

# 26 Years of NYC Charter Schools

2025  
2026

New York state's first charter school opened in Harlem in 1999, one year after the passage of the Charter Schools Act in 1998. Since then, New York City's public charter school sector has grown to encompass **285** schools across the **5** boroughs. Charter schools currently serve an estimated **150,500** students in NYC.

**15%**

of all NYC public school students  
attend a charter school

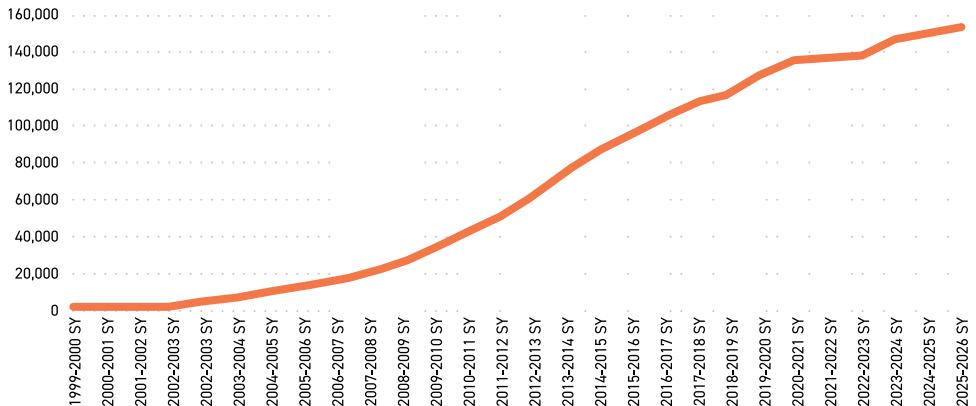
**430**

NYC charter school campuses  
currently in operation—growing from  
3 campuses in 1999

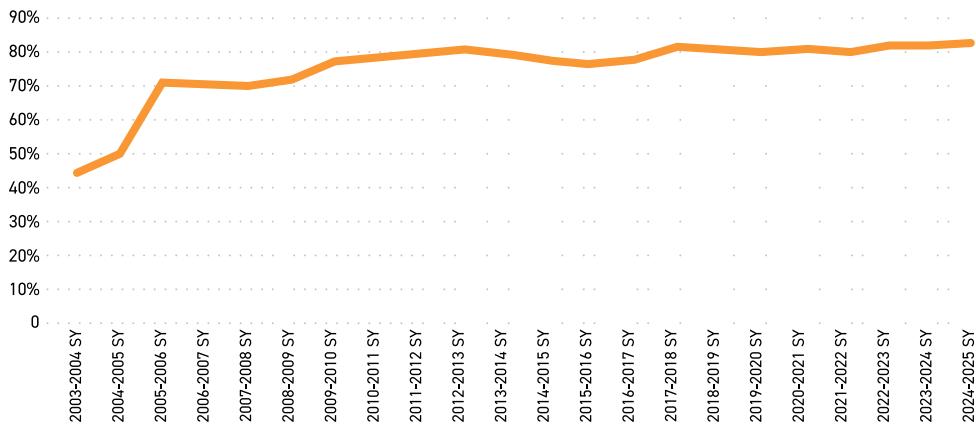
More than  
**42,000**

students have graduated  
from NYC charter schools  
in the past 15 years.\*

## NYC'S CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT HAS INCREASED EVERY YEAR SINCE THE FIRST SCHOOLS OPENED



## NEW YORK CITY CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE PREDOMINANTLY SERVED ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS\*



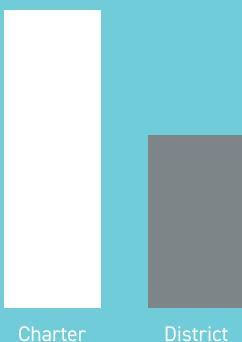
For the last 15 years, approximately **80%** of the students served in NYC charter schools are economically disadvantaged—higher than the citywide average of district schools (72%).

Source: NYC Public Schools Demographics Reports, NYC DOE provided data, and NYS preliminary data for SY 2024-2025

\* City data sources are unavailable for years prior to those charted

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Testing data over the past **10 years** show that charter school students of color have consistently achieved higher proficiency rates than their district counterparts.

See full State Test Score Analysis at  
[www.nyccharterschools.org](http://www.nyccharterschools.org)

## 18%

The percent of students with IEPs in charter schools has been comparable to the district for years

## 101

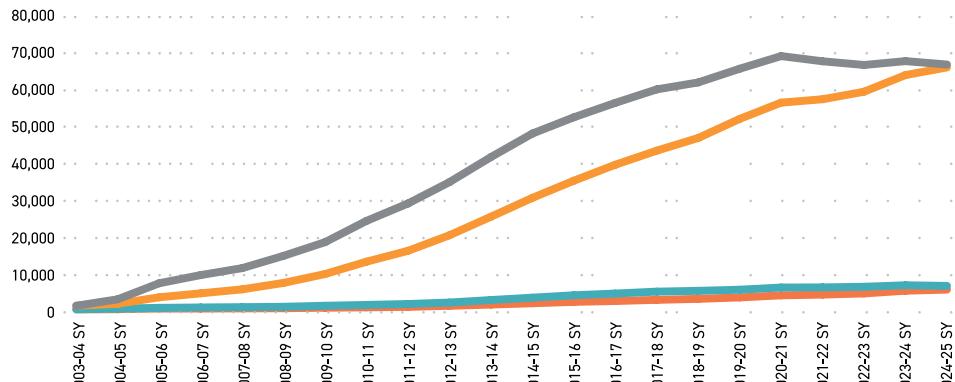
charter schools enroll a higher proportion of students with disabilities than the citywide average

ELL enrollment in NYC charter schools increased by

## 36%

from 2019 to 2025

THE NUMBER OF BLACK AND HISPANIC STUDENTS – AS WELL AS ALL OTHER SUBGROUPS – HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED IN NYC CHARTER SCHOOLS\* 



ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS IN CHARTER SCHOOLS CONTINUES TO GROW\*

