

NYC CHARTER SCHOOLS: 2019-20 ENROLLMENT LOTTERY ESTIMATES

August 2019

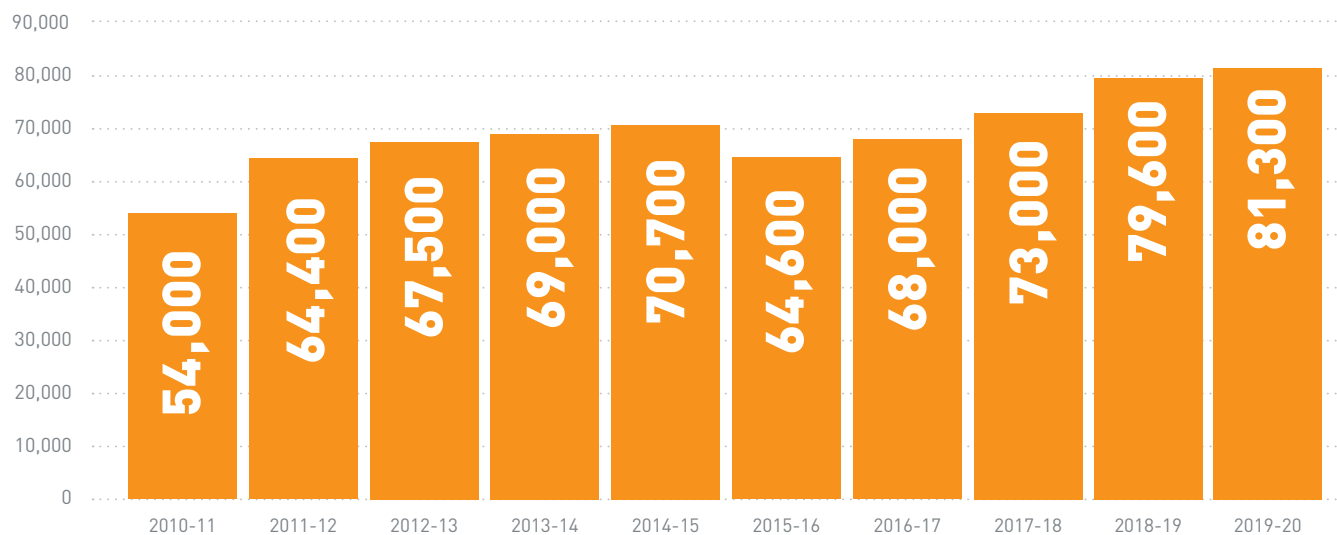


NEW YORK CITY
CHARTER SCHOOL
CENTER

Since 2010, the New York City Charter School Center has conducted a survey of all NYC charter schools about their lottery application rates. This spring, out of 259 anticipated NYC charter schools currently enrolling students for the 2019-20, 234 (90%) responded to the Charter Center's survey. Based on survey data and data from the Common Online Charter School Application, the Charter Center estimates that NYC charter schools received a total of 296,093 applications for kindergarten through grade 12. Adjusting for students who apply to more than one charter school, this represents an estimated 81,300 applicants for nearly 33,000 available seats.

Demand for charter school seats remains strong with **2% increase in applicants...**

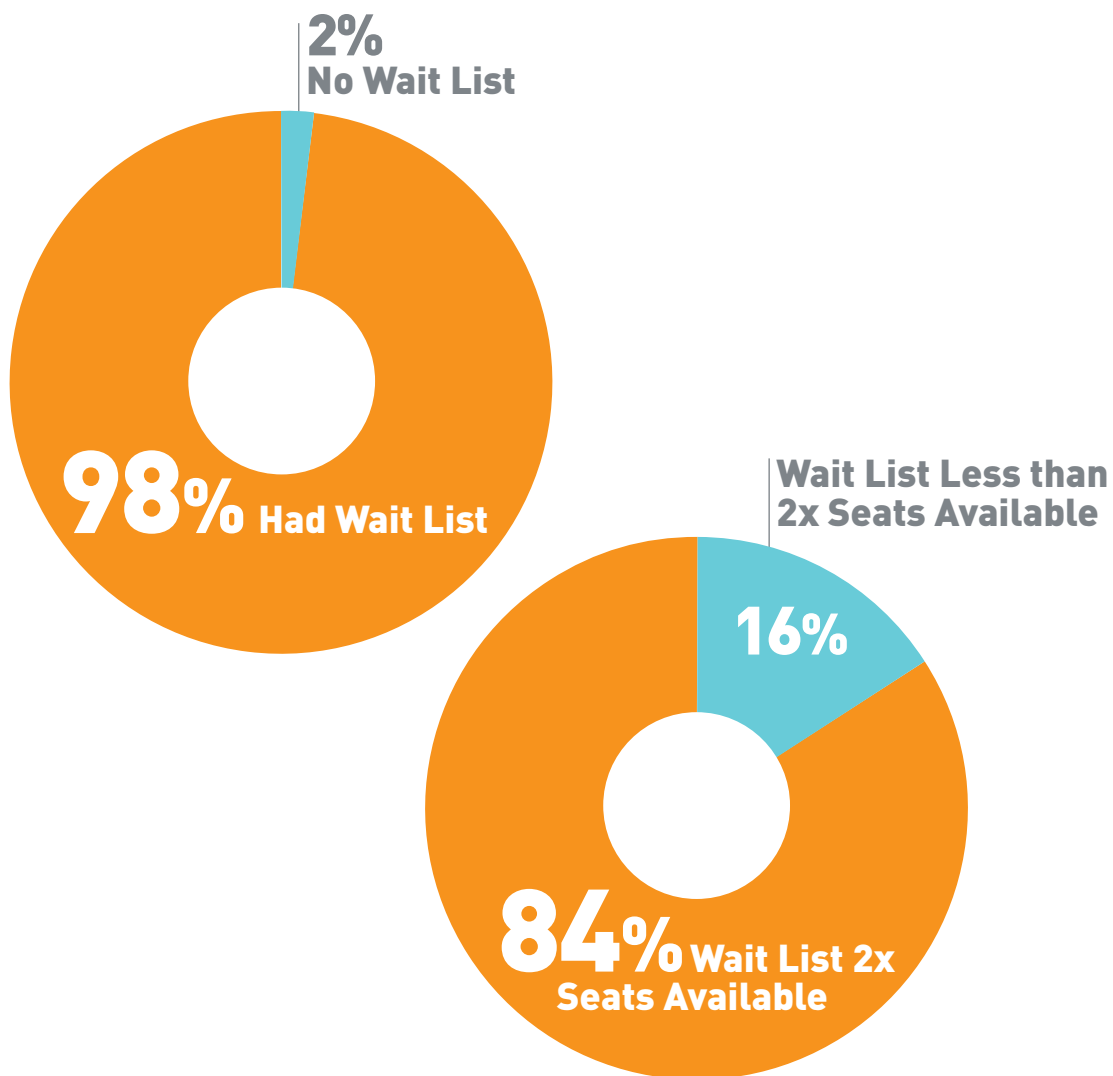
TOTAL APPLICANTS TO NYC CHARTER SCHOOLS
(Estimated, 2010-2019)¹



¹ Source: NYC Charter School Center survey and analysis, 2010-2019

Nearly every charter school reported having a wait list following their lotteries... And, about **8 in 10** charter schools had wait lists that were **at least twice the number of available seats**

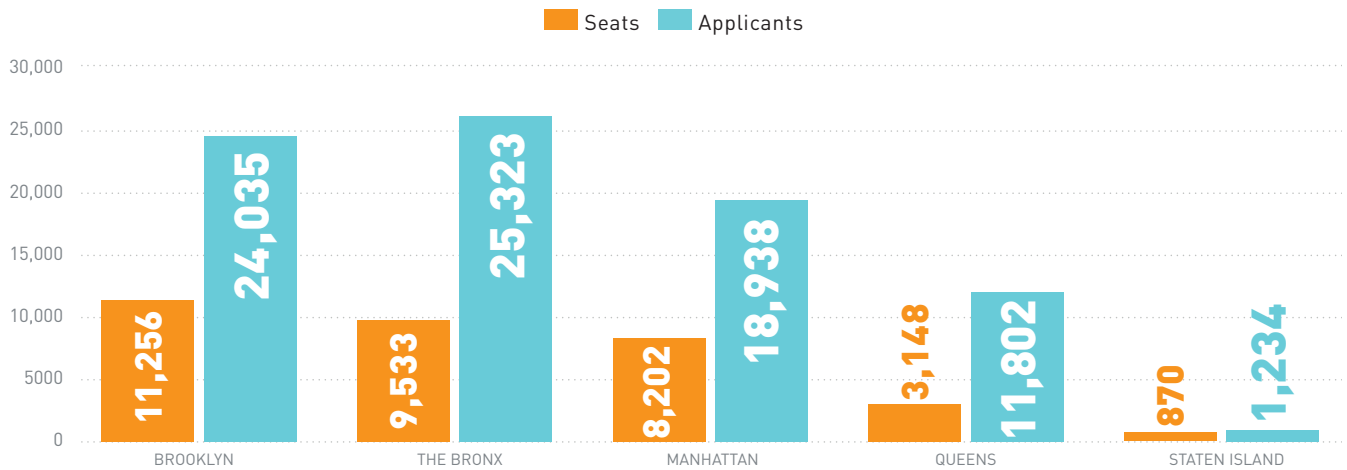
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY NYC CHARTER SCHOOLS RELATIVE TO AVAILABLE SEATS
(Reporting charter schools n=234)²



² Source: New York City Charter School Center survey: Self-reported individual charter school responses from the date of their lottery.

Applicants continue to outnumber available seats in every borough

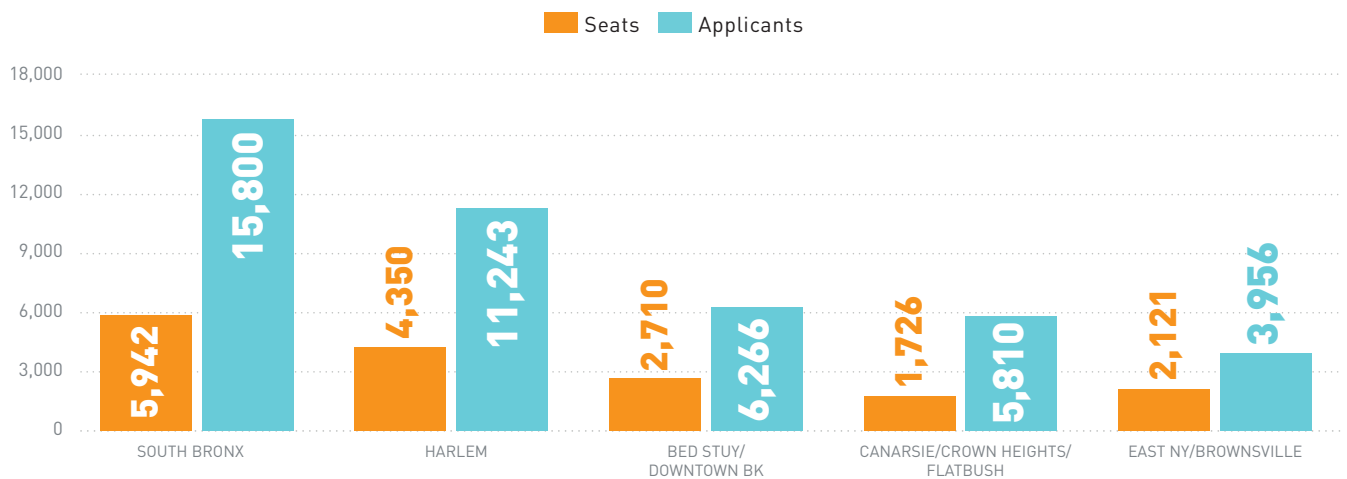
NYC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANTS AND SEATS, BY BOROUGH
(Estimated, 2019-20)³



More than half of applicants apply in Harlem, the South Bronx, or Central Brooklyn neighborhoods

For each charter school seat in Harlem and the South Bronx, there are nearly **three applicants**

NYC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANTS AND SEATS, BY NEIGHBORHOOD
(Estimated, 2019-20)⁴



³ Reporting Charter Schools n=234

⁴ South Bronx is defined as CSD 7, 8, 9; Harlem as CSD 4, 5; Bed-Stuy & Downtown Brooklyn as CSD 13, 16; Canarsie, Crown Heights, & Flatbush as CSD 17, 18; East New York & Brownsville as CSD 19, 23.

The number of applicants exceeds available seats throughout all Community School Districts in every borough

RANKED CSDs BY APPLICANTS TO LOCAL CHARTER SCHOOLS, WITH SEATS
(Estimated, 2019-20)⁵

BOROUGH	CSD	APPLICANTS	SEATS AVAILABLE	APPLICANTS PER SEAT
Brooklyn	13	4791	1504	3.2
	14	1204	1167	1.0
	15	2601	1043	2.5
	16	1475	1206	1.2
	17	1782	1260	1.4
	18	4308	736	5.9
	19	3060	1302	2.4
	21	525	360	1.5
	22	1425	911	1.6
	23	1146	1053	1.1
	32	1720	714	2.4
Manhattan	1	1101	518	2.1
	2	520	978	0.5
	3	4005	1163	3.4
	4	5245	1763	3.0
	5	5998	2587	2.3
	6	2069	1193	1.7
Queens	24	358	484	0.7
	27	2577	914	2.8
	29	1142	540	2.1
	30	4764	1021	4.7
Staten Island	31	1234	870	1.4
Bronx	7	6587	3724	1.8
	8	4647	1316	3.5
	9	4581	1062	4.3
	10	2534	1780	1.4
	11	4728	830	5.7
	12	2246	821	2.7

⁵ CSDs with fewer than three charter schools are excluded.

NOTES: ESTIMATION METHODOLOGY AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN APPLICATIONS

The Charter Center's annual estimates of total citywide charter school applicants have always carefully adjusted for applicants who apply to multiple charter schools. To develop the estimates reported above, we use 1) self-reported survey data on the day of lottery about individual charter schools' applications and available seats, by grade level; 2) self-reported survey data on the day of lottery about charter school networks' unique applicant counts across schools, where available; and 3) data about unique applicants across the Charter Center's Common Online Charter School Application. Our method also uses insights about single school vs. common application rates from spring 2012, when the Charter Center hosted an online application in both formats.

Taking into account geographic proximity to other charter schools accepting applications in the same grade levels, network affiliation and school age, we estimate a set of deflation factors that are specific to each charter school and each grade level where the school had available seats. For survey non-respondents, which represented just 10% of charter schools this year, we estimate applications received based on two regression models of the responding charter schools' key characteristics and applications received. We then use the grade-by-grade applications and deflation factors to calculate fractional estimates of citywide-unique applicants who applied to each school, which are then summed to create the total citywide estimate.

This year, our deflation methodology resulted in a system-wide estimate of each charter applicant applying to 3.64 schools (slightly up from 3.56 last year). Though some charter schools choose to not participate in the Common Online Charter School Application for a variety of reasons - including some schools having a unique student population requiring targeted recruitment efforts - the trend has been for an increasing number of schools to do so. Additionally, most networks use an internal online system for applying, which allows families to apply to all schools in a particular network. Further, the Common Online Charter School Application integrated some system enhancements that improved its usability for parents: a more robust mapping feature allowed parents to find the charter schools closest to their home address; and, the application allowed parents to create a single family profile to search for schools offering enrollment preferences to match their profile. Finally, the Department of Education's Kindergarten Resource page also provided a link to the Charter Center's Common Online Charter School Application, which increased parent accessibility to apply to charter schools.

For the fifth year, the Charter Center's common online application allowed parents to submit applications for pre-kindergarten seats in charter schools offering programs under Universal Pre-K. The data from the self-reported survey and Common Online Charter School Application shows that 3,460 applications were submitted from almost 1,300 unique applicants for approximately 500 Pre-K seats projected to be available for the 2019-20 school year. This sample of data suggests parent demand for high quality public school options is expanding into early childhood programs, and that the increasing demand is outpacing available Pre-K seats in charter schools.