



News Release

SUNY Authorized Charter Schools exceed state proficiency rates in both ELA and mathematics by nearly 14% and 20% respectively

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New York – As the New York State Education Department released the 2019 ELA and math assessment results for grades 3-8, the SUNY Charter Schools Institute is celebrating the odds-defying outcomes produced by the innovative and high-quality schools in their portfolio. Among the over 45,000 students who completed the state assessments, 80% are economically disadvantaged and 90% are African American or Latino. SUNY authorized charter schools continue to outperform the state’s proficiency rates, with a difference in ELA and math of 14% and 20%, respectively.

Overall proficiency numbers for SUNY authorized charter schools are higher than those for the state across the board. SUNY charter school students are 59.5% proficient in ELA and 66.7% proficient in math compared to the statewide numbers of 45.4% and 46.7% respectively. The proficiency rates for subgroups including English language learners and students with disabilities in SUNY authorized charter schools is either double or nearly triple that of the statewide numbers. When compared to their local school districts, over 88% of SUNY authorized charter schools outperformed their local district in ELA and over 91% outperformed their local district in math.

Chair of the SUNY Charter Schools Committee, Joseph Belluck stated “These results show that SUNY authorized charter schools offer children and families strong choices in public education. Many of these charters are offering transformational experiences to students across the State of New York. Because of these charters, more students are ready to succeed. It’s why so many parents choose SUNY charters. “

Executive Director of SUNY’s Charter Schools Institute, Susie Miller Carello added, “In addition to overall high proficiency rates, SUNY charters are narrowing the achievement gap between student groups. English language learner students at SUNY charters post a proficiency rate in English language arts that is three times that of the state.”

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SUNY is the largest charter school authorizer in New York State and the largest university-based charter school authorizer in the country. The SUNY Charter Schools Institute was created by the SUNY Board of Trustees to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities under the New York Charter Schools Act (the “Act”). Guided by the rigorous standards set by the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Institute’s oversight of SUNY authorized charter schools is comprehensive, including: evaluating initial applications for the opening of charter schools; ongoing oversight and evaluation of operating schools; conducting a comprehensive evaluation when a school applies to renew its charter; and reporting to the school and the public on each school’s performance and progress. Charter schools in

New York trade greater autonomy in exchange for greater accountability for academic outcomes. Each charter school has a charter contract that is signed by its board of trustees and the authorizer of the school. As part of the contract, the accountability plan for each school establishes the academic goals that must be met and how those goals will be measured. Contracts last a maximum of five years as set by the Act. In order to continue operating, a charter school must apply to renew its charter at the end of each charter term. Receiving approval to continue operating is the core of accountability required by the Act.

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