

## Demographic characteristics of students attending District and Charter Schools, 2018-19

Adrienne Reitano, Senior Research Associate

This brief uses student enrollment data from October 2018 to provide information about students enrolled in District and Charter schools and the following demographic characteristics: race/ethnicity, gender, special education status, and, if applicable, type of disability. Students enrolled in alternative education programs and cyber charter schools are not included in the analyses. Students attending Renaissance Charter schools are included in the Charter category unless stated otherwise.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 1. Student enrollment by grade level for District and Charter schools, October 2018**

Grade	District		Charter	
	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students
Kindergarten	10,331	8.1%	4,828	7.3%
1	10,865	8.6%	5,191	7.8%
2	10,807	8.5%	5,313	8.0%
3	10,994	8.7%	5,047	7.6%
4	10,990	8.7%	5,008	7.6%
5	10,624	8.4%	5,551	8.4%
6	9,848	7.8%	5,872	8.9%
7	8,907	7.1%	5,763	8.7%
8	8,813	6.9%	5,586	8.4%
9	10,036	7.9%	4,755	7.2%
10	9,077	7.1%	4,708	7.1%
11	8,231	6.5%	4,295	6.5%
12	7,408	5.8%	4,236	6.4%
Total	126,994	100%	66,153	100%

Source: October 1 Enrollment file; this is the same enrollment data used for [SPR calculations](#).

As of October 1, 2018, there were 215 District schools serving 126,994 students and 87 Charter schools serving 66,153 students. School size varied for both District and Charter schools. Across District schools, school-wide enrollment ranged from 154 students to 3,467 students. Across Charter schools, school-wide enrollment ranged from 179 students to 2,455 students. Grade-level enrollment was similar for District and Charter schools, with between 6% and 9% of students enrolled in each grade from Kindergarten through twelfth grade. For both District and Charter

<sup>1</sup> Renaissance Charter schools are under Charter management but must adhere to District admissions and enrollment policies. For more information, see <https://www.philasd.org/charterschools/portal/renaissance/>

schools, a smaller percentage of students were enrolled in eleventh and twelfth grades, relative to other grades (Table 1).<sup>2</sup>

Compared to District schools, Charter schools served a smaller percentage of Asian students (8.9% and 3.4%, respectively). This is true for Hispanic/Latino students as well, as 21.7% of District students on October 1, 2018 were Hispanic/Latino compared to 17.7% of Charter students. In contrast, the percentage of African American/Black students in Charter schools was larger than the percentage in District schools, 60.2% compared to 48.5% (Table 2). The percentages of male and female students in District and Charter schools were similar, with a slightly larger percentage of male students in both District and Charter schools (Table 3).

**Table 2. Race/ethnicity of District and Charter students, October 2018**

Race/Ethnicity	District		Charter	
	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students
Black/African American	61,585	48.5%	39,832	60.2%
Hispanic/Latino	27,565	21.7%	11,700	17.7%
White	18,159	14.3%	8,802	13.3%
Asian	11,322	8.9%	2,260	3.4%
Multiracial/Other	8,008	6.3%	3,366	5.1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	255	<1%	150	<1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	100	<1%	43	<1%
Total	126,994	100%	66,153	100%

Source: October 1 Enrollment file; this is the same enrollment data used for [SPR calculations](#).

**Table 3. Gender of District and Charter students, October 2018**

Gender	District		Charter	
	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students
Male	65,423	51.5%	33,309	50.4%
Female	61,571	48.5%	32,844	49.6%
Total	126,994	100%	66,153	100%

Source: October 1 Enrollment file; this is the same enrollment data used for [SPR calculations](#).

The number and percentages of special education students (defined as students with Individualized Education Programs, or IEPs) were examined in three groups: District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter schools. Renaissance Charters had the highest percentage of students with IEPs (22.0%) and the percentage of Charter students in special education (17.3%) was 2.2 percentage points greater than the percentage of District students in special education (15.1%) (Table 4).

<sup>2</sup> Yearly enrollment information can be found at [www.philasd.org/schoolprofiles](http://www.philasd.org/schoolprofiles) and [www.philasd.org/opendata](http://www.philasd.org/opendata).

**Table 4. Special education status of District (N= 126,994), Charter (N=49,963) and Renaissance Charter students (N=16,190), October 2018**

Student has an IEP	District		Charter <sup>a</sup>		Renaissance Charter	
	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students
Yes	19,245	15.2%	8,663	17.3%	3,568	22.0%
No	107,749	84.8%	41,300	82.7%	12,622	78.0%

Source: October 1 Enrollment file; this is the same enrollment data used for [SPR calculations](#).

<sup>a</sup> Renaissance Charter students are not included in the Charter category in this table.

The percentage of special education District students with Autism as their primary disability (14.9% of all students with IEPs) was 7.2 percentage points greater than the percentage of special education Charter students (7.7%) and 5.8 percentage points greater than the percentage of special education Renaissance Charter students (8.7%). Similarly, a larger percentage of District students had Intellectual Disabilities compared to Charter and Renaissance Charter students (12.3% compared to 3.2% and 7.5%, respectively). In contrast, compared to both District and Renaissance Charter students, a larger percentage of Charter special education students had the primary disability codes of Specific Learning Disability and Speech or Language Impairment. (Table 5).

**Table 5: Type of disability of District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter special education students, October 2018**

Primary Disability	District		Charter <sup>a</sup>		Renaissance Charter	
	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students
Autism <sup>^</sup>	2,862	14.9%	665	7.7%	310	8.7%
Emotional Disturbance	1,726	9.0%	717	8.3%	404	11.3%
Hearing Impaired including Deafness <sup>^</sup>	201	1.0%	48	<1%	16	<1%
Intellectual Disability	2,368	12.3%	279	3.2%	268	7.5%
Multiple Disabilities	220	1.1%	23	<1%	24	1%
Other Health Impairment <sup>^</sup>	2,428	12.6%	1,428	16.5%	598	16.8%
Specific Learning Disability	7,733	40.2%	4,177	48.2%	1,587	44.5%
Speech or Language Impairment	1,550	8.1%	1,289	14.9%	343	9.6%
Visual Impairment including Blindness <sup>^</sup>	71	<1%	<10	<1%	>10	<1%
Other* <sup>^</sup>	86	<1%	30	<1%	16	<1%
<b>Total</b>	19,245	100%	8,663	100%	3,568	100%

Source: October 1 Enrollment file; this is the same enrollment data used for [SPR calculations](#).

\*Includes the following: Developmental Delay, Deaf-Blindness, Orthopedic Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury

<sup>^</sup>Low-incidence disabilities

<sup>a</sup> Renaissance Charter students are not included in the Charter category in this table.