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## City charter schools see 7 percent uptick in enrollment amid pandemic

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The city's public charter schools saw a 7 percent increase in enrollment during the 2020-21 school year amid the Covid-19 pandemic, as traditional city schools saw a drop.

**Key context:** Charter schools saw an increase of nearly 10,000 students, according to an analysis of state Education Department [school enrollment data by the New York City Charter School Center](#).

Enrollment during the 2020-21 school year was 138,613, compared with 128,951 in the 2019-20 school year.

At the same time, [the city's traditional public schools saw a decline of 4 percent, or 43,000 students](#). There are now about 960,000 students enrolled in traditional public schools.

**By the numbers:** Charter enrollment increased by 10 percent during the 2016-17 school year, with 103,908 students enrolled, and by 8 percent during the following school year, which saw an enrollment of 112,728 students. In the 2018-19 school year, enrollment rose by 5 percent, with 118,892 students enrolled in charter schools.

There was also an increase in enrollment across all subgroups in the 2020-21 school year, with the highest percentage increase among English language learner students, at 16 percent.

The percentage of growth among Black students, Hispanic students, Asian students and white students was 5 percent, 9 percent, 16 percent and 11 percent, respectively. Enrollment also increased by 6 percent for economically disadvantaged students and by 6 percent for students with disabilities.

**What's next:** Charters have taken different approaches to pandemic instruction — some networks have chosen the fully remote option while others have opted for a combination of in-person and remote learning.

Success Academy, the city's largest charter network, recently announced that [it will keep schools fully remote for the rest of the school year](#) and adopt a hybrid model — a combination of in-person learning and remote learning — in the fall.