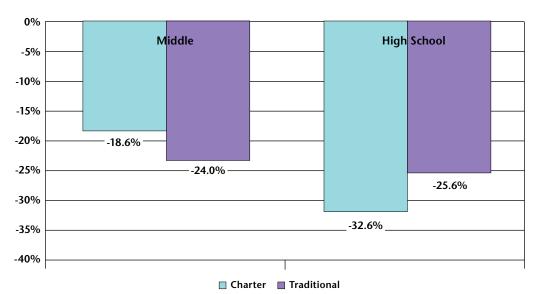


Achievement Gap in Science Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students

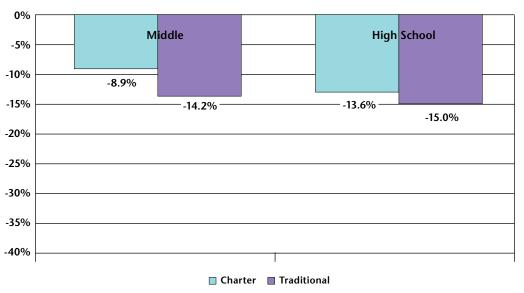


A Comparison of Performance

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



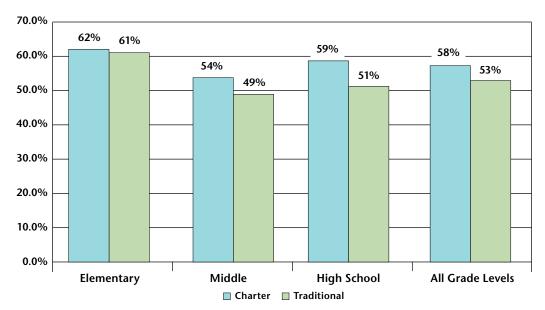


A Comparison of Performance

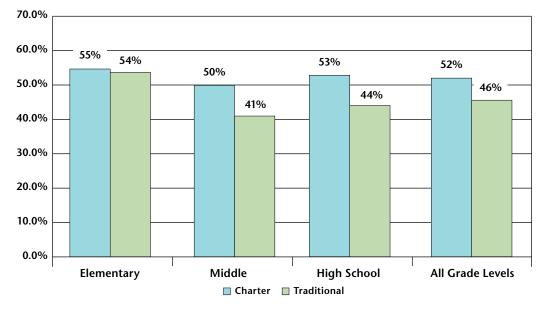


Learning Gains Comparison 2021-2022 School Year

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

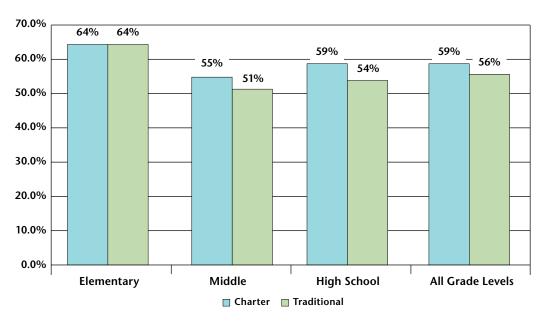


Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts African-American Students

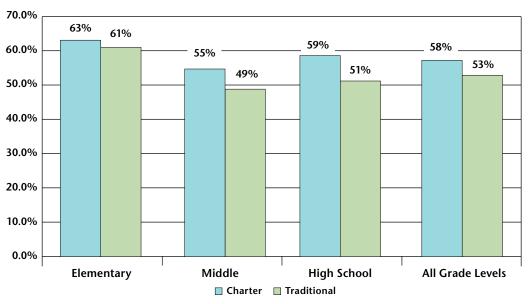


A Comparison of Performance

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

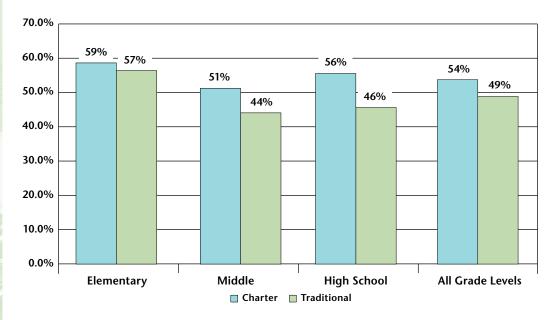




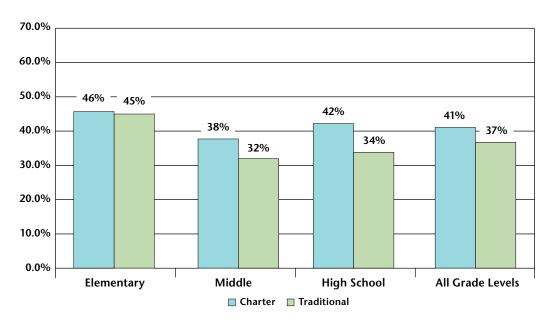
A Comparison of Performance



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

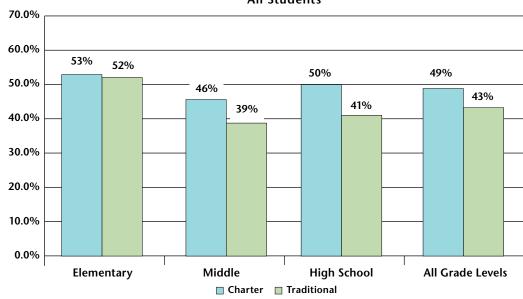


Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Exceptional Education Students

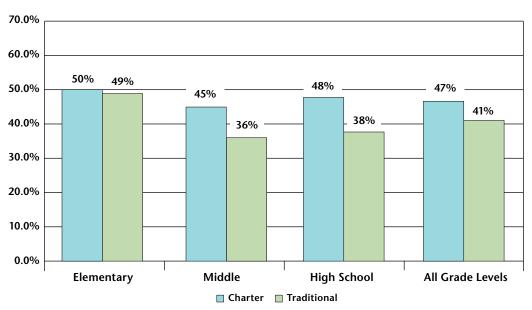


A Comparison of Performance

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

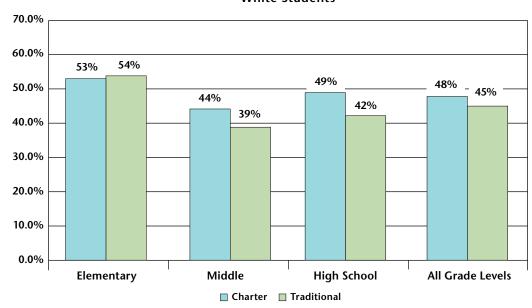




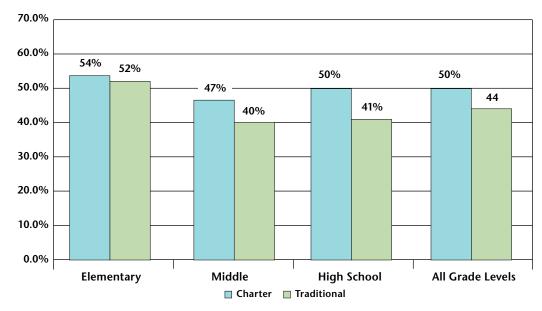
A Comparison of Performance



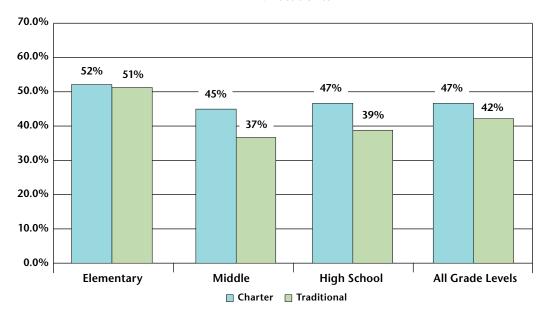
Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts White Students



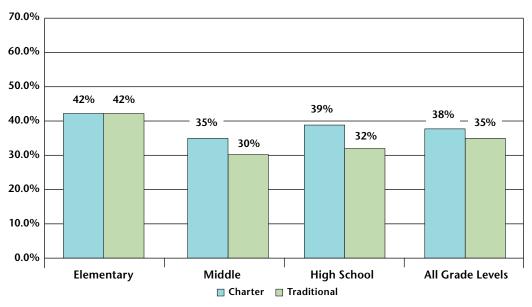
Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Hispanic Students



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

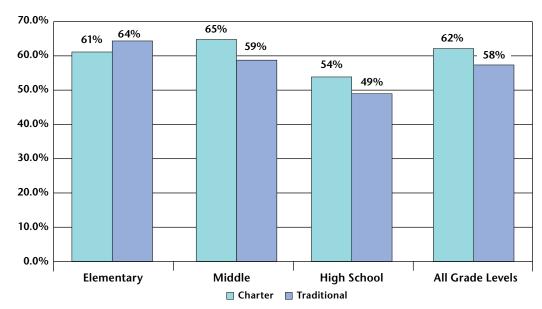




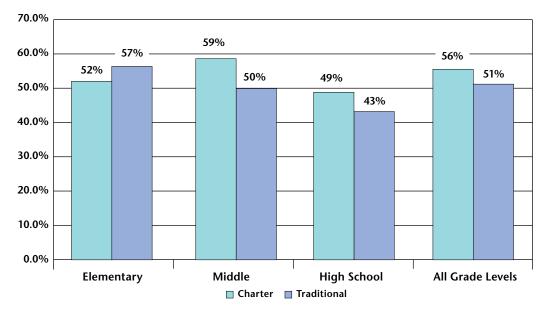
A Comparison of Performance



Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics All Students

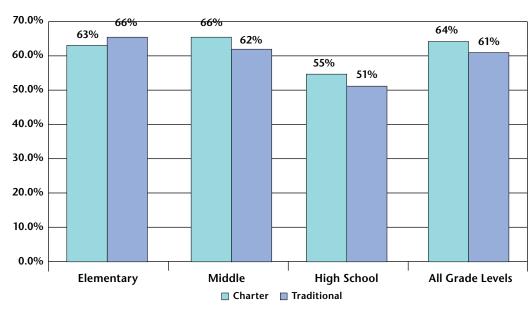


Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics African-American Students

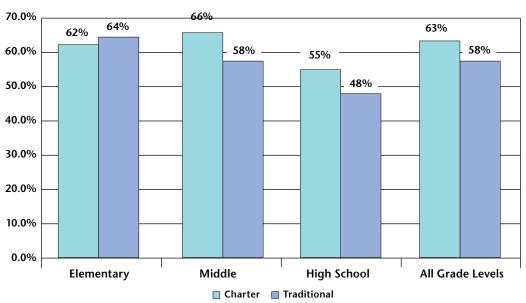


A Comparison of Performance

Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics White Students



Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Hispanic Students

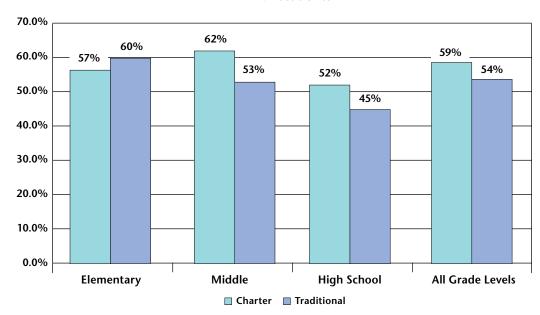




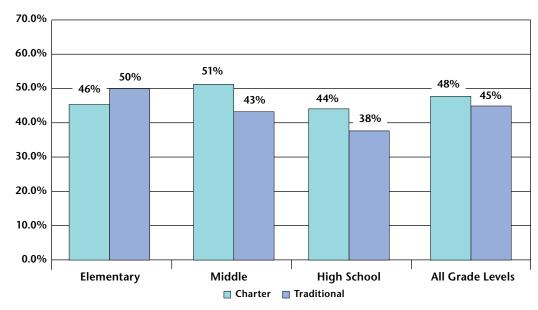
A Comparison of Performance



Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics FRL Students

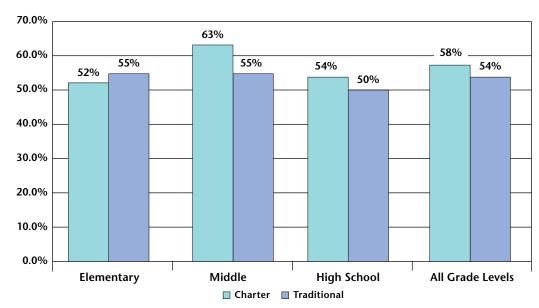


Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Exceptional Education Students

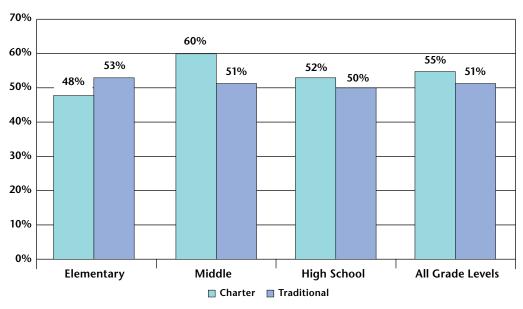


A Comparison of Performance

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

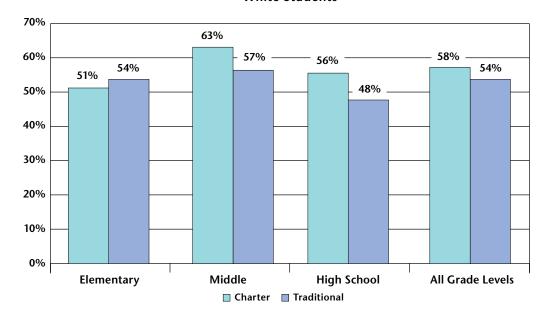




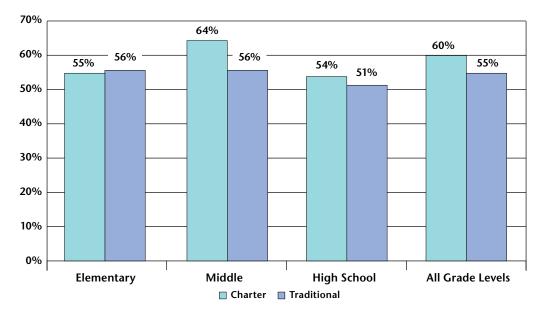
A Comparison of Performance



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

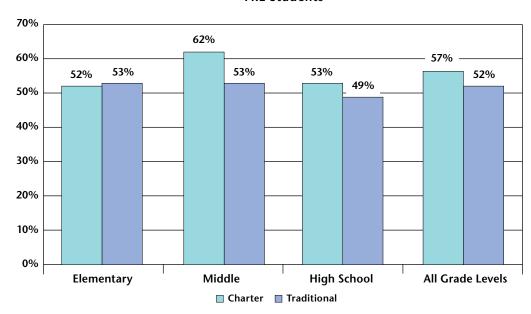


Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Hispanic Students

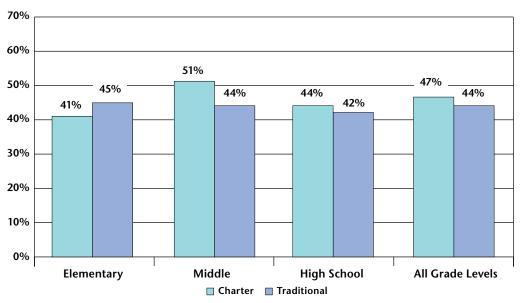


A Comparison of Performance

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 Exceptional Education Students**





A Comparison of Performance



FSA ACHIEVEMENT DATA

		Charter	Traditional
Total # of Students with FSA results	English Language Arts	218,963	1,423,365
	Mathematics	219,855	1,397,868
	Science	78,154	545,349
	Social Studies	47,982	345,135

			Charter	Т	raditional
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	English Langua	ge Arts			
	Elem	60	53,074	54.3	286,709
	Mid	57.6	55,903	48.6	252,719
	High	56.9	19,047	49.6	186,291
	Mathematics				
	Elem	58	50,888	57.2	300,310
	Mid	59.2	57,210	51.7	268,188
All	High	40.9	14,448	37.6	132,996
Students	Science				
	Elem	48	14,121	48.4	87,515
	Mid	51.6	16,420	47.4	87,463
	High	54.3	9,161	58.8	106,027
	Social Studies				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	75.1	24,834	68.3	120,188
	High	60	8,946	58.8	110,312

Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above

White Elem 68.3 18,105 66.2 126,412 Mid 64.9 19,083 59.4 112,423 6,139 60.2 84,655 High 64.8 Mathematics White Elem 17,498 69.0 131,027 66.4 Mid 68.9 20,204 65.0 122,833 White 49.9 52.5 High 4,386 57,266 **Students** Elem 57.8 5,031 62.4 40,018 Mid 61.5 5,937 60.5 40,385 49,252 High 69.4 3,287 71.5 Social Studies - White Elem N/A N/A 8,289 Mid 82.2 78.3 50,428

73.1

2,838

75.7

48,229

High

A Comparison of Performance

			Charter	Tr	aditional
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	English Langua African Americ				
	Elem	44.3	7,399	36.8	41,549
	Mid	43.9	7,469	32.0	35,629
	High	41.3	2,238	33.1	25,749
	Mathematics - African American				
	Elem	40.6	6,722	39.1	43,861
	Mid	42.0	7,116	31.3	34,770
African-American	High	25.3	1,982	23.8	20,824
Students	Science - African Americ	an			
	Elem	29.2	1,634	29.0	11,352
	Mid	36.1	1,930	29.6	11,690
	High	36.7	1,253	40.2	14,895
	Social Studies - African American				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	63.6	3,712	54.3	20,285
	High	40.5	1,161	50.1	17,773

Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above					
	English Langua Hispanic	ge Arts			
	Elem	59.4	23,274	50.2	92,609
	Mid	56.1	24,772	44.7	81,080
	High	56.0	9,387	45.1	58,927
	Mathematics - Hispanic				
	Elem	57.7	22,429	53.5	98,023
	Mid	57.3	25,198	47.1	85,466
Hispanic	High	41.2	7,318	34.2	45,069
Students	Science Hispanic				
	Elem	47.5	6,245	43.6	28,027
	Mid	48.4	7,174	41.7	27,003
	High	51.2	4,030	53.3	32,826
	Social Studies - Hispanic				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	73.3	10,892	64.1	39,291
	High	59.5	4,441	60.7	35,394



A Comparison of Performance



		(Charter	Tr	aditional
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	English Langua	ge Arts			
	Elem	51.6	23,621	44.3	138,283
	Mid	49.8	24,954	38.3	112,135
	High	49.7	8,462	38.7	74,671
	Mathematics				
	Elem	49.7	22,538	47.3	146,823
	Mid	50.9	25,427	40.3	117,853
FRL	High	36.7	6,988	29.9	59,918
Students	Science				
	Elem	39.2	5,916	37.8	40,223
	Mid	43.2	7,065	36.5	37,228
	High	45.2	3,834	48.4	44,458
	Social Studies				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	68.6	11,625	59.4	58,162
	High	52.8	3,958	56.0	46,662

Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above

	English Langua	ge Arts			
	Elem	28.7	2,655	25.0	21,825
	Mid	22.5	2,179	16.0	11,902
	High	21.6	674	15.8	6,745
	Mathematics				
	Elem	31.6	2,894	31.6	27,417
	Mid	27.1	2,607	20.6	15,294
SWD	High	17	747	15.3	7,703
Students	Science				
	Elem	19.4	630	20.7	6,411
	Mid	19.7	565	16.6	4,032
	High	26	484	27.0	5,781
	Social Studies				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	44.4	1,469	38	9,315
	High	32.3	487	35.5	6,525

Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above

	English Langua	ge Arts			
	Elem	38.4	5,386	32.8	30,225
	Mid	22.7	2,388	16	9,568
	High	17.8	525	12.5	3,884
	Mathematics				
	Elem	44	6,129	41	37,632
	Mid	32.3	3,403	23.9	14,332
ELL	High	23.6	1,025	21.8	8,936
Students	Science				
	Elem	23.3	935	22.2	6,436
	Mid	16.5	473	13.4	2,391
	High	25.3	447	26.6	4,125
	Social Studies				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	45.2	1,579	36.6	7,319
	High	23.9	340	29.0	3,953

A Comparison of Performance

DATA

LEARNING GAINS DATA

English Language Arts	All Students % making learning gains	African- American % making learning gains	White % making learning gains	Hispanic % making learning gains	FRL % making learning gains	SWD % making learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	62	55	64	63	59	46
Grades 6, 7 and 8	54	50	55	55	51	38
Grades 9 and 10	59	53	59	59	56	42
All Grade levels	58	52	59	58	54	41
Traditional Schoo	ls					
Grades 4 and 5	61	54	64	61	57	45
Grades 6, 7 and 8	49	41	51	49	44	32
Grades 9 and 10	51	44	54	51	46	34
All Grade levels	53	46	56	53	49	37

LEARNING GAINS OF THE LOWEST QUARTILE

English Language Arts	% in the lowest quartile making learning gains	African- American % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	White % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	Hispanic % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	FRL % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	% in the lowest quartile making learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	53	50	53	54	52	42
Grades 6, 7 and 8	46	45	44	47	45	35
Grades 9 and 10	50	48	49	50	47	39
All Grade levels	49	47	48	50	47	38
Traditional Schoo	ls					
Grades 4 and 5	52	49	54	52	51	42
Grades 6, 7 and 8	39	36	39	40	37	30
Grades 9 and 10	41	38	42	41	39	32
All Grade levels	43	41	45	44	42	35

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

LEARNING GAINS DATA

Mathematics	All Students % making learning gains	African- American % making learning gains	White % making learning gains	Hispanic % making learning gains	FRL % making learning gains	SWD % making learning gains				
Charter Schools										
Grades 4 and 5	61	52	63	62	57	45				
Grades 6, 7 and 8	65	59	66	66	62	51				
Grades 9 and 10	54	49	55	55	52	44				
All Grade levels	62	56	64	63	59	48				
Traditional Schools										
Grades 4 and 5	64	57	66	64	60	50				
Grades 6, 7 and 8	59	50	62	58	53	43				
Grades 9 and 10	49	43	51	48	45	38				
All Grade levels	58	51	61	58	54	45				

LEARNING GAINS OF THE LOWEST QUARTILE

ACCOUNT ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY										
Mathematics	% in the lowest quartile making learning gains	African- American % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	White % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	Hispanic % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	FRL % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	% in the lowest quartile making learning gains				
Charter Schools										
Grades 4 and 5	52	48	51	55	52	41				
Grades 6, 7 and 8	63	60	63	64	62	51				
Grades 9 and 10	54	52	56	54	53	44				
All Grade levels	58	55	58	60	57	47				
Traditional Schools										
Grades 4 and 5	55	53	54	56	53	45				
Grades 6, 7 and 8	55	51	57	56	53	44				
Grades 9 and 10	50	50	48	51	49	42				
All Grade levels	54	51	54	55	52	44				

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



