Within-year Student Enrollment Trends, 2017-2018

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This brief presents a summary of within-year enrollment trends for 202,088 students whose first school of record in 2017-2018 was a District, Charter, or Renaissance Charter[1] school. A student's first school of record occurs when they enroll in a school for at least 10 days, whether it is at the beginning of the school year or anytime thereafter.

Research Questions

Three research questions were examined for students attending District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter schools:

1. What percentage of students stayed and left their initial school of record during the 2017-2018 school year? What percentage of students moved once? What percentage of students moved two or more times?
2. Are there differences in within-year student movement by grade?
3. What month during the year do students leave their initial school of record, and are there differences by school type?

Methods

To answer these research questions, students were grouped into three categories based on the type of school they were first enrolled in during the 2017-2018 school year. Students were included in the sample if they were enrolled in a school for at least 10 days, regardless of when the initial enrollment began.

The three categories that comprise the sample are: students who started in a District school, students who stared in a Charter school, and students who started in a Renaissance Charter school.[2] Students were then further categorized into four groupings for analyses:

- Students who finished the year at their initial school,
- Students who left the sample completely (i.e. exited their initial school and did not immediately enroll in a District, Charter or Renaissance Charter school for at least 10 days),[3]

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[1] 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/.

[2] Students enrolled in alternative schools were not included in the sample.

[3] This includes students with 18 possible exit codes, such as "moved out of District; no further information," "quit school, over age or illegally absent," "student committed to correctional institution," and "transferred to private/nonpublic school or out of PA/USA." Students who left the sample and then returned to a District, Charter, or Renaissance Charter later in the school year were not included in the sample.

- Students who moved once during the year to a District, Charter, or Renaissance Charter school, and
- Students who moved two or more times during the year and all of the schools were either a District, Charter, or Renaissance Charter school.

Findings

1. Within-year student enrollment trends were similar regardless of initial school of record; students stayed and left their initial school at similar rates

Across school types (District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter), there was little variation in the percentage of students that fell into each category. Approximately 90% of students in District schools, 94% of students in Charter schools, and 88% of students in Renaissance Charter schools did not change schools during the 2017-2018 school year. When students left their initial school during the 2017-18 school year, they also left at similar rates across the type of initial school of record: about 4% of students in District schools, 2% of students in Charter schools, and 5% of students in Renaissance Charter schools left the sample (District or Charter schools) entirely. The percent of students moving to one other school was 4% of District students, 2% of Charter students, and 3% of Renaissance Charter students. The percentage of students moving two or more times was consistently low (<1%) across school types as well (Table 1).

Table 1. Within-year student enrollment trends are similar regardless of initial school of record

| | Initial School of Record Type | | | | | |
| | District School (n=134,582) | | Charter School (n=48,648) | | Renaissance Charter (n=17,369) | |
	N	%	N	%	N	%
No moves, finished the year at same school^	120,300	89.4%	45,915	94.4%	15,309	88.1%
Left sample*	4,938	3.7%	959	2.0%	743	4.5%
One move to another sample school*	5,162	3.8%	929	1.9%	581	3.3%
Two or more moves all sample schools*	595	0.4%	60	0.1%	62	0.4%
All others#	3,587	2.7%	785	1.6%	674	3.9%

*The sample includes District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter schools.
^Includes students whose only exit code is "filled graduation requirements."
#All others includes: (1) students who left the sample and returned; and (2) students who have any of the following as their first exit code: "student enrolled but did not show status unknown," "residency status changed," "program change, same school," and "grade reassign, same school."

2. Within-year student enrollment trends varied by grade level across initial school types

For each of the three initial school types (District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter schools), we next examined within-year student enrollment trends. The grades with the highest and lowest percentage of students completing the year at the same school for those initially enrolled in a District school were twelfth (95%) and ninth (89%) (Table 2). For students initially enrolled in a Charter school, the grade with the lowest percentage of students finishing the year at the same school was also ninth (93%), and the grades with the highest percentage of students who did not move were Kindergarten, third, and fourth (98%) (Table 3). Third and fourth graders at Renaissance Charters also had the highest percentage of students completing the year at their initial school (96%), with eleventh graders showing the lowest percentage (81%) (Table 4).

Table 2. Enrollment trends by grade for students with **District** school as initial school type (n=130,995)

Grade	No moves, finished the year at same school		Left sample*		One move to another sample school*		Two or more moves all sample schools*	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kindergarten	10,418	91.5%	474	4.2%	455	4.0%	38	0.3%
1	10,594	91.3%	450	3.9%	506	4.4%	59	0.5%
2	10,671	91.7%	415	3.6%	505	4.3%	45	0.4%
3	10,658	92.1%	420	3.6%	446	3.9%	53	0.5%
4	10,683	92.2%	397	3.4%	474	4.1%	35	0.3%
5	10,123	93.2%	347	3.2%	373	3.4%	24	0.2%
6	8,790	92.1%	358	3.8%	356	3.7%	40	0.4%
7	8,493	92.7%	277	3.0%	354	3.9%	39	0.4%
8	8,136	92.7%	275	3.1%	313	3.6%	48	0.5%
9	8,797	89.1%	455	4.6%	526	5.3%	92	0.9%
10	8,466	89.7%	458	4.9%	447	4.7%	70	0.7%
11	7,308	91.6%	366	4.6%	269	3.4%	34	0.4%
12	7,163^	94.7%	246	3.3%	138	1.8%	18	0.2%

*The sample includes District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter schools.
^Includes students whose only exit code is "filled graduation requirements."

Table 3. Enrollment trends by grade for students with **Charter** school as initial school type (n=47,863)

Grade	No moves, finished the year at same school		Left sample*		One move to another sample school*		Two or more moves all sample schools*	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kindergarten	3,322	97.9%	45	1.3%	27	0.8%	0	0.0%
1	3,621	96.9%	78	2.1%	34	0.9%	2	0.1%
2	3,480	96.7%	71	2.0%	45	1.3%	3	0.1%
3	3,460	97.5%	51	1.4%	39	1.1%	0	0.0%
4	3,524	98.0%	49	1.4%	22	0.6%	1	0.0%
5	3,506	96.4%	75	2.1%	55	1.5%	2	0.1%
6	3,916	96.6%	66	1.6%	68	1.7%	2	0.0%
7	4,062	96.2%	76	1.8%	79	1.9%	6	0.1%
8	3,873	95.5%	108	2.7%	68	1.7%	5	0.1%
9	3,620	92.8%	83	2.1%	185	4.7%	14	0.4%
10	3,354	93.3%	86	2.4%	147	4.1%	8	0.2%
11	3,056^	94.6%	68	2.1%	98	3.0%	10	0.3%
12	3,121^	94.8%	103	3.1%	62	1.9%	7	0.2%

*The sample includes District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter schools.
^Includes students whose only exit code is "filled graduation requirements."

Table 4. Enrollment trends by grade for students with **Renaissance Charter** as initial school type (n=16,690)

	No moves, finished the year at same school		Left sample*		One move to another sample school*		Two or more moves all sample schools*	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Kindergarten	1,227	94.1%	40	3.1%	34	2.6%	3	0.2%
1	1,214	93.5%	33	2.5%	44	3.4%	7	0.5%
2	1,236	94.0%	32	2.4%	45	3.4%	2	0.2%
3	1,305	95.8%	32	2.3%	24	1.8%	1	0.1%
4	1,263	96.0%	20	1.5%	32	2.4%	1	0.1%
5	1,601	94.7%	37	2.2%	49	2.9%	4	0.2%
6	1,547	94.2%	57	3.5%	38	2.3%	1	0.1%
7	1,320	93.0%	60	4.2%	37	2.6%	3	0.2%
8	1,289	88.2%	137	9.4%	29	2.0%	7	0.5%
9	845	84.8%	55	5.5%	86	8.6%	10	1.0%
10	861	85.0%	76	7.5%	69	6.8%	7	0.7%
11	725^	81.2%	96	10.8%	61	6.8%	11	1.2%
12	876^	88.3%	78	7.9%	33	3.3%	5	0.5%

*The sample includes District, Charter, and Renaissance Charter schools.
^Includes students whose only exit code is "filled graduation requirements."

3. Monthly trends of student exit were similar across school types; for all school types the month with the highest percentage of students leaving was October

To examine the number and percentage of students exiting schools each month, exit codes were grouped by month and initial school of record. All exit codes were included in this analyses. Across all three school types, the data indicate that the highest percentage of students that exited their initial school of record did so in October. It is possible that this is the result of the administrative catch-up that takes place each year by October 1 so that administrative records accurately reflect the current year's enrollment. The next highest percentage left in January (15.7% of students who left after starting in a District school) and in November (15.4% of students who left after starting in a Charter school). For students starting the year in a Renaissance Charter, 13.7% of those who exited left in both November and January (Table 5).

Table 5. Monthly trends of student exit were similar across school types

| | Initial School of Record Type | | | | | |
| | District School | | Charter School | | Renaissance Charter | |
Month of Exit	Number of students who exited	Percent of students who exited	Number of students who exited	Percent of students who exited	Number of students who exited	Percent of students who exited
August	0	0.0%	23	0.9%	7	0.4%
September	1,064	7.6%	365	13.5%	256	13.8%
October	2,439	17.3%	419	15.5%	278	15.0%
November	1,885	13.4%	415	15.4%	253	13.7%
December	1,518	10.8%	290	10.7%	205	11.1%
January	2,202	15.7%	400	14.8%	253	13.7%
February	1,617	11.5%	237	8.8%	165	8.9%
March	1,454	10.3%	198	7.3%	190	10.3%
April	1,177	8.4%	217	8.0%	128	6.9%
May	707	5.0%	135	5.0%	114	6.2%
Total*	14,063	100%	2,699	100%	1,849	100%

*This table includes all students who exited during the school year, regardless of exit code. Therefore, the total number of students who exited for each initial school of record is slightly different than in Tables 1-4.

Yearly enrollment information can be found at www.philasd.org/schoolprofiles and www.philasd.org/opendata.