# Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools:



A Comparison of the Performance of Charter School Students with Traditional Public School Students







### **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 2020-21 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 2020-21 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 61 of the 77 comparisons, students enrolled in charter schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance. In 15 of the 77 comparisons students enrolled in traditional public schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance.

The achievement gap section of the report contains data that are used to analyze the gap between white students and African-American students and white students and Hispanic students in English Language Arts, Mathematics, 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 21 of the 22 comparisons while the achievement gap was lower for traditional public schools in 1 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 75 of the 96 comparisons. The percentage of students making learning gains was higher in traditional public schools in 19 of the 96 comparisons. There was no difference in the percentage of students making learning gains in 2 of the 96 comparisons.



### **Table of Contents**

Demographics
FSA English Language Arts: All and Subgroup Comparisons
FSA Mathematics: All and Subgroup Comparisons
Statewide Science Assessment: All and Subgroup Comparisons
Social Studies End of Course Exam: All and Subgroup Comparisons
Achievement Gap: English Language Arts
Achievement Gap: Mathematics
Achievement Gap: Science
Achievement Gap: Social Studies22
Learning Gains Comparison in English Language Arts and Mathematics 23
FSA Achievement Data
FSA Learning Gains Data



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

Charter schools provide parents with additional choices for selecting the most effective educational programs for their children and offer creative solutions for improving student achievement in Florida. The charter school sector in Florida strives to improve student learning, increase parental choice and foster innovative instructional and leadership approaches. Charter school enrollment has more than doubled over the last decade and represents more than 12 percent of public school enrollment Florida. As shown below, charter schools served more than 340,000 students in the 2020-21 school year.

	Charter	Schools	Tradition Schools		All		
Race/Ethnicity/ Gender	Students	Percent	Students	Percent	Students	Percent	
White	102,394	29.9%	912,063	37.2%	1,014,457	36.3%	
Black	65,861	19.2%	536,888	21.9%	602,749	21.6%	
Hispanic	152,460	44.5%	827,144	33.7%	979,604	35.0%	
Other	21,882	6.4%	176,999	7.2%	198,881	7.1%	
Male	171,756	50.1%	1,262,737	51.5%	1,434,493	51.3%	
Female	170,841	49.9%	1,190,357	48.5%	1,361,198	48.7%	
Total Enrollment	342,597	100.0%	2,453,094	100.0%	2,795,691	100.0%	

Special Categories						
FRPL*	175,134	51.1%	1,372,290	55.9%	1,547,424	55.4%
ELL**	31,702	9.3%	237,932	9.7%	269,634	9.6%
SWD***	35,000	10.2%	382,498	15.6%	417,498	14.9%

<sup>\*</sup> FRPL: Free and Reduced Priced Lunch

Data Source: 2020-21 Survey 3 final data from PERA

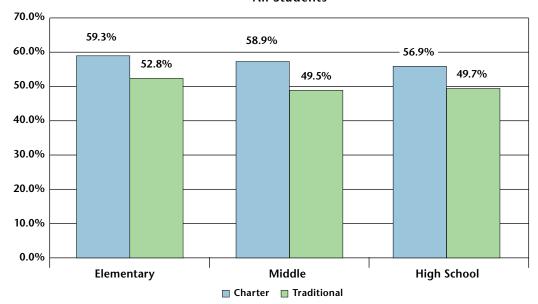
<sup>\*\*</sup> ELL: English Language Learners

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> SWD: Students with Disabilities

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

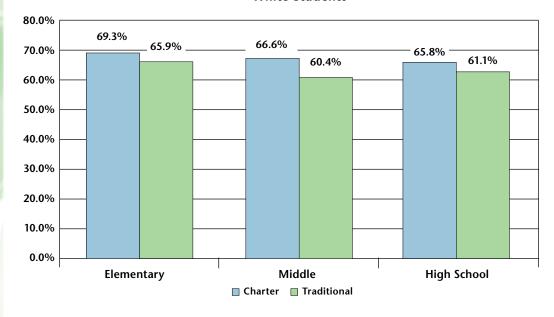
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2021

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

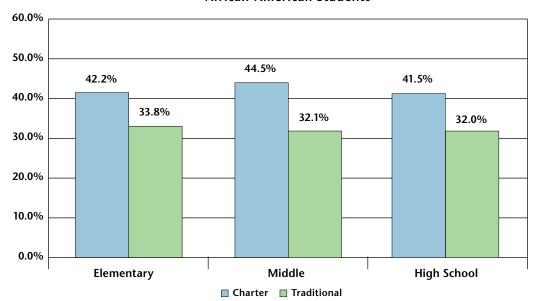


#### SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2021

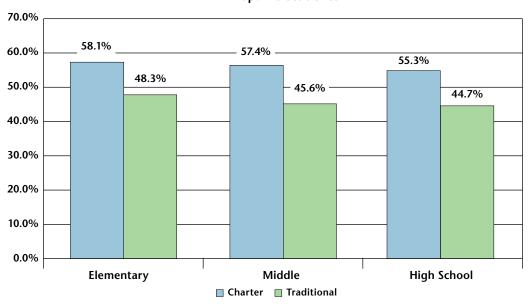
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools
White Students



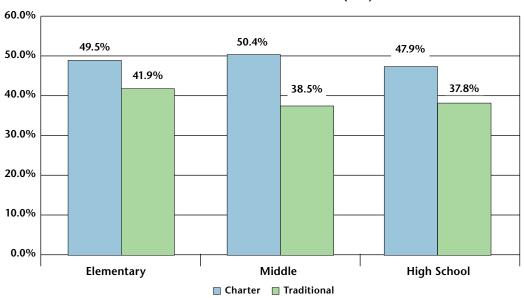
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American Students



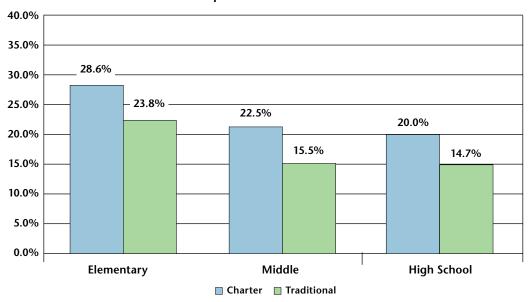
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic Students



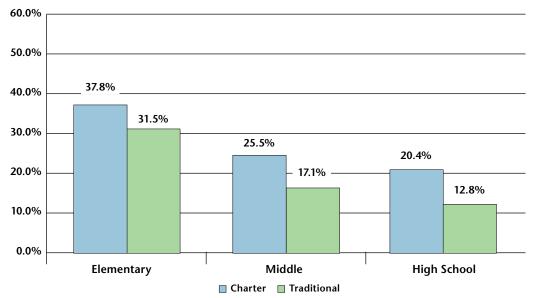
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



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



## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools English Language Learner Students (ELL)



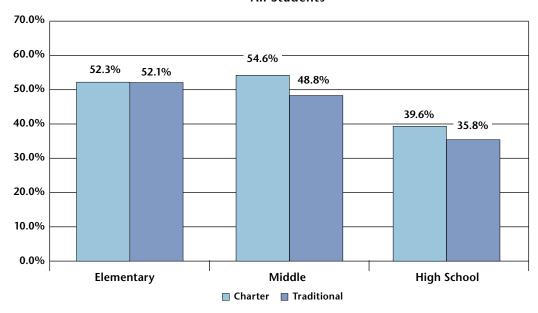


A Comparison of Performance

## FSA Mathematics Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

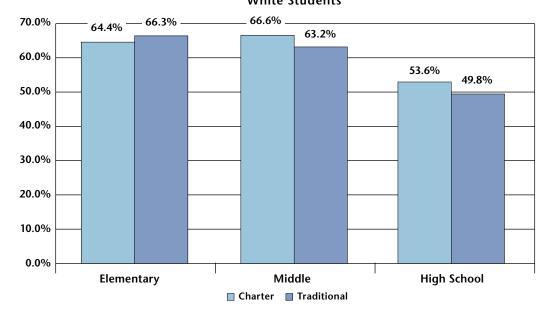
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2021

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

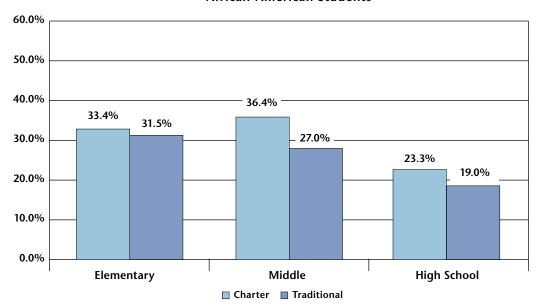


#### SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2021

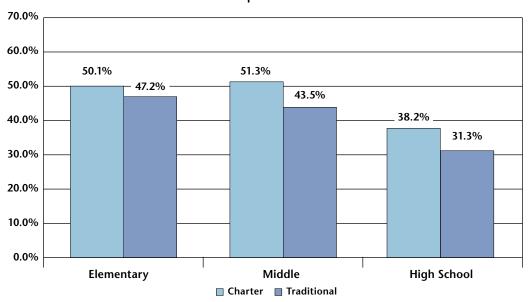
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics and EOCs Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools White Students



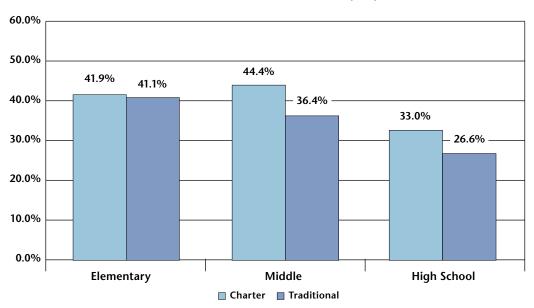
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics and EOCs Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American Students



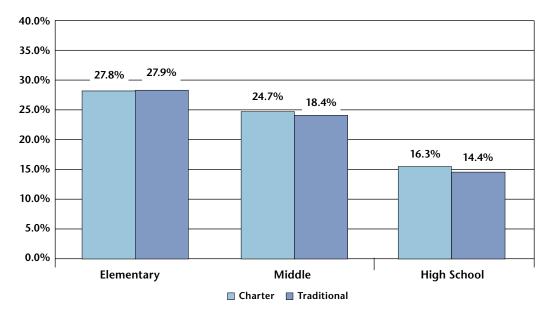
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics and EOCs Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic Students



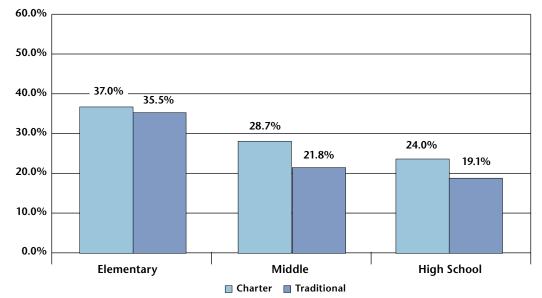
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on FSA Mathematics and EOCs Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



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



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



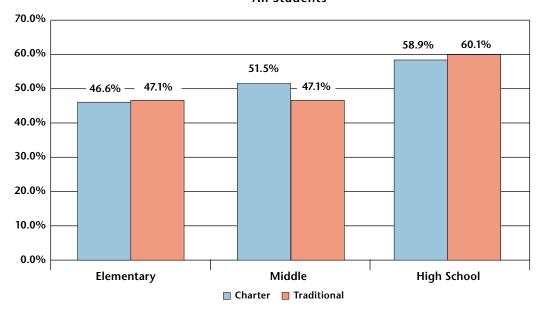


### **SCIENCE**

## Statewide Science Assessments Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

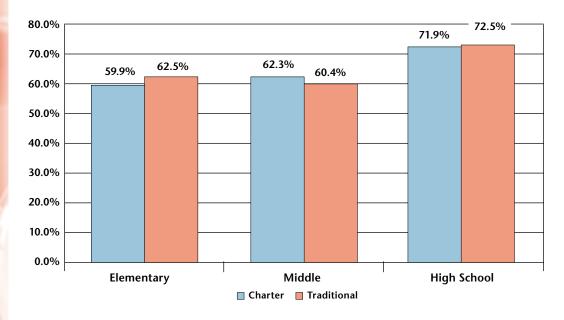
ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2021

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

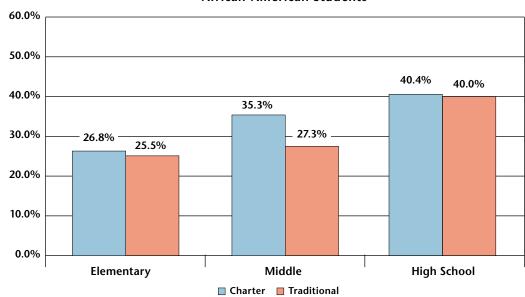


#### SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2021

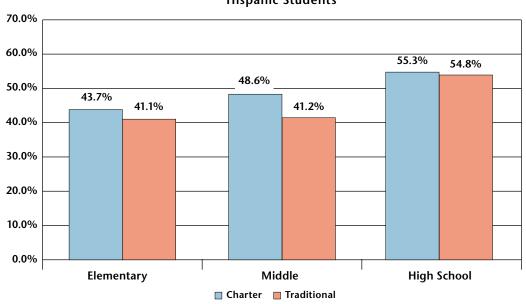
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Science Assessments Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools White Students



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

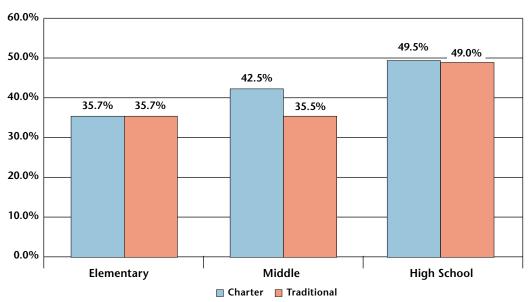


## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Science Assessments Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic Students

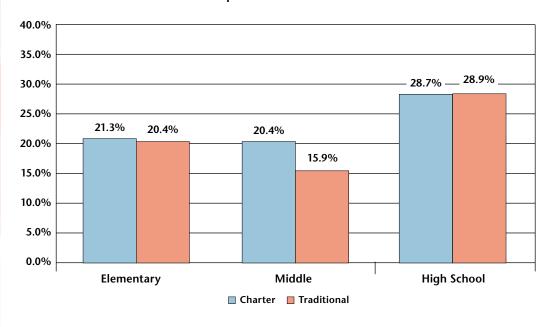


### **SCIENCE**

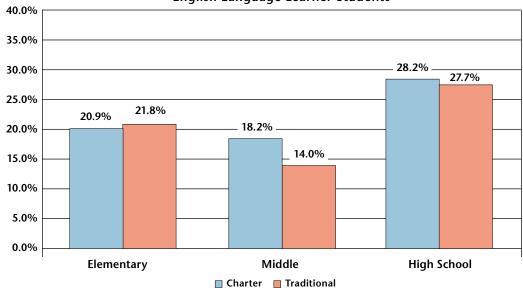
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Science Assessments Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



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



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





# SOCIAL STUDIES

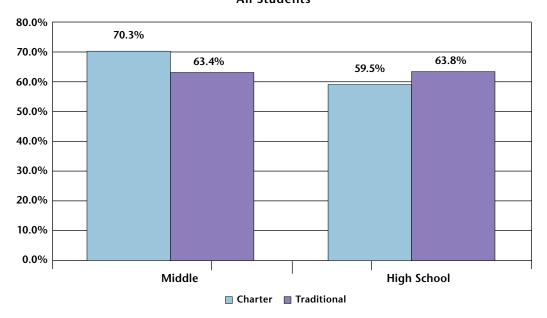
## Social Studies End of Course Exams Traditional Public Schools and Charter Schools

ALL STUDENTS COMPARISONS 2021

Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exams

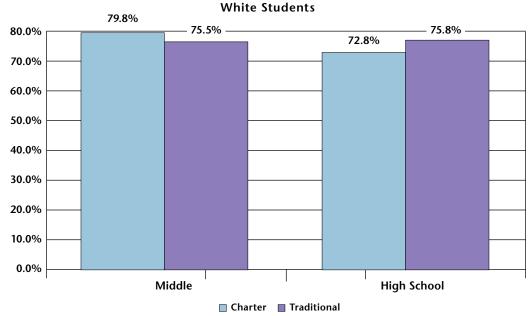
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools

All Students

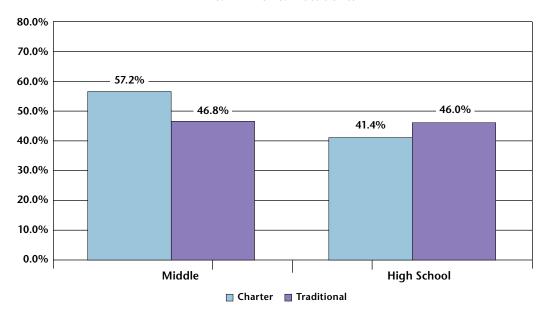


#### SUBGROUP COMPARISONS 2021

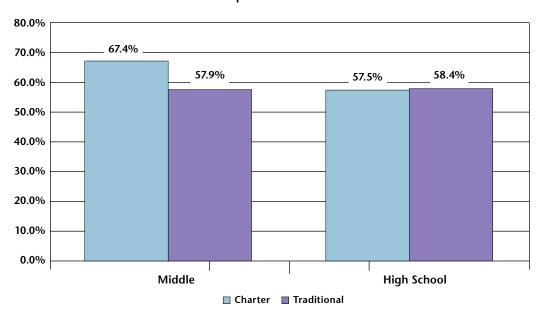
Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exams
Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools



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

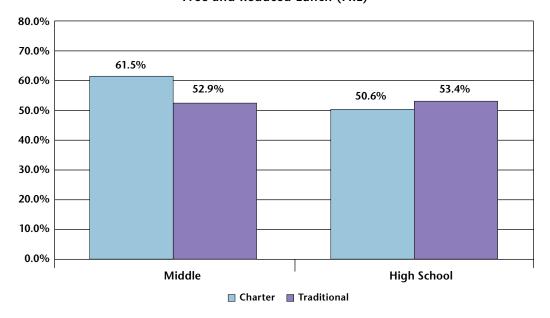


## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exams Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic Students

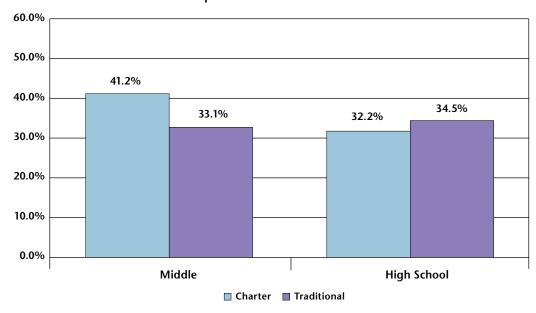


## SOCIAL STUDIES

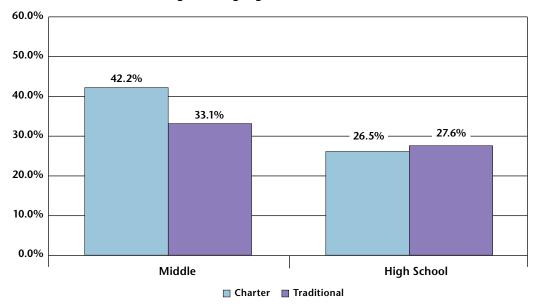
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exams Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL)



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



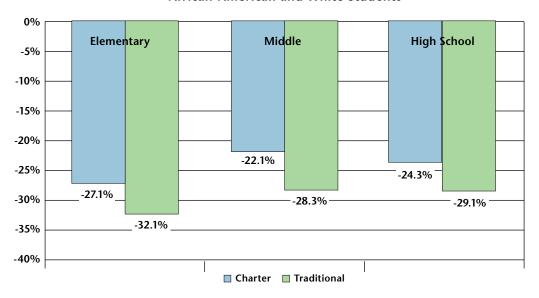
## Percent of Students Scoring a Level 3 or Above on Social Studies End of Course Exams Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools English Language Learner Students



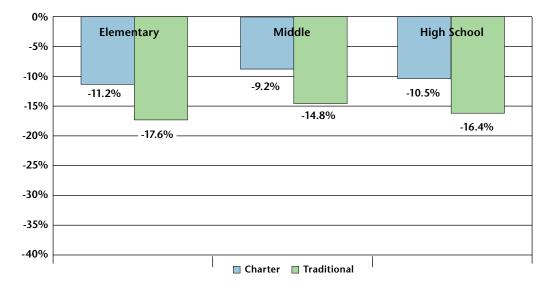


## Achievement Gap Summary Data 2020-21 School Year

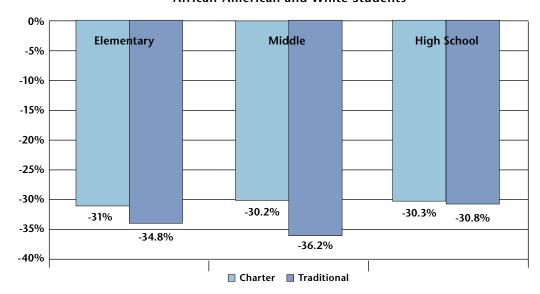
Achievement Gap in English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students



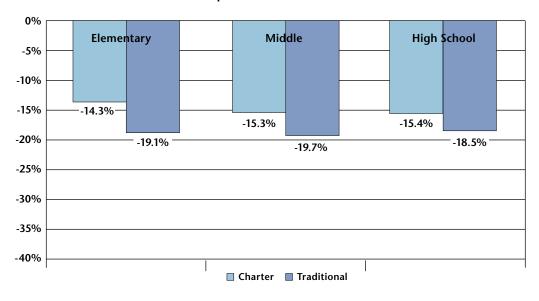
#### Achievement Gap in English Language Arts Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students



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

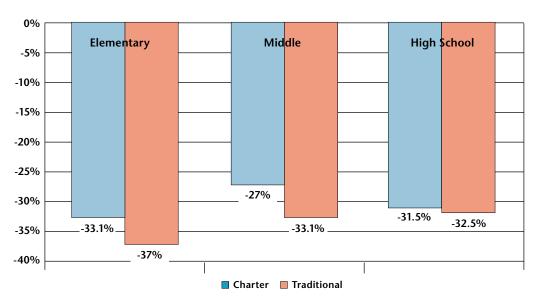


#### Achievement Gap in Mathematics Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students

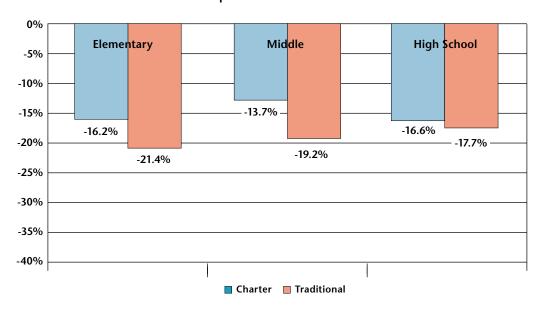




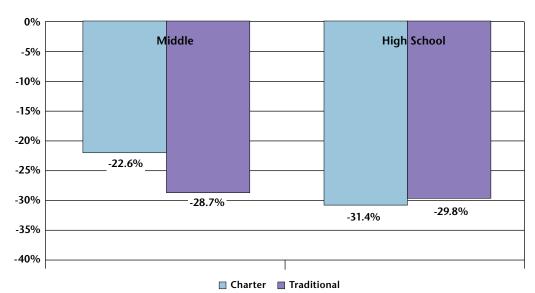
#### Achievement Gap in Science Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools African-American and White Students



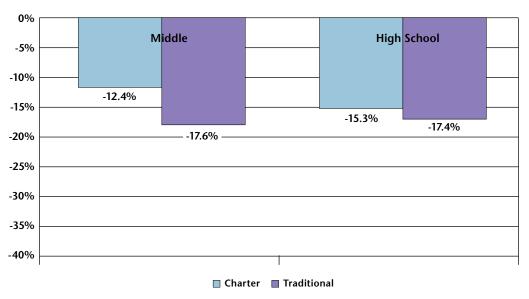
#### Achievement Gap in Science Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students



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

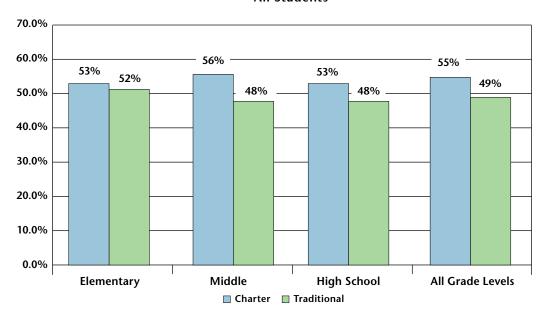


#### **Achievement Gap in Social Studies Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools Hispanic and White Students**

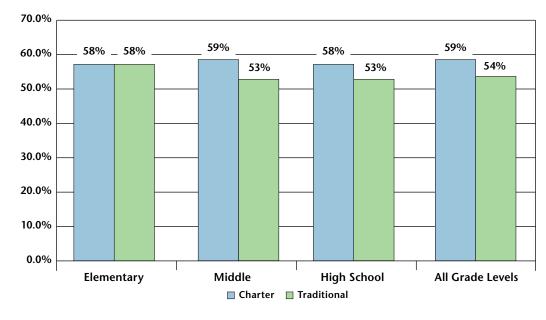


### **Learning Gains Comparison** 2020-2021 School Year

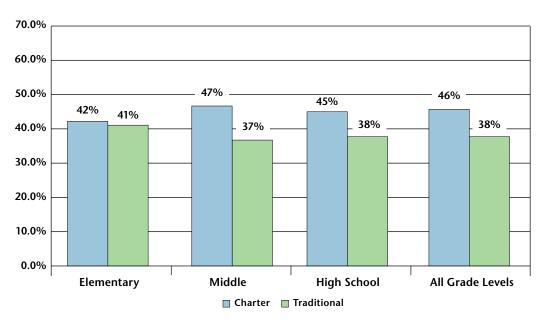
### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts All Students



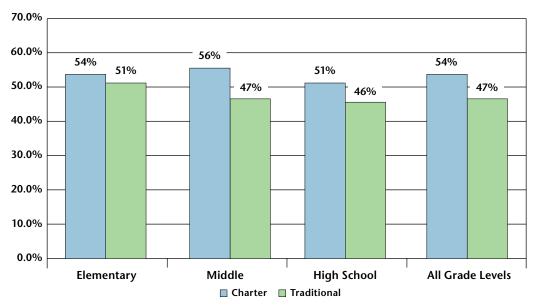
### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts White Students



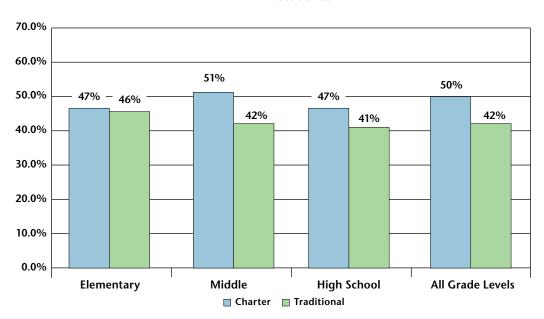
#### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts **African-American Students**



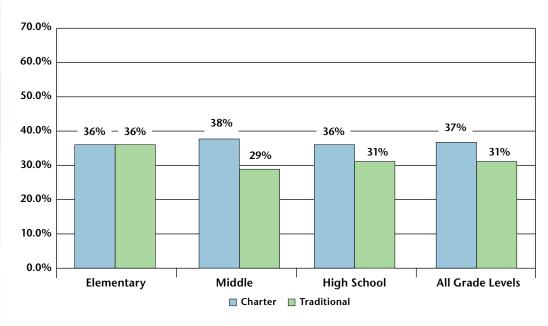
#### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts **Hispanic Students**



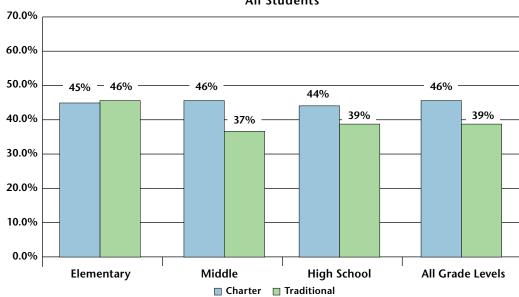
### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts FRL Students



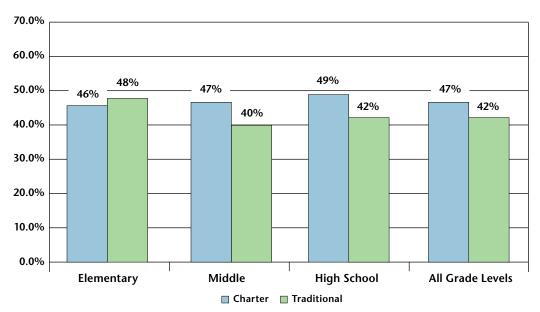
## Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Exceptional Education Students



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

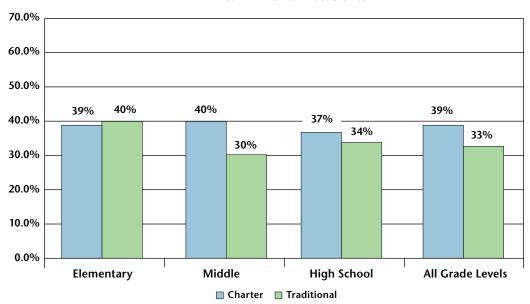


## Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts White Students

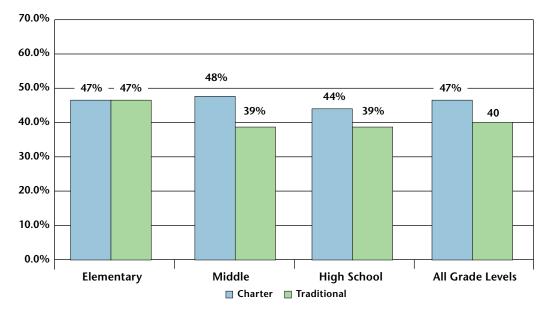




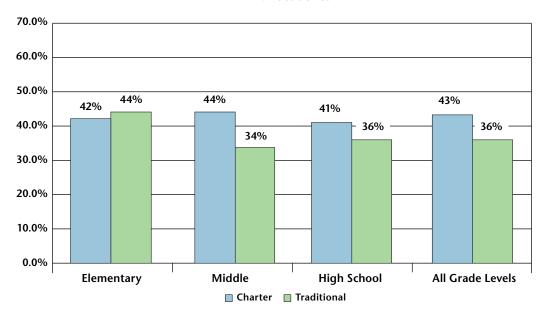
## Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts African-American Students



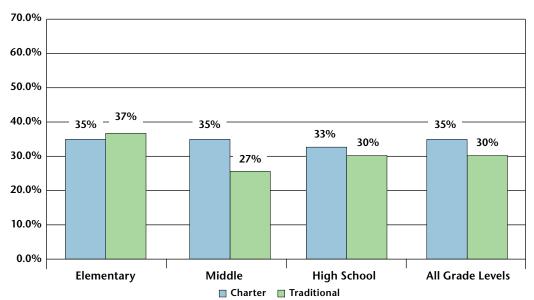
#### Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Hispanic Students



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

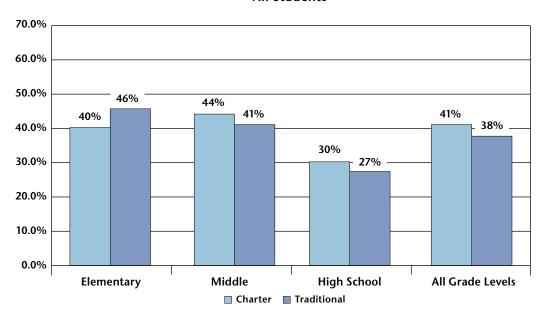


#### Percent of Students in Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA English Language Arts Exceptional Education Students

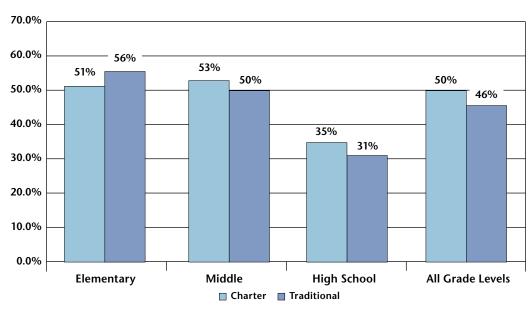




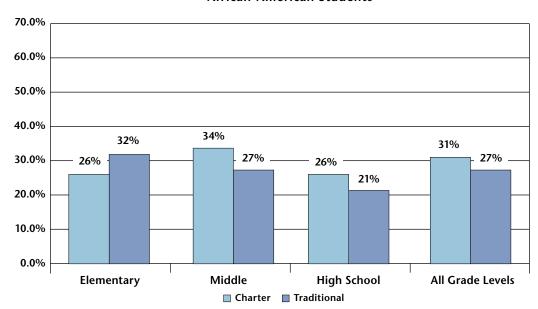
### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics All Students



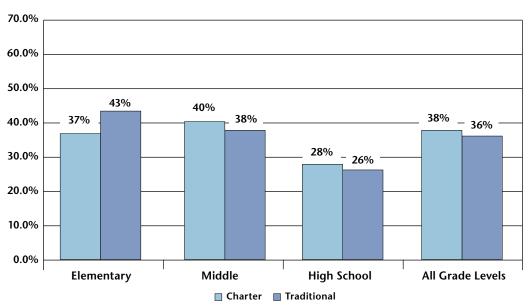
### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics White Students



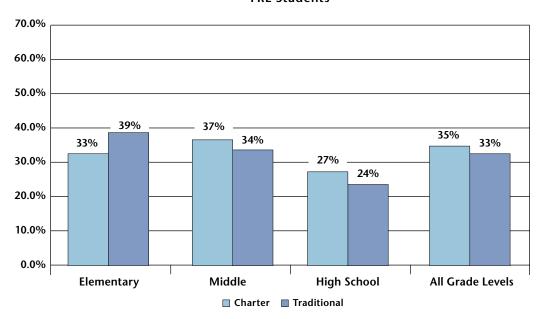
### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics African-American Students



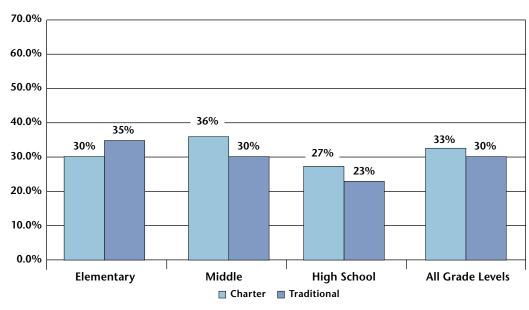
#### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Hispanic Students



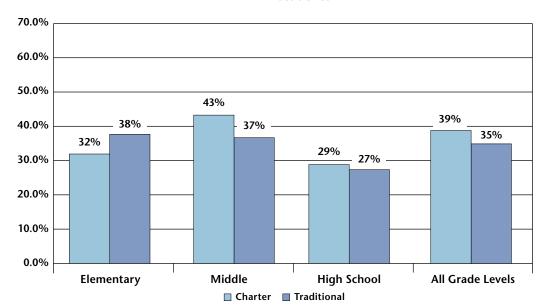
### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics FRL Students



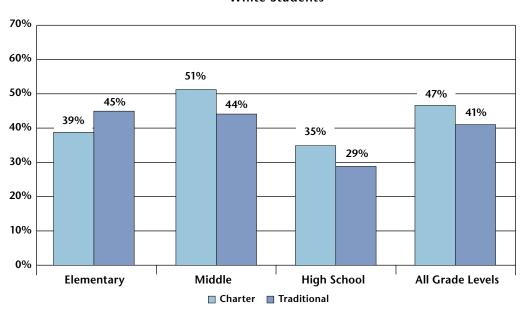
#### Percent of Students Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Exceptional Education Students



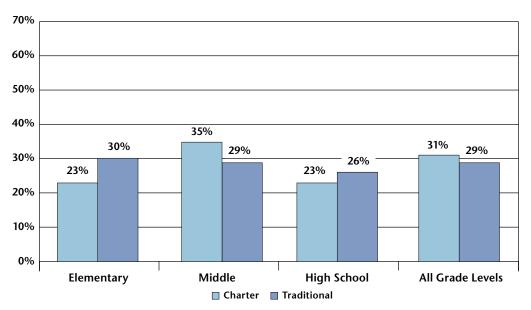
#### Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics All Students



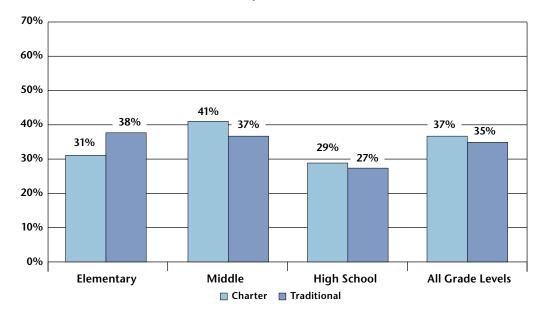
#### Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics White Students



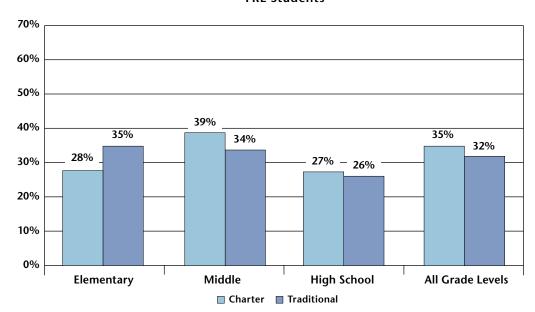
#### Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics African-American Students



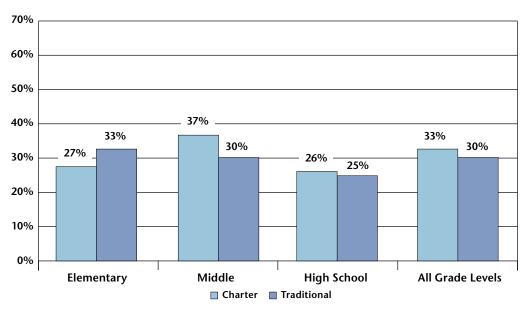
#### Percent of Students In Lowest Quartile Making Learning Gains in FSA Mathematics Hispanic Students



#### 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





#### **FSA ACHIEVEMENT DATA**

		Charter	Traditional
Total # of Students with FSA results	English Language Arts	200,783	1,359,870
	Mathematics	200,746	1,316,566
	Science	69,693	509,056
	Social Studies	42,117	325,413

		Charter		Т	raditional
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	<b>English Langua</b>	ge Arts			
	Elem	59.3	48,747	52.8	268,954
	Mid	58.9	52,859	49.5	246,637
	High	56.9	16,424	49.7	175,035
	Mathematics				
	Elem	52.3	43,359	52.1	265,773
	Mid	54.6	49,178	48.8	245,120
All	High	39.6	10,952	35.8	108,561
Students	Science				
	Elem	46.6	12,362	47.1	78,679
	Mid	51.5	15,012	47.1	80,851
	High	58.9	8,231	60.1	102,456
	<b>Social Studies</b>				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	70.3	21,239	63.4	108,646
	High	59.5	7,085	63.8	98,244

Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above

#### White Students

English Langua - White	ge Arts			
Elem	69.3	17,340	65.9	122,436
Mid	66.6	18,237	60.4	112,046
High	65.8	5,339	61.1	82,920
Mathematics - White				
Elem	64.4	16,165	66.3	123,204
Mid	66.6	18,301	63.2	118,037
High	53.6	3,710	49.8	52,960
Science - White				
Elem	59.9	4,923	62.5	38,467
Mid	62.3	5,455	60.4	39,053
High	71.9	3,041	72.5	49,288
Social Studies -	Social Studies - White			
Elem		N/A		N/A
Mid	79.8	7,396	75.5	48,333
High	72.8	2,356	75.8	45,882

	<b>V</b>	
UF		VA.

		Charter		Tr	aditional
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students
	English Langua - African Am.	ige Arts			
	Elem	42.2	6,639	33.8	37,176
	Mid	44.5	6,958	32.1	34,043
	High	41.5	1,923	32.0	23,417
African-American	Mathematics - African Am.				
	Elem	33.4	5,353	31.5	34,854
	Mid	36.4	5,734	27.0	28,991
	High	23.3	1,359	19.0	13,786
Students	Science - African Am.				
	Elem	26.8	1,349	25.5	9,074
	Mid	35.3	1,734	27.3	9,718
	High	40.4	995	40.0	13,740
	Social Studies - African Am.				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	57.2	3,017	46.8	16,885
	High	41.4	886	46	14,593

<b>Total</b>	Percent	Scoring
Lev	el 3 or	Above

Level 3 or Above					
	English Langua - Hispanic	ge Arts			
	Elem	58.1	20,833	48.3	85,001
	Mid	57.4	23,467	45.6	77,836
	High	55.3	8,049	44.7	53,043
	Mathematics - Hispanic				
Hispanic	Elem	50.1	18,102	47.2	83,325
	Mid	51.3	21,031	43.5	74,972
	High	38.2	5,244	31.3	33,613
Students	Science - Hispa	nic			
	Elem	43.7	5,028	41.1	23,692
	Mid	48.6	6,662	41.2	24,315
	High	55.3	3,610	54.8	30,719
	Social Studies -				
	Hispanic				
	Elem		N/A		N/A
	Mid	67.4	9,265	57.9	34,077
	High	57.5	3,412	58.4	29,891

			Cl	Traditional		
T . I D			Charter	Traditional		
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above		%	Total Students	%	Total Students	
	English Langua	ge Arts				
	Elem	49.5	21,057	41.9	127,612	
	Mid	50.4	23,284	38.5	108,883	
	High	47.9	7,230	37.8	68,757	
	Mathematics	17.12	7,230	37.0	00,737	
	Elem	41.9	18,030	41.1	125,244	
	Mid	44.4	20,582	36.4	103,919	
FRL	High	33	4,974	26.6	45,733	
Students	Science	33	7,277	20.0	13,733	
Stautilles	Elem	35.7	4,846	35.7	35,130	
	Mid	42.5	6,239	35.5	33,446	
	High	49.5	3,499	49.0	42,464	
		49.3	3,499	49.0	42,404	
	Social Studies		N1/A		N1/A	
	Elem	(1.5	N/A	53.0	N/A	
	Mid	61.5	9,537	52.9	51,114	
	High	50.6	3,222	53.4	40,647	
Total Percent Scoring Level 3 or Above						
	<b>English Langua</b>	ge Arts				
	Elem	28.6	2,434	23.8	19,881	
	Mid	22.5	1,877	15.5	10,463	
	High	20	534	14.7	5,803	
	Mathematics					
	Elem	27.8	2,388	27.9	23,314	
	Mid	24.7	2,071	18.4	12,613	
ESE	High	16.3	552	14.4	6,262	
Students	Science					
	Elem	21.3	570	20.4	5,514	
	Mid	20.4	483	15.9	3,311	
	High	28.7	407	28.9	5,426	
	Social Studies					
	Elem		N/A		N/A	
	Mid	41.2	1,166	33.1	7,695	
	High	32.2	395	34.5	5,483	
Total Percent Scoring	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					
Level 3 or Above	English Length	ao Auto-	Γ			
	English Langua		4.006	21.5	20.201	
	Elem	37.8	4,906	31.5	28,291	
	Mid	25.5	2,512	17.1	9,625	
	High	20.4	544	12.8	3,625	
	Mathematics		4.000	25.5	24.000	
	Elem	37	4,839	35.5	31,988	
	Mid	28.7	2,855	21.8	12,436	
ELL	High	24	820	19.1	6,509	
Students	Science					
	Elem	20.9	724	21.8	5,645	
	Mid	18.2	455	14	2,155	
	High	28.2	430	27.7	3,956	
	Social Studies					
	Elem		N/A		N/A	
	Mid	42.2	1,403	33.1	6,472	
	High	26.5	270	27.6	3,218	

#### **LEARNING GAINS DATA**

English Language Arts	All Students % making learning gains	African American % making learning gains	White % making learning gains	<b>Hispanic</b> % making learning gains	FRL % making learning gains	<b>SWD</b> % making learning gains	
Charter Schools							
Grades 4 and 5	53	42	58	54	47	36	
Grades 6, 7 and 8	56	47	59	56	51	38	
Grades 9 and 10	53	45	58	51	47	36	
All Grade levels	55	46	59	54	50	37	
Traditional Schools							
Grades 4 and 5	52	41	58	51	46	36	
Grades 6, 7 and 8	48	37	53	47	42	29	
Grades 9 and 10	48	38	53	46	41	31	
All Grade levels	49	38	54	47	42	31	

#### **LEARNING GAINS OF THE LOWEST QUARTILE**

English Language Arts	% in the lowest quartile making learning gains	African American % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	White % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	<b>Hispanic</b> % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	FRL % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	% in the lowest quartile making learning gains		
Charter Schools	Charter Schools							
Grades 4 and 5	45	39	46	47	42	35		
Grades 6, 7 and 8	46	40	47	48	44	35		
Grades 9 and 10	44	37	49	44	41	33		
All Grade levels	46	39	47	47	43	35		
Traditional Schools								
Grades 4 and 5	46	40	48	47	44	37		
Grades 6, 7 and 8	37	30	40	39	34	27		
Grades 9 and 10	39	34	42	39	36	30		
All Grade levels	39	33	42	40	36	30		

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	Hispanic % making learning gains	FRL % making learning gains	<b>SWD</b> % making learning gains	
Charter Schools							
Grades 4 and 5	40	26	51	37	33	30	
Grades 6, 7 and 8	44	34	53	40	37	36	
Grades 9 and 10	30	26	35	28	27	27	
All Grade levels	41	31	50	38	35	33	
Traditional Schools							
Grades 4 and 5	46	32	56	43	39	35	
Grades 6, 7 and 8	41	27	50	38	34	30	
Grades 9 and 10	27	21	31	26	24	23	
All Grade levels	38	27	46	36	33	30	

#### LEARNING GAINS OF THE LOWEST QUARTILE

Mathematics	% in the lowest quartile making learning gains	African American % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	White % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	Hispanic % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	FRL % in the lowest quartile making learning gains	% in the lowest quartile making learning gains		
Charter Schools	Charter Schools							
Grades 4 and 5	32	23	39	31	28	27		
Grades 6, 7 and 8	43	35	51	41	39	37		
Grades 9 and 10	29	23	35	29	27	26		
All Grade levels	39	31	47	37	35	33		
Traditional Schools								
Grades 4 and 5	38	30	45	38	35	33		
Grades 6, 7 and 8	37	29	44	37	34	30		
Grades 9 and 10	27	26	29	27	26	25		
All Grade levels	35	29	41	35	32	30		

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



