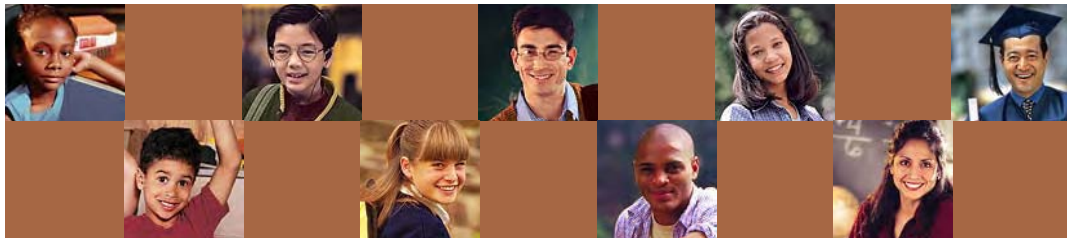


the condition of education 2005



INDICATOR 28

Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2005*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2005*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2005094>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

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School Choice

Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

Charter schools differ from one another in terms of their origins, the authority under which they are chartered, and the students they serve.

A public charter school is a publicly funded school that is typically governed by a group or organization under a contract or charter that exempts it from selected state or local rules and regulations.¹ These schools differ from one another in terms of their origins, the authority under which they are chartered, and the students they serve. This indicator profiles some of the differences among charter schools that served 4th-graders in 2003 and compares them with conventional public schools that year.

In 2003, the majority of charter school students (70 percent) attended newly created charter schools, while approximately one-third (30 percent) attended pre-existing public or private schools converted into charter schools (see supplemental table 28-1). Charter schools obtained charters from one of several entities: school districts, which served 51 percent of charter school students in 2003; state boards of education, which served 28 percent; postsecondary institutions, which served 16 percent; or state-chartering agencies, which served 6 percent.

Schools chartered by different entities varied in terms of the regions of the country in which

they were located and in terms of the communities they served. For example, schools chartered by a school district tended to serve students in the Southeast and West, and in central cities and urban fringe/large towns (see supplemental table 28-2). Schools chartered by a state board of education most commonly served students in central cities. Schools chartered by a state-chartering agency most commonly served students in the West, and schools chartered by postsecondary institutions served students exclusively in the Central region (especially Michigan).

Schools chartered by a state board of education or a postsecondary institution were more likely to serve Black students than conventional public schools or other types of charter schools (see supplemental table 28-3). Schools chartered by a state board of education were also more likely to serve students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch than conventional public schools. Conversely, schools chartered by a school district served a greater percentage of students not eligible for free and reduced-price lunch than conventional public schools.

Rounds to zero.

¹ Public charter schools are publicly funded schools that, in accordance with an enabling statute, have been granted a charter exempting them from selected state or local rules and regulations. A public charter school may be a newly created school, or it may previously have been a public or private school. In return for public funding and autonomy, the charter school must meet accountability standards. A school's charter is reviewed (typically every 3 to 5 years) and can be revoked if guidelines on curriculum and management are not followed or the standards are not met.

NOTE: Public charter schools include those open as of the 2001–02 school year and still operating in the 2002–03 school year. American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified. Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Charter School Pilot Study, previously unpublished tabulation (November 2004).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

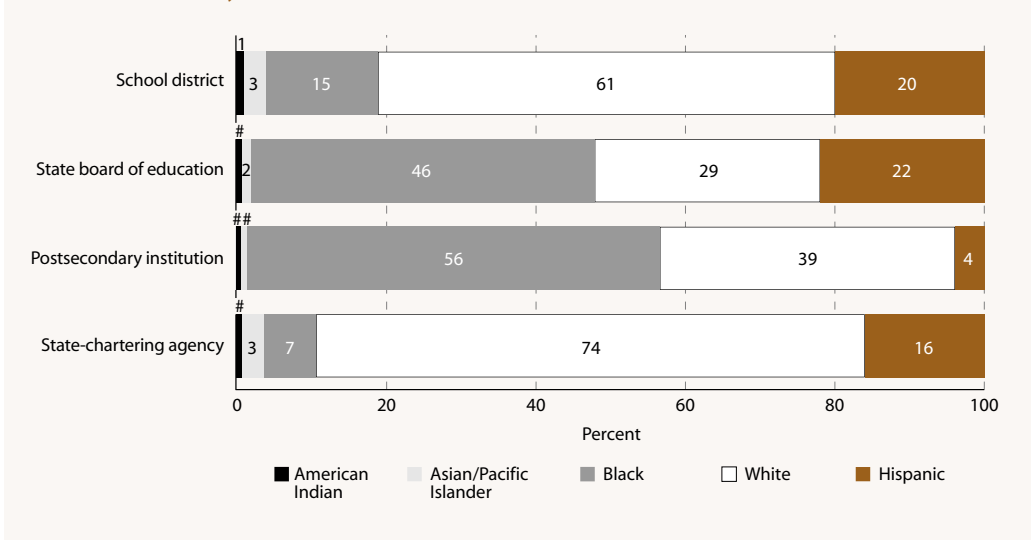
Supplemental Notes 1,4
Supplemental Tables 28-1,
28-2, 28-3

NCES 2005–456

NCES 2003–411



CHARTER SCHOOLS: Percentage distribution of students attending public charter schools by entity granting school charter and race/ethnicity: 2003



Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

Table 28-1. Percentage distribution of students attending public charter schools, by entity granting school charter, origin of school, and selected charter school characteristics: 2003

| Charter school characteristic | All public charter schools | Entity granting school charter | | | | Origin | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | School district | State board of education | Post-secondary institution | State-chartering agency | Newly created school | Pre-existing school |
| Entity granting school charter | | | | | | | |
| School district | 50.5 | 100.0 | † | † | † | 47.7 | 57.2 |
| State board of education | 27.9 | † | 100.0 | † | † | 24.7 | 35.5! |
| Postsecondary institution | 15.9 | † | † | 100.0 | † | 20.7 | 4.5 |
| State-chartering agency | 5.7! | † | † | † | 100.0 | 6.9! | 2.8 |
| Origin | | | | | | | |
| Newly created school | 69.7 | 66.5 | 62.3 | 91.7 | 85.6 | 100.0 | † |
| Pre-existing school | 30.3 | 33.5 | 37.7 | 8.3 | 14.4 | † | 100.0 |
| Control of pre-existing school | | | | | | | |
| Public | 80.4 | 92.2 | 76.2 | # | ‡ | † | 79.0 |
| Private | 19.6! | 7.8 | 23.8! | 100.0 | ‡ | † | 21.0! |
| Educational focus | | | | | | | |
| Comprehensive curriculum/ no specialized area | 67.0 | 61.2 | 59.7 | 85.8 | 82.7 | 65.7 | 70.1 |
| Specialized curriculum | 27.1 | 35.5! | 27.7! | 14.2! | # | 31.9 | 15.8! |
| Particular educational philosophy | 5.9! | 3.4! | 12.6 | # | 17.3 | 2.4! | 14.1 |

† Not applicable.

Rounds to zero.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 4* for more information about the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Charter School Pilot Study, previously unpublished tabulation (May 2005).

Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

Table 28-2. Percentage distribution of students attending public schools by type of school, entity granting school charter, origin of school, and selected school characteristics: 2003

| School characteristic | All public schools | | All public charter schools | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Conventional | Charter | Entity granting school charter | | | | Origin | |
| | | | School district | State board of education | Post-secondary institution | State-chartering agency | Newly created school | Pre-existing school |
| Students served | | | | | | | | |
| All | — | 94.8 | 97.2 | 87.7 | 98.4 | 100.0 | 95.7 | 92.9 |
| At-risk | — | 4.2! | 2.8! | 9.8! | # | # | 4.0! | 4.8! |
| Gifted/talented | — | 0.9 | # | 2.5 | 1.6 | # | # | 2.3 |
| Enrollment | | | | | | | | |
| 1–299 | 10.9 | 28.5 | 31.5! | 19.7! | 17.0! | 78.3 | 31.5 | 20.7 |
| 300–499 | 32.0 | 20.5 | 12.8! | 18.9! | 48.1 | 21.7 | 24.5 | 9.9! |
| 500–699 | 30.1 | 35.2 | 36.1! | 39.2! | 34.8 | # | 33.4! | 40.0 |
| 700 or more | 27.0 | 15.9 | 19.6! | 22.2! | # | # | 10.6! | 29.5 |
| Location | | | | | | | | |
| Central city | 28.8 | 51.4 | 42.3 | 67.2 | 52.4 | 57.2! | 53.9 | 45.7 |
| Urban fringe/large town | 41.0 | 37.4 | 47.7 | 21.2! | 36.4 | 18.6! | 35.5 | 41.9 |
| Rural/small town | 30.1 | 11.2 | 10.0! | 11.7! | 11.2! | 24.2! | 10.7! | 12.4! |
| Region | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 20.4 | 10.4 | 3.4! | 30.9 | 0.0 | # | 14.6 | 0.8 |
| Southeast | 23.7 | 24.3 | 36.3 | 23.7! | 0.0 | # | 20.4! | 33.2! |
| Central | 22.2 | 24.1 | 9.8 | 13.7! | 100.0 | # | 27.8 | 15.4! |
| West | 33.7 | 41.2 | 50.5 | 31.8 | 0.0 | 100.0 | 37.2 | 50.6 |

— Not available.

Rounds to zero.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. See *supplemental note 1* for the states included in each region and information on location. See *supplemental note 4* for more information about the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Charter School Pilot Study, previously unpublished tabulation (May 2005).

Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

Table 28-3. Percentage distribution of students attending public schools by type of school, entity granting school charter, origin of school, and selected student characteristics: 2003

| Student characteristic | All public schools | | All public charter schools | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Conventional | Charter | Entity granting school charter | | | Origin | | |
| | | | School district | State board of education | Post-secondary institution | State-chartering agency | Newly created school | Pre-existing school |
| Race/ethnicity¹ | | | | | | | | |
| American Indian | 1.2 | 0.6! | 1.0! | # | # | # | 0.7! | 0.6! |
| Asian | 4.1 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.3! | 0.5 | 3.0 | 2.0 | 3.0! |
| Black | 17.4 | 29.4 | 14.7 | 46.5 | 56.3 | 7.3! | 31.9 | 23.6 |
| White | 59.2 | 49.7 | 61.5 | 28.5 | 39.3 | 74.1 | 51.7 | 44.9 |
| Hispanic | 18.1 | 18.0 | 20.0 | 22.3 | 3.8! | 15.6! | 13.7 | 27.9 |
| Eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch | | | | | | | | |
| Eligible | 45.4 | 45.0 | 33.9 | 61.4 | 57.9 | ‡ | 43.5 | 48.8 |
| Not eligible | 54.6 | 55.0 | 66.1 | 38.6 | 42.1 | ‡ | 56.5 | 51.2 |
| Limited-English-proficient | | | | | | | | |
| No | 91.5 | 92.5 | 90.5 | 93.7 | 94.7 | 99.0 | 95.1 | 86.5 |
| Yes | 8.5 | 7.5 | 9.5 | 6.3! | 5.3 | 1.0 | 4.9 | 13.5 |

Rounds to zero.

! Interpret data with caution (estimates are unstable).

‡ Reporting standards not met (too few cases).

¹ American Indian includes Alaska Native, Black includes African American, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. For more information on the National School Lunch Program, see *supplemental note 1*. See *supplemental note 4* for more information about the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Charter School Pilot Study, previously unpublished tabulation (May 2005).

Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

Table S28. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of students attending public charter schools by entity granting school charter and race/ethnicity: 2003

| Student or school characteristic | Entity granting school charter | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | School district | State board of education | Postsecondary institution | State-chartering agency |
| Race/ethnicity | | | | |
| American Indian | 0.4 | † | † | † |
| Asian | 0.7 | 1.2 | ‡ | ‡ |
| Black | 3.8 | 8.2 | 9.2 | 2.9 |
| White | 5.9 | 5.2 | 9.1 | 8.1 |
| Hispanic | 3.8 | 5.6 | 1.5 | 5.4 |

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Charter School Pilot Study, previously unpublished tabulation (November 2004).

Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

Table S28-1. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of students attending public charter schools, by entity granting school charter, origin of school, and selected charter school characteristics: 2003

| Charter school characteristic | All public charter schools | Entity granting school charter | | | | Origin | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | | School district | State board of education | Post-secondary institution | State-chartering agency | Newly created school | Pre-existing school |
| Entity granting school charter | | | | | | | |
| School district | 5.17 | † | † | † | † | 5.71 | 11.16 |
| State board of education | 5.08 | † | † | † | † | 5.31 | 10.74 |
| Postsecondary institution | 1.85 | † | † | † | † | 2.72 | 1.31 |
| State-chartering agency | 1.90 | † | † | † | † | 2.30 | ‡ |
| Origin | | | | | | | |
| Newly created school | 5.05 | 8.25 | 10.13 | 1.89 | ‡ | † | † |
| Pre-existing school | 5.05 | 8.25 | 10.13 | 1.89 | ‡ | † | † |
| Control of pre-existing school | | | | | | | |
| Public | 6.78 | ‡ | 12.49 | † | † | † | 7.34 |
| Private | 6.78 | ‡ | 12.49 | † | † | † | 7.34 |
| Educational focus | | | | | | | |
| Comprehensive curriculum/ no specialized area | 6.93 | 11.97 | 12.76 | 8.04 | ‡ | 8.07 | 11.84 |
| Specialized curriculum | 6.26 | 11.64 | 10.93 | 8.04 | † | 8.04 | 6.95 |
| Particular educational philosophy | 3.17 | 1.76 | ‡ | † | ‡ | 1.14 | ‡ |

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Charter School Pilot Study, previously unpublished tabulation (May 2005).

Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

Table S28-2. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of students attending public schools by type of school, entity granting school charter, origin of school, and selected school characteristics: 2003

| School characteristic | All public schools | | All public charter schools | | | | Origin | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | Conventional | Charter | Entity granting school charter | | | Newly created school | Pre-existing school | |
| | | | School district | State board of education | Post-secondary institution | | | State-chartering agency |
| Students served | | | | | | | | |
| All | † | 1.65 | 1.70 | 4.89 | ‡ | † | 1.65 | 3.78 |
| At-risk | † | 1.51 | 1.70 | 4.27 | † | † | 1.59 | 2.94 |
| Gifted/talented | † | ‡ | † | ‡ | ‡ | † | † | ‡ |
| Enrollment | | | | | | | | |
| 1–299 | 0.44 | 5.74 | 10.56 | 5.99 | 9.10 | ‡ | 7.65 | 5.69 |
| 300–499 | 0.86 | 4.18 | 5.63 | 11.20 | 12.06 | ‡ | 5.43 | 4.54 |
| 500–699 | 0.89 | 7.94 | 12.60 | 14.17 | 8.99 | † | 10.59 | 10.06 |
| 700 or more | 1.03 | 4.17 | 6.50 | 10.51 | † | † | 4.55 | 8.18 |
| Location | | | | | | | | |
| Central city | 0.33 | 5.43 | 6.99 | 11.38 | 4.40 | 19.84 | 6.78 | 10.74 |
| Urban fringe/large town | 0.47 | 5.78 | 7.93 | 10.47 | 4.95 | 9.41 | 6.67 | 11.06 |
| Rural/small town | 0.42 | 3.27 | 5.11 | 4.72 | 6.54 | 16.92 | 4.24 | 5.27 |
| Region | | | | | | | | |
| Northeast | 0.26 | 2.39 | 1.13 | 8.20 | † | † | 3.36 | 0.18 |
| Southeast | 0.32 | 5.70 | 9.53 | 10.25 | † | † | 6.73 | 13.10 |
| Central | 0.30 | 2.84 | 2.68 | 8.10 | † | † | 3.69 | 5.73 |
| West | 0.38 | 3.55 | 8.10 | 7.56 | † | † | 3.93 | 10.78 |

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Charter School Pilot Study, previously unpublished tabulation (May 2005).

Profile and Demographic Characteristics of Public Charter Schools

Table S28-3. Standard errors for the percentage distribution of students attending public schools by type of school, entity granting school charter, origin of school, and selected student characteristics: 2003

| Student characteristic | All public schools | | All public charter schools | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| | Conventional | Charter | Entity granting school charter | | | | Origin | |
| | | | School district | State board of education | Post-secondary institution | State-chartering agency | Newly created school | Pre-existing school |
| Race/ethnicity | | | | | | | | |
| American Indian | 0.06 | 0.20 | 0.35 | † | † | † | 0.23 | 0.40 |
| Asian | 0.20 | 0.49 | 0.67 | 1.19 | ‡ | ‡ | 0.47 | 1.10 |
| Black | 0.31 | 3.77 | 3.75 | 8.17 | 9.17 | 2.94 | 5.11 | 6.56 |
| White | 0.38 | 4.41 | 5.86 | 5.16 | 9.06 | 8.12 | 5.54 | 8.33 |
| Hispanic | 0.39 | 2.56 | 3.84 | 5.58 | 1.50 | 5.36 | 2.25 | 6.08 |
| Eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch | | | | | | | | |
| Eligible | 0.42 | 2.96 | 3.98 | 6.12 | 4.23 | † | 3.76 | 6.74 |
| Not eligible | 0.42 | 2.96 | 3.98 | 6.12 | 4.23 | † | 3.76 | 6.74 |
| Limited-English-proficient | | | | | | | | |
| No | 0.30 | 1.31 | 2.27 | 2.00 | ‡ | ‡ | 1.39 | 3.86 |
| Yes | 0.30 | 1.31 | 2.27 | 2.00 | ‡ | ‡ | 1.39 | 3.86 |

† Not applicable.

‡ Reporting standards not met.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2003 Reading Charter School Pilot Study, previously unpublished tabulation (May 2005).