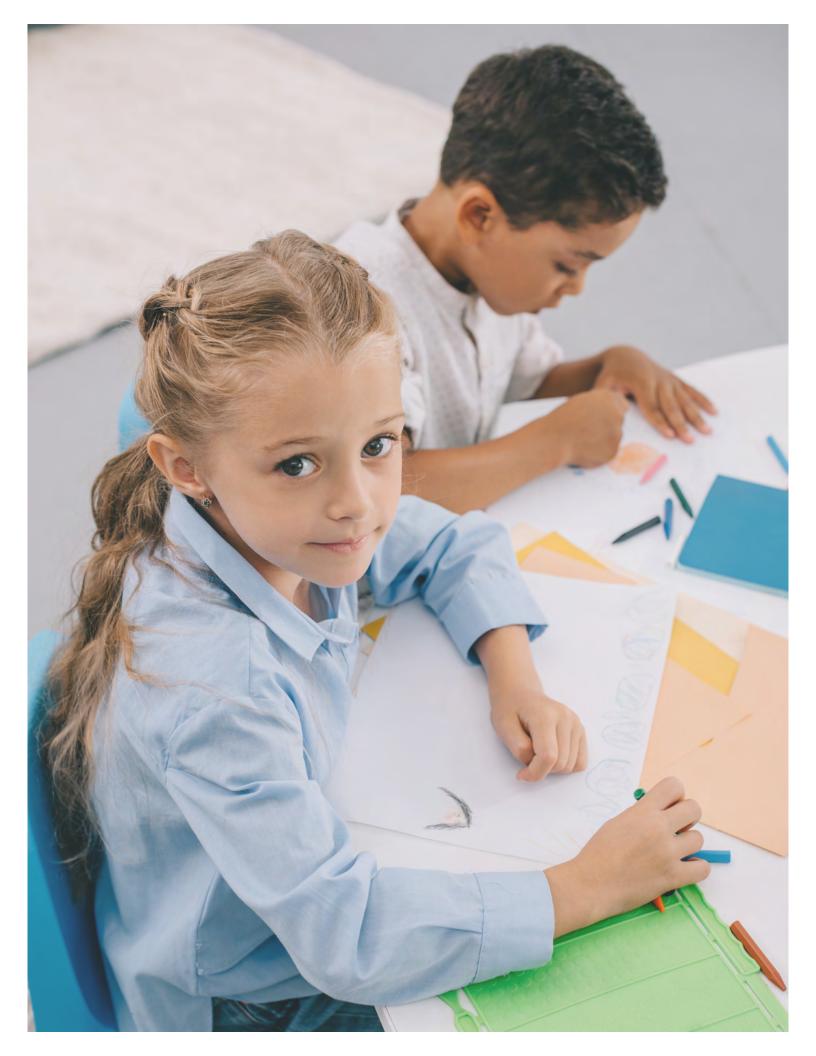
# **Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools:**

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 2018-19 school year. (*Note: Due to the impact of COVID-19, there were no school grades reported for the 2019-20 school year.*)

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





## 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 (NGSS 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 2018-19 school year, the report makes 195 comparisons in three areas: absolute achievement, learning gains and achievement gaps. Each of these areas includes overall as well as sub-group comparisons across subject areas and grade levels.

The achievement section of this report measures the percentage of students who scored a level three or above on the statewide assessment. This data is used to measure overall rates of grade level performance by grade groupings and by subgroup. This section of the report contains 77 separate comparisons of student achievement. In 62 of the 77 comparisons, students enrolled in charter schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance. In 14 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 19 of the 22 comparisons while the achievement gap was lower for traditional public schools in 3 of the 22 comparisons.

The learning gains section of the report includes 96 comparisons. The report compares the percentage of students in charter schools making learning gains against the percentage of students in traditional public schools making learning gains by subject, grade level and subgroup. The percentage of students making learning gains was higher in charter schools in 83 of the 96 comparisons. The percentage of students making learning gains was higher in traditional gains was higher in traditional public schools in 7 of the 96 comparisons. There was no difference in the percentage of students making learning gains in 6 of the 96 comparisons.





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## **Students Served by Florida Charter Schools**

Charter schools provide parents with additional choices for selecting the most effective educational programs for their children and offer creative solutions for improving student achievement in Florida. The charter school sector in Florida strives to improve student learning, increase parental choice and foster innovative instructional and leadership approaches. Charter school enrollment has more than doubled over the last decade and represents more than 10 percent of public-school enrollment in Florida. As shown below, charter schools served more than 311,000 students in the 2018-19 school year.

	Charter Schools		Traditional Public Schools (TPS)		All	
Race/Ethnicity/ Gender	Students	Percent	Students	Percent	Students	Percent
White	96,711	31.0%	960,204	37.9%	1,056,915	37.2%
Black	61,848	19.8%	561,455	22.2%	623,303	21.9%
Hispanic	134,220	43.0%	834,870	33.0%	969,090	34.1%
Other	19,195	6.2%	174,811	6.9%	194,006	6.8%
Male	156,575	50.2%	1,304,428	51.5%	1,461,003	51.4%
Female	155,399	49.8%	1,226,912	48.5%	1,382,311	48.6%
Total Enrollment	311,974	100.0%	2,531,340	100.0%	2,843,314	100.0%

Special Categories						
FRPL*	164,660	52.8%	1,488,660	58.8%	1,653,320	58.1%
ELL**	30,636	9.8%	264,997	10.5%	295,633	10.4%
SWD***	30,950	9.9%	381,618	15.1%	412,568	14.5%

\* FRPL: Free and Reduced Priced Lunch

\*\* ELL: English Language Learners

\*\*\* SWD: Students with Disabilities



# **Grading Charter Schools**

Like traditional public schools, charter schools are assigned a performance grade if they meet eligibility criteria and are not an alternative school or Exceptional Student Education (ESE) center that elects to receive a school improvement rating instead of a grade. Each school is assigned a letter grade if it has sufficient data for at least one school grading component, tested at least 95 percent of eligible students and is not under investigation for a testing irregularity. A school shall receive a grade based solely on the components for which it has sufficient data. Sufficient data exists when at least 10 students are eligible for inclusion in the calculation of the component. If a school has less than 10 eligible students with data for a particular component, that component will not be calculated for the school.

#### 2018-19 Comparison of Graded vs. Ungraded Schools

	Charter	Traditional
Number of schools with membership in tested grades	641	3113
Number of graded/rated schools	626	2999
Number of ungraded/unrated schools	15	114
Percent of ungraded/unrated schools	2%	4%

#### 2018-19 School Grades for Charter and Traditional Schools

	Charter		Traditional		All	
Grade	Number	Percent of Graded	Number	Percent of Graded	Number	% of Graded
А	279	51.1%	902	32.4%	1,181	35.5%
В	125	22.9%	784	28.2%	909	27.3%
С	111	20.3%	954	34.3%	1,065	32.0%
D	28	5.1%	131	4.7%	159	4.8%
F	3	0.5%	11	0.4%	14	0.4%
Total A-F	546	100%	2,782	100%	3,328	100%

\* 2018-19 Final School Grades as of 11/09/2020

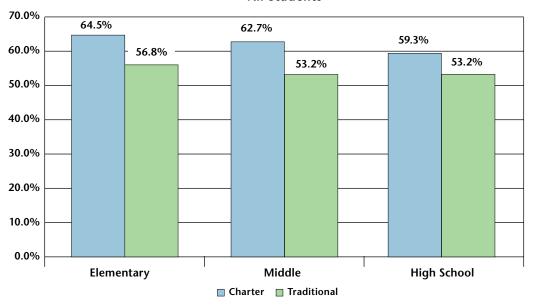


ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

# FSA English Language Arts Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

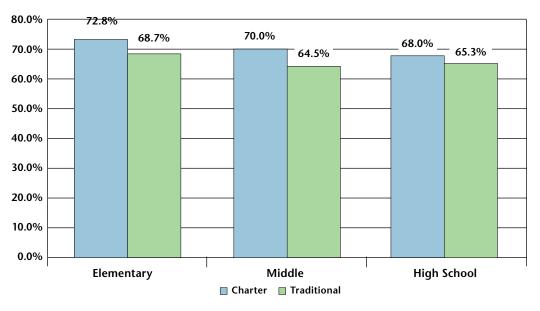
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2019

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

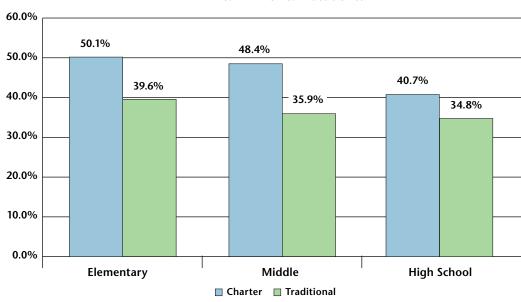


#### SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2019

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

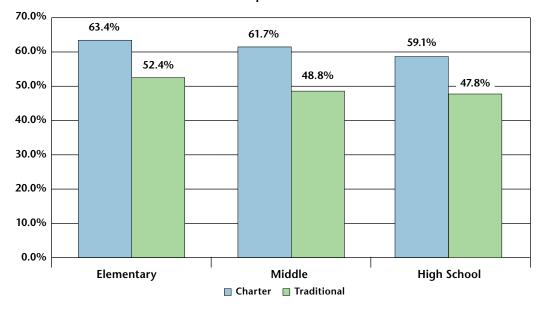


# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

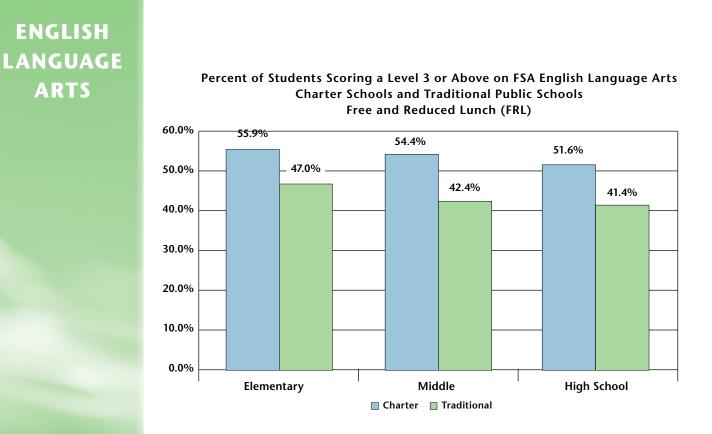


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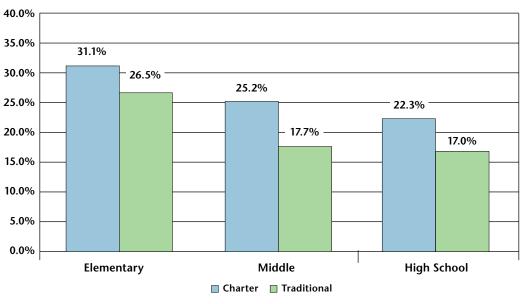
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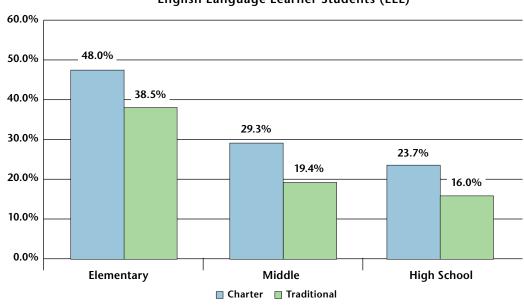




#### Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Exceptional Education Students



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



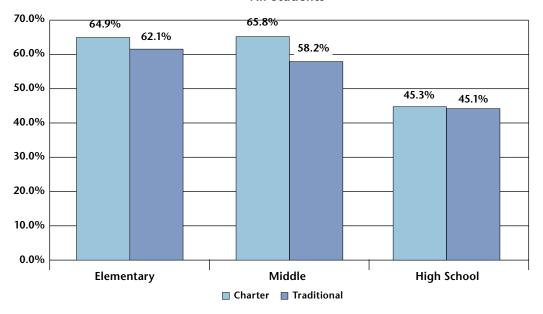
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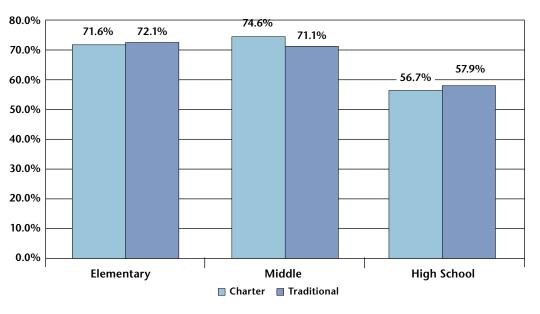
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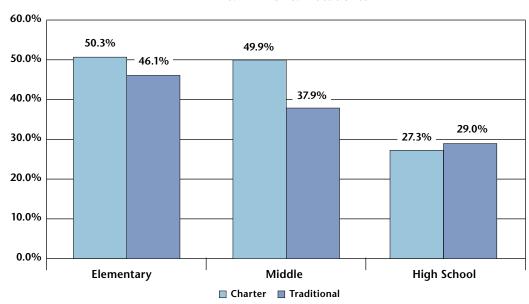
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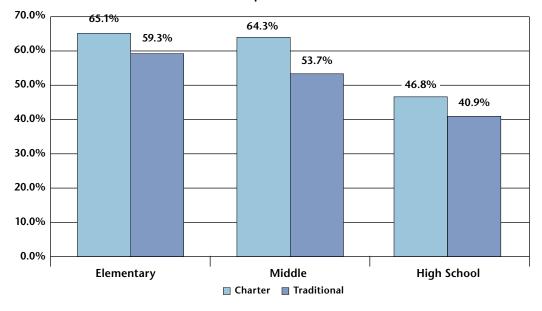
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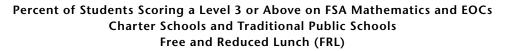


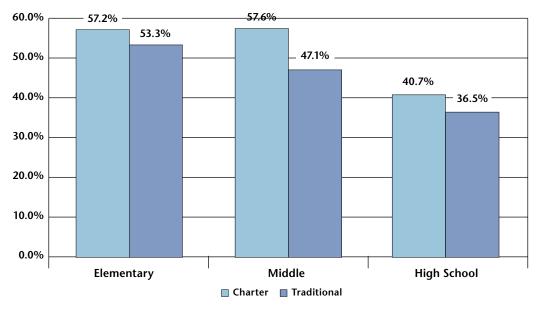
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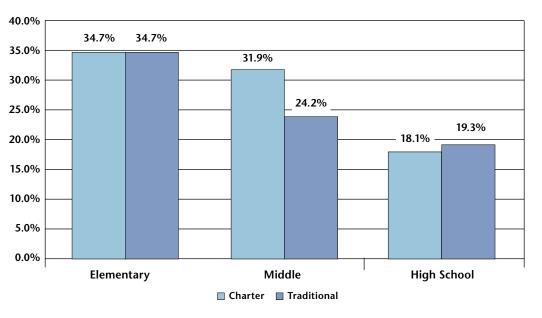


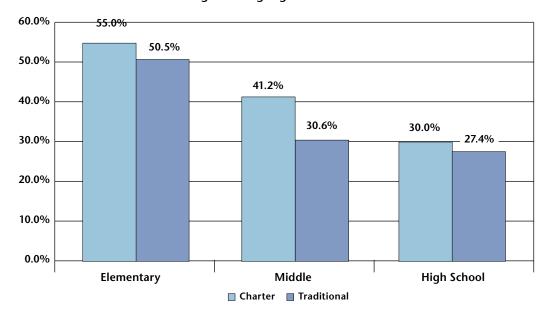






#### Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics and EOCs Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Exceptional Education Students





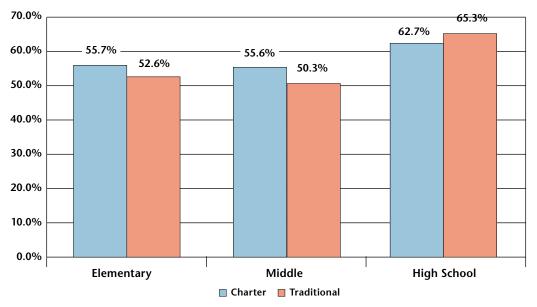
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## Statewide Science Assessments Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

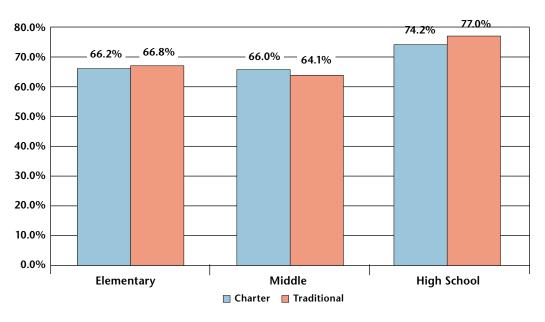
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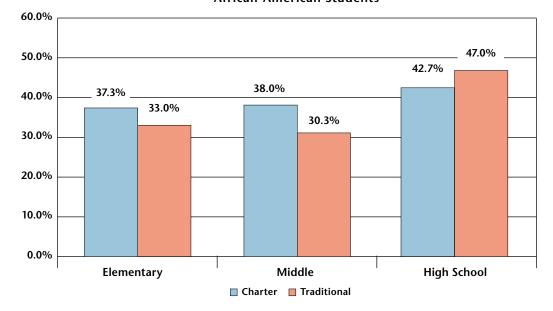
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Science Assessments Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools All Students



#### SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2019

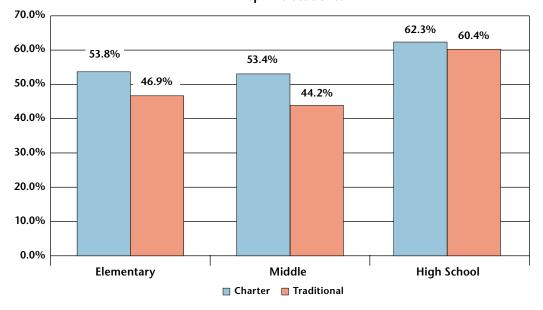
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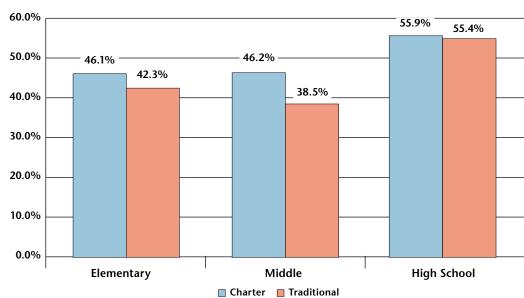


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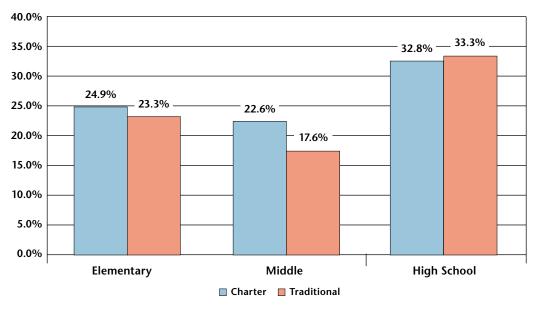




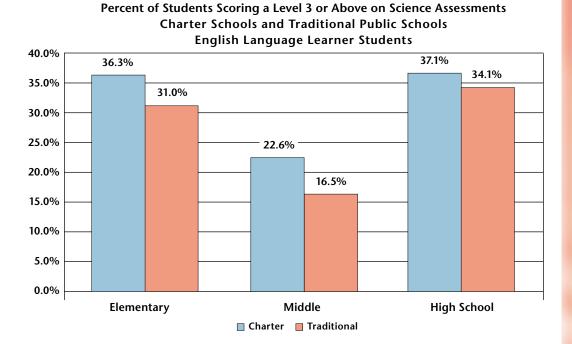


Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Science Assessments Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)

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







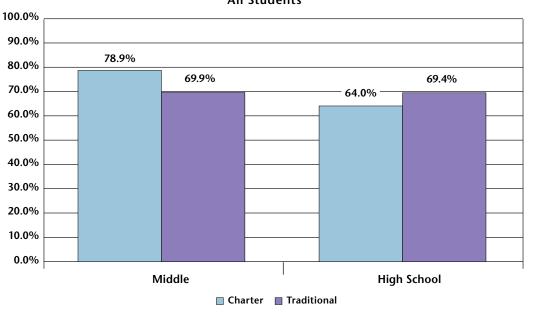


# SOCIAL STUDIES

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

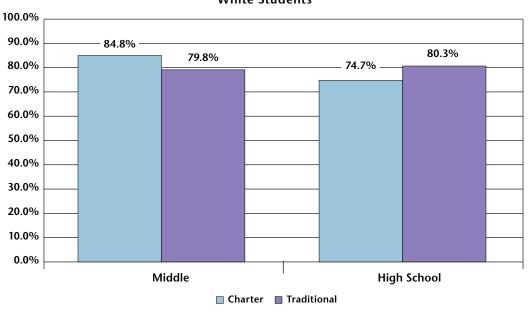
#### ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2019

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

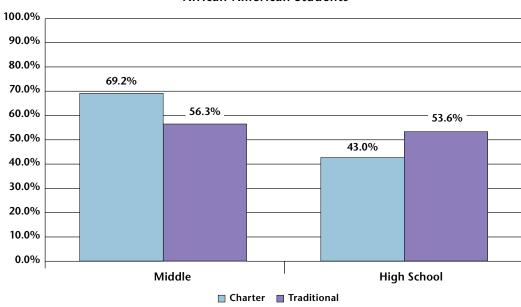


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#### Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exams Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools White Students

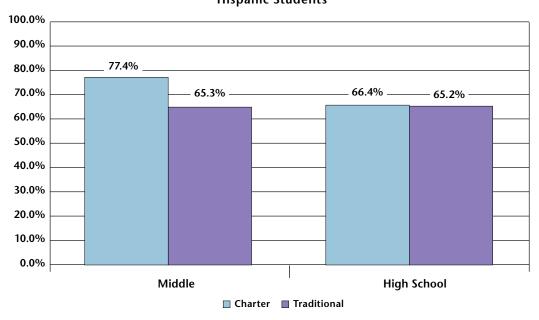


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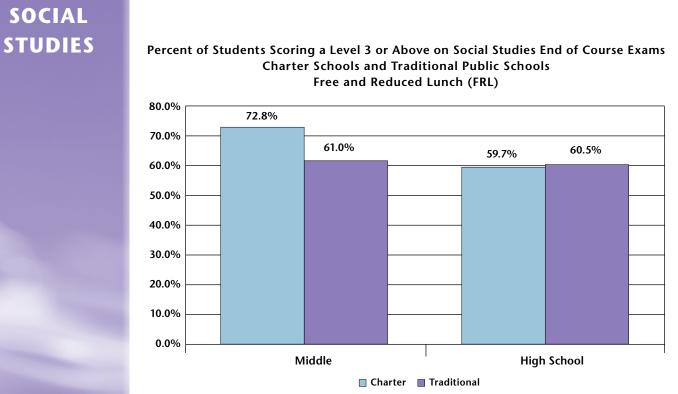


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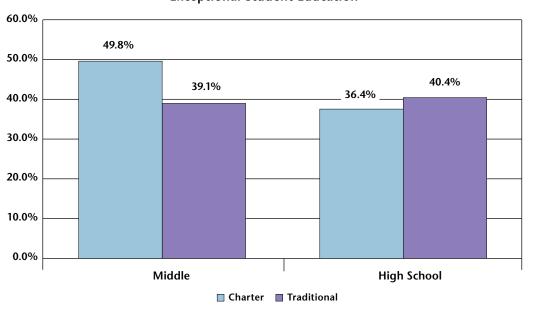
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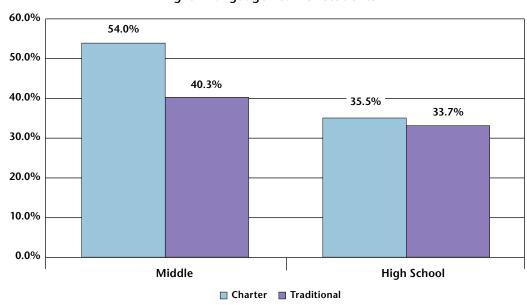


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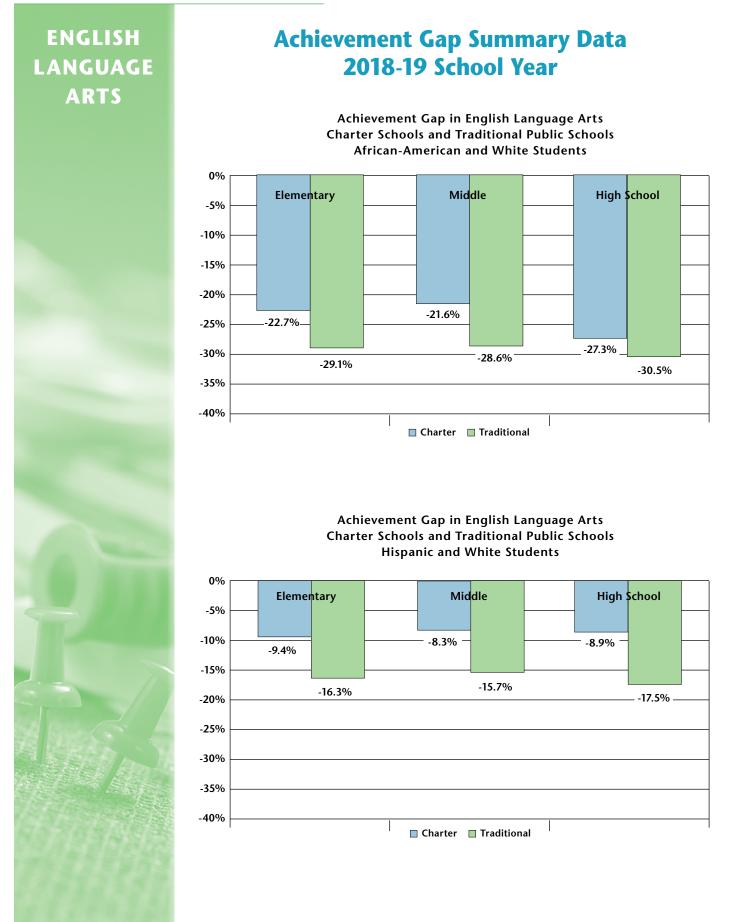


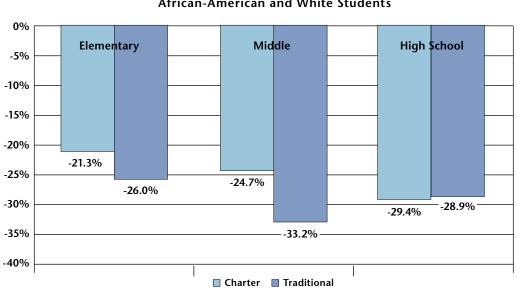
# SOCIAL STUDIES



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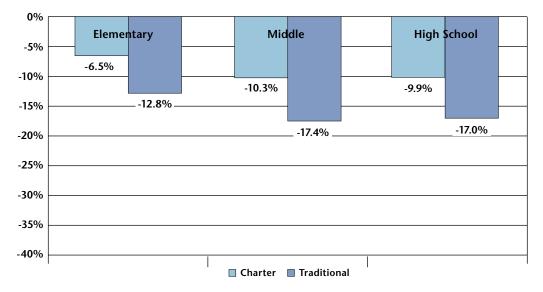






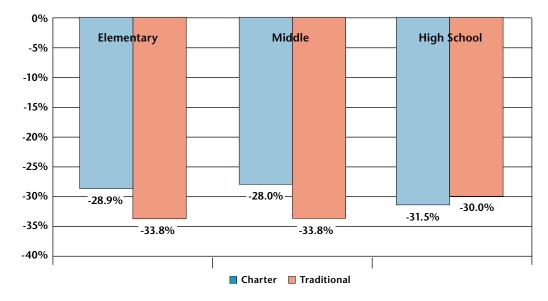
#### Achievement Gap in Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students

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

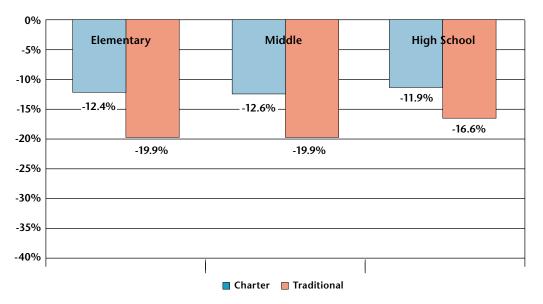




#### Achievement Gap in Science Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students



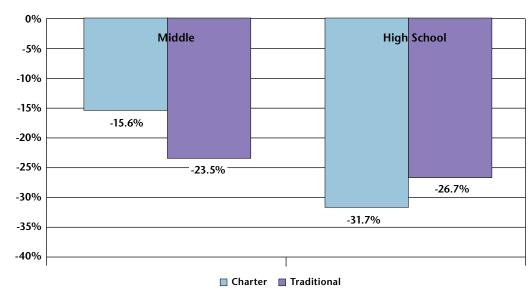
#### Achievement Gap in Science Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students



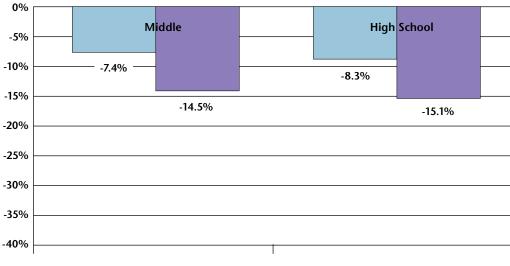


# SOCIAL STUDIES

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



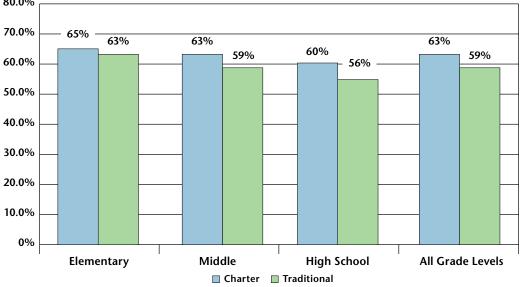
Achievement Gap in Social Studies Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students



🔲 Charter 🔲 Traditional



**Learning Gains Comparison ENGLISH** 2018-2019 School Year LANGUAGE ARTS Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts All Students 70.0% 61% 61% 61% 59% 57% 60.0% 55% 55% 51% 50.0% 40.0% 30.0% 20.0% 10.0% 0.0% Middle All Grade Levels **High School** Elementary 🔲 Charter 🛛 Traditional Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts White Students 80.0%

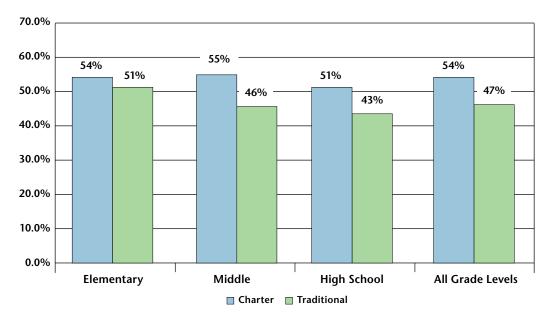


E.

**ENGLISH** 

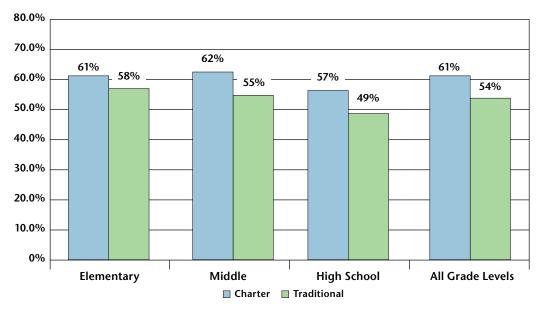
LANGUAGE

ARTS

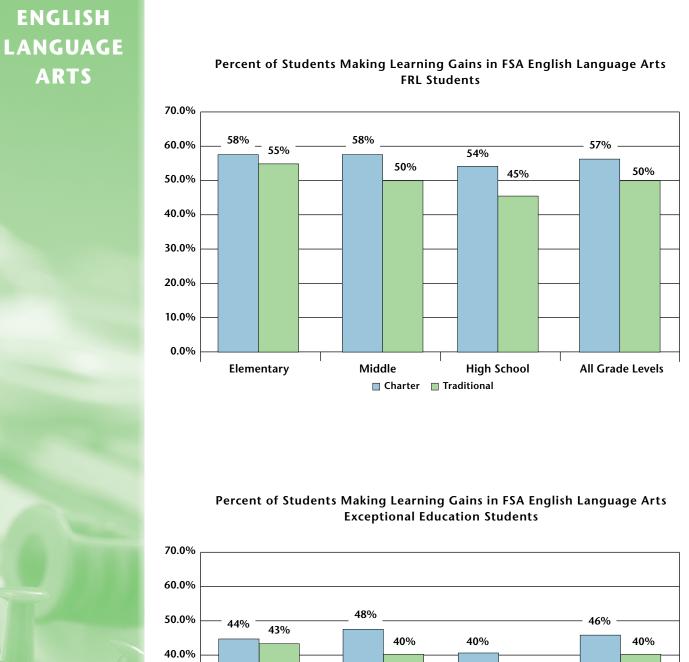


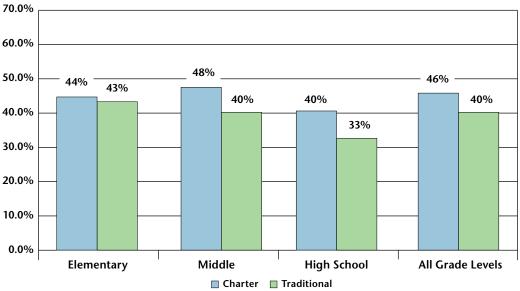
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Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts **Hispanic Students** 



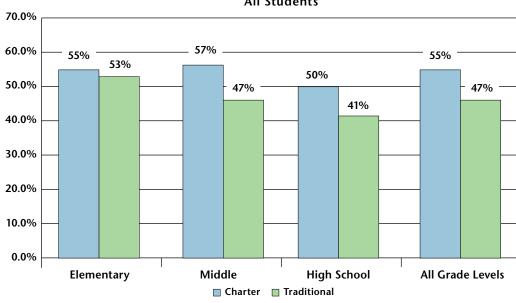






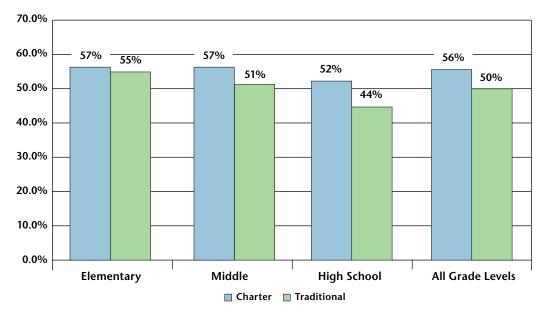


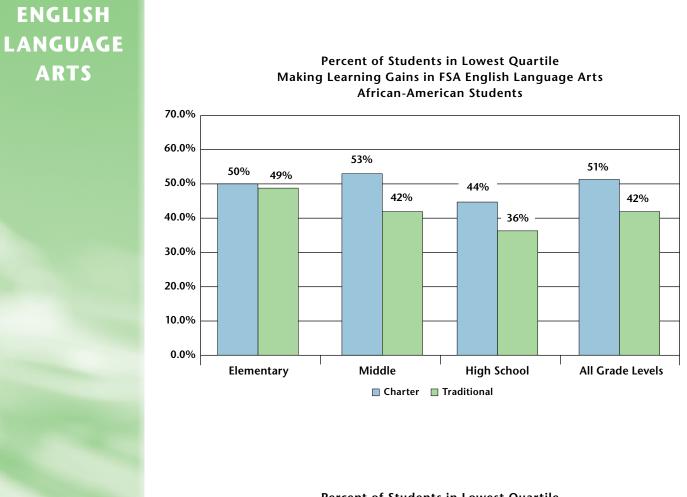
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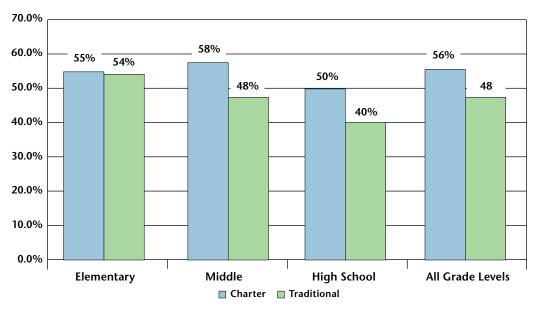
Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts All Students

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

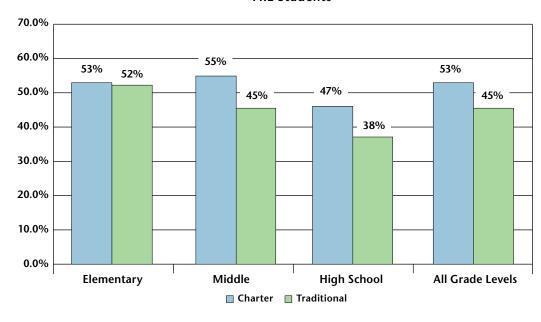




Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Hispanic Students

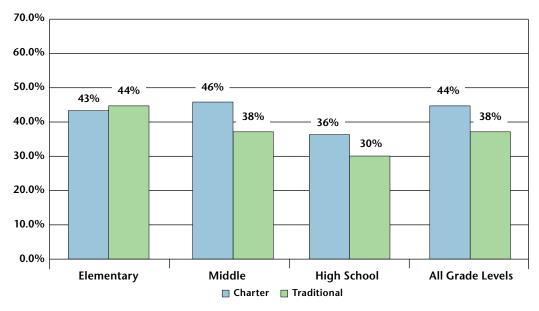


# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

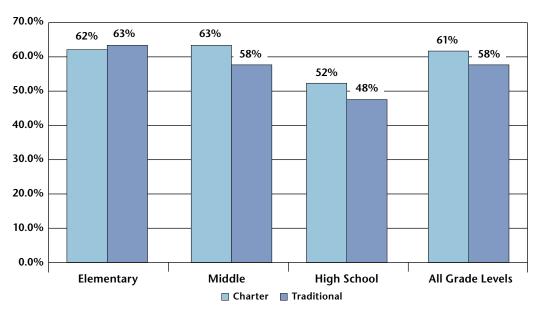


Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts FRL Students

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

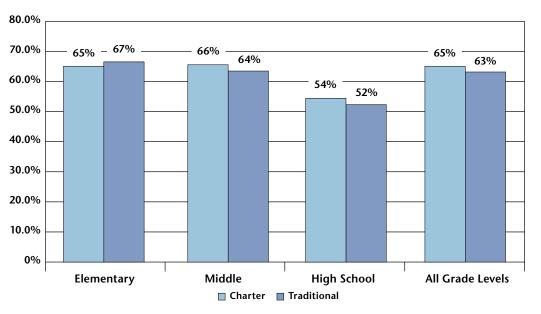






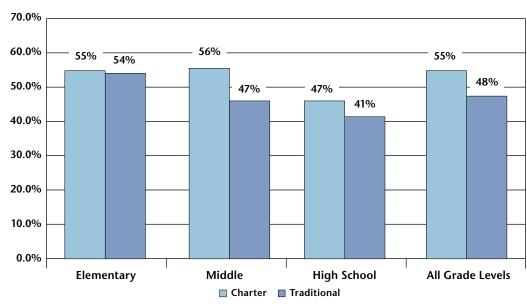
Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics All Students

Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics White Students



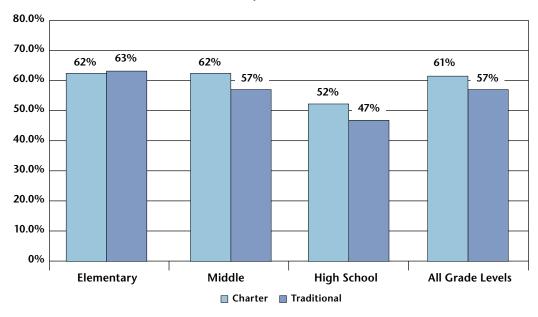


A Comparison of Performance

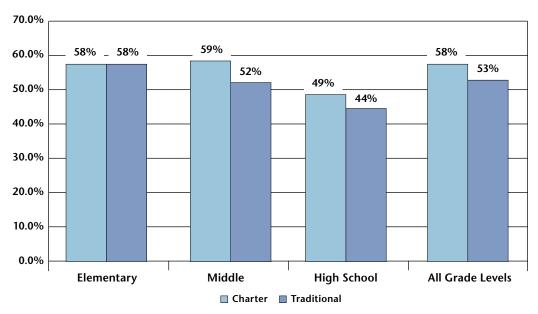


### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics African-American Students

Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Hispanic Students

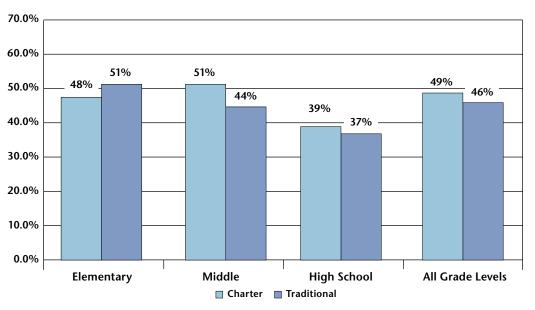


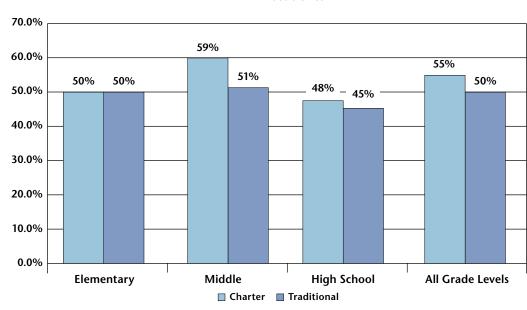




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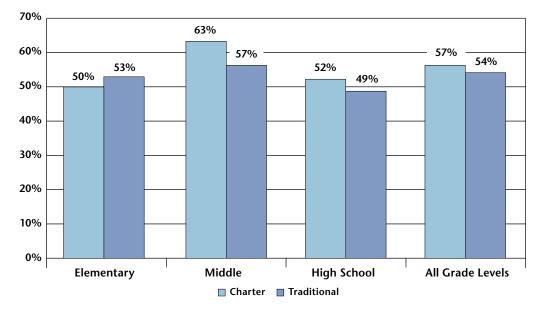
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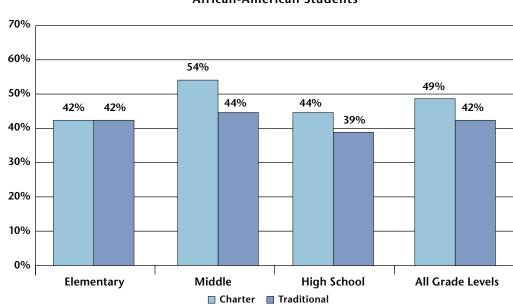




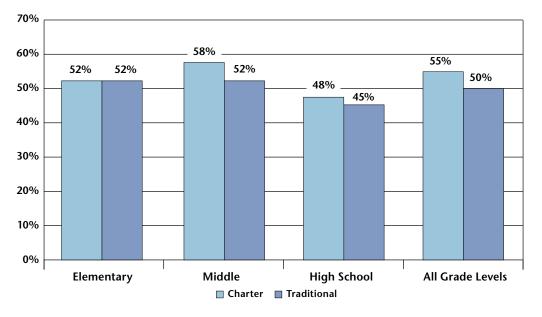
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Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics White Students

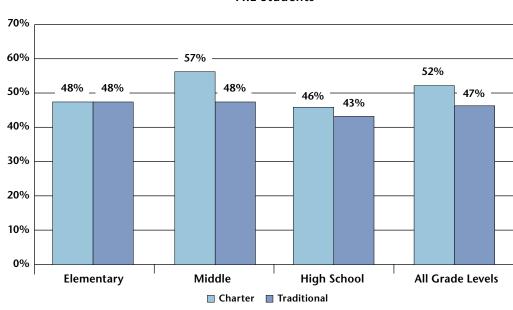




Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Hispanic Students

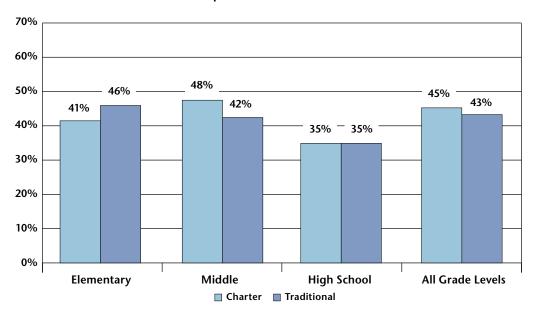


Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics African-American Students



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

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



## DATA

## FSA ACHIEVEMENT DATA

		Charter	Traditional
	English Language Arts	189,593	1,475,308
Total # of Students	Mathematics	189,303	1,414,634
with FSA results	Science	64,574	552,489
	Social Studies	41,260	356,717

			Charter		raditional
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	English Langua	ige Arts			
	Elem	64.5	49957	56.8	319,996
	Mid	62.7	53819	53.2	286,866
	High	59.3	15607	53.2	198,273
	Mathematics				
	Elem	64.9	50248	62.1	349,999
	Mid	65.8	56416	58.2	313,442
All	High	45.3	11901	45.1	140,806
Students	Science				
	Elem	55.7	14220	52.6	100,566
	Mid	55.6	14,629	50.3	90,417
	High	62.7	7,998	65.3	118,686
	Social Studies				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	78.9	22,607	69.9	129,044
	High	64.0	8,056	69.4	119,409

### Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above

Level 5 of Above					
	English Langua - White	ge Arts			
	Elem	72.8	17,992	68.7	143,260
	Mid	70.0	18,958	64.5	133,306
	High	68.0	5,334	65.3	95,564
	Mathematics	White			
	Elem	71.6	17,693	72.1	150,171
	Mid	74.6	20,201	71.1	146,792
White	High	56.7	3,814	57.9	64,893
Students	Science - White				
	Elem	66.2	5,604	66.8	47,671
	Mid	66.0	5,493	64.1	44,633
	High	74.2	2,865	77.0	55,622
	Social Studies -	White			
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	84.8	7,644	79.8	56,105
	High	74.7	2,698	80.3	53,503
			,		,

## DATA

		(	Charter		aditional
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	English Langua - African Am.	ge Arts			
	Elem	50.1	7,612	39.6	49,266
	Mid	48.4	7,403	35.9	41,878
	High	40.7	1,831	34.8	27,379
	Mathematics - African Am.				
	Elem	50.3	7,620	46.1	57,309
	Mid	49.9	7,584	37.9	44,129
African-American	High	27.3	1,638	29.0	21,510
Students	Science - African Am.				
	Elem	37.3	1,812	33.0	13,601
	Mid	38.0	1,766	30.3	11,696
	High	42.7	1,063	47.0	18,017
	Social Studies -				
	African Am.		N1/4		N1/4
	Elem	(0.2	N/A	54.2	N/A
	Mid	69.2	3,587	56.3	22,713
	High	43.0	1,177	53.6	20,150

Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above					
	English Langua Hispanic	ge Arts			
	Elem	63.4	20,560	52.4	100,394
	Mid	61.7	23,605	48.8	87,312
	High	59.1	7,472	47.8	58,199
	Mathematics - Hispanic				
	Elem	65.1	21,120	59.3	113,637
	Mid	64.3	24,586	53.7	96,044
Hispanic Students	High	46.8	5,817	40.9	44,312
Students	Science Hispa	nic			
	Elem	53.8	5,683	46.9	30,581
	Mid	53.4	6,259	44.2	26,177
	High	62.3	3,580	60.4	35,566
	Social Studies -				
	Hispanic				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	77.4	9,879	65.3	40,136
	High	66.4	9,879	65.2	36,738

		(	Charter	Tr	aditional
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	English Langua	ige Arts			
	Elem	55.9	23,251	47.0	165,690
	Mid	54.4	24,837	42.4	135,161
	High	51.6	7,451	41.4	82,751
	Mathematics				
	Elem	57.2	23,750	53.3	187,787
	Mid	57.6	26,217	47.1	149,888
FRL	High	40.7	6,197	36.5	66,661
Students	Science				
	Elem	46.1	6,164	42.3	49,809
	Mid	45.2	6,329	38.5	39,684
	High	55.9	3,819	55.4	53,697
	Social Studies				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	72.8	11,134	61	66,631
	High	59.7	4,063	60.5	54,665
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above					
	English Langua	ge Arts			
	Elem	31.1	2,411	26.5	23,625
	Mid	25.2	1,930	17.7	12,416
	High	22.3	520	17.0	6,654
	Mathematics				
	Elem	34.7	2,688	34.7	30,844
	Mid	31.9	2,446	24.2	16,989
ESE	High	18.1	551	19.3	7,720
Students	Science				
	Elem	24.9	613	23.3	6,742
	Mid	22.6	494	17.6	3,858
	High	32.8	409	33.3	6,324
	Social Studies				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	49.8	1,296	39.1	9,637
	1 a				

#### Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above

Level 3 or Above					
	English Langua	ge Arts			
	Elem	48.0	6,668	38.5	41,820
	Mid	29.3	2,786	19.4	11,874
	High	23.7	550	16.0	5,316
	Mathematics				
	Elem	55.0	7,637	50.5	55,035
	Mid	41.2	3,913	30.6	18,833
ELL	High	30	956	27.4	10,241
Students	Science				
	Elem	36.3	1,446	31.0	10,522
	Mid	22.6	561	16.5	2,949
	High	37.1	456	34.1	5,680
	Social Studies				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	54.0	1,766	40.3	8,489
	High	35.5	389	33.7	5,075

36.4

High

462

40.4

6,806

## DATA

English Language Arts	All Students % making learning gains	African American % making learning gains	White % making learning gains	<b>Hispanic</b> % making learning gains	<b>FRL</b> % making learning gains	SWD % making learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	61	54	65	61	58	44
Grades 6, 7 and 8	61	55	63	62	58	48
Grades 9 and 10	57	51	60	57	54	40
All Grade levels	61	54	63	61	57	46
Traditional Schoo	ls		-			
Grades 4 and 5	59	51	63	58	55	43
Grades 6, 7 and 8	55	46	59	55	50	40
Grades 9 and 10	51	43	56	49	45	33
All Grade levels	55	47	59	54	50	40

### LEARNING GAINS DATA

### LEARNING GAINS OF THE LOWEST QUARTILE

English Language Arts	All Students % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	African American % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	White % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	<b>Hispanic</b> % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	<b>FRL</b> % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	<b>SWD</b> % in the lowest quartile making learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	55	50	57	55	53	43
Grades 6, 7 and 8	57	53	57	58	55	46
Grades 9 and 10	50	44	52	50	47	36
All Grade levels	55	51	56	56	53	44
Traditional Schoo	ls					
Grades 4 and 5	53	49	55	54	52	44
Grades 6, 7 and 8	47	42	51	48	45	38
Grades 9 and 10	41	36	44	40	38	30
All Grade levels	47	42	50	48	45	38

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



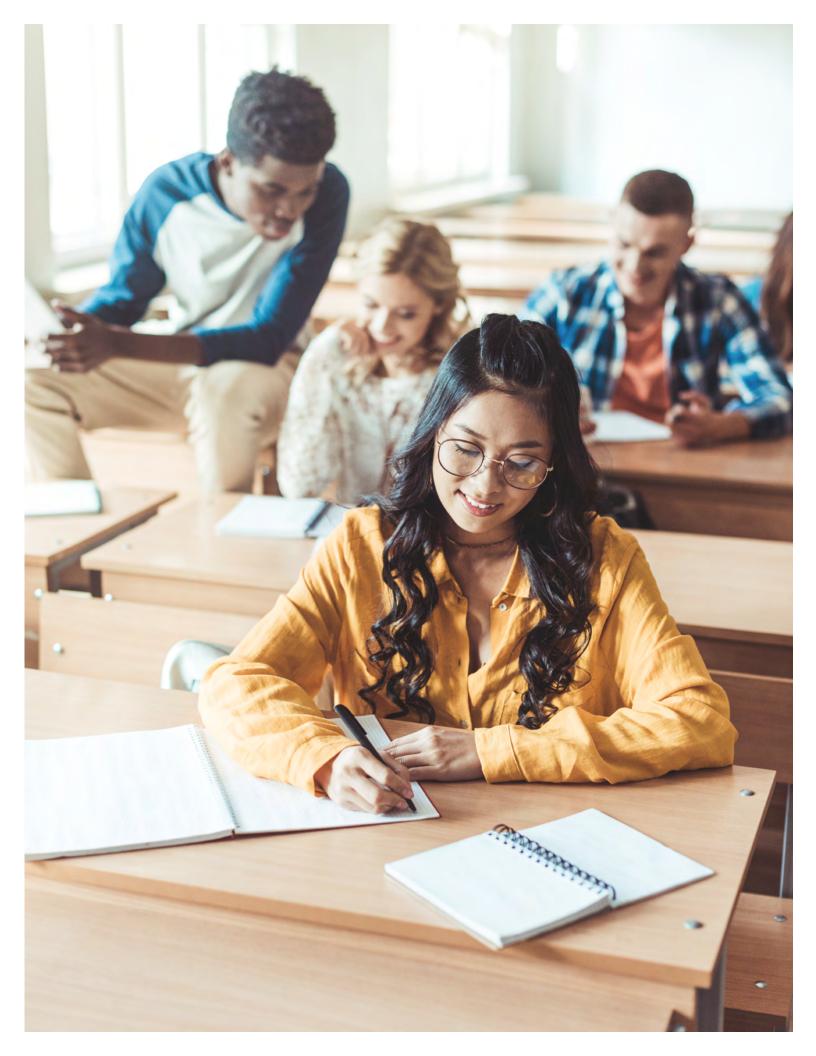
	LEARNING GAINS DATA						
Mathematics	All Students % making learning gains	African American % making learning gains	White % making learning gains	<b>Hispanic</b> % making learning gains	<b>FRL</b> % making learning gains	SWD % making learning gains	
Charter Schools							
Grades 4 and 5	62	55	65	62	58	48	
Grades 6, 7 and 8	63	56	66	62	59	51	
Grades 9 and 10	52	47	54	52	49	39	
All Grade levels	61	55	65	61	58	49	
Traditional Schoo	ls						
Grades 4 and 5	63	54	67	63	58	51	
Grades 6, 7 and 8	58	47	64	57	52	44	
Grades 9 and 10	48	41	52	47	44	37	
All Grade levels	58	48	63	57	53	46	

### **LEARNING GAINS DATA**

### LEARNING GAINS OF THE LOWEST QUARTILE

Mathematics	All Students % 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	<b>FRL</b> % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	SWD % in the lowest quartile making learning gains
Charter Schools						
Grades 4 and 5	50	46	50	52	48	41
Grades 6, 7 and 8	59	54	63	58	57	48
Grades 9 and 10	48	41	52	48	46	35
All Grade levels	55	50	57	55	52	45
Traditional Schoo	ls		<u></u>			
Grades 4 and 5	50	46	53	52	48	46
Grades 6, 7 and 8	51	43	57	52	48	42
Grades 9 and 10	45	40	49	45	43	35
All Grade levels	50	43	54	50	47	43

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





# S C H O O L HOICE Florida Department of Education





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