



News Release

Overview of SUNY Authorized Charter School Performance on 2015 New York State Tests for Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics

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New York – In August, the New York State Education Department released the results of the 2015 English language arts (“ELA”) and mathematics New York State tests for all public schools. These results indicate that 90% of SUNY authorized charter schools outperformed their district of location on the mathematics assessment and 73% outperformed their district on the ELA assessment. 76% of the students in these schools are economically disadvantaged.

Below are additional highlights of the performance of SUNY authorized charter schools on the 2015 New York State assessments.

Performance by SUNY authorized charter schools on the state assessments compared favorably to that of both charter and district schools in New York

- The top 15 charter schools with the highest percentage of students proficient in math statewide and the top 7 charter schools with the highest percentage of students proficient in ELA statewide are authorized by SUNY.
- 5 of the top 10 New York City schools in math proficiency are SUNY authorized charter schools.
- On average, SUNY authorized charter schools outperformed all New York public schools on both mathematics and ELA: SUNY (48.8% average proficiency rate in math and 32.9% proficiency rate in ELA) and all public schools (38.1% average proficiency rate in math and 31.3% in ELA).

SUNY authorized charter schools in their first year of operation posted strong results

- Of the 10 SUNY authorized charter schools posting test results for the first time, 7 exceeded the statewide average proficiency in ELA and 8 exceeded the statewide math average.
- In its first year with testing grades, Family Life Academy Charter School 2 outperformed 98% of schools statewide in ELA and 97% of schools statewide in math. The school outperformed its local district by 61 percentage points in math and 58 points in ELA.

SUNY charter schools currently serve over 56,000 New York students and their families. For more information on SUNY authorized charter schools, please visit the SUNY Charter Schools Institute’s website: www.newyorkcharters.org.

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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