

Graduation Rates for First Time 9th Grade Students in 2014-15 and Matriculation Rates for 2018 Graduates

Ebru Erdem-Akca, Policy Research Analyst

This brief presents an analysis of four-year graduation rates of students who entered 9th grade for the first time in the 2014-15 school year and first fall matriculation rates of 2017-18 high school graduates in 2-year and 4-year post-secondary institutions.¹ The graduation analysis includes 15,938 students who were first time 9th graders in 2014-15 at a District or Charter² school.³ The matriculation analysis includes 10,620 students who graduated from a District or Charter school in 2017-18, regardless of whether they graduated in 4, 5, or 6 years.⁴ For both analyses, overall graduation and matriculation rates were also examined by race/ethnicity and gender.

Research Questions

Two sets of questions guided the analyses:

1. What percentage of the 2014-15 first-time 9th grade cohort of students graduated high school in four years? How did graduation rates differ between 2014-15 first-time 9th grade cohort students of different race/ethnicity-gender groups?
2. What percentage of students who graduated in the 2017-18 school year matriculated in a 2- or 4-year post-secondary institution in the fall semester following their high school graduation? How did matriculation rates of students who graduated in 2017-18 differ with respect to race/ethnicity-gender groups?

Methods

Graduation Analyses

To answer the first research question, a list of all students who were first time 9th graders in 2014-15 was identified. Last school of record and graduation status at the end of summer 2018 were noted for each student.⁵ The list of students was then divided into two groups based on whether the last school of record was a District or Charter school. Overall graduation rates include District Alternative Programs and Cyber Charter schools. Rates were also calculated for District,

¹ First fall matriculation means that students who graduated in the spring/summer (in this case, 2018) were enrolled in a 2- or 4-year postsecondary institution the next fall (in this case, 2018).

² Renaissance Charter schools are included with other Charter schools in all analyses. 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/>

³ See chart and table footnotes and Appendix A for the list of schools included and excluded in each analysis.

⁴ Cyber Charters were not included in matriculation analyses. See chart and table footnotes and Appendix A for the list of schools included and excluded in each analysis.

⁵ Students who graduated after completing credit recovery courses during the summer were included as graduates for these analyses.

Alternative, Charter, and Cyber Charter schools separately. Finally, graduation rate was calculated for the demographic cross-section of gender and race/ethnicity for both sectors separately.

Matriculation Analyses

To answer the second research question, a list of all students who graduated high school in 2017-18 (regardless of how many years they were in high school) was compiled. National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) data was used to identify students who matriculated in a 2 or 4-year post-secondary institution in the fall semester of 2018. The list of students was then divided into two groups based on whether the school of graduation was a District or Charter school. Matriculation rate was calculated for the demographic cross-section of race/ethnicity and gender, separately for the District and Charter sectors.

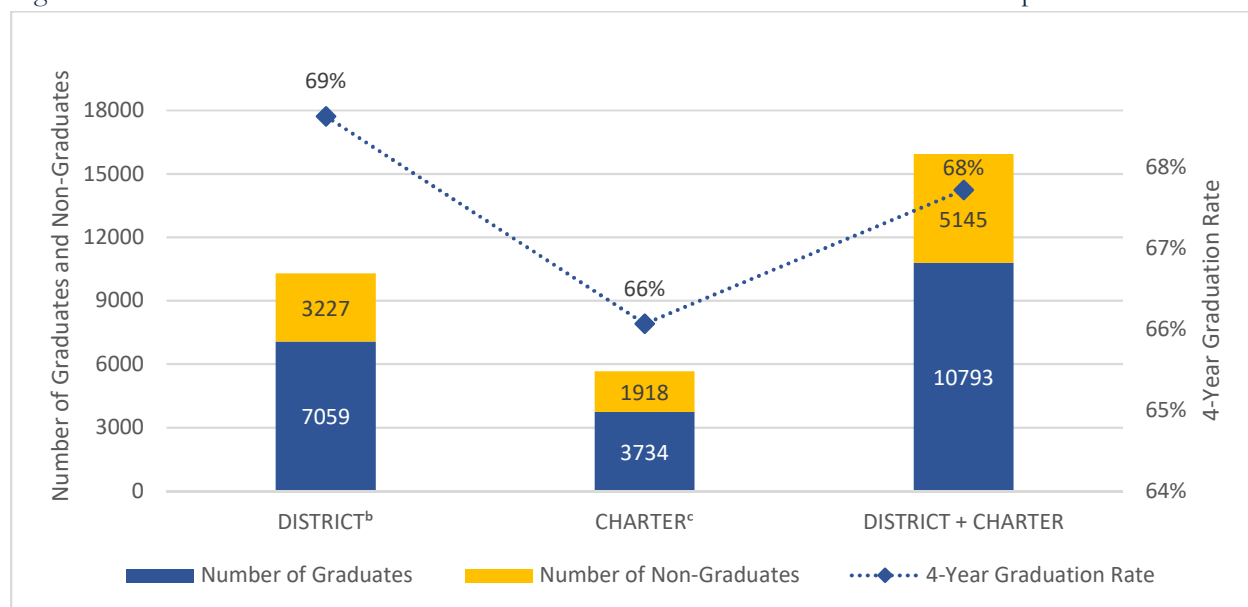
Findings

Graduation Rates for the 2014-15 First Time 9th Grade Cohort

Overall Graduation Rates

In 2018, students enrolled in District schools (including Alternative Programs) had a higher overall graduation rate (69%) compared to students enrolled in Charter schools (including Cyber Charters) (66%) (Figure 1). The Philadelphia city-wide graduation rate was 68%.

Figure 1. Overall 4-Year Graduation Rate for All District and Charter Schools in Philadelphia ^a



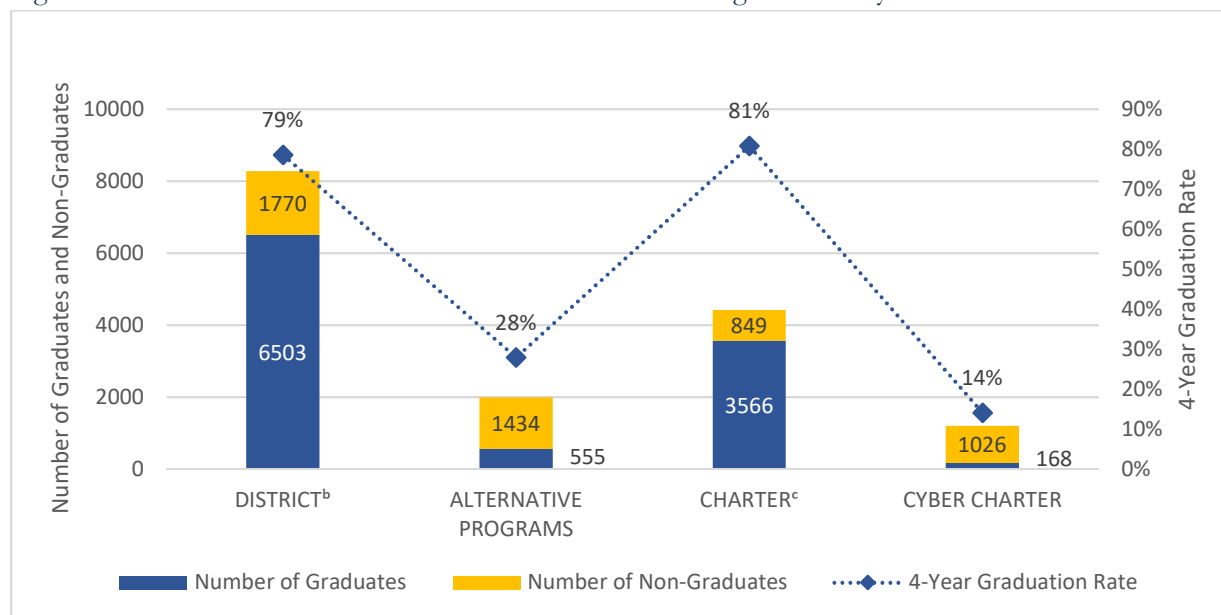
^a See Appendix A for a list of schools included in the analysis according to sector.

^b District schools in this chart include Alternative Programs, a Virtual School, a Special Education School and two merged schools (that were the last school of record). Included in the total number of graduates and non-graduates are 24 students who entered 9th grade in 2014-15 and whose last school of record was one of the merged schools (i.e. students graduated before or did not enroll again after schools merged).

^c Charter schools in this chart include Cyber Charters, closed Charter schools (that were the last school of record), Renaissance Charters, and an alternative Charter program. Included in the total number of graduates and non-graduates are 42 students who entered 9th grade in 2014-15 and whose last school of record was a closed charter school (i.e. students did not enroll again after school closed).

When Alternative Programs and Cyber Charters were removed from the District and Charter sector rates, Charter schools had a higher overall graduation rate in 2018 (81%) compared to students enrolled in District schools (79%). The graduation rate for Alternative Programs was 28% and Cyber Charters was 14% (Figure 2). The four-year graduation rate for Renaissance Charter schools was 68% (not shown in figures).

Figure 2. Four-Year Graduation Rates for SDP Alternative Programs and Cyber Charter Schools ^a



^a See Appendix A for a list of schools included in the analysis according to sector.

^b District schools in this chart include a Virtual School and a Special Education School but exclude Alternative Programs, which are reported in a separate column.

^c Charter schools in this chart include an alternative Charter program and Renaissance Charters but exclude Cyber Charters and closed Charter schools. Cyber Charter graduation rates are reported in a separate column.

Graduation Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

Looking at four-year graduation rates for race/ethnicity and gender combined, we found that female student graduation rates were consistently higher than male student graduation rates across sectors, with the gender gap being higher in District schools (76% of female students graduated compared to 61% of male students) than Charter schools (70% of female students graduated compared to 61% of male students). While male student graduation rates were similar across sectors (61%), female student graduation rates were lower in Charter schools (70%) than District schools (76%).

Among District students, Hispanic/Latino males had the lowest graduation rate (56%) across all race/ethnicity-gender categories, followed by Black/African American males (58%). Asian female District students had the highest graduation rate (92%) followed by Asian male students (85%), White female students (79%), and Black/African American female students (75%).

In Charter schools, Multiracial/Other students, both male and female, had the lowest graduation rates, at 24% and 32% respectively. Charter school student graduation rates were highest for Asian female students (79%), followed by Hispanic/Latina females and Asian males (both 76%). Full

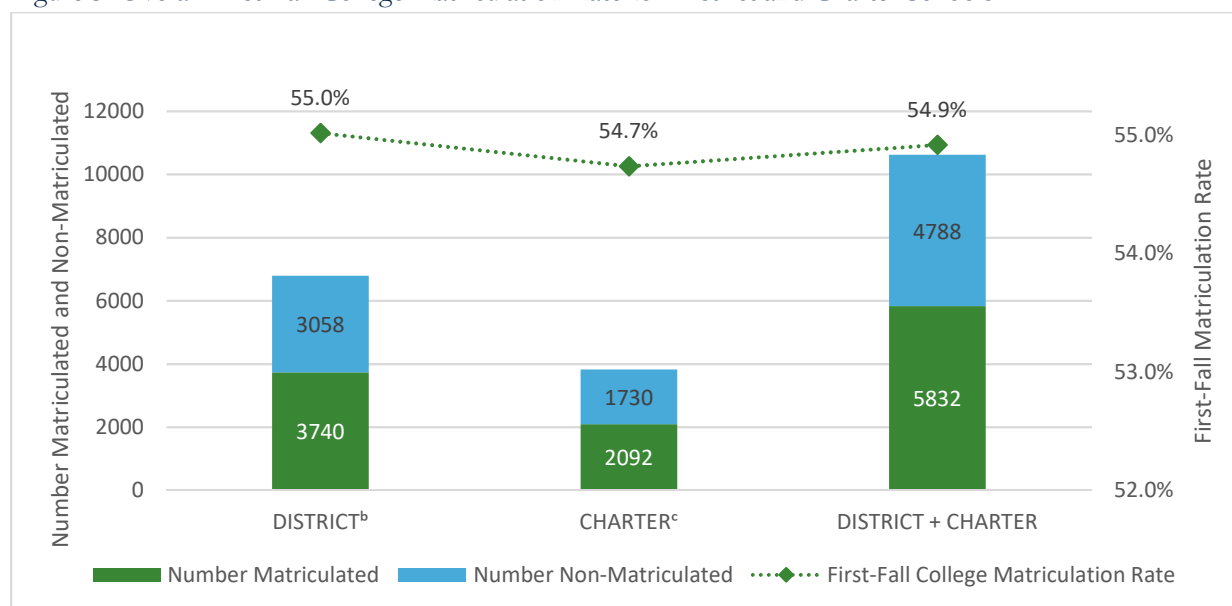
results for District schools (including Alternative Programs) and Charter schools (including Renaissance Charter schools and Cyber Charters) are presented in Table 1 on page 6.

Matriculation of 2018 Graduates

Overall Matriculation Rates

First-fall college matriculation rates in fall 2018 were comparable for District (excluding Alternative Programs) and Charter (including Renaissance Charters) school graduates (55% of graduates)⁶ (Figure 3). When matriculation rates for Alternative Programs and Renaissance Charter schools were analyzed separately, we found the overall first-fall college matriculation rate in fall 2018 to be 31% for Renaissance Charter school graduates and 14% for Alternative Program graduates.

Figure 3. Overall First-Fall College Matriculation Rate for District and Charter Schools ^a



^a See Appendix A for a list of schools included in the analysis according to sector.

^b District schools in this chart include a Virtual School and a Special Education School, but exclude Alternative Programs.

^c Charter schools in this chart include Renaissance Charters and an alternative Charter program, but exclude Cyber Charters and closed Charter Schools.

^d Total number of 2018 graduates is different than in Figures 1 and 2; this figure includes all 2018 graduates and is not limited to 4-year graduates.

Matriculation Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender

First-fall college matriculation rates for 2018 graduates were analyzed by race/ethnicity and gender. As was the case with graduation rate, college matriculation rate was consistently higher among female students across both sectors. The gender gap was similar across sectors: 14 percentage points for District schools and 13 percentage points for Charter schools.

⁶ The NSC data available for this analysis did not include information about Cyber Charter graduates. Therefore, they were not included in any of the matriculation rate analyses.

Across both District and Charter sectors, in fall 2018, Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American male students had the lowest matriculation rates, in that order. Female Hispanic/Latina students also had lower rates of matriculation compared to female students of other race/ethnicity groups (48% for District schools and 52% for Charter schools).

For District schools, Asian female students had the highest first-time fall matriculation rate (82%) while in Charter schools White female students had the highest rate at 80%. Full results are presented in Table 2 on page 7.

Table 1: Percentage of 2014-15 9th grade cohort students who graduated High School in 4 years in 2018, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender ^a

	DISTRICT						CHARTER					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	# of students	% of students ^b	# of students	% of students ^c	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students ^b	# of students	% of students ^c	# of students	% of students
Black/African American	1670	59%	2177	75%	3847	67%	889	61%	1088	74%	1977	67
White	418	66%	499	79%	917	73%	320	71%	351	72%	671	72%
Hispanic/Latino	558	56%	661	69%	1219	62%	381	68%	445	76%	826	72%
Asian	399	85%	437	92%	836	88%	54	76%	58	79%	112	78%
Multiracial/Other	109	64%	123	72%	232	68%	54	24%	79	32%	133	28%
Total Graduates	3155	61%	3904	76%	7059	69%	1705	61%	2029	70%	3734	66%
Total size of 9 th grade cohort	5129		5157		10286		2773		2879		5652	

^a American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander categories are not included because there were fewer than 15 students in these categories across both sectors.

^b This column answers the question: Of all the 2014-15 first time 9th grade cohort male students of the Race/Ethnicity in the row, what percentage graduated in four years (by 2018)?

^c This column answers the question: Of all the 2014-15 first time 9th grade cohort female students of the Race/Ethnicity in the row, what percentage graduated in four years (by 2018)?

Table 2: Percentage of 2017-2018 graduates who matriculated at a college in the fall, by Race/Ethnicity and Gender ^a

	DISTRICT						CHARTER					
	Male		Female		Total		Male		Female		Total	
	# of students	% of students ^b	# of students	% of students ^c	# of students	% of students	# of students	% of students ^b	# of students	% of students ^c	# of students	% of students
Black/African American	686	42%	1197	59%	1883	52%	471	47%	649	58%	1120	53%
White	232	54%	328	67%	560	61%	168	55%	275	80%	443	68%
Hispanic/Latino	190	35%	289	48%	479	42%	156	40%	229	52%	385	47%
Asian	306	73%	367	82%	673	78%	39	68%	39	66%	78	67%
Multiracial/Other	63	59%	79	75%	142	67%	20	57%	33	59%	53	58%
Total matriculations	1477	47%	2263	62%	3740	55%	860	48%	1232	61%	2092	55%
Total number of 17-18 Graduates	3122		3676		6798		1790		2032		3822	

^a American Indian/Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander categories are not included because there were fewer than 15 students in these categories across both sectors.

^b This column answers the question: Of all the 2017-18 male high school graduates of the Race/Ethnicity in the row, what percentage matriculated in college in Fall 2018?

^c This column answers the question: Of all the 2017-18 female high school graduates of the Race/Ethnicity in the row, what percentage matriculated in college in Fall 2018?

Appendix A: List of Schools by Sector and School Type (as of August 2018)

I. Graduation Analysis

District Schools

A. Philip Randolph Career and Technical High School
Abraham Lincoln High School
Academy at Palumbo
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin High School
Building 21
Central High School
Constitution High School
Frankford High School
Franklin Learning Center
Furness High School
George Washington High School
Girard Academic Music Program
High School for Creative and Performing Arts
High School of Engineering and Science
High School of the Future
Hill-Freedman World Academy
John Bartram High School
Jules E. Mastbaum Area Vocational Technical High School

Julia R. Masterman School
Kensington Health Sciences Academy
Kensington High School
Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts
Lankenau High School
Martin Luther King High School

Motivation High School
Murrell Dobbins Career and Technical High School
Northeast High School
Overbrook High School
Parkway Center City Middle College High School
Parkway Northwest High School
Parkway West High School
Paul Robeson High School for Human Services
Penn Treaty High School
Philadelphia High School for Girls
Philadelphia Military Academy
Philadelphia Virtual Academy
Roxborough High School
Samuel Fels High School
Science Leadership Academy
South Philadelphia High School
Strawberry Mansion High School
Swenson Arts and Technology High School
The LINC
The Science Leadership Academy at Beeber
The U School
The Workshop School
Thomas A. Edison High School
Walter B. Saul High School
West Philadelphia High School
Widener Memorial School
William L. Sayre High School
William W. Bodine High School

Charter Schools

Architecture and Design Charter School
Boys Latin of Philadelphia Charter School
Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School
Eastern University Academy Charter School
Esperanza Academy Charter School
First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School
Franklin Towne Charter High School
Freire Charter School
Imhotep Institute Charter High School
KIPP DuBois Charter School
KIPP Philadelphia Charter School
Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School
Maritime Academy Charter School (MACHS)
Mastery Charter School at Hardy Williams
Mastery Charter School at Lenfest
Mastery Charter School at Pickett
Mastery Charter School at Shoemaker
Mastery Charter School at Thomas Campus
Math, Civics and Sciences Charter School
Mathematics, Science, and Technology Community Charter School (MaST)
Multicultural Academy Charter School
New Foundations Charter School
Philadelphia Academy Charter School
Philadelphia Electrical and Technology Charter School
Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter S.
Preparatory Charter School of Mathematics, Science, Technology and Careers
Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School
Tacony Academy Charter School
TECH Freire Charter School
YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
Renaissance Charters
Aspira Charter School at Olney
Mastery Charter School at Gratz
Universal Charter School at Audenried

Closed Charters

World Communications Charter
Delaware Valley Charter

Cyber Charters

21st Century Cyber Charter School
Achievement House Charter School
ACT Academy Cyber Charter
Agora Cyber Charter School
Aspira Bilingual Cyber Charter School
Central PA Digital Learning
Commonwealth Connections Academy
Esperanza Cyber Charter School
Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School
Pennsylvania Distance Learning
Pennsylvania Leadership
Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School
Reach Cyber Charter School

Closed (Merged and Renamed) District Schools

Kensington International Business, Finance, and
Entrepreneurship HS
Kensington Urban Education Academy

District Alternative Programs

Ben Franklin High School EOP
Camelot Academy
Camelot Academy East
El Centro de Estudiantes (Big Picture)
Excel Academy North
Excel Academy South
Gateway to College - Community College of Philadelphia
Liguori Academy-Fortis
Northeast High School EOP
OIC CADI
Ombudsman Northwest
Ombudsman South
One Bright Ray - Elmwood Campus
One Bright Ray - Fairhill Campus
One Bright Ray – Mansion Campus
One Bright Ray - Simpson Campus
Pennypack House School
Phase 4 Learning Center Southwest
Phila. Juv. Justice Services Ctr. School
Philadelphia Learning Academy North
Philadelphia Learning Academy South
Philadelphia OIC Workforce Academy
PLA North - Hunting Park EOP
PLA South EOP
South Philadelphia High School EOP
VisionQuest
YES Philly

#N/A

II. Matriculation Analysis

District Schools

A. Philip Randolph Career and Technical High School
Abraham Lincoln High School
Academy at Palumbo
Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush
Benjamin Franklin High School
Building 21
Central High School
Constitution High School
Frankford High School
Franklin Learning Center
Furness High School
George Washington High School
Girard Academic Music Program
High School for Creative and Performing Arts
High School of Engineering and Science
High School of the Future
Hill-Freedman World Academy
John Bartram High School

Jules E. Mastbaum Area Vocational Technical High School
Julia R. Masterman School
Kensington Health Sciences Academy
Kensington High School
Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts
Lankenau High School

Martin Luther King High School
Motivation High School
Murrell Dobbins Career and Technical High School
Northeast High School
Overbrook High School
Parkway Center City Middle College High School
Parkway Northwest High School
Parkway West High School
Paul Robeson High School for Human Services
Penn Treaty High School
Philadelphia High School for Girls
Philadelphia Military Academy
Philadelphia Virtual Academy
Roxborough High School
Samuel Fels High School
Science Leadership Academy
South Philadelphia High School
Strawberry Mansion High School
Swenson Arts and Technology High School
The LINC
The Science Leadership Academy at Beeber
The U School
The Workshop School
Thomas A. Edison High School
Walter B. Saul High School
West Philadelphia High School
Widener Memorial School
William L. Sayre High School
William W. Bodine High School

Charter Schools

Architecture and Design Charter School
Boys Latin of Philadelphia Charter School
Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School
Eastern University Academy Charter School
Esperanza Academy Charter School
First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School
Franklin Towne Charter High School
Freire Charter School
Imhotep Institute Charter High School
KIPP DuBois Charter School
Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School
Maritime Academy Charter School (MACHS)
Mastery Charter School at Hardy Williams
Mastery Charter School at Lenfest
Mastery Charter School at Pickett
Mastery Charter School at Shoemaker
Mastery Charter School at Thomas Campus
Math, Civics and Sciences Charter School
Mathematics, Science, and Technology Community Charter School (MaST)
Multicultural Academy Charter School
New Foundations Charter School
Philadelphia Academy Charter School
Philadelphia Electrical and Technology Charter School
Philadelphia Performing Arts: A String Theory Charter School
Preparatory Charter School of Mathematics, Science, Technology and Careers
Sankofa Freedom Academy Charter School
Tacony Academy Charter School
YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School

Renaissance Charter Schools

Aspira Charter School at Olney
Mastery Charter School at Gratz
Universal Charter School at Audenried

District Alternative Programs

Ben Franklin High School EOP
Camelot Academy
Camelot Academy East
El Centro de Estudiantes (Big Picture)
Excel Academy North
Excel Academy South
Gateway to College - Community College of Philadelphia
Liguori Academy-Fortis
Northeast High School EOP
OIC CADI
Ombudsman Northwest
One Bright Ray - Elmwood Campus
One Bright Ray - Fairhill Campus
One Bright Ray - Simpson Campus
Pennypack House School
Phila. Juv. Justice Services Ctr. School
Philadelphia Learning Academy North
Philadelphia Learning Academy South
Philadelphia OIC Workforce Academy
PLA North - Hunting Park EOP
South Philadelphia High School EOP
YES Philly