

# Report on Charter Schools on Military Installations

August 2012



Preparation of this study cost the Department of Defense a total of approximately \$17,000 for the 2012 Fiscal Year.

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Senate Appropriations Committee directed on page 15 of Senate Report 112-29, which accompanies H.R. 2055, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2012, the Secretary of Defense to “conduct a study of charter schools located on domestic military installations and report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on domestic locations where charter schools could substantially improve the quality of education for children of military families while meeting the unique needs of this mostly transient population.”

This report contains an overview of charter schools in the United States (U.S.), and a profile of the seven charter schools on domestic military installations. In regards to the second request, to “identify locations where charter schools could substantially improve the quality of education...”, local educational agencies (LEAs) are not required to report data on the specific schools military-connected students attend and the academic performance of these students. Without this data, the Department of Defense (DoD) is limited in identifying LEAs that might benefit from a charter school based on one measure: Average Freshman Graduation Rate (AFGR).

The only data source on military-connected students comes from the U.S. Department of Education (ED) Impact Aid Program, which collects the number of military-connected students by LEA. Impact Aid Data reveals that there are over 500 LEAs nationwide with military-connected students, and nearly a quarter of a million military-connected students are enrolled in 25 of these LEAs in 12 states.

In September of 2010, the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USDP&R) directed an assessment of the effectiveness of DoD in meeting the educational needs of military families. This DoD Education Review noted the lack of school-level data as a major impediment to understanding the needs of military-connected students and schools (Muller, Wenger, Miller, Randazzo-Matsel, Atkins, Marr, and Yamasaki, 2011). In 2011, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on the DoD Impact Aid Programs entitled “Education of Military Dependent Students: Better Data Information Needed to Assess Student Performance.” Similar to the DoD Education Review, the GAO report noted the lack of data as a problem, specifically stating:

“There is no data available on these students that could be used to assess the academic achievement or educational outcomes, or determine where funding needs are the greatest. Such reporting requirements exist for certain other groups of students, such as economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. Federal agency officials acknowledged this need for information and [the Department of] Education has begun discussing how to address this need” (U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2011).

DoD has worked with ED to address the lack of data on military-connected students. Through the collaborative efforts of both Departments, ED has included in its reauthorization blueprint of

the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) a proposal to create a military student identifier. This would require LEAs to collect and report information on the achievement and attendance of military-connected students in schools, but it would not require additional accountability for the performance of this subgroup. Creating a unique identifier for military-connected students under the ESEA would provide the opportunity to identify where the military-connected students attend school, and performance data that is needed to identify, evaluate, and ultimately improve the educational outcomes for military-connected students. It would also assist DoD in evaluating the needs of military-connected students and target resources effectively. In December of 2010, the USD P&R sent a letter to the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, expressing support for this proposal.

The DoD Education Review identified one comparable measure across states – average freshman graduation rate – to begin assessing the quality of education military-connected students receive. They found that military-connected students are concentrated in LEAs with average graduation rates between 61-89%. However, the Review did identify 10 LEAs with graduation rates below 50%, but it is not known how many military-connected students attend high school in and graduate from these LEAs (Muller et al., 2011; Blafanz, Bridgeland, Moore, and Hornig-Fox, 2010):

**Table 1: Average Freshman Graduation Rate in 10 Military-Connected LEAs**

LEA	Installation	Grad. Rate	Enroll.	Mil. Enroll.	Percent Mil.
Clover Park, WA	JB Lewis McChord	50%	12,242	5,064	41%
Albuquerque, NM	Kirtland AFB	50%	95,934	3,251	3%
Chatham County, GA	Fort Stewart	50%	33,994	1,694	5%
Montgomery County, AL	Maxwell AFB	46%	31,307	1,577	5%
North Chicago, IL	NS Great Lakes	47%	4,141	832	20%
Bibb County, GA	Robbins AFB	47%	24,968	576	2%
Franklin Pierce, WA	JB Lewis McChord	49%	7,801	476	6%
Russell County, AL	Fort Benning	49%	3,445	302	9%
Mineral County, NV	Hawthorne Army	34%	561	215	38%
Atlanta Public Schools, GA	Fort Gordon	49%	49,032	190	<1%

Although average freshman graduation rate provides a data point at the LEA level, school-level data on military-connected students is needed to identify struggling schools, to determine how many students are in need of additional support, and how best to target resources.

Educational achievement is a concern for parents, and military parents are no exception. The quality of K-12 education available can affect retention, mission readiness, and morale. Military families frequently indicate that the quality of education available is one of the most important criteria when relocating to a new community. DoD understands elementary and secondary education is under the jurisdiction of the state and local governments. However, a significant element of family readiness is an educational system that provides not only a quality education but also one that recognizes and responds to the unique needs of children of military families (U.S. Department of Defense, 2012b). Charter schools are one option military families may choose for their children, if the state in which they reside allows charter schools and if there is local capacity.

## II. INTRODUCTION

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The Department of Education (ED) defines a charter school as a school “providing free public elementary and/or secondary education to eligible students under a specific charter granted by the state legislature or other appropriate authority, and designated by such authority to be a charter school” (Chen, 2011). Currently, 42 states and the District of Columbia have legislation allowing for charter schools. Variations in charter school legislation impact the ability to start and operate charter schools. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools reports that in School Year (SY) 2010-11, there were 1.8 million students (3.7% of all students in public schools) in 5,275 charter schools (5.4% of all public schools) (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2012).

There are currently seven charter schools located on military installations in the U.S. in six different states. These charter schools are:

- Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School: Flightline Upper Academy, Little Rock Air Force Base (AFB), Arkansas;
- Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan, Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona;
- Manzanita Public Charter School, Vandenberg AFB, California;
- Wheatland Charter Academy, Beale AFB, California;
- Sigsbee Charter School, Naval Air Station Key West, Florida;
- Belle Chasse Academy, Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Station New Orleans, Louisiana;
- Imagine Andrews Public Charter School, Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility, Maryland.

The seven charter schools serve a total of 2,498 students, with about 1,770 (71%) of these students being military-connected. Four of the charters are their own LEA – Flightline Upper Academy, Manzanita Public Charter School, Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan, and Belle Chasse Academy. They are authorized by the state board of education, a state charter school board, or in the case of Manzanita Public Charter School, an LEA, while the other three schools are authorized by and part of an LEA. Two of the charter schools – Imagine Andrews Public Charter School and Flightline Upper Academy – opened in the fall of 2011 and are in their first year of operation. Five of the schools are associated primarily with AFBs and the other two are on Navy installations. Only one of the schools includes high school grades, Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan, which plans to expand to a full middle and high school by SY 2013-14. The other six charter schools are either elementary or middle schools.

As public schools, charter schools are required to follow and meet the requirements in the ESEA and in state law, in addition to the performance goals in the charter contracts (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2012).

Table 2 provides a listing and brief summary of each of the seven charter schools on military installations.

**Table 2: Charter Schools on Military Installations**

State	School	Installation	Opening School Year	Grades	Total Population	Military-connected
Arkansas	Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School: Flightline Upper Academy	Little Rock AFB	SY 2011-12	5-8	164	82 (49%)
Arizona	Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan	Davis-Monthan AFB	SY 2009-10	6-10*	185	141 (76%)
California	Manzanita Public Charter School	Vandenberg AFB	SY 2008-09	K-6	438	184 (42%)
California	Wheatland Charter School	Beale AFB	SY 2001-02	K-5	99	74 (75%)
Florida	Sigsbee Charter School	Naval Air Station Key West	SY 2010-11	PK-6	410	70-80%**
Louisiana	Belle Chasse Academy	Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Station New Orleans	SY 2002-03	K-8	942	800 (85%)
Maryland	Imagine Andrews Public Charter School	Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington	SY 2011-12	K-4***	260	161 (62%)

\*Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan plans to expand one grade level each year to serve grades 6-12.

\*\*Estimate provided by the school as they did not have exact enrollment numbers for military-connected students at this time.

\*\*\*Imagine Andrews Public Charter School plans to expand one grade level each year to serve grades K-8.

Sources: (Bartley, 2012; Bekeris, March 2012; Davis, April 2012; U.S. Air Force, 2012a; U.S. Air Force, 2012b; U.S. Air Force, 2012c; Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School: Flightline Upper Academy, 2012; Meador, 2012)

Each charter school on a military installation has its own unique story. The profiles in Section III of this report provide a summary of how the school started, some of the challenges they faced and overcame, their demographics, student achievement (if available), and other pertinent information.

### III. CHARTER SCHOOL PROFILES

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#### 1. Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School: Flightline Upper Academy on Little Rock AFB

##### Summary

The Hunt-Pinnacle Group, who is responsible for building 1,000 housing units on base, worked with families from Little Rock AFB to lead an effort for a charter school serving grades 5-8 on base. The local school district near the base operates a former Blue Ribbon elementary school award winner, but families on base sought additional options for their children at the middle school level (National Charter School Resource Center January 2011 E-Newsletter, 2011). Lighthouse Academies Inc. was selected to run the school, as they have a national network of charter schools that uses an arts-infused, K-12 college preparatory curriculum and also operate an elementary charter school in the Little Rock Area. The State Board of Education approved the application in 2010 and thus, the school operates as its own school district.

Flightline Upper Academy opened in August 2011, to 164 students, half of which are military-connected. It is in its first year of operation, with a military-connected student population of 82 (50%), serving a diverse student population. The installation provided a former Officers' Club to use as a facility for the school. Nearly \$1 million was invested in the building for renovations, with donations provided by the Hunt-Pinnacle Group, the Walton Foundation, and the Wilson Family Foundation (Agoha, 2011). The school is an extension of an existing Lighthouse Academy elementary school in Little Rock. Students were selected by lottery in April, with siblings automatically entered, and later openings filled from a waiting list.

In response to the charter school, the base addressed the issue of security by issuing passes for 24 hours, seven days a week, and for one year base access for individuals connected with the school who live off-base. This afforded access to any early morning, weekend, or evening school event, and parent conferences (Myers, 2012).

##### Information on Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School: Flightline Upper Academy

<b>Address</b>	251 North 1st Street Jacksonville, AR 72076
<b>District Name</b>	Jacksonville Lighthouse Inc.
<b>Serving</b>	Little Rock AFB
<b>Authorizer</b>	Arkansas State Board of Education
<b>Opening SY</b>	SY 2011-12
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lighthouse-academies.org/schools/flightline">http://www.lighthouse-academies.org/schools/flightline</a>
<b>Students in SY 2011-12</b>	164
<b>Military Students in SY 2011-12</b>	82 (49%)
<b>Grades</b>	5-8
<b>Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible SY 2010-11</b>	48%
<b>Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status SY 2010-11</b>	N/A
<b>Title I</b>	Yes

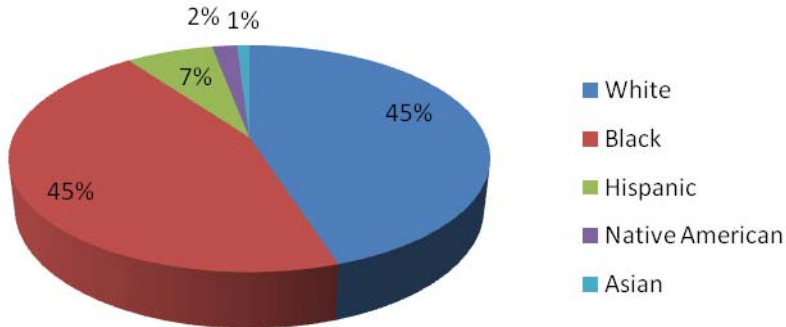
Sources: (Arkansas Department of Education, 2012; Jacksonville Lighthouse Charter School: Flightline Upper Academy, 2012; Myers, 2012)

**Enrollment by Grade**

5	6	7	8
45	51	41	27

Source: (Myers, 2012)

**SY 2011-12 Demographic Enrollment**



Source: (Myers, 2012)

**Student Performance**

Because this is a new school, student performance and school comparison data are not available.

**Impact Aid Fiscal Year (FY) 2011**

No Impact Aid was awarded to this school or LEA in FY 2011.



## **2. Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan on Davis-Monthan AFB**

### **Summary**

In 2006, the Tucson Unified School District closed one of the two elementary schools located on Davis-Monthan AFB, and the middle school in the district had been identified as “in need of improvement” under ESEA for three straight years. Through a survey and town hall meetings, military families expressed strong support for another middle school option. As a result, a working group was formed of members from the base to explore starting a charter school, and from there they developed and coordinated a plan for the school. One advantage in the development process was the existing elementary school facility on base, although it required renovation. The Air Force had planned to demolish the building, but because it was used for the school, it saved the Air Force over \$900,000 in demolition costs (Deputy Civil Engineer, 2011).

Sonoran Schools was selected to run the middle school at Davis-Monthan. Sonora Schools operates a number of charter schools throughout the state of Arizona and is an experienced school operator. The State Board for Charter Schools authorized the school, and it is its own LEA.

In the fall of 2009, Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan Charter School opened on Davis-Monthan AFB. The school opened for grades 6-8 with 120 students and received an award for the “Top Rated Charter School” that year. The charter school began adding one grade a year in the SY 2010-11, expanding to 185 students, and currently enrolls students for grades 6-10. The charter school is in its second year of operation, and currently enrolls 141 (76%) military-connected students.

There was no cost to the installation to open the school. The Air Force leases the facility to the school for \$1 per year with the stipulation the school provides all maintenance, repairs, and renovations (Deputy Civil Engineer, 2011). Base entry access procedures for non-DoD affiliated students are outlined in a local memorandum of understanding. Security is an ongoing issue for the school. Base security procedures are continuously under revision and require daily oversight and involvement by the school liaison on base. For example, there are various entry badges to permit access to the base, including a limited entry badge for access to pick up and drop off students at the school. Also, all students are issued an entry badge, and an Entry Access List is required for every individual event, open house, sports event, social, and school performance, for visitors and extended family members (Deputy Civil Engineer, 2011; U.S. Air Force, 2012b).

The academy enrolls students through a public lottery if applicants exceed capacity, and preference is given to siblings of enrolled students. The school capacity is 323 students, and since 2010 the school planned to grow to capacity by adding a grade each year. The first high school graduating class will be in the spring of 2014.

## Information on Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan

<b>Address</b>	5741 Ironwood Tucson, AZ 85708
<b>District Name</b>	Sonoran Schools
<b>Serving</b>	Davis-Monthan AFB
<b>Authorizer</b>	Arizona State Board of Charter Schools
<b>Opening SY</b>	SY 2009-10
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.sonoranacademy.org/davismonthan/">http://www.sonoranacademy.org/davismonthan/</a>
<b>Students in SY 2011-12</b>	185
<b>Military Students in SY 2011-12</b>	141 (76%)
<b>Grades</b>	6-10, adding a grade each year through grade 12
<b>Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible SY 2011-12</b>	39 (21%)
<b>AYP Status SY 2010-11</b>	Met
<b>Title I</b>	No

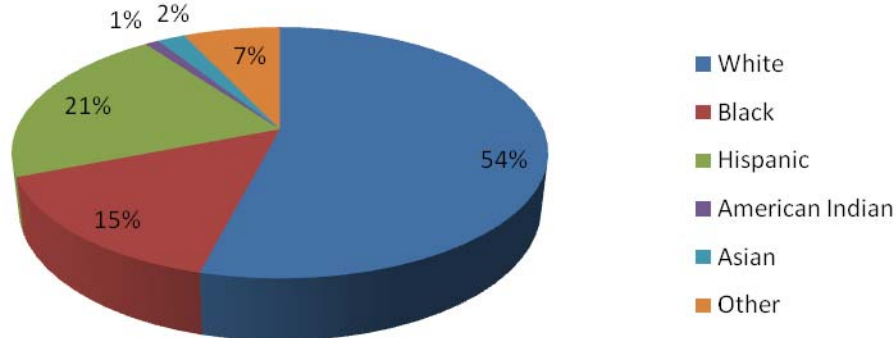
Sources: (Arizona Department of Education, 2012; U.S. Air Force, 2012b)

### Enrollment by Grade

6	7	8	9	10
48 (26%)	60 (32%)	33 (18%)	27 (15%)	17 (9%)

Source: (U.S. Air Force, 2012b)

### SY 2011-12 Demographic Enrollment



Source: (U.S. Air Force, 2012b)

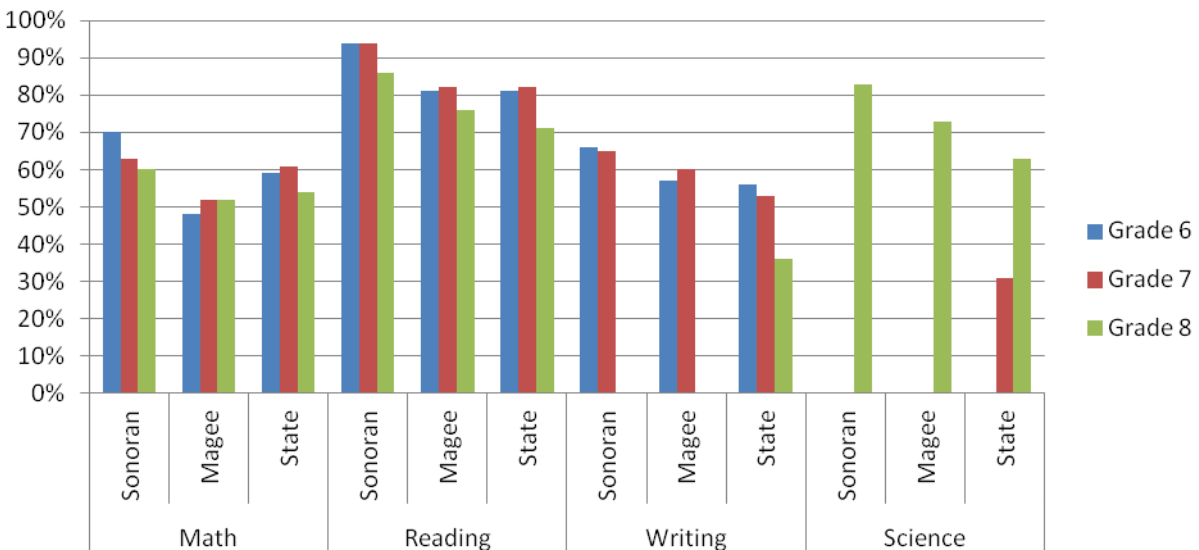
## Student Performance

Magee Middle School had similar demographics for SY 2009-10 for grades 6-8 as Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan, and the following two charts provide a brief comparison of the schools demographics and academic performance. State assessment results show that Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan outperforms Magee Middle School and the state average in reading, math, writing and science for grades 6-8.

School	Grade Span	Enrollment	% Free /Reduced Meals	% White	% Black	% Hispanic	% American Indian /Alaskan Native	%Asian /Pacific Islander
Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan	6-10	114	34%	66%	15%	11%	1%	7%
Magee Middle School	6-8	740	34%	61%	7%	27%	2%	3%

Source: (The Common Core of Data (CCD), 2012)

The chart below displays SYs 2010-11 Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) results, percent proficient and above, comparing Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan to Magee Middle School and the state average.



Source: (Arizona Department of Education, 2012)

**Impact Aid FY 2011**

Sonoran Science Academy Davis-Monthan received funding in FY 2011 from the U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid and the Department of Defense Supplement to Impact Aid Programs to support the education of military-connected students.

<b>ED Impact Aid</b>	
Section 8002 Payments for Federal Property	\$0
8003(b)(1) Basic Support Payment	\$315,058
8003(b)(2) Heavily Impacted LEAs	\$0
8003(d) Children with Disabilities	\$6,750
8007 Construction Grants	\$0
<b>DoD Supplement to Impact Aid</b>	
Supplement (20%)	\$25,010
Children with Severe Disabilities	\$0

Sources: (U.S. Department of Defense, 2012a; U.S. Department of Education, 2012)

### 3. Manzanita Public Charter School on Vandenberg AFB

#### Summary

According to the Charter of the Manzanita Public Charter School, the founding group began meeting in the spring of 2007, to address the changing demographics in Lompoc Unified School District (LUSD) and the effect of those changes on the school and community. The group believed that a dual-immersion school with progressive research-based educational practice was needed (Manzanita Founding Group, 2007). Although LUSD approved and authorized Manzanita Public Charter School, it serves as its own LEA.

The Manzanita Public Charter School opened in 2008, is in its fourth year of operation, and uses a public lottery if applicants exceed capacity. The school serves a diverse population of 438 students in grades K-6, with 184 (42%) military-connected students.

Manzanita Public Charter School is located on base-owned property that is outside the fence line, which permits access by non-DoD parents and school visitors. The six-building campus is owned by LUSD and was built in 1961. The campus is in an area that was once used as base housing, though all houses have now been removed with the area returning to its natural state. The base leases the property to LUSD and provides fire, safety, and emergency response to the facility. There were no installation costs associated with the opening of the school (U.S. Air Force, 2012a).

#### Information on Manzanita Public Charter School

<b>Address</b>	991 Mountain View Blvd Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437-1209
<b>District Name</b>	Manzanita Public Charter School
<b>Serving</b>	Vandenberg AFB
<b>Authorizer</b>	Lompoc Unified School District
<b>Opening SY</b>	SY 2008-09
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.manzanitacharterschool.com/">http://www.manzanitacharterschool.com/</a>
<b>Students in SY 2011-12</b>	438
<b>Military Students in SY 2011-12</b>	184 (42%)
<b>Grades</b>	K-6
<b>Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible SY 2011-12</b>	229 (66%)
<b>AYP Status SY 2010-11</b>	Not Met (Year 2 of School Improvement)
<b>Title I</b>	Yes

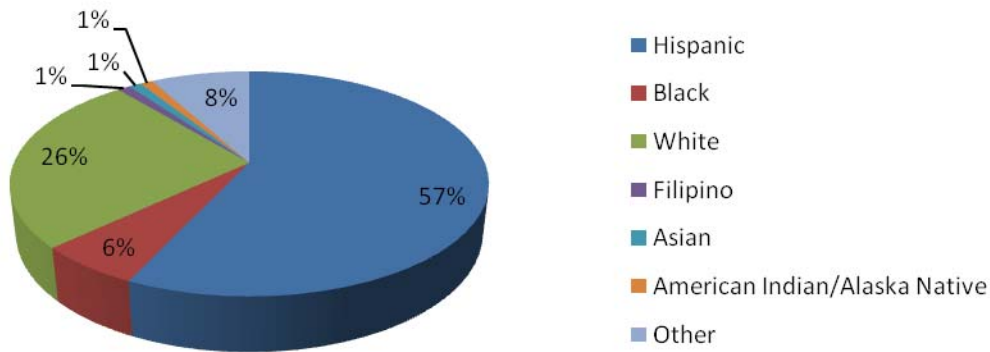
Sources: (California Department of Education, 2012; U.S. Air Force, 2012a; Manzanita Public Charter School, 2012)

#### Enrollment by Grade

<b>K</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
69 (16%)	70 (16%)	74 (17%)	72 (16%)	48 (11%)	54 (12%)	42 (10%)

Source: (U.S. Air Force, 2012a)

## SY 2011-12 Demographic Enrollment



Source: (U.S. Air Force, 2012a)

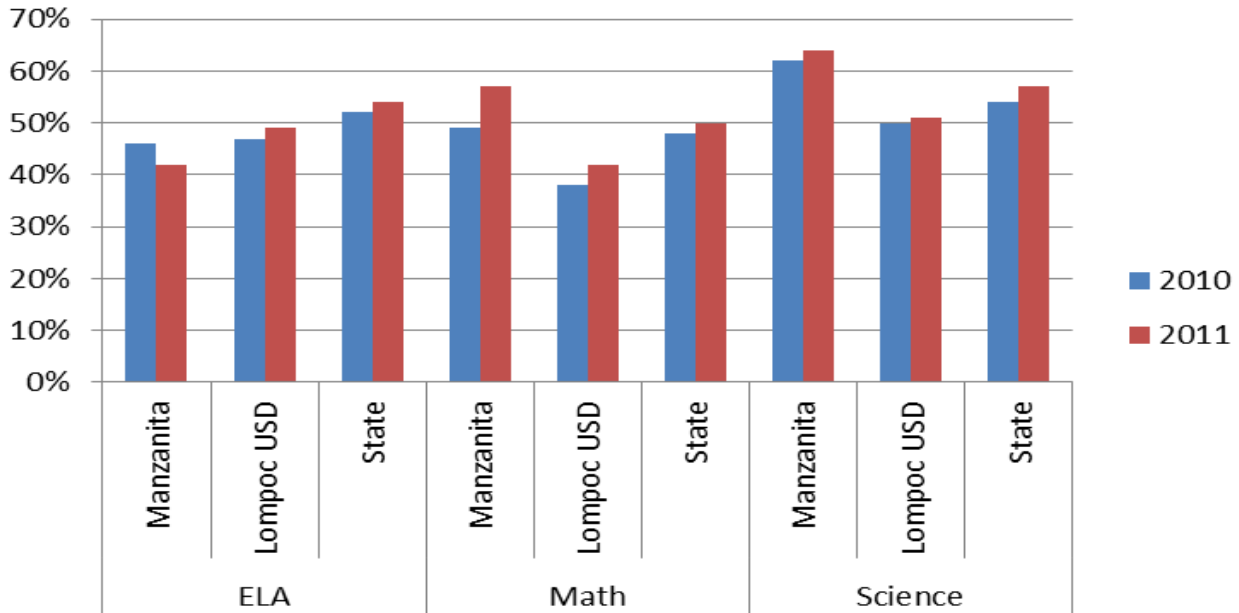
### Student Performance

In comparing Manzanita Public Charter School with another school in Lompoc Unified School District, Miguelito Elementary School is the most similar school when considering grades served and demographics for SY 2010-11. The chart below provides a brief comparison of the schools demographics and achievement. Miguelito outperformed Manzanita in both ELA and math in SY 2010-11. (Note: California's Educational Data Partnership reports student achievement data in the aggregate rather than broken out by grade level.)

School	Grade Span	Enrollment	Average Class Size	% Free /Reduced Meals	% Minority	Pupils Per Teacher	ELA % Proficient	Math % Proficient
Manzanita Public Charter School	K-6	357	18.8	64%	75%	20.4	41%	60%
Miguelito Elementary	K-6	532	22.2	61%	72%	22.2	58%	64%

Source: (Educational Data Partnership, 2012)

The chart below displays SY's 2009-10 and 2010-11 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Results, percent proficient and above, comparing Manzanita Public Charter School with Lompoc Unified School District and state averages in ELA, math and science. The achievement results for Manzanita Public Charter School are mixed in comparison with the Lompoc Unified School District and state averages.



Source: (California Department of Education, 2012)

### Impact Aid FY 2011

The Lompoc Unified School District received funding in FY 2011 from the U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid and the Department of Defense Supplement to Impact Aid Programs to support the education of military-connected students.

<b>ED Impact Aid</b>	
Section 8002 Payments for Federal Property	\$0
8003(b)(1) Basic Support Payment	\$358,683
8003(b)(2) Heavily Impacted LEAs	\$0
8003(d) Children with Disabilities	\$6,894
8007 Construction Grants	\$0
<b>DoD Supplement to Impact Aid</b>	
Supplement (20%)	\$38,928
Children with Severe Disabilities	\$0

Sources: (U.S. Department of Defense, 2012a; U.S. Department of Education, 2012)

#### 4. Wheatland Charter Academy on Beale AFB

##### Summary

Wheatland Charter Academy was a result of a desire to provide a choice for families stationed at Beale AFB (U.S. Air Force, 2012c). Wheatland School District authorized Wheatland Charter Academy and is a school within the district. It is in its eleventh year of operation, enrolling 74 (75%) military-connected students. Students are admitted through a process of preference from a list beginning with families already enrolled in Wheatland Charter Academy and those living on base, within school boundaries. The lottery process is used if applications exceed capacity.

Wheatland Charter Academy opened in the fall of 2001 on Beale AFB and shares a campus with Lone Tree Elementary School, which is also a part of the Wheatland School District, inside base boundaries located in the housing area. The school leases the land from Beale AFB, and the buildings are owned by the school district and were built in the 1950s. A new section was added in the 1960s, and some renovations have occurred in recent years (U.S. Air Force, 2012c). There are no immediate plans for expansion of the school.

Wheatland Charter Academy offers a “Montessori-blend program” for K-5 students, while Lone Tree offers a traditional program. The Academy works in partnership with the district to offer a K-5 school of choice for military and non-military families. The Principal of Lone Tree School serves as Director of Wheatland Charter Academy, and the school has a council that is represented by a teacher, parent, military member, community member and executive director. The Academy began as K-12 with K-5 on site and K-12 as Independent Study. The Independent Study program was closed in recent years (U.S. Air Force, 2012c; Wheatland Charter Academy, 2012a).

##### Information on Wheatland Charter Academy

<b>Address</b>	123 Beale Highway Beale AFB, CA 95903
<b>District Name</b>	Wheatland School District
<b>Serving</b>	Beale AFB
<b>Authorizer</b>	Wheatland School District
<b>Opening SY</b>	SY 2001-02
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://charter.wheatlandsd.com/">http://charter.wheatlandsd.com/</a>
<b>Students in SY 2011-12</b>	99
<b>Military Students in SY 2011-12</b>	74 (75%)
<b>Grades</b>	K-5
<b>Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible SY 2011-12</b>	38%
<b>AYP Status SY 2010-11</b>	Not Met
<b>Title I</b>	Yes

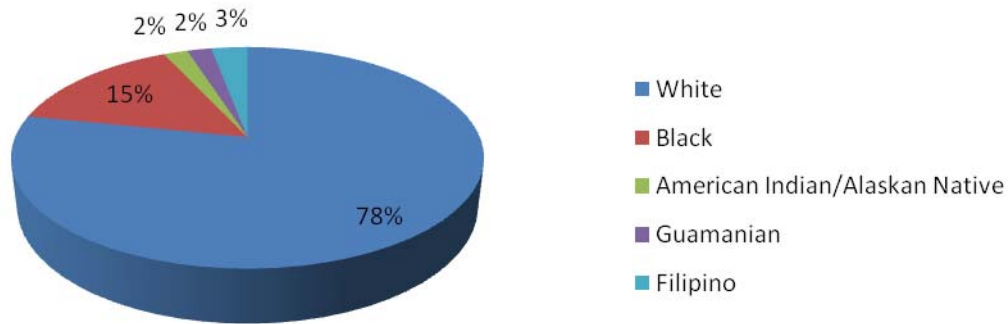


Sources: (California Department of Education, 2012; U.S. Air Force, 2012c; Wheatland Charter Academy, 2012b)

### Enrollment by Grade

K	1	2	3	4	5
19	20	20	14	16	10

### SY 2011-12 Demographic Enrollment



Source: (U.S. Air Force, 2012c)

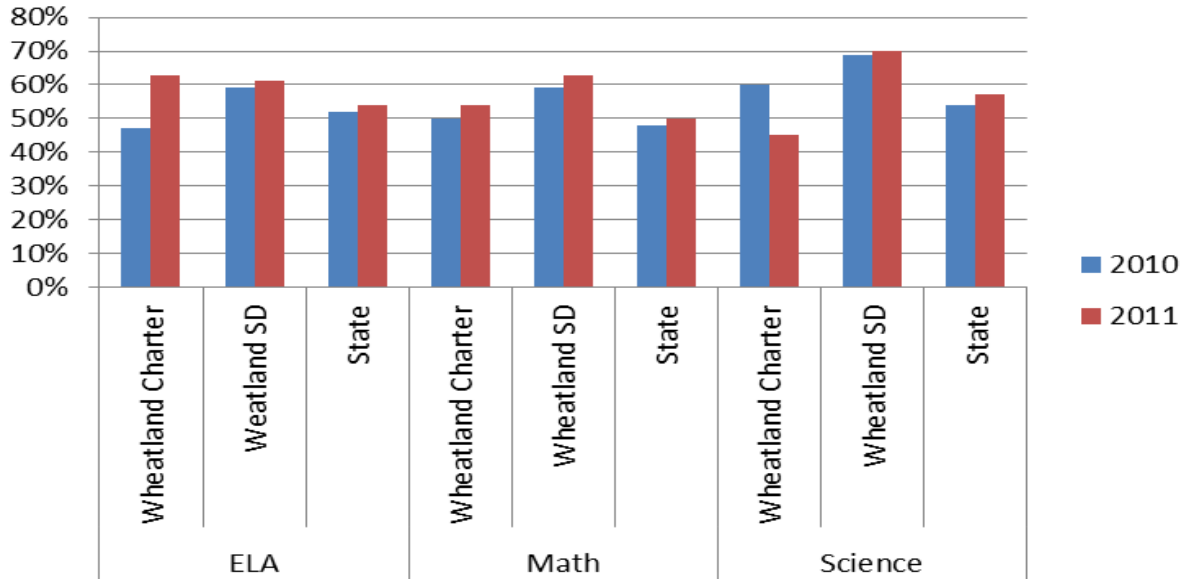
### Student Performance

In comparing Wheatland Charter Academy with another school in the Wheatland School District, Lone Tree Elementary School is the most similar school when considering demographics for SY 2010-11. The chart below provides a brief comparison of the demographics and achievement of the two schools. Wheatland slightly outperformed Lone Tree in ELA, while they scored lower in math. (Note: California's Educational Data Partnership reports student achievement data in the aggregate rather than broken out by grade level.)

School	Grade Span	Enrollment	Average Class Size	% Free /Reduced Meals	% Minority	Pupils Per Teacher	ELA % Proficient (Grades 3-6)	Math % Proficient (Grades 3-6)
Wheatland Charter Academy	K-8	104	17.8	41%	38%	17.3	62%	53%
Lone Tree Elementary	K-5	369	21.5	36%	42%	21.7	58%	69%

Source: (Educational Data Partnership, 2012)

The chart below displays SY's 2009-10 and 2010-11 STAR Results, percent proficient and above, comparing Wheatland Charter Academy with the Wheatland School District and state averages in ELA, math and science. The achievement results for Wheatland are lower than the district averages for each subject and similar to the state average in each of the subjects.



Source: (California Department of Education, 2012)

### Impact Aid FY 2011

The Wheatland School District received funding in FY 2011 from the U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid and the Department of Defense Supplement to Impact Aid Programs to support the education of military-connected students.

ED Impact Aid	
Section 8002 Payments for Federal Property	\$0
8003(b)(1) Basic Support Payment	\$1,666,654
8003(b)(2) Heavily Impacted LEAs	\$0
8003(d) Children with Disabilities	\$57,996
8007 Construction Grants	\$0
DoD Supplement to Impact Aid	
Supplement (20%)	\$137,934
Children with Severe Disabilities	\$0

Sources: (U.S. Department of Defense, 2012a; U.S. Department of Education, 2012)

## 5. Sigsbee Charter School on Naval Air Station Key West

### Summary

Sigsbee Charter School was the result of the cumulative efforts of multiple stakeholders on Naval Air Station Key West and the Monroe County School Board. An elementary school run by Monroe County was built on the base in 1950, but it experienced declining enrollment and was in jeopardy of being closed in 2008. As a result, a group composed of military spouses and other military members was formed with the goal of developing an application to convert the school to a charter school. The local Navy school liaison officer worked with the group that wrote the application and submitted it to the LEA for approval (Bryant, 2012b; "Sigsbee Charter School," 2012). The Monroe County School Board approved the application in 2009.

Sigsbee Charter School was authorized by the Monroe County Schools and serves as a school within the LEA. Sigsbee opened in the fall of 2010 to grades K-5 with plans to expand one grade per year through grade 8. An estimated 70-80% of the students are connected to the military and the school gives priority to children of active-duty members. Sigsbee Charter School is in its second year of operation, and military-connected students are estimated to make up 70-80% of the student population.

Prior to its opening, the school needed significant renovation, and the LEA provided some funds for the work. However, it did not fully cover the needed repairs, and a substantial effort was made by local volunteers, many of whom were parents of students who would attend the school (Guerra, 2012). The school also received a start-up grant from the Florida Department of Education in excess of \$300,000. Some other challenges included writing the charter application, which had to be approved by the Monroe County Schools, and maintaining momentum, partly because some of families that were active in the process moved (Bryant, 2012b).

### Information on Sigsbee Charter School

<b>Address</b>	939 Felton Road Key West, FL 33040-6798
<b>District Name</b>	Monroe County Schools
<b>Serving</b>	Naval Air Station Key West
<b>Authorizer</b>	The School Board of Monroe County Schools
<b>Opening SY</b>	SY 2010-11
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.sigsbee.org/">http://www.sigsbee.org/</a>
<b>Students in SY 2011-12</b>	410
<b>Military Students in SY 2011-12</b>	70-80% (estimate provided by the school)
<b>Grades</b>	PK-6
<b>Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible SY 2011-12</b>	20%
<b>AYP Status SY 2010-11</b>	Met
<b>Title I</b>	No

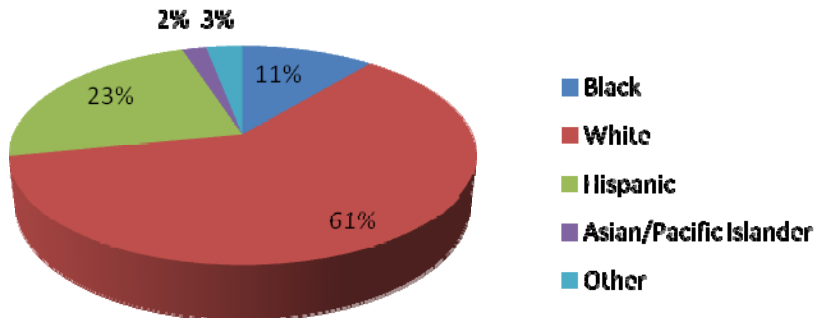
Sources: (Bryant, 2012a, 2012b; The Common Core of Data (CCD), 2012; Florida Department of Education, 2012; National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2012; Sigsbee Charter School, 2012)

### Enrollment by Grade

PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6
30 (7%)	66 (16%)	60 (15%)	60 (15%)	60 (15%)	44 (11%)	44 (11%)	46 (11%)

Source: (Bryant, 2012b)

### SY 2011-12 Demographic Enrollment

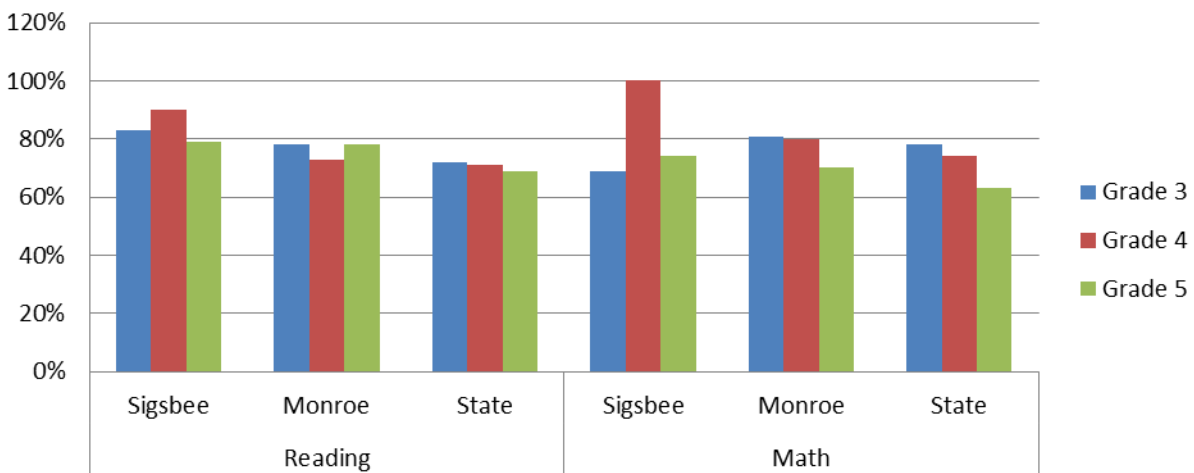


Source: (Bryant, 2012b)

### Student Performance

There are no comparable schools in Monroe County Schools with similar student numbers, demographics, and free/reduced lunch percentages.

The chart below displays the 2011 Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) results, percent proficient and above, comparing Sigsbee’s assessment results to Monroe County Schools and the state. The results for Sigsbee are mixed, with some subjects and grade levels scoring better than the county and state, while others perform the same or worse.



Source: (Florida Department of Education, 2012)

**Impact Aid FY 2011**

Monroe County Schools received funding in FY 2011 from the U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid Programs, but not from the Department of Defense Supplement to Impact Aid Program to support the education of military-connected students.

<b>ED Impact Aid</b>	
Section 8002 Payments for Federal Property	\$0
8003(b)(1) Basic Support Payment	\$188,598
8003(b)(2) Heavily Impacted LEAs	\$0
8003(d) Children with Disabilities	\$32,643
8007 Construction Grants	\$0
<b>DoD Supplement to Impact Aid</b>	
Supplement (20%)	\$0
Children with Severe Disabilities	\$0

Sources: (U.S. Department of Defense, 2012a; U.S. Department of Education, 2012)

## **6. Belle Chasse Academy on Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Station, New Orleans**

### **Summary**

The establishment of Belle Chasse Academy charter school on Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Station (NAS-JRB) New Orleans, was the result of the collective efforts of the Command and community member support. Belle Chasse Academy has grown from 600 to 900 K-8 students in its ten year existence. The impetus for the charter school was the construction of the over 600 housing units being built aboard NAS-JRB. The local school district did not have the facilities or the resources to meet the expected increase in students. This led to a mutual agreement with the local school district and their concurrence to support a new charter school application to the state (Bekeris, March 2012). The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved the charter application, and the school opened in the fall of 2002. Belle Chasse operates as its own LEA. The school is in its tenth year of operation and enrolls 800 (85%) military-connected students.

The primary reason for the charter school was the increased student population, but the long term issue facing the local military commands was the perceived school quality (Bekeris, March 2012). The principal challenge to opening the school was obtaining and financing the school facility. The school was able to obtain funding through a \$13 million dollar loan with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan Program. A new 92,000 square foot facility opened in the fall of 2002.

Another challenge was how the school could determine the enrollment criteria for students. The founders wanted the school to serve military-connected students, but state law required an open lottery. A ruling by the Louisiana State Attorney General allowed the school to give priority to students of active duty members because the mission of the school is to serve military dependents. However, the school is still an open enrollment school with about 150 non-military-connected students in attendance (National Charter School Resource Center January 2011 E-Newsletter, 2011).

Belle Chasse Academy has two registration periods each year and the process is conducted online to ensure that military personnel living out of state or overseas can submit their intent to enroll. In the lottery pool, active duty personnel are placed first, followed by reservists, retirees, DoD employees and civilians. If there are openings after all active duty applicants are placed, all eligible remaining students are placed in groups by grade and names are drawn until vacancies are filled. This has not occurred recently because the number of active duty personnel meets or exceeds the class size limits or the quantity of eligible students, provided that all applicants are selected.

## Information on Belle Chasse Academy

<b>Address</b>	100 Fifth Street, NAS-JRB Belle Chasse, LA 70037-5999
<b>District Name</b>	Belle Chasse Academy, Inc.
<b>Serving</b>	Military dependents in New Orleans region; including Joint Service organizations aboard the Naval Air Station/Joint Reserve Station, New Orleans and Headquarters, Marine Forces Reserve (Federal City, Algiers, LA)
<b>Authorizer</b>	The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
<b>Opening SY</b>	SY 2002-03
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.bellechasseacademy.org/">http://www.bellechasseacademy.org/</a>
<b>Students in SY 2011-12</b>	942
<b>Military Students in SY 2011-12</b>	800 (85%)
<b>Grades</b>	K-8
<b>Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible SY 2010-11</b>	394 (44%)
<b>AYP Status SY 2010-11</b>	Made AYP
<b>Title I</b>	Yes

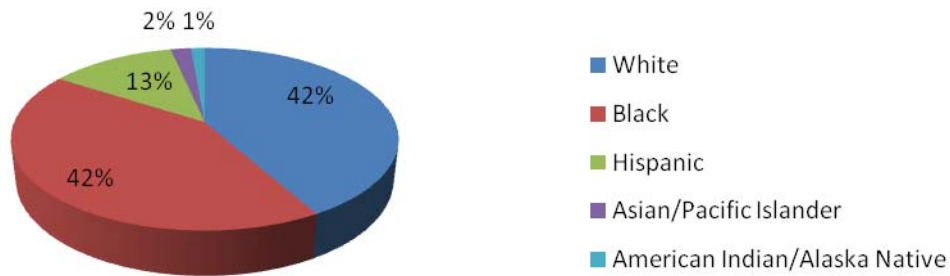
Sources: (Bekeris, March 2012; Louisiana Department of Education, 2012)

## Enrollment by Grade

K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
96 (10%)	107 (11%)	106 (11%)	105 (11%)	109 (12%)	97 (10%)	108 (11%)	113 (12%)	101 (11%)

Source: (Bekeris, March 2012)

## SY 2011-12 Demographic Enrollment



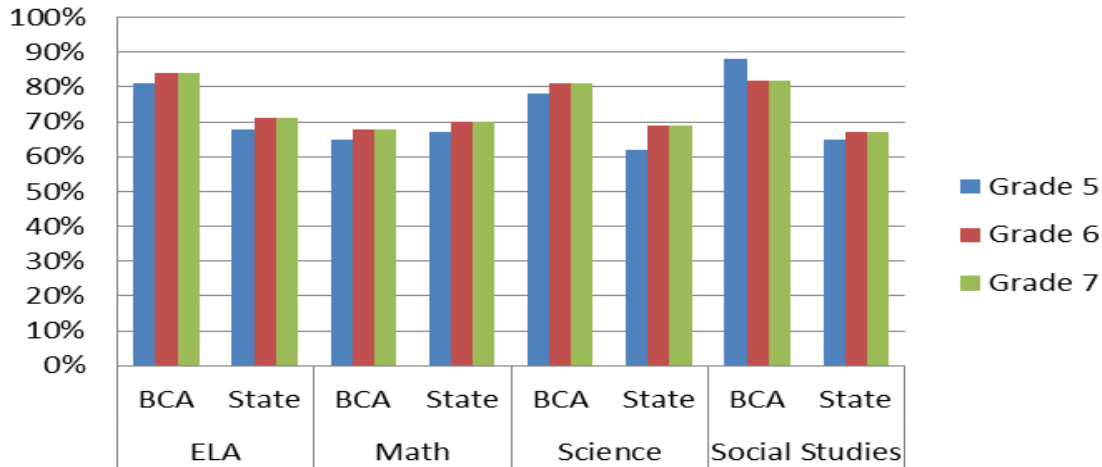
Source: (Bekeris, March 2012)

## Student Performance

There are no comparable schools in the nearest LEA, Plaquemines Parish, that have similar demographics and grade levels.

The chart below displays the SY 2010-11 Integrated Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (iLEAP) results, percent proficient and above, comparing Belle Chasse Academy to the state average in ELA, math, science, and social studies. Belle Chasse performs better than the state in all subjects and grade levels except math.

### 2010-11 iLEAP Test Results



Source: (Louisiana Department of Education, 2012)

## Impact Aid FY 2011

Belle Chasse Academy received funding in FY 2011 from the U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid and the Department of Defense Supplement to Impact Aid Programs to support the education of military-connected students.

ED Impact Aid	
Section 8002 Payments for Federal Property	\$0
8003(b)(1) Basic Support Payment	\$1,996,337
8003(b)(2) Heavily Impacted LEAs	\$0
8003(d) Children with Disabilities	\$26,568
8007 Construction Grants	\$72,819
DoD Supplement to Impact Aid	
Supplement (20%)	\$159,780
Children with Severe Disabilities	\$0

Sources: (U.S. Department of Defense, 2012a; U.S. Department of Education, 2012)



## **7. Imagine Andrews Public Charter School on Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington**

### **Summary**

In the 1950s, a public school was built on Andrews AFB, but it was closed in 1979, leaving base residents to go off base for schooling options. Following the last round of Base Realignment and Closure, the building and maintenance of on-base housing were turned over to private contractors. Clark Realty Capital of Arlington, Virginia, an affiliate of Bethesda's Clark Construction Group, was responsible for the new housing and also had plans for a charter school to entice families to live on base.

Clark Realty Capital, working with military stakeholders, chose Imagine Schools, Inc. to develop an application to open a charter school on base and run the school. Imagine Schools runs a number of charter schools in the region, maintaining all aspects of the day-to-day operations of the schools (AMC East Communities Launches Andrews Education Foundation, 2009). The application for the charter was submitted to Prince George's County Public Schools and they approved the application in 2010 and serve as the schools' authorizer. Thus, Imagine Andrews is part of Prince George's County Public Schools. The school opened in the fall of 2011 to 260 students in grades K-4.

Although the school was approved, there was a major hurdle that needed to be overcome before Imagine Andrews could become a reality. The challenge was the Maryland requirement for charter schools to open-enroll students through a lottery. A goal of the school was to serve the unique needs of military-connected students and to make this possible a change to the state law requirement for a lottery was necessary. State lawmakers agreed to make an exception for a charter school on a military base and to allow the Maryland State Board of Education to grant waivers to charter schools on military installations (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 9-102.1). The waiver was granted in August, 2010 (Maryland State Board of Education Opinion No. 10-35, August 24, 2010), and still requires the charter school to hold a lottery, but allows Imagine Andrews to reserve 65% of the seats for military-connected students and 35% for other students, ensuring that military families will be a primary beneficiary of the school. This legislative decision was also impacted by the complication of base security requirements, which were noted as a reason for the need for a change, to allow the school to serve the community but also to not compromise security.

Clark Realty and the U.S. Department of the Air Force formed a formal public-private partnership through the non-profit Air Mobility Command (AMC) East Communities, with the goal of supporting the educational needs of families on Joint Base Andrews. Through the partnership, a temporary facility was built to house the school for the first year, while a permanent building was being built to open in 2012. The school currently serves students in grades K-4 with plans to expand one grade per year up through grade 8 with a capacity for about 500 students (AMC East Communities Launches Andrews Education Foundation, 2009).

Imagine Andrews Public Charter School is in its first year of operation and educates 161 (66%) military-connected students.

## Information on Imagine Andrews Public Charter School

<b>Address</b>	4798 Yuma Road Andrews AFB, MD 20762
<b>District Name</b>	Prince George's County Schools
<b>Serving</b>	Joint Base Andrews-NAF Washington
<b>Authorizer</b>	Prince George's County Schools
<b>Opening SY</b>	SY 2011-12
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://imagineandrews.org/">http://imagineandrews.org/</a>
<b>Students in SY 2011-12</b>	260
<b>Military Students in SY 2011-12</b>	161 (62%)
<b>Grades</b>	K-4, adding a grade each year through 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
<b>Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible SY 2011-12</b>	15%
<b>AYP Status SY 2010-11</b>	N/A
<b>Title I</b>	No

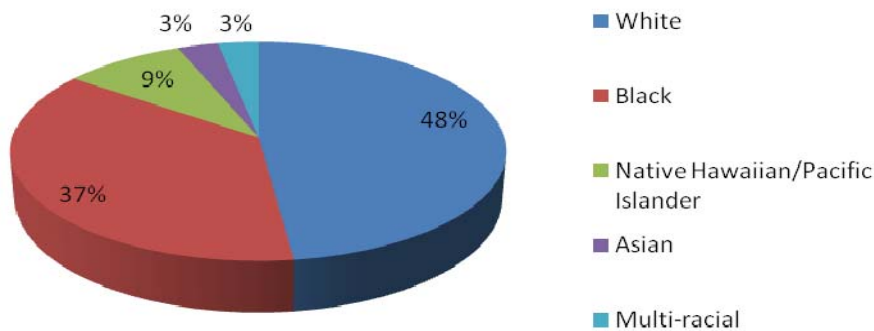
Sources: (Hills, 2012; Meador, 2012)

## Enrollment by Grade

<b>K</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
60 (26%)	50 (32%)	50 (18%)	50 (15%)	50 (9%)

Source: (Meador, 2012)

## SY 2011-12 Demographic Enrollment



Source: (Meador, 2012)

## Student Performance

Because this is a new school, student performance and school comparison data are not available at this time.

**Impact Aid FY 2011**

Prince George's County Schools received funding in FY 2011 from the U.S. Department of Education Impact Aid Programs, but not the Department of Defense Supplement to Impact Aid Program to support the education of military-connected students.

<b>ED Impact Aid</b>	
Section 8002 Payments for Federal Property	\$0
8003(b)(1) Basic Support Payment	\$57,538
8003(b)(2) Heavily Impacted LEAs	\$0
8003(d) Children with Disabilities	\$68,679
8007 Construction Grants	\$0
<b>DoD Supplement to Impact Aid</b>	
Supplement (20%)	\$0
Children with Severe Disabilities	\$0

Sources: (U.S. Department of Defense Education Defense, 2012a; U.S. Department of Education, 2012)

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