



**Testimony of
Rashida Young, Chief School Performance Officer
DC Public Charter School Board**

**Hearing on Academic Achievement in the District of Columbia Public and
Public Charter Schools
Committee on Education
November 22, 2019**

Good morning Chairman Grosso and members of the Committee. My name is Rashida Young and I am the Chief School Performance Officer at the DC Public Charter School Board. Thank you for this opportunity to testify about academic achievement at DC's public charter schools.

Public charter school students have shown steady improvement on statewide assessments, first on the DC CAS and now PARCC, for 13 consecutive years. This year the public charter sector saw increases in student performance on the ELA and Math PARCC of 2.7% and 0.3%, respectively. But there are some truly remarkable results from some of our schools.

Among schools that maintained or exceeded expectations on standards in the 2018-19 school year, BASIS DC Public Charter School's middle school students saw 79.5% of students display proficiency on the ELA assessment along with 67.6% of students testing at a level 4 or above in Math. At Washington Yu Ying PCS, 55.9% of students met or exceeded expectations in ELA and 57.4% in Math. KIPP DC Heights Academy, Lead Academy, Promise Academy, and Spring Academy, all reported proficiency rates at or above 60% on the Math assessment, nearly double the District average.

Importantly, proficiency rates improved across almost all subgroups in both subjects. In particular, public charter schools outperform city averages for African American and at-risk students. As a subgroup, at-risk students saw increases in student performance on the ELA and Math PARCC of 1.9% and 0.3%, respectively, between SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-19. Public charter schools educate a student body that is 42.7% at-risk students, and we are proud to see that proficiency rates for at-risk students have increased for the fifth consecutive year.

KIPP DC Promise Academy and Washington Latin Upper School saw the highest proficiency rates for at-risk students on the ELA PARCC exam, with 58.3% of their students testing at level 4 or above. At Friendship Technology Preparatory High School, 52.2% of at-risk students met or exceeded expectations in ELA, along with 51.9% of BASIS DC PCS's middle school students. KIPP DC Heights Academy, Lead Academy, Promise Academy, and Spring Academy reported the highest proficiency rates for at-risk students in math, well above 50%.

Students with disabilities also saw gains as well. As a sector, students with disabilities saw increases in student performance on the ELA and Math PARCC of 1.5% and 0.4%, respectively, between SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-19.

As a District, however, more can be done to improve proficiency rates for students with disabilities. Across the city, students with disabilities continue to struggle to meet or exceed expectations on both the ELA and Math PARCC. The state average for students with disabilities testing at a level 4 or 5 is 7.9% in ELA and 7.2% in math. Within the public charter sector, 6.8% of students within the subgroup tested at a level 4 or above on the ELA assessment, and 6.3% in Math. However, there are several public charter schools that are successfully supporting these students to reach level 4 or 5 on their PARCC exams.

Additionally, English learners continue to perform below expectations. As a sector, students within the subgroup saw decreases in student performance of 1.5% in ELA, despite posting an increase of 0.7% on Math, between SY 2017-18 to SY 2018-19. Public charter schools do not outperform city averages for English learners, trailing in performance on the ELA and Math PARCC assessments by 5.7% and 7.4%, respectively.

We continue to support public charter schools in improving their programming for students with English learners. This includes more frequent and intensive meetings with our English Learner Professional Learning Community (or PLC). The PLCs were created to provide an avenue for DC public charter schools to share best practices and collaborate. Discussions have focused on EL instruction, program management, academic interventions, family engagement, staffing, and accountability. It is our hope that by fostering these conversations, we will be able to make progress with EL achievement. Further, we applaud the academic growth DCPS has made with their English learners and have initiated conversations with their leadership team in an effort to collaborate and learn.

Before I conclude my testimony, I'd like to turn my attention to additional indicators of student success, to address student performance on the

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and share highlights from OSEE's graduation data for SY 2018-19.

Commonly referred to as the nation's report card, NAEP measures student learning in core academic subjects and is the only barometer to compare student achievement across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The 2019 NAEP scores reveal that the District was one of only two jurisdictions to show significant gains between 2017 and 2019 in three of the four grade/subject assessments. As a state, the District demonstrated the highest growth of all states for all grades and subjects in the Average Scale Score, posting gains for almost every student group, including African American and Latinx children. An analysis of NAEP scores from 2011 to 2019 indicates that DC charters grew faster, overall, than every other state and large school district except one – and that one is DCPS. It is extraordinary that the two fastest growing reported groups in the entire country are DCPS and DC's public charter schools and a testament to how successful the District's school reform efforts have been.

With respect to 2019 graduation data, we are pleased to report that 76.4% of public charter students graduated in four years in SY 2018-19, up four percentage points from last year, while the number of students graduating in five years declined by 1.1% to 80.4%. This year, 70.0% of students designated as at-risk graduated in four years, an increase of 5.8% from last year. Additionally, the number of students with disabilities improved by 8.2% to 62.6% while the number of African American students graduating increased by 5.8%. Although Latinx students noted a decline in graduation change in comparison to the last school year, the 5-year data shows a steady increase, with 88.3% of Latinx students graduating from the charter sector.

In February 2019, we revised our Transcript Audit Policy as a means of verifying the status of 9th grade students, to ensure they are on track to graduate in four years, as well as the graduate status of 12th grade students to ensure they are on track to be included on the certified graduates list. We attribute our increase in graduation rates in part to implementation of Transcript Audit Policy and will continue to monitor outcomes. As an additional accountability measure, DC PCSB evaluates a school's performance on multiple measures, including 4- and 5-year graduation rates; both of which are indicators of whether or not a student is ready for college or the workforce on its School Quality Report.

To conclude, the charter sector has much to be proud of but also much work ahead of us. While our gains have been impressive, we recognize that not enough of our students are yet achieving at the levels we desire for them, and that the gaps by race and income – while narrowing – are still far too large.

We remain committed to continuing to make progress on all of these fronts. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer any questions.

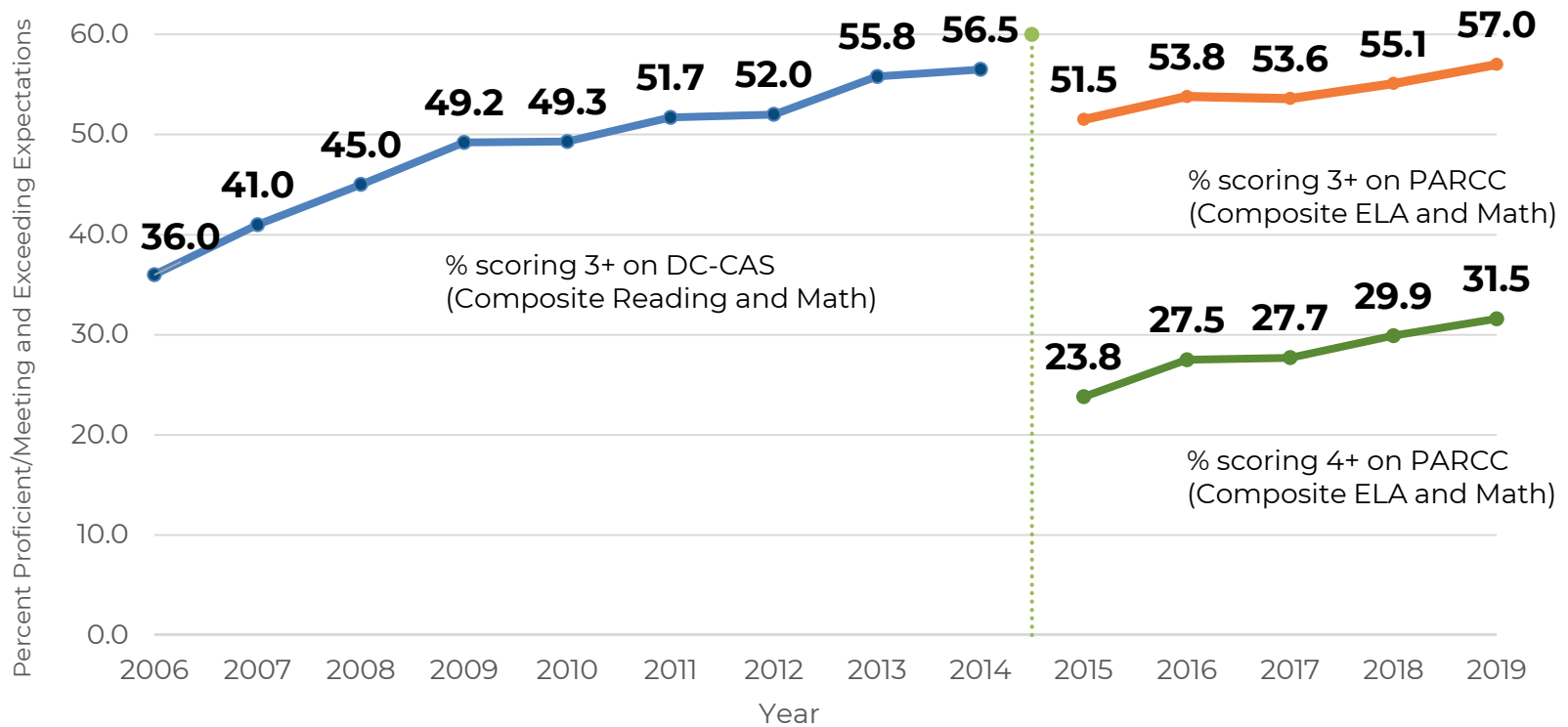
2019 PARCC RESULTS



August 2019

Public Charter School Student Achievement Increases Annually

Achievement Results for Public Charter School Students (2006-2019)



Proficiency Rates Improving Across Almost All Subgroups in ELA

Subgroup	ELA		
	SY 2017-18: Levels 4 + (%)	SY 2018-19: Levels 4 + (%)	Change (%)
All Students	31.5	34.2	+ 2.7
At-Risk	20.3	22.2	+ 1.9
Black/African American	26.6	29.2	+ 2.6
English Learners	15.5	14.0	- 1.5
Hispanic/Latino	32.3	33.8	+ 1.5
Multiracial	59.6	62.6	+ 3.0
Students with Disabilities	5.3	6.8	+ 1.5
White/Caucasian	78.5	79.2	+ 0.7



Proficiency Rates Improving Across Almost All Subgroups in Math

Subgroup	ELA		
	SY 2017-18: Levels 4 + (%)	SY 2018-19: Levels 4 + (%)	Change (%)
All Students	28.4	28.7	+ 0.3
At-Risk	18.5	18.6	+ 0.1
Black/African American	24.4	24.4	+ 0.0
English Learners	14.6	15.3	+ 0.7
Hispanic/Latino	23.9	24.5	+ 0.6
Multiracial	60.9	56.4	- 4.5
Students with Disabilities	5.9	6.3	+ 0.4
White/Caucasian	74.9	72.4	- 2.5



Charter Subgroup Comparisons with State Averages

Subgroup	ELA			Math		
	State (%)	Charter (%)	Difference (%)	State (%)	Charter (%)	Difference (%)
All Students	37.1	34.2	- 2.9	30.5	28.7	-1.8
At-Risk	21.1	22.2	+ 1.1	16.3	18.6	+ 2.3
Black/African American	27.8	29.2	+ 1.4	21.1	24.4	+ 3.3
English Learners	19.7	14.0	- 5.7	22.7	15.3	- 7.4
Hispanic/Latino	37.3	33.8	- 3.5	30.5	24.5	- 6.0
Multiracial	68.6	62.6	- 6.0	62.5	56.4	- 6.1
Students with Disabilities	7.9	6.8	- 1.1	7.2	6.3	- 0.9
White/Caucasian	85.0	79.2	- 5.8	78.8	72.4	- 6.4



All values shown above are proficiency rates (the percentage of students scoring Levels 4 or 5) for each subgroup.

Most improved public charter schools

Grades 3-8

Campus	2018 PMF Tier	Ward	ELA		Math	
			Levels 4+ (%)	Change (%)	Levels 4+ (%)	Change (%)
Achievement Prep PCS – Wahler Place Elementary	2	8	14.5	+ 8.0	19.4	+ 5.3
Center City PCS – Congress Heights	2	8	40.6	+ 10.6	39.1	+ 12.0
DC Prep PCS – Benning Elementary School	1	7	44.4	+ 10.2	51.4	+ 9.3
Eagle Academy PCS - Congress Heights	3	8	27.1	+ 17.1	21.4	+ 8.1
Eagle Academy PCS – Fairlawn	2	6	25.0	+ 11.7	41.7	+ 21.7
Friendship PCS – Southeast Elementary	2	8	33.9	+ 14.4	42.4	+ 27.6
Sela PCS	2	4	42.6	+ 14.0	55.3	+ 6.7



Top performing and most improved public charter High Schools

Campus	2018 PMF Tier	Ward	Levels 4+ ELA (%)	Levels 4+ Math (%)
BASIS DC PCS	1	2	86.7	46.6
Washington Latin PCS - Upper School	1	4	83.1	41.3

Campus	2018 PMF Tier	Ward	ELA		Math	
			Levels 4+ (%)	Change (%)	Levels 4+ (%)	Change (%)
KIPP DC – College Preparatory PCS	1	5	31.8	+ 9.4	25.8	+ 10.9
Paul PCS – International High School	2	4	22.0	+ 5.8	10.9	+ 5.1

Note: Schools shown for improvement gained at least 5% in proficiency in both ELA and math.



Top 10 performing public charter schools

Grades 3-8: ELA

Campus	2018 PMF Tier	Ward	Levels 4+ (%)
BASIS DC PCS	1	2	79.5
Washington Latin PCS - Middle School	1	4	63.4
District of Columbia International School	1	4	62.8
Inspired Teaching Demonstration PCS	1	5	59.9
KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS	1	7	56.6
Washington Yu Ying PCS	1	5	55.9
Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS	1	4	55.4
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Middle School	1	5	53.0
Two Rivers PCS - 4th Street	1	6	50.9
DC Prep PCS - Benning Middle School	1	7	46.4



Top 10 performing public charter schools

Grades 3-8: Math

Campus	2018 PMF Tier	Ward	Levels 4+ (%)
KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS	1	7	77.5
KIPP DC - Lead Academy PCS	1	6	69.6
BASIS DC PCS	1	2	67.6
KIPP DC - Heights Academy PCS	1	8	65.9
KIPP DC - Spring Academy PCS	2	5	60.6
Washington Yu Ying PCS	1	5	57.4
Sela PCS	2	4	55.3
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Middle School	1	5	54.9
DC Prep PCS - Benning Elementary School	1	7	51.4
DC Prep PCS - Edgewood Elementary School	1	5	50.7



Top performing public charter schools with **At-Risk** students (50%+ proficiency)

Campus	Ward	Subject	Levels 4+ (%)
BASIS DC PCS	2	ELA	51.9
Friendship PCS – Technology Preparatory High School	8	ELA	52.2
KIPP DC - Heights Academy PCS	8	Math	59.5
KIPP DC - Lead Academy PCS	6	Math	58.6
KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS	7	Math	74.8
KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS	7	ELA	58.3
KIPP DC - Spring Academy PCS	5	Math	59.8
Washington Latin PCS - Upper School	4	ELA	58.3



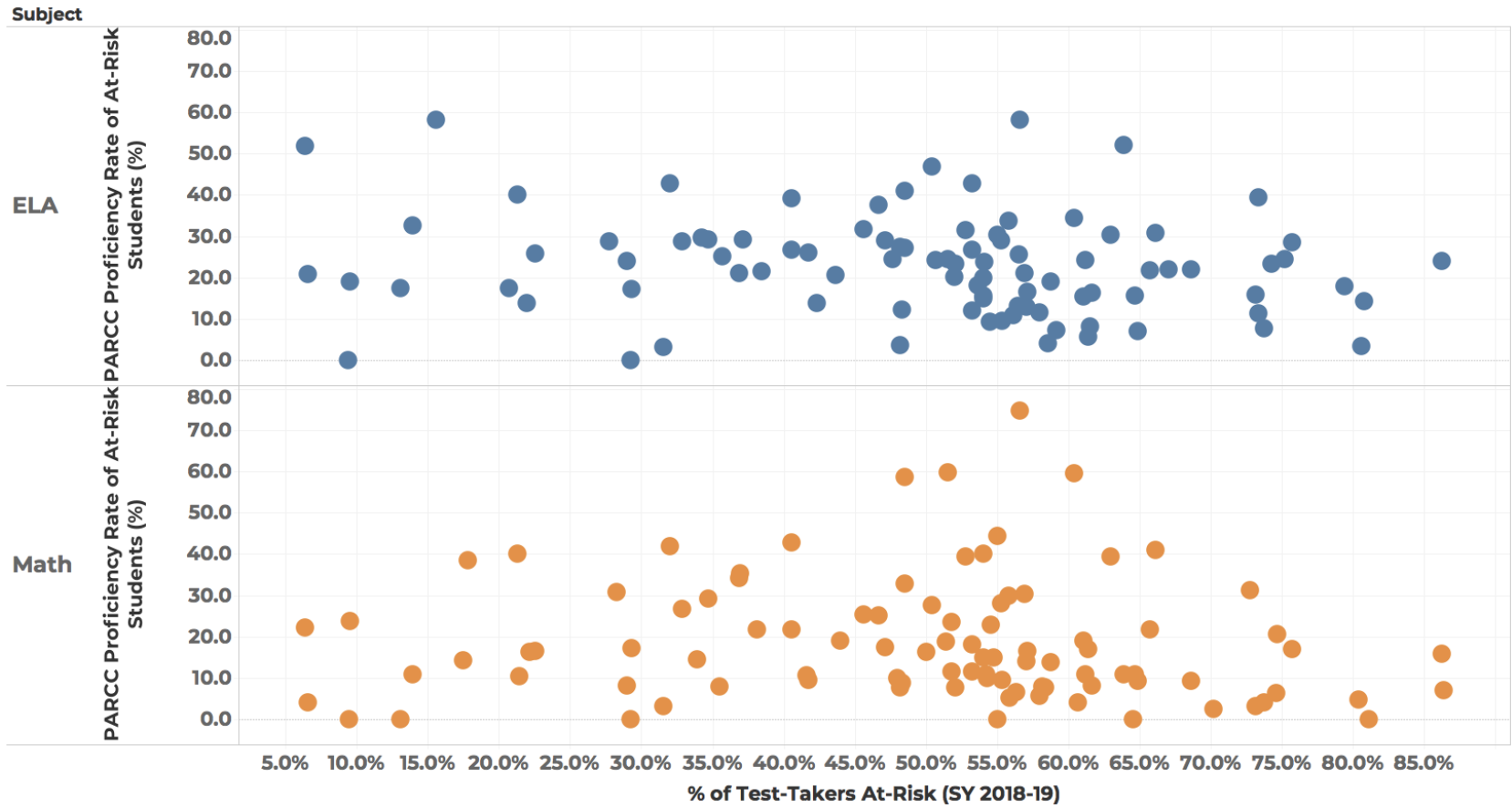
Public charter schools **closing gaps** with **At-Risk** students

At these public charter schools, at-risk students account for at least 50% of test-takers. These results both exceed subject proficiency rates for all students citywide and meet or exceed the proficiency rates of not at-risk peers at the same school.

Campus	Ward	Subject	Levels 4+ (%)
Friendship PCS - Online Academy	4	ELA	46.8
Friendship PCS – Technology Preparatory High School	8	ELA	52.2
Ingenuity Prep PCS	8	Math	39.5
KIPP DC - Promise Academy PCS	7	ELA	58.3
Rocketship PCS - Legacy Prep	7	ELA	39.4



At-Risk Performance by Percent of At-Risk Test-Takers



2019 NAEP RESULTS: DC CHARTER SCHOOLS



October 30, 2019

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



NAEP Average Scale Score Growth: 2009 to 2019

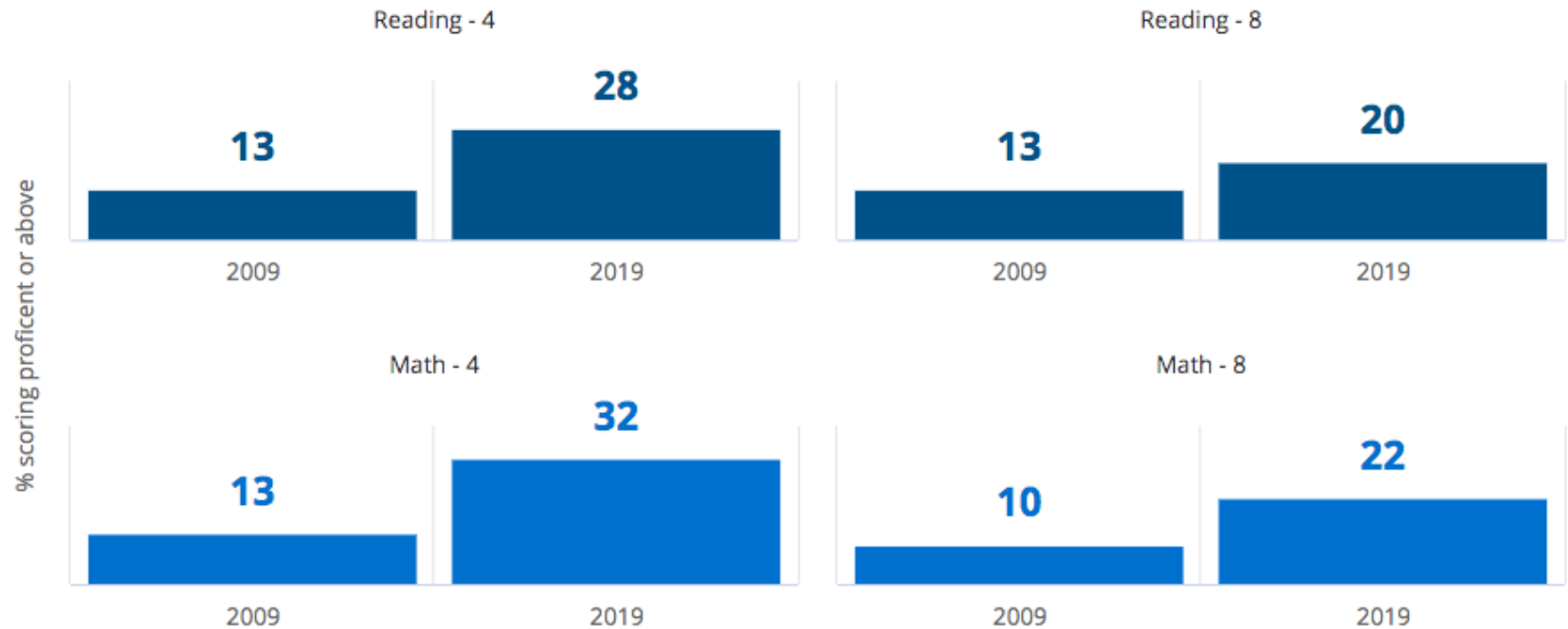
DC achieved growth in average scale score on the NAEP in all grades and subjects over the past 10 years, with DC public charter students leading the way in grade 4:

- **Grade 4 Reading: 16 points** of improvement compared to state's 12 points
- **Grade 4 Math: 16 points** of improvement compared to state's 15 points



NAEP Proficiency Rates Doubled in Most Grades / Subjects from 2009 to 2019

% scoring proficient or above (DC charter schools)

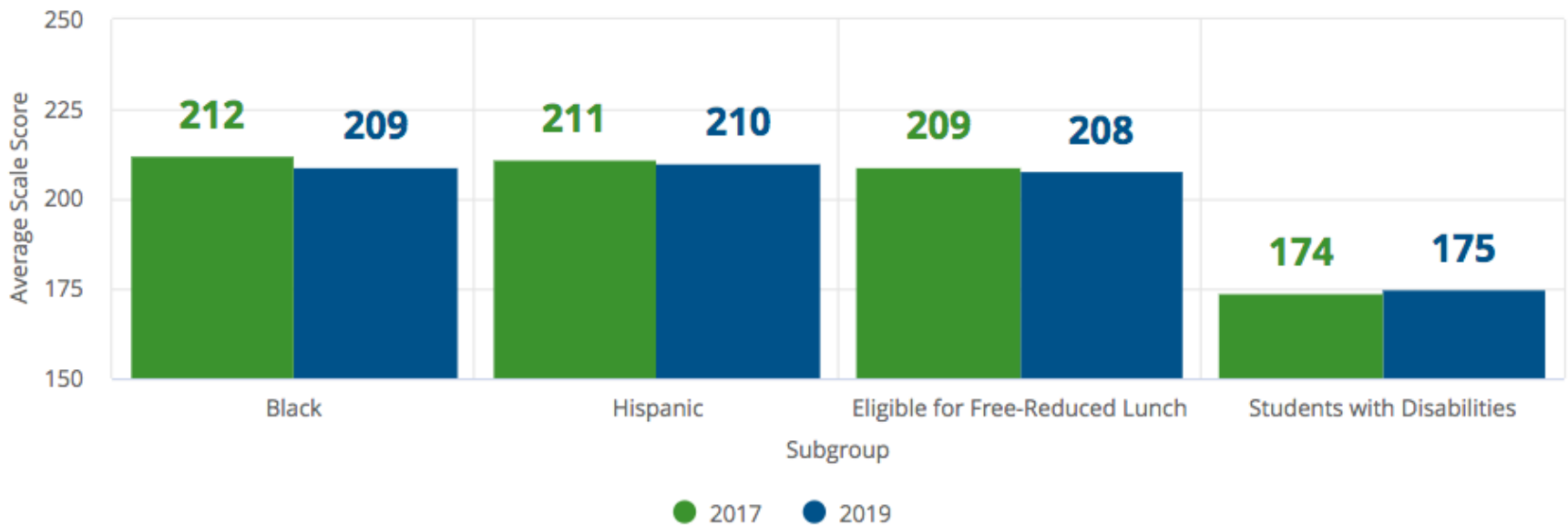


DC PUBLIC CHARTER AVERAGE NAEP SCALE SCORE BY SUBJECT AND SUBGROUP: 2017 to 2019



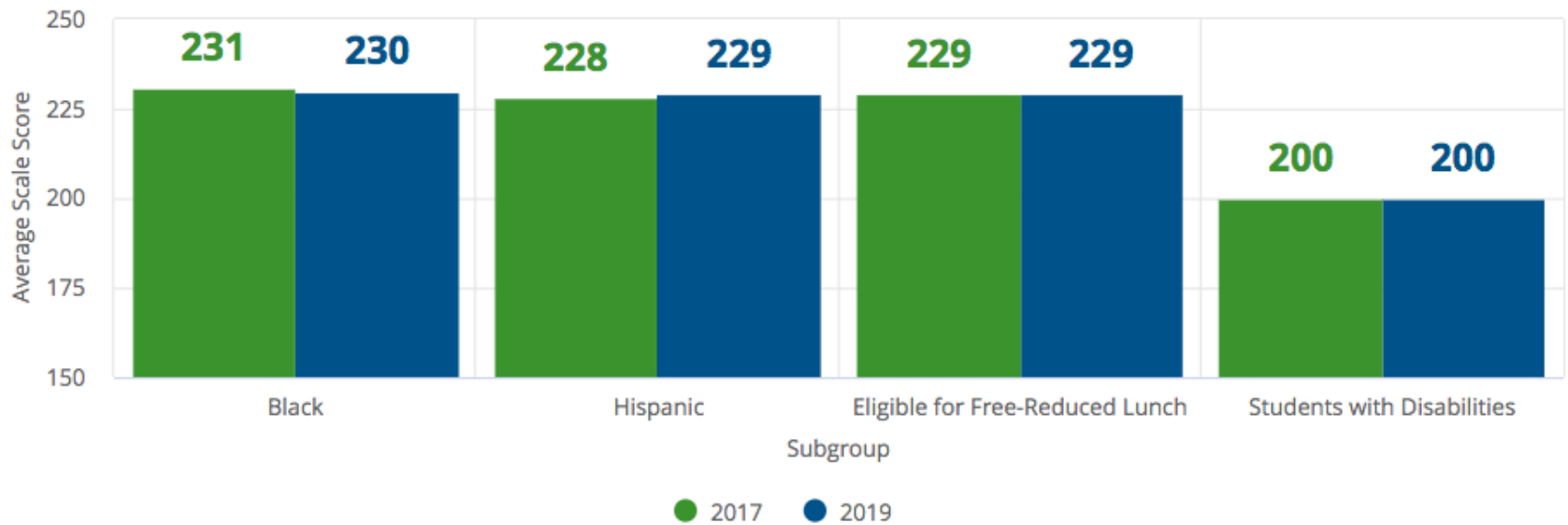
NAEP Grade 4 Reading Average Scale Score by Subgroup (Charter Sector Only)

Average Scale Score: Student Groups



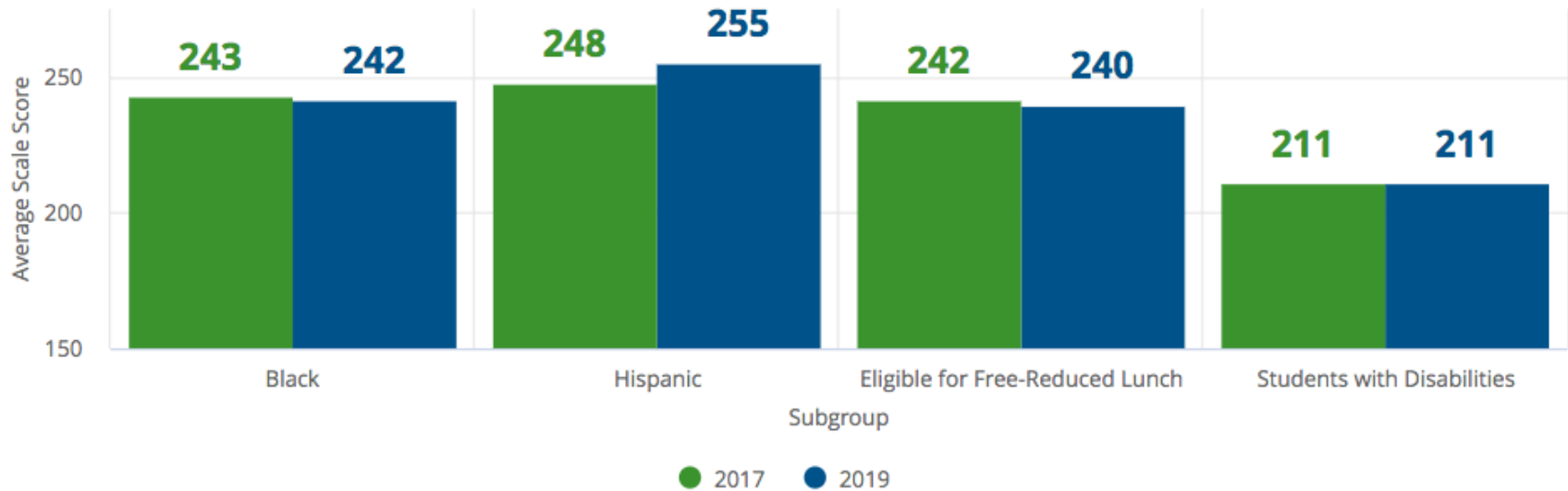
NAEP Grade 4 Math Average Scale Score by Subgroup (Charter Sector Only)

Average Scale Score: Student Groups

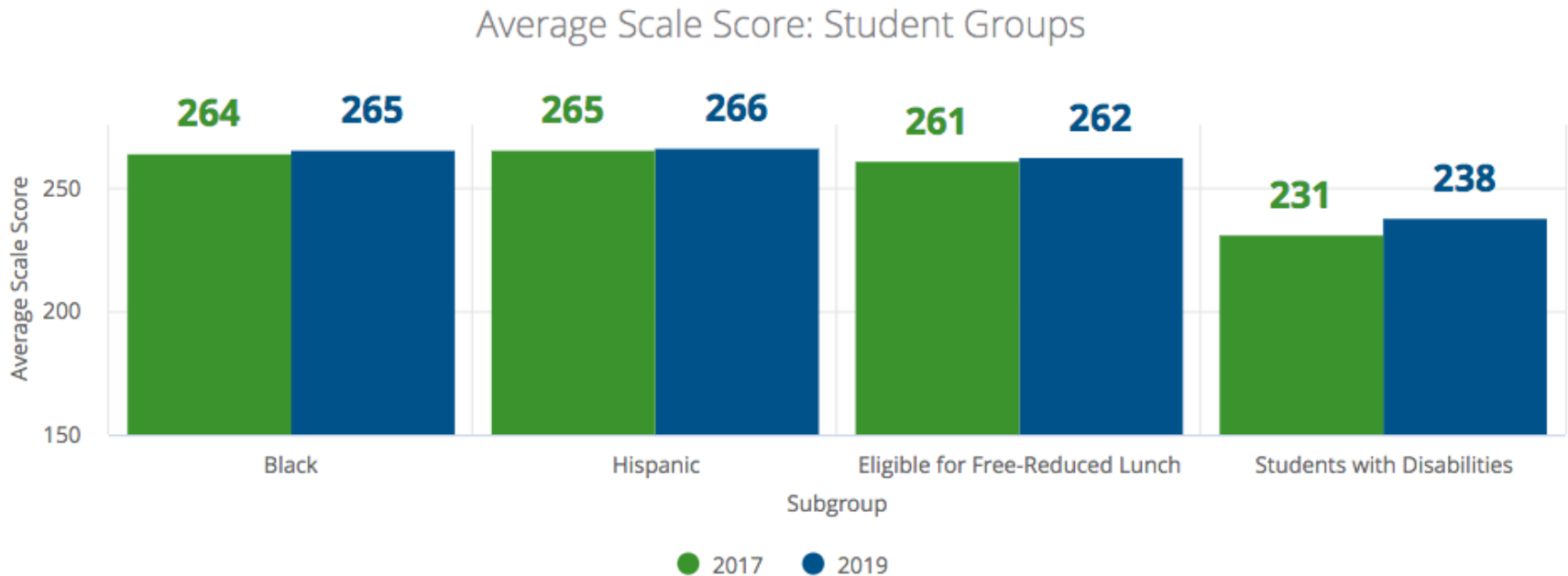


NAEP Grade 8 Reading Average Scale Score by Subgroup (Charter Sector Only)

Average Scale Score: Student Groups



NAEP Grade 8 Math Average Scale Score by Subgroup (Charter Sector Only)

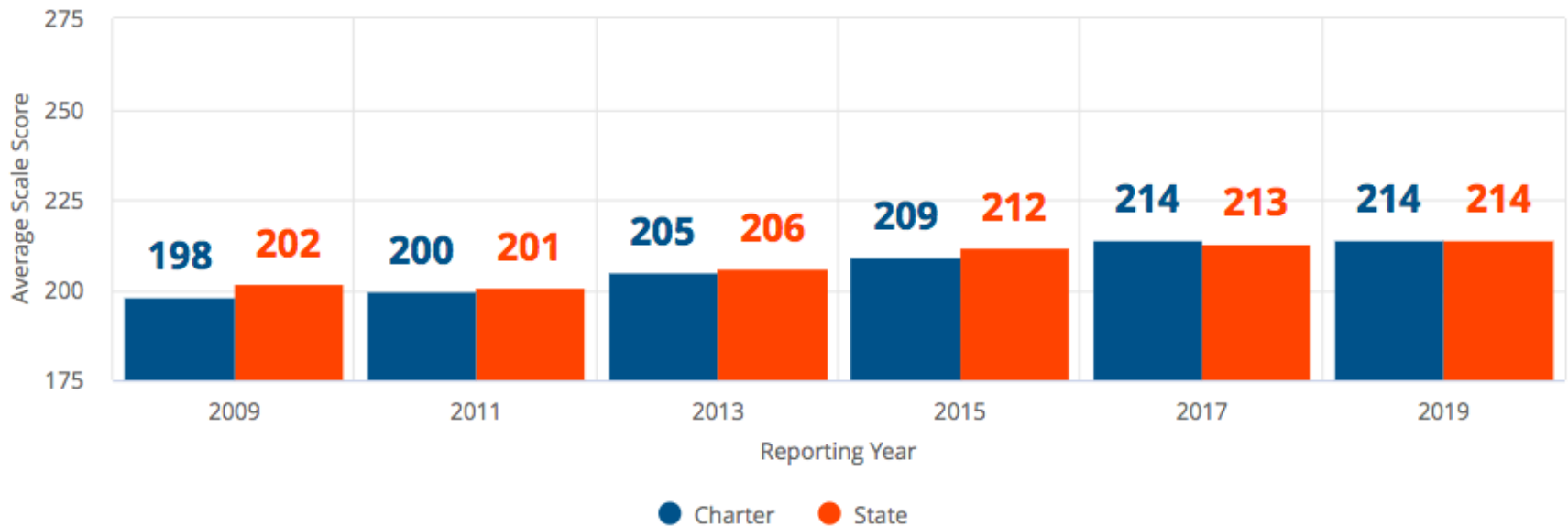


NAEP TRENDS OVER TIME (DC PUBLIC CHARTER & STATE)



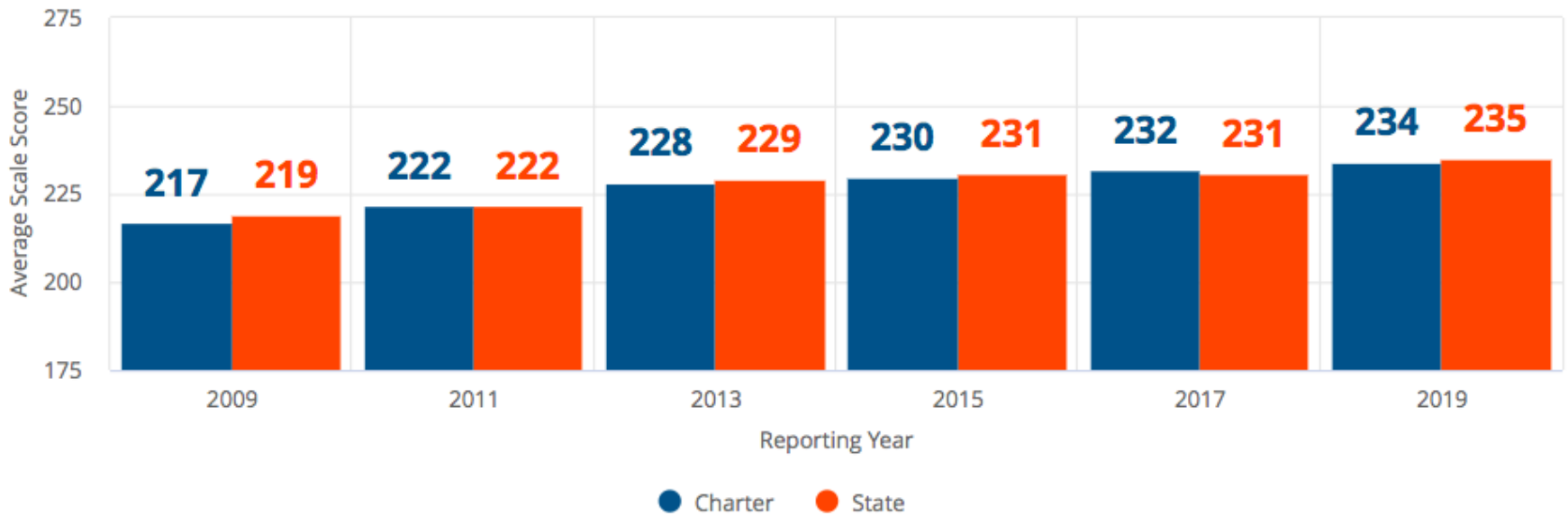
NAEP Grade 4 Reading Average Scale Score (Overall)

Average Scale Score: DC Charter Schools compared to DC Overall



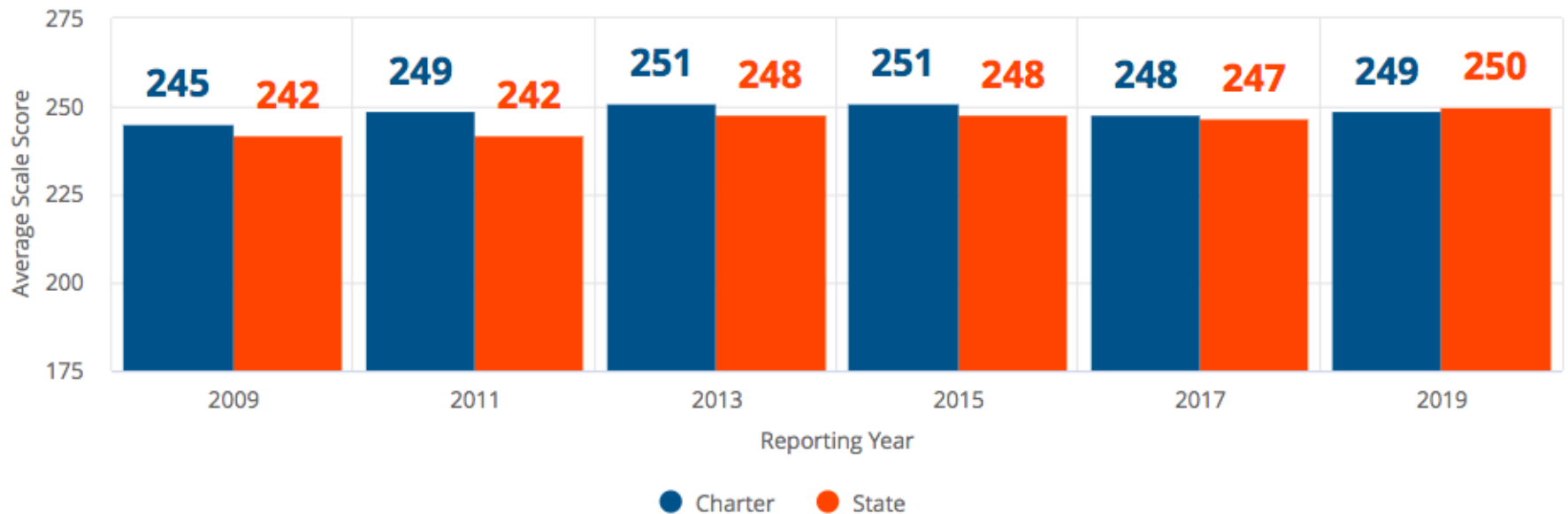
NAEP Grade 4 Math Average Scale Score (Overall)

Average Scale Score: DC Charter Schools compared to DC Overall



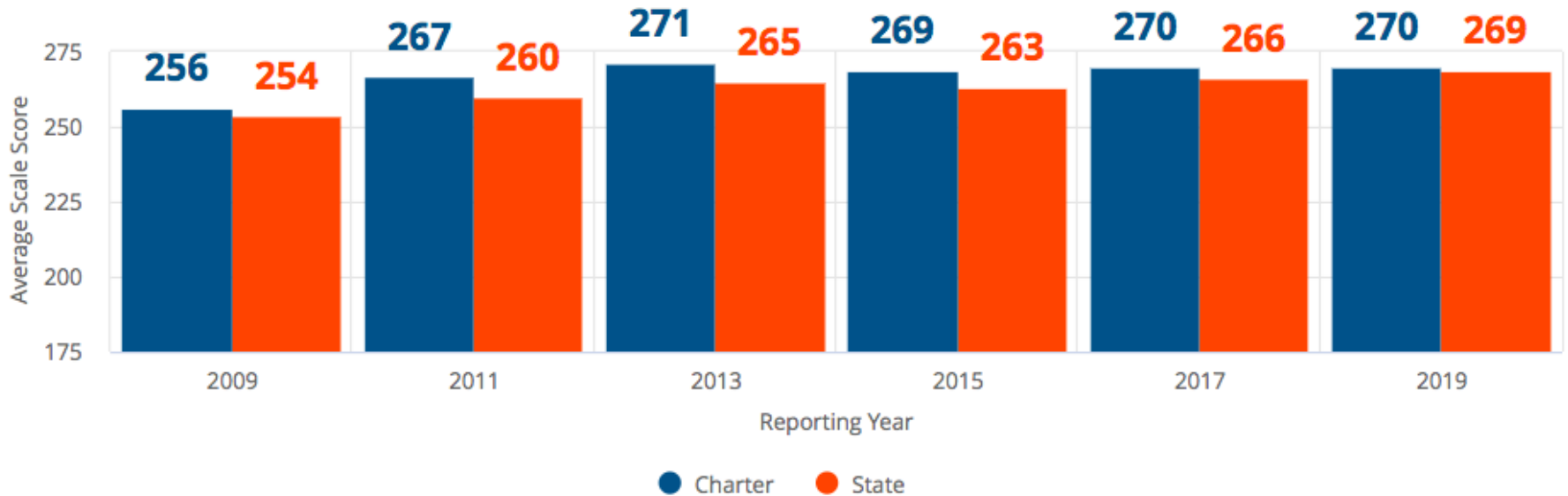
NAEP Grade 8 Reading Average Scale Score (Overall)

Average Scale Score: DC Charter Schools compared to DC Overall



NAEP Grade 8 Math Average Scale Score (Overall)

Average Scale Score: DC Charter Schools compared to DC Overall



OVERVIEW OF GRADUATION RATES IN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS



November 2019

76.4% OF PUBLIC CHARTER STUDENTS GRADUATED IN FOUR YEARS IN SCHOOL YEAR 2018-19, UP FOUR PERCENTAGE POINTS FROM LAST YEAR, WHILE THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS GRADUATING IN FIVE YEARS DECLINED BY 1.1%.

GRADUATION RATES ARE CALCULATED BY TRACKING THE STUDENTS WHO ENTERED 9TH GRADE AND GRADUATED FROM 12TH GRADE WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS. AND AS PART OF ITS OVERSIGHT, WE VERIFY THAT 9TH-GRADE STUDENTS ARE ON TRACK TO GRADUATE IN FOUR YEARS AND THAT 12TH-GRADE STUDENTS HAVE MET THE SCHOOL'S GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

WE ALSO EVALUATE A SCHOOL'S PERFORMANCE ON MULTIPLE MEASURES, INCLUDING 4- AND 5-YEAR GRADUATION RATES, WHICH ARE BOTH INDICATORS OF WHETHER OR NOT A STUDENT IS READY FOR COLLEGE OR THE WORKFORCE ON ITS SCHOOL QUALITY REPORT.

THIS YEAR, 70.0% OF STUDENTS DESIGNATED AS "AT-RISK" GRADUATED IN FOUR YEARS, AN INCREASE OF 5.8% FROM LAST YEAR. AND THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IMPROVED BY 8.2% TO 62.6%, WHILE THE NUMBER OF BLACK STUDENTS GRADUATING INCREASED BY 5.8%.

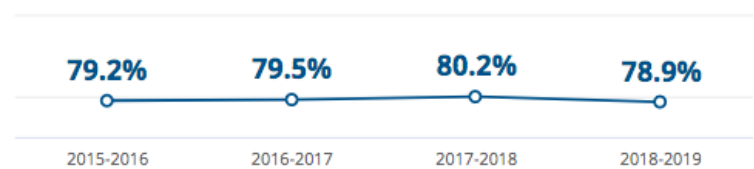


4 and 5-year ACGR

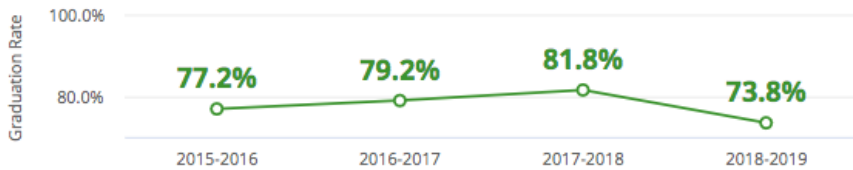
4-year ACGR - Black or African American



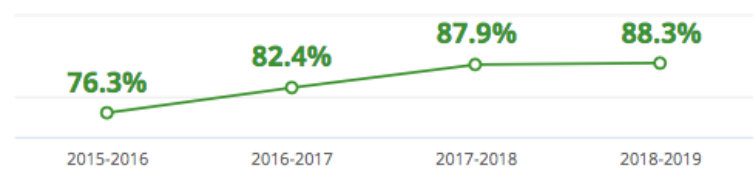
5-year ACGR - Black or African American



4-year ACGR - Hispanic / Latino



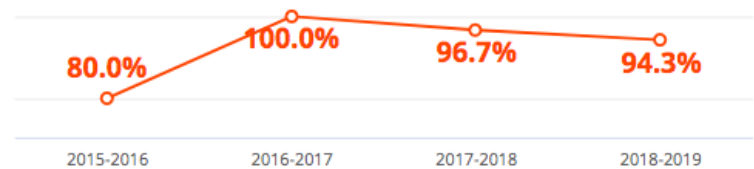
5-year ACGR - Hispanic / Latino



4-year ACGR - White



5-year ACGR - White



School Year



4-YEAR GRADUATION RATES BY SCHOOL

Campus	SY 2018-19 4-year ACGR	Change from SY 2017-18
BASIS DC PCS	100.0%	+0.0%
Friendship PCS - Technology Preparatory High	95.9%	+10.5%
SEED PCS of Washington DC	91.2%	-8.8%
Washington Latin PCS - Upper School	88.6%	+1.3%
E.L. Haynes PCS - High School	86.6%	+1.3%
KIPP DC - College Preparatory PCS	85.6%	+0.5%
Friendship PCS - Collegiate Academy	84.9%	+9.4%
Capital City PCS - High School	84.4%	-1.5%
Paul PCS - International High School	84.1%	-3.6%
Cesar Chavez PCS for Public Policy - Capitol Hill (closed at end of SY 2018-19)	82.7%	+7.0%
Richard Wright PCS for Journalism and Media Arts	82.3%	-0.7%
Cesar Chavez PCS for Public Policy - Parkside High	80.5%	-5.7%
IDEA PCS	80.0%	+25.1%
Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS	75.9%	-2.5%
National Collegiate Preparatory PCHS	73.0%	+13.7%
Somerset Preparatory Academy PCS (closed at end of SY 2018-19)	65.7%	-22.7%
Maya Angelou PCS - High School	55.4%	+8.4%
Kingsman Academy PCS	51.5%	+27.3%
Goodwill Excel Center PCS	13.3%	+6.4%



Improvement in graduation rates over the past year by schools for the cohort of students that started 9th grade in SY 2014-15.

Campus	4-year ACGR (%) - Prior Year	5-year ACGR (%)	Change in ACGR: 4-year Rate to 5-year Rate (%)
IDEA PCS	54.9%	78.0%	+23.0%
Thurgood Marshall Academy PCS	78.5%	95.9%	+17.5%
Friendship PCS - Technology Preparatory High School	85.4%	95.6%	+10.1%
National Collegiate Preparatory PCHS	59.3%	68.5%	+9.2%
Richard Wright PCS for Journalism and Media Arts	83.0%	92.0%	+9.0%
Cesar Chavez PCS for Public Policy - Parkside High School	86.2%	95.1%	+8.9%
Friendship PCS - Collegiate Academy	75.5%	83.6%	+8.1%
Capital City PCS - High School	85.9%	94.0%	+8.1%
KIPP DC - College Preparatory PCS	85.1%	92.9%	+7.8%
Washington Latin PCS - Upper School	87.3%	91.1%	+3.8%
E.L. Haynes PCS - High School	85.3%	88.8%	+3.5%
Paul PCS - International High School	87.7%	87.7%	0.0%
BASIS DC PCS	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
SEED PCS of Washington DC	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%



Contact Us

3333 14th Street NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20010



(202) 328-2660

dcpublic@dcpcsb.org

www.dcpcsb.org

[Facebook.com/DCPCSB](https://www.facebook.com/DCPCSB)

Twitter @DCPCSB

#DCcharterPROUD