



TOP 10 CHARTER COMMUNITIES BY MARKET SHARE

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National Alliance for
Public Charter Schools

Today, a record 14 communities have more than 20% of their public school students enrolled in public charter schools, eight more than the number from just three years ago. Additionally, 72 communities now have at least 10% of public school students in charter schools, 27 more than three year ago. These numbers illustrate that charter enrollment growth remains strong.

For the fourth year in a row, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools has gathered public school enrollment data from around the country to find the highest local proportions of students enrolled in public charter schools. The table below shows the results for the 2008-09 school year.

The “Top 10” Market Share

Rank	School District	State	Charter Market Share	Charter Enrollment	Non-Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment	Rank and Market Share in 2008
1	New Orleans Public School System	LA	57%	20,068	15,379	35,447	#1 and 55%
2	District of Columbia Public Schools	DC	36%	25,729	45,551	71,280	#2 and 31%
3	Detroit Public Schools ⁱ	MI	32%	43,035	91,827	134,862	Tied at #7 and 22%
4	Kansas City, Missouri School District	MO	29%	7,925	19,818	27,743	Tied at #6 and 23%
5	Dayton Public Schools	OH	27%	5,946	16,072	22,018	Tied at #3 and 28%
6	Youngstown City Schools	OH	26%	2,764	7,854	10,618	#5 and 24%
7	St. Louis Public Schools	MO	25%	9,211	27,416	36,627	Tied at #10 and 19%
8	Flint Community Schools ⁱ	MI	24%	4,240	13,798	18,038	Not in Top 10 and 11%
9	Gary Community School Corporation	IN	23%	3,781	12,902	16,683	Not in Top 10 and 18%
10	Phoenix Union High School District	AZ	22%	7,074	25,167	32,241	Tied at #6 and 23%
	Minneapolis Public Schools	MN	22%	9,651	34,680	44,331	Not in Top 10 and 18%

ⁱ For the first three editions of the “Top 10 Charter Communities by Market Share” report, we collected charter school enrollment data by the geographically relevant school district in Michigan. For example, if a charter school was physically located in Detroit, then the students who attended that school were counted as students in Detroit Public Schools. Recently the Michigan Department of Education made data publicly available that presents charter school enrollment by the school district where students reside. The student residence enrollment data presents more accurate information regarding how many students from a school district attend charter schools.

This new data increases the charter school market share significantly for Detroit and Flint (from 24% and 14%, respectively, using geographically relevant district information in 2008-09 to 32% and 24% with student residence data for 2008-09). The new data bumps Southfield and Pontiac from the top 10 because the majority of the students who attend charter schools in these districts reside in other districts, such as Detroit.

Currently, we have been able to acquire student residence charter school enrollment data from Ohio and Michigan. In future years we will attempt to obtain similar data for more states since we believe that the residence data is a more accurate representation of the number and percent of students who choose charter schools.

This year, we also include for the first time a “Top 10” list of school districts by the number of public charter school students enrolled. We include this new list because districts with large numbers of students enrolled in public charter schools represent a different way to look at the reach of charters.

The 10 districts with the largest number of students in public charter schools represent 22% of the total public charter school population nationwide, a total of 304,494 students out of roughly 1.4 million.

The “Top 10” Districts by Number of Public Charter School Students

Rank	School District	State	Charter Enrollment	Non-Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment	Charter Market Share
1	Los Angeles Unified School District	CA	59,122	621,805	680,927	9%
2	Detroit Public Schools	MI	43,035	91,827	134,862	32%
3	The School District of Philadelphia	PA	32,579	167,752	200,331	16%
4	Houston Independent School District	TX	29,889	187,422	217,311	14%
5	Chicago Public Schools	IL	28,973	391,393	420,366	7%
6	District of Columbia Public Schools	DC	25,729	45,551	71,280	36%
7	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL	23,865	321,048	344,913	7%
8	New York City Department of Education	NY	21,367	988,234	1,009,601	2%
9	New Orleans Public School System	LA	20,068	15,379	35,447	57%
10	Broward County Public Schools	FL	19,867	236,319	256,186	8%

A Closer Look

New Orleans Remains at #1 in Market Share

Percentage: More than three years since New Orleans began rebuilding its public education system after Hurricane Katrina, public charter schools continue to play a primary role in these efforts. Not only are charters in New Orleans serving a higher percentage of public school students – 57% – than anywhere else in the nation, they are also the highest performing sector of public schools in the city. More importantly, the city's public schools as a whole are outperforming the pre-Katrina system.

Three School Districts Reach at Least 30% Market Share:

Detroit (at 32%) joins New Orleans (57%) and Washington, D.C. (36%) with at least 30% of public school students enrolled in public charter schools.

Fourteen Communities Now at 20% or More: When we first compiled this report in 2005, a market share of 20% would land a community at #4. This year, such a concentration does not break into the top 10. The number of communities with at least a 20% market share has steadily climbed from six in 2005-06 to eight in 2006-07 to 12 in 2007-08 to 14 in 2008-09.

The Floor for the “Top 10” Market Share List Jumped from 19% to 22%:

For the first three years that we assembled this report, the 10th highest market share percentage has been under 20%. The 10th highest was 13% in both 2005-06 and 2006-07 and 19% in 2007-08. Because of the strong and steady growth in charter enrollment in several communities, the 10th highest market share percentage this year is 22%. And there are now 72 communities with at least a 10% market share (see Appendix A).

Los Angeles Tops the List in Number of Public Charter School Students:

Over 59,000 students attended public charter schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District during the 2008-09 school year, the highest number for any school district in the country. While this number only represents a 9% market share in the 680,000-student district, it will likely continue to grow in light of the district's request for proposals for new operators for up to 250 of its schools. (See Appendix B for a list of the top 50 school districts by the number of public charter school students.)

A Note About Methodology

In this analysis, we examined market share in communities with more than 10,000 public school students (both charter and non-charter) in the 2008-09 school year. We gathered charter and non-charter public school enrollment data from state department of education personnel and databases and from state charter association and resource center staff. The growing numbers of virtual charter schools that enroll children from across an entire state present another issue. Because many states haven't developed student enrollment reporting systems that allow the sorting of individual students by community of residence at each charter school, we excluded communities where virtual charter schools enrolling large numbers of students from outside the community constituted much of the charter market share in that community. We recognize that this decision might create some undercounting in communities of residence.

After gathering the data, we determined the ten highest market share percentages: 57, 36, 32, 29, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, and 22. As shown above, some of these percentages included multiple communities.

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Appendix A

School Districts with at Least 10% Market Share, 2008-09

Rank	School District	State	Charter Market Share	Charter Enrollment	Non-Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment
1	New Orleans Public School System	LA	57%	20,068	15,379	35,447
2	District of Columbia Public Schools	DC	36%	25,729	45,551	71,280
3	Detroit Public Schools	MI	32%	43,035	91,827	134,862
4	Kansas City, Missouri School District	MO	29%	7,925	19,818	27,743
5	Dayton Public Schools	OH	27%	5,946	16,072	22,018
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7	St. Louis Public Schools	MO	25%	9,211	27,416	36,627
8	Flint Community Schools	MI	24%	4,240	13,798	18,038
9	Gary Community School Corporation	IN	23%	3,781	12,902	16,683
10	Phoenix Union High School District	AZ	22%	7,074	25,167	32,241
	Minneapolis Public Schools	MN	22%	9,651	34,680	44,331
11	Toledo Public Schools	OH	21%	7,345	27,109	34,454
	Cleveland City Schools	OH	21%	12,812	48,505	61,317
	San Antonio Independent School District	TX	21%	11,992	46,503	58,495
12	Brighton School District 27J	CO	19%	2,691	11,461	14,152
13	Milwaukee Public Schools	WI	18%	16,651	74,457	91,108
	City School District of Albany	NY	18%	1,800	8,201	10,001
	Indianapolis Public Schools	IN	18%	7,496	35,319	42,815
	Chula Vista Elementary School District	CA	18%	4,753	22,402	27,155
14	Camden City Public Schools	NJ	17%	2,643	12,501	15,144
	Grand Rapids Public Schools	MI	17%	3,846	18,204	22,050
	Twin Rivers Unified School District	CA	17%	5,250	25,606	30,856
	Oakland Unified School District	CA	17%	7,883	38,655	46,538
	Columbus City Schools	OH	17%	10,719	53,093	63,812
15	The School District of Philadelphia	PA	16%	32,579	167,752	200,331
	Tempe Union High School District	AZ	16%	2,264	11,763	14,027
	St. Paul Public Schools	MN	16%	7,276	38,560	45,836
16	Buffalo Public Schools	NY	15%	6,381	34,990	41,371
	Cincinnati Public Schools	OH	15%	6,348	35,094	41,443
	Salt Lake City School District	UT	15%	4,159	23,678	27,837
	Oshkosh Area School District	WI	15%	1,524	8,807	10,331
	Appleton Area School District	WI	15%	2,246	12,989	15,235
	Glendale Union High School District	AZ	15%	2,049	11,938	13,987
	Trenton Public Schools	NJ	15%	1,901	11,118	13,019
17	Flagstaff Unified District	AZ	14%	1,570	9,343	10,913
	Taylor School District	MI	14%	1,451	8,874	10,325
	Houston Independent School District	TX	14%	29,889	187,422	217,311
	Mesa Unified District	AZ	14%	11,190	70,309	81,499
	Natomas Unified School District	CA	14%	1,668	10,494	12,162
	Tucson Unified District	AZ	14%	8,926	56,489	65,415

Appendix A – continued

School Districts with at Least 10% Market Share, 2008-09

Rank	School District	State	Charter Market Share	Charter Enrollment	Non-Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment
18	Weld County School District 6	CO	13%	2,529	16,341	18,870
	Napa Valley Unified School District	CA	13%	2,365	15,384	17,749
	Dysart Unified District	AZ	13%	3,683	24,161	27,844
	Vista Unified School District	CA	13%	3,522	23,105	26,627
	Academy School District 20	CO	13%	2,884	19,033	21,917
	Falcon School District 49	CO	13%	1,725	11,891	13,616
	Duluth Public Schools	MN	13%	1,423	9,834	11,257
19	Ogden City School District	UT	12%	1,807	12,884	14,691
	Saginaw Public Schools	MI	12%	1,302	9,484	10,786
	Pueblo City Schools	CO	12%	2,208	16,296	18,504
	Lake County Schools	FL	12%	4,883	36,113	40,996
	Colorado Springs School District 11	CO	12%	3,625	27,189	30,814
	Litchfield Elementary School District	AZ	12%	1,219	9,324	10,543
20	San Diego Unified	CA	11%	14,826	117,064	131,890
	San Juan Unified	CA	11%	5,194	41,729	46,923
	The School District of Lee County	FL	11%	8,753	70,698	79,451
	Polk County Public Schools	FL	11%	10,332	84,384	94,716
	Oklahoma City Public Schools	OK	11%	4,548	37,261	41,809
	Christina School District	DE	11%	2,079	17,200	19,279
	Yuma Elementary District	AZ	11%	1,216	10,102	11,318
	The School City of East Chicago	IN	11%	674	5,684	6,358
21	Harrison School District 2	CO	10%	1,142	9,779	10,921
	East Central Independent School District	TX	10%	1,055	9,113	10,168
	Sheboygan Area School District	WI	10%	1,072	9,264	10,336
	Akron Public Schools	OH	10%	2,892	25,027	27,920
	Brandywine School District	DE	10%	1,180	10,217	11,397
	Bethlehem Area School District	PA	10%	1,772	15,434	17,206
	Newark Public Schools	NJ	10%	4,544	39,992	44,536
	Red Clay Consolidated School District	DE	10%	1,779	15,709	17,488
	Port Huron Area School District	MI	10%	1,114	10,531	11,645
	Gilbert Unified District	AZ	10%	4,078	38,733	42,811
	Dearborn Public Schools	MI	10%	1,885	17,941	19,826

Appendix B

Top 50 School Districts by Number of Charter School Students, 2008-09

Rank	School District	State	Charter Enrollment	Non-Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment	Charter Market Share
1	Los Angeles Unified School District	CA	59,122	621,805	680,927	9%
2	Detroit Public Schools	MI	43,035	91,827	134,862	32%
3	The School District of Philadelphia	PA	32,579	167,752	200,331	16%
4	Houston Independent School District	TX	29,889	187,422	217,311	14%
5	Chicago Public Schools	IL	28,973	391,393	420,366	7%
6	District of Columbia Public Schools	DC	25,729	45,551	71,280	36%
7	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL	23,865	321,048	344,913	7%
8	New York City Department of Education	NY	21,367	988,234	1,009,601	2%
9	New Orleans Public School System	LA	20,068	15,379	35,447	57%
10	Broward County Public Schools	FL	19,867	236,319	256,186	8%
11	Milwaukee Public Schools	WI	16,651	74,457	91,108	18%
12	San Diego Unified	CA	14,826	117,064	131,890	11%
13	Dallas Independent School District	TX	14,619	157,154	171,773	9%
14	Cleveland City Schools	OH	12,812	48,505	61,317	21%
15	San Antonio Independent School District	TX	11,992	46,503	58,495	21%
16	Mesa Unified District	AZ	11,190	70,309	81,499	14%
17	Columbus City Schools	OH	10,719	53,093	63,812	17%
18	Polk County Public Schools	FL	10,332	84,384	94,716	11%
19	Minneapolis Public Schools	MN	9,651	34,680	44,331	22%
20	St. Louis Public Schools	MO	9,211	27,416	36,627	25%
21	Tucson Unified District	AZ	8,926	56,489	65,415	14%
22	The School District of Lee County	FL	8,753	70,698	79,451	11%
23	Albuquerque Public Schools	NM	7,937	86,899	94,836	8%
24	Kansas City, Missouri School District	MO	7,925	19,818	27,743	29%
25	Oakland Unified School District	CA	7,883	38,655	46,538	17%
26	Fulton County Schools	GA	7,782	80,517	88,299	9%
27	Indianapolis Public Schools	IN	7,496	35,319	42,815	18%
28	Baltimore City Public School System	MD	7,403	74,863	82,266	9%
29	Hawaii Department of Education	HI	7,373	171,712	177,871	4%
30	Toledo Public Schools	OH	7,345	27,109	34,454	21%
31	The School District of Palm Beach County	FL	7,310	163,435	170,745	4%
32	St. Paul Public Schools	MN	7,276	38,560	45,836	16%
33	Phoenix Union High School District	AZ	7,074	25,167	32,241	22%
34	Denver Public Schools	CO	6,843	67,762	74,605	9%
35	Buffalo Public Schools	NY	6,381	34,990	41,371	15%
36	Cincinnati Public Schools	OH	6,348	35,094	41,443	15%
37	Clark County School District	NV	6,039	312,941	318,980	2%
38	Dayton Public Schools	OH	5,946	16,072	22,018	27%
39	Wake County School District	NC	5,692	137,706	143,398	4%
40	Cobb County School District	GA	5,659	101,088	106,747	5%
41	Alpine School District	UT	5,603	61,223	66,826	8%
42	Boston Public Schools	MA	5,401	55,923	61,324	9%
43	School System of DeKalb County	GA	5,365	94,410	99,775	5%
44	Jefferson County Public Schools	CO	5,290	80,661	85,951	6%
45	Twin Rivers Unified School District	CA	5,250	25,606	30,856	17%
46	San Juan Unified	CA	5,194	41,729	46,923	11%
47	Jordan School District	UT	4,990	81,017	86,007	6%
48	Lake County Schools	FL	4,883	36,113	40,996	12%
49	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC	4,800	134,060	138,860	3%
50	Chula Vista Elementary School District	CA	4,753	22,402	27,155	18%

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (www.publiccharters.org) is the national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. The Alliance provides assistance to state charter school associations and resource centers, develops and advocates for improved public policies, and serves as the united voice for this large and diverse movement. Currently, more than 1.4 million students attend 4,900 public charter schools in 39 states and the District of Columbia.



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