

# Multilingual Learner and Immigrant Students in NYC Charter Schools

2024  
2025



## Charter Schools Are Public Schools

The public education system in New York City is vast; there are over one million students to educate! For this reason, the City has different kinds of public schools for families to choose from. Charter schools are a special type of public school. They are free and open to all New York City students, including multilingual learners and immigrants, and do not require any special entrance exams.

## Charter Schools Serve All Students

Charter schools do not select students based on academic background or tests. Charter schools welcome all students, including students with disabilities, multilingual learners, and immigrants. Families fill out a short application. There are currently 281 charter schools in NYC, educating an estimated 149,000 students in all grades and in all five boroughs.

See the other side of this flyer for more information to apply to charter schools.

## What Supports Do Multilingual Learners Receive?

Charter schools are required by law to communicate with their families in a language that the families understand. They are also required to provide multilingual learner students with research-based support that help them learn English and the same subjects as all other students in the school. Many charter schools aim to ensure that all students' needs are met by offering, smaller class sizes, co-teaching, more time for reading and math, a "full-inclusion" setting, and a longer school day and year.

## Charters Help Multilingual Learners Achieve

The multilingual learner students enrolled in NYC charter schools score proficient in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) at higher rates than citywide averages. For example, on the 2022-23 state assessments, English language learners at charter schools were 40% proficient in math, as opposed to 21.5% for students in district schools

Visit [CharterNYC.org](https://www.CharterNYC.org) to find information in your language about the charter schools in your community.



# Educate Yourself: Visit and Ask!

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1.

How do you make sure multilingual learner and immigrant families are safe and included at your school?

2.

What training do teachers have in working with multilingual learners?

3.

Which academic and social emotional supports are available specifically for multilingual learners and their families?

4.

How do you make sure that multilingual students learn English and the same content as all other students in their classes?

## How to Apply to NYC Charter Schools



There are three ways to apply to NYC charter schools.

Applications are accepted between October 1 and April 1 for the following school year.

1.

Use the Common Online Charter School Application, which is available in ten languages, to apply to multiple schools at once! [Apply](#) to NYC charter schools now.



2.

Visit a school's website directly to download its application or to apply online.

[Find charter schools](#) in your community.



3.

Stop by a school in person to pick up an application or call a school and ask them to mail you an application.

Many charter schools host Open House and school tour events for families to learn more.

[View this calendar](#)



When there are more student applications than available seats, charter schools are required to hold lotteries to randomly select students for admission. Students whose names are not selected will be added to the school's waiting list or may be admitted as seats become available in the future.

