

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOULDN'T PAY RENT

Why Are Students Paying Rent?

District schools and nearly half of charter schools are co-located in NYC DOE-owned buildings. Under the Facilities Access Law passed in 2014, many NYC charter schools are able to receive rental assistance if they do not receive co-located space. Unfortunately, the law excluded privately located charters that had grown to capacity or established grades prior to the 2014-15 school year. These schools were essentially penalized for being long-standing members of the communities they serve.

There are currently more than 26,000 NYC charter students who don't have access to facilities funding. These students' per-pupil funding is being diverted from the classroom to pay for the buildings in which they are being educated. Students in these underfunded charter schools receive almost \$5,000 less per-pupil than district students.¹

Borough	# of Schools	# of Students NOT Receiving Rental Assistance
Bronx	25	8,533
Brooklyn	17	6,115
Manhattan	18	5,916
Queens	11	5,153
Staten Island	2	919
Total	73	26,636

Historically Underserved Students Most Impacted

NYC's Black and Latino students attending independent or small network community charter schools are suffering the brunt of the funding disparity. NYSED's preliminary enrollment data show that overall, nearly 90% of charter schools students are Black or Latino; 82% of NYC charter school students are economically disadvantaged.

Borough	Economically Disadvantaged		Black Students		Latino Students	
	charter	district	charter	district	charter	district
Bronx	88%	90%	37%	23%	58%	64%
Brooklyn	79%	77%	59%	26%	28%	31%
Manhattan	83%	66%	41%	16%	49%	47%
Queens	72%	75%	45%	14%	38%	43%
Staten Island	75%	65%	31%	11%	44%	30%

Source: NYSED Preliminary School Level Data by Grade, 2023-24

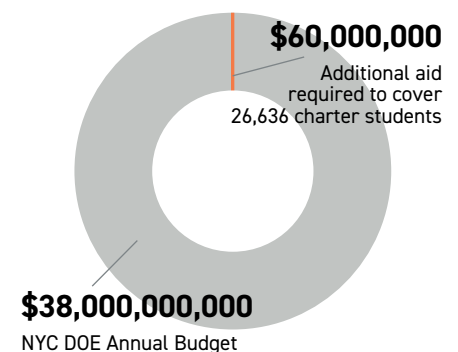
26,636*
NYC charter students pay rent

*Source: NYC DOE Demographic Snapshot, 2023-24 SY

How Much Would It Cost to Fix the Problem?

Charter schools are already the most under-funded public schools in NYC - the charter schools that don't receive rental assistance are left even *further behind*.

NYC spends almost \$38 billion on schools annually, along with a five-year capital budget of over \$19 billion to build, renovate and take care of school buildings. Providing facilities funding to 26,636 NYC public students would cost less than \$150 million – of which NYC is only responsible for 40%, or approximately \$60 million. This is less than a quarter of a percent of the total school budget – a drop in the bucket as we seek to achieve equity.



¹ The most recent analysis done by the Independent Budget Office of the City of New York (IBO), an arm of NYC's government, found that NYC charter schools were underfunded between more than a thousand dollars to up to \$4,863. See With State Formula for Charter School Funding Likely to Change, City Costs to Grow More Than Budgeted, March 2017, available at <http://www.ibo.nyc.ny.us/iboreports/with-state-formula-for-charter-school-funding-likely-to-change-city-costs-to-grow-more-than-budgeted-march-2017.pdf>.