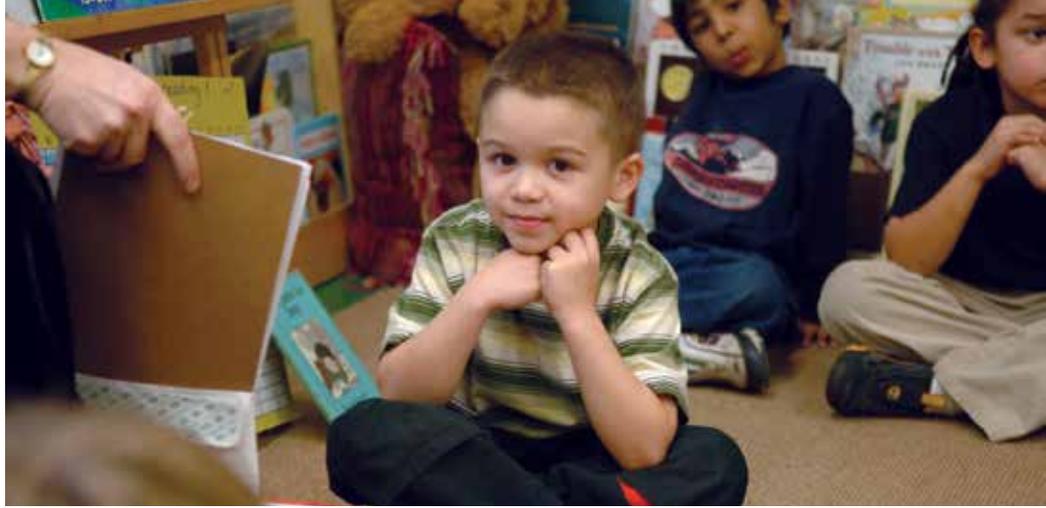




A GROWING MOVEMENT: AMERICA'S LARGEST CHARTER SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

**SEVENTH ANNUAL EDITION
NOVEMBER 2012**

GROWTH



For the past 20 years, the public charter school movement has been a leader in innovation and education reform. By unleashing an environment of creativity in states and communities, charter schools have demonstrated that children of all backgrounds are capable of achieving high standards and that college and career readiness is a goal attainable for all. Charter schools have led efforts to narrow achievement gaps and are showing that success is possible in neighborhoods where schools have been failing for generations.

For these reasons, public charter schools have been the fastest-growing sector of America's public education system. Beginning with a handful of charter schools in 1992, the number of charters has grown rapidly, especially in the past four years. Today, demand for public charter schools is at an all time high. In 41 states and the District of Columbia, more than 2 million students – almost 5 percent of total enrollment in public schools – now attend a charter school. The growth in public charter school enrollment presented in this report shows that parent demand for school options continues.

For seven years, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (NAPCS) has tracked the growth in student enrollment at public charter schools. This report identifies school districts that have the highest percentage and highest number of public school students enrolled in public charter schools. In communities where families have choice, families are increasingly selecting public charter schools

over the traditional public schools. The 2012 Phi Delta Kappa (PDK)/Gallup poll indicates that two thirds of Americans favor charter schools.¹ A recent poll of Detroit residents, for example, found that more than half of them believe charters are a better option than the schools in the traditional public system.² In countless other communities, parents are clamoring for more high quality public options for their children. As a result, the public education landscape is shifting in many major cities.

Today, a record number of school districts—seven—have at least 30 percent of their public school students enrolled in public charter schools. Charter schools in New Orleans enroll an astounding 76 percent of public school students. A total of 25 school districts have 20 percent or more of their public school students enrolled in charter schools, 18 more than when we first printed this report seven years ago. More than 100 districts now have at least 10 percent of public school students in charter schools.

These numbers illustrate that demand for options within the public school system remains strong. And with more than 610,000 additional students across the country on waiting lists to attend charter schools, these numbers are likely to rise in the future.

NAPCS gathered public school enrollment data to find districts where the highest local proportions of students are enrolled in public charter schools. The market share table below shows the results for the 2011-2012 school year.

DISTRICTS SERVING THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS

Rank	School District	State	Charter Market Share	Charter Enroll	Non-Charter Enroll	Total District Enroll	Rank and Market Share in 2011
1.	New Orleans Public School System	LA	76%	32,597	10,098	42,695	#1 and 70%
2.	Detroit Public Schools	MI	41%	47,086	66,626	113,712	#3 and 37%
	District of Columbia Public Schools	DC	41%	31,562	45,191	76,753	#2 and 39%
3.	Kansas City, Missouri School District	MO	37%	9,954	16,610	26,564	#4 and 35%
4.	Flint City School District	MI	33%	4,706	9,606	14,312	#5 and 32%
5.	Gary Community School Corporation	IN	31%	4,549	10,221	14,770	#6 and 30%
	St. Louis Public Schools	MO	31%	11,155	24,665	35,820	#7 and 29%
6.	Cleveland Metropolitan School District	OH	28%	15,886	41,528	57,413	#10 and 23%
7.	Albany City School District	NY	26%	2,838	7,972	10,810	#10 and 23%
	Dayton Public Schools	OH	26%	5,900	16,422	22,321	#8 and 27%
	San Antonio Independent School District	TX	26%	15,114	44,129	59,243	Not in Top 10 and 21%
8.	Indianapolis Public Schools	IN	25%	10,690	31,998	42,688	Not in Top 10 and 22%
	Roosevelt School District 66	AZ	25%	3,590	10,558	14,148	Not in Top 10 and 19%
	Toledo Public Schools	OH	25%	8,209	24,799	33,008	#10 and 23%
	Youngstown City Schools	OH	25%	2,528	7,655	10,183	#9 and 24%
9.	Adams County School District 50	CO	23%	2,971	9,709	12,680	Not in Top 10 and 22%
	Grand Rapids Public Schools	MI	23%	4,967	17,091	22,058	Not in Top 10 and 20%
	The School District of Philadelphia	PA	23%	46,801	154,262	201,063	Not in Top 10 and 20%
10.	Milwaukee Public Schools	WI	22%	18,565	67,429	85,994	Not in Top 10 and 19%
	Phoenix Union High School District	AZ	22%	7,472	25,906	33,378	Not in Top 10 and 19%

DISTRICTS SERVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS

NAPCS also identified districts where the highest number of students are enrolled in public charter schools. The table below shows the results for the 2011-2012 school year.

Rank	School District	State	Charter Enroll	Non-Charter Enroll	Total District Enroll	Charter Market Share	Rank and Charter Enrollment in 2011
1.	Los Angeles Unified School District	CA	98,576	562,725	661,301	15%	#1 and 79,385
2.	New York City Department of Education	NY	48,057	970,760	1,018,817	5%	#4 and 38,743
3.	Detroit Public Schools	MI	47,086	66,626	113,712	41%	#2 and 45,073
4.	The School District of Philadelphia	PA	46,801	154,262	201,063	23%	#3 and 40,322
5.	Chicago Public Schools	IL	44,870	358,515	403,385	11%	#5 and 37,909
6.	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL	41,767	308,460	350,227	12%	#7 and 35,380
7.	Houston Independent School District	TX	40,549	188,025	228,574	18%	#6 and 37,499
8.	New Orleans Public School System	LA	32,597	10,098	42,695	76%	#9 and 27,728
9.	District of Columbia Public Schools	DC	31,562	45,191	76,753	41%	#8 and 29,366
10.	Broward County Public Schools	FL	30,438	228,695	259,133	12%	#10 and 24,150

DISTRICTS WITH THE HIGHEST GROWTH OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS

This report also includes a list of districts with the largest growth in the number of public charter students enrolled (this list was selected from the 50 districts with the most public charter school students enrolled; see the districts in Appendix B).

Rank	School District	State	Charter Market Share	2010-2011 Charter Enroll	2011-2012 Charter Enroll	Increase in Charter Enroll	% Growth in Charter Enroll
1.	Clark County School District	NV	2%	4,433	7,271	2,838	64%
2.	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL	5%	6,207	9,452	3,245	52%
3.	Dallas Independent School District	TX	12%	15,522	20,709	5,187	33%
	Phoenix Union High School District	AZ	22%	5,622	7,472	1,850	33%
4.	Gilbert Public Schools	AZ	13%	4,382	5,718	1,336	30%
5.	Atlanta Public Schools	GA	10%	4,088	5,260	1,172	29%
6.	Broward County Public Schools	FL	12%	24,150	30,438	6,288	26%
7.	Los Angeles Unified School District	CA	15%	79,385	98,576	19,191	24%
	New York City Department of Education	NY	5%	38,743	48,057	9,314	24%
8.	Boston Public Schools	MA	10%	5,202	6,423	1,221	23%
9.	Memphis City School	TN	6%	5,405	6,549	1,144	21%
10.	Minneapolis Public Schools	MN	21%	7,761	9,339	1,578	20%



A CLOSER LOOK

New Orleans Remains Number One in Market Share:

An astounding 76 percent of public school students in New Orleans attended public charter schools in the 2011-2012 school year. Not only are charters in New Orleans serving a higher percentage of public school students than anywhere else in the nation, they are also the highest performing sector of public schools in the city.³ One impressive detail about the performance of New Orleans charter schools is that they are approaching Louisiana state average achievement, an accomplishment rarely achieved by urban public schools.

District of Columbia and Detroit Tied for Second in Market Share:

For the past four years, charter schools in the District of Columbia held the second spot for largest charter school market share nationwide. In the 2011-2012 school year, D.C. shared that spot with Detroit Public Schools. Both school districts had a market share percentage of 41 percent, up from 39 percent for D.C. and up from 37 percent for Detroit in 2010-2011.

Eight New School Districts Join the Ranks of Top Market Share:

Eight school districts that were not on the list for top market share percentage in the last report made it onto the list for 2011-2012. The districts include: San Antonio, Indianapolis, Roosevelt, Ariz., Adams County, Colo., Grand Rapids, Mich., Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and Phoenix Union High, Ariz. With the addition of these school districts, the leaders in market share list now includes 20 school districts (because of ties in percentages), up from 12 in 2010-2011.

Seven School Districts Reach at Least 30 Percent Market Share:

This year, St. Louis (31 percent) joins New Orleans (76 percent), Detroit (41 percent), District of Columbia (41 percent), Kansas City, Mo. (37 percent), Flint, Mich., (33 percent) and Gary, Ind. (31 percent) with at least 30 percent of public school students enrolled in public charter schools.

Twenty Five School Districts Are at 20 Percent or More:

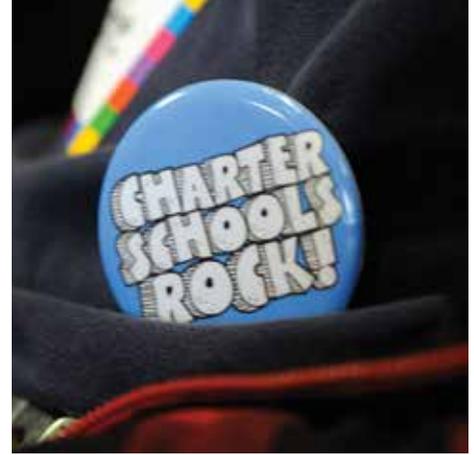
When NAPCS first compiled this report in 2005, a market share of 20 percent would land a community in the fourth highest position. The number of communities with at least a 20 percent market share has steadily climbed from six in 2005-2006 to eight in 2006-2007, 12 in 2007-2008, 14 in 2008-2009, 16 in 2009-2010, 18 in 2010-2011, and now 25 in 2011-2012. There are now 110 school districts with at least a 10 percent market share (see Appendix A).

Los Angeles Again Tops the List in Number of Public Charter School Students:

Nearly 100,000 students attended public charter schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District during the 2011-2012 school year, the highest number for any school district in the country. The number of students enrolled in public charter schools in Los Angeles, alone, would place the Los Angeles charter schools in the top 30 of the 100 largest school districts in the United States.⁴ Public charter schools in Los Angeles enrolled 19,191 more students in 2011-2012 than in 2010-2011, a growth rate of 24 percent.

Ten School Districts with Largest Number of Students Enroll Significant Percentage of Charter School Sector.

The 10 districts with the largest number of students in public charter schools represent 22.9 percent of the total public charter school population nationwide—a total of 458,215 students out of roughly 2 million. Between the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years, the top ten districts increased public charter school enrollment by over 62,000 students, a growth rate of 16 percent.



Strong Charter School Growth in Districts with Large Numbers of Public Charter School Students:

Among the 50 districts with the largest charter school student enrollments, 29 districts had growth in the number of students enrolled in public charters by 10 percent or more between the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. The Clark County School district experienced the largest growth (64 percent) in the number of charter school students enrolled, primarily due to four new charter schools opening there in the 2011-2012 school year.

Three School Districts Repeat Top Growth Two Years in a Row.

Three school districts made the list for highest percentage growth in public charter school students for two consecutive years: Los Angeles, Memphis, and New York City. Enrollment in public charter schools in these three school districts grew by 52,502 students between 2009-2010 and 2011-2012, a two year growth rate of 52 percent.

High Charter School Market Share More Prevalent in the Midwest and Northeast; Significant Growth in the South and West.

The map on the following spread presents data from the three lists of school districts with the highest charter school market share, enrollment, and growth.

The geographic display of the data shows that school districts with high concentrations of students enrolled in charter schools are more likely to be located in the Midwest and Northeast regions of the country.

In contrast, a large portion of the districts with high growth in the number of charter school students are located in the South and West regions. School districts with large numbers of students enrolled in charter schools are spread out across the nation.

CHARTER SCHOOLS: ENROLLMENT, MARKET SHARE, AND GROWTH

ADAMS COUNTY 50, CO
23% (#9, tied) | 2,971 | 7%

MINNEAPOLIS, MN
21% | 9,339 | 20% (#10)

CHICAGO, IL
11% | 44,870 (#5) | 8%

CLARK COUNTY, NV
2% | 7,271 | 64% (#1)

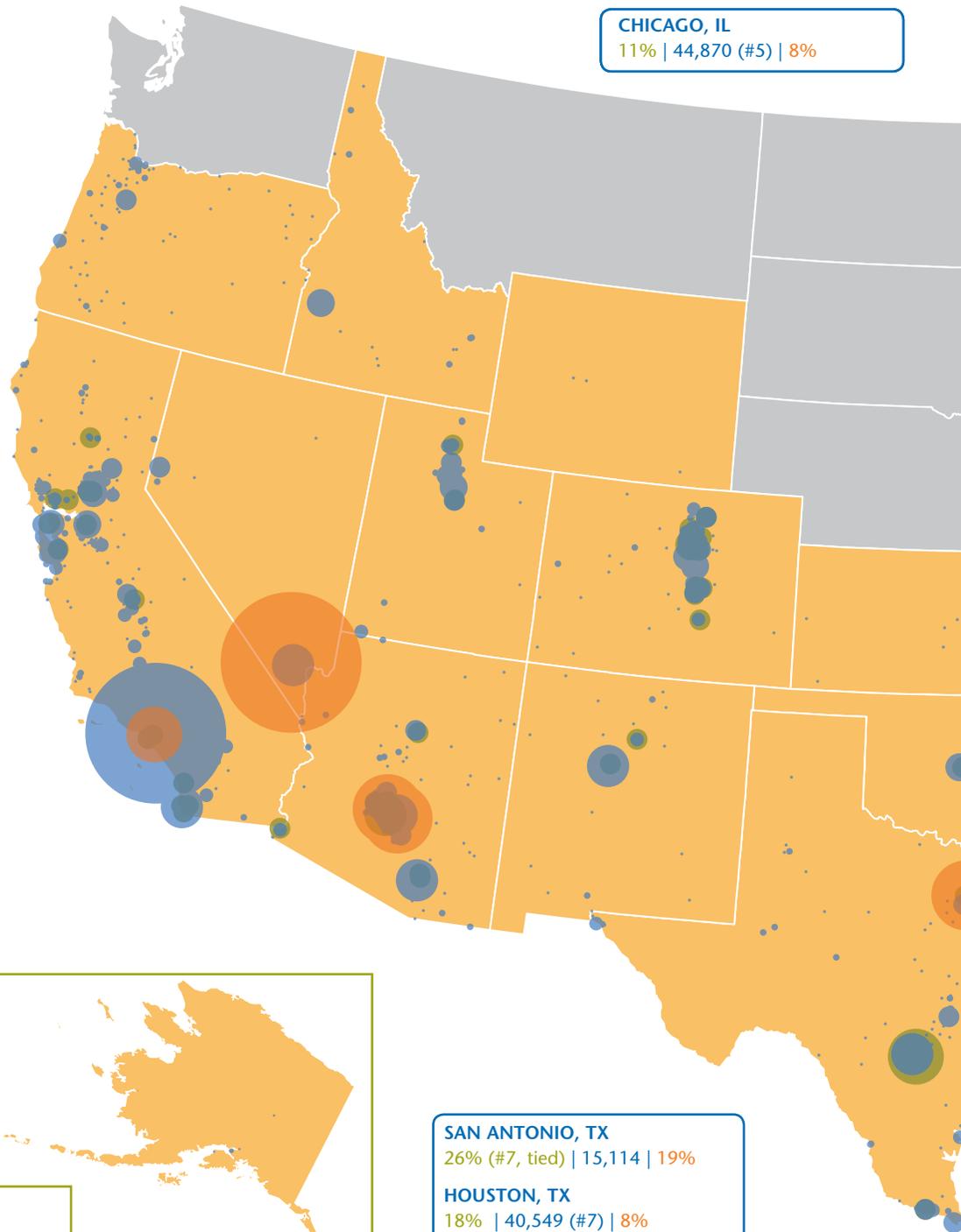
LOS ANGELES, CA
15% | 98,576 (#1) | 24% (#7, tied)

ROOSEVELT 66, AZ
25% (#8, tied) | 3,590 | 50%¹

GILBERT, AZ
13% | 5,718 | 30% (#4)

PHOENIX UNION HIGH, AZ
22% (#10, tied) | 7,472 | 33% (#3, tied)

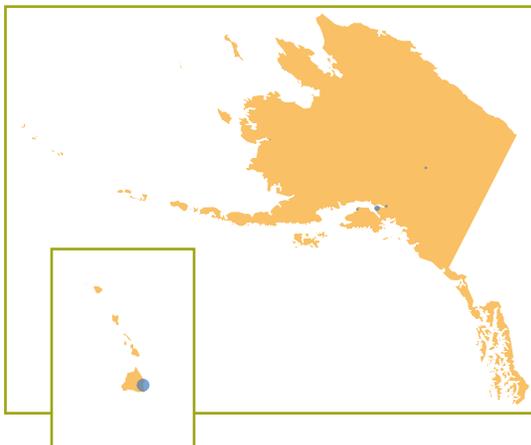
¹Roosevelt 66 was not eligible for the list of top growth because the school district did not make the top 50 school districts for charter school enrollment (see Appendix B).



SAN ANTONIO, TX
26% (#7, tied) | 15,114 | 19%

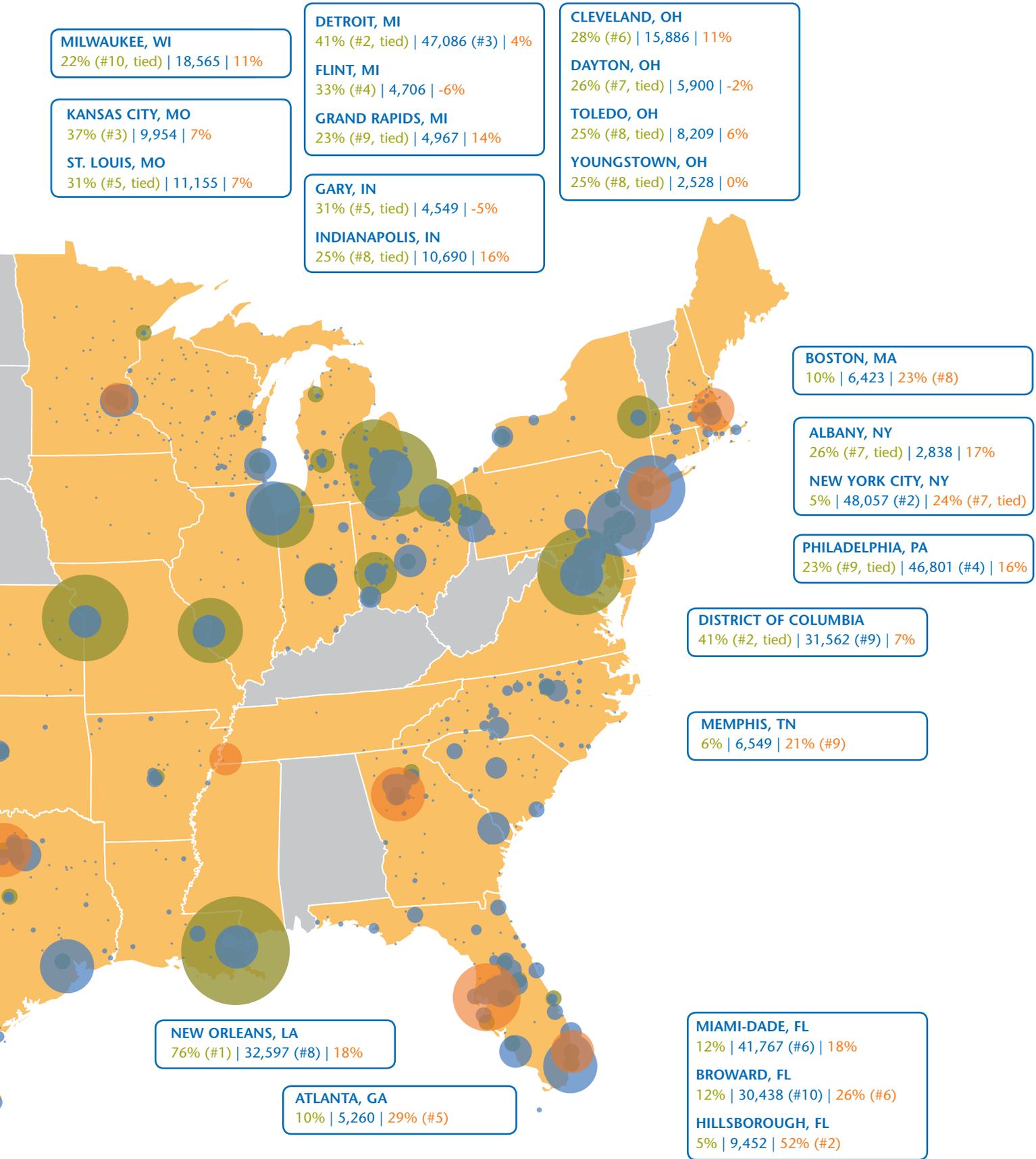
HOUSTON, TX
18% | 40,549 (#7) | 8%

DALLAS, TX
12% | 20,709 | 33% (#3, tied)



KEY

- Market Share
- Enrollment
- Growth (#) Rank
- No charter school laws in 2011–2012



SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH AT LEAST 10 PERCENT MARKET SHARE, 2011-2012

Rank	School District	State	Charter Market Share	Charter Enrollment	Non-Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment
1.	New Orleans Public School System	LA	76%	32,597	10,098	42,695
2.	Detroit Public Schools	MI	41%	47,086	66,626	113,712
	District of Columbia Public Schools	DC	41%	31,562	45,191	76,753
3.	Kansas City, Missouri School District	MO	37%	9,954	16,610	26,564
4.	Flint City School District	MI	33%	4,706	9,606	14,312
5.	Gary Community School Corporation	IN	31%	4,549	10,221	14,770
	St. Louis Public Schools	MO	31%	11,155	24,665	35,820
6.	Cleveland Metropolitan School District	OH	28%	15,886	41,528	57,413
7.	Albany City School District	NY	26%	2,838	7,972	10,810
	Dayton Public Schools	OH	26%	5,900	16,422	22,321
	San Antonio Independent School District	TX	26%	15,114	44,129	59,243
8.	Indianapolis Public Schools	IN	25%	10,690	31,998	42,688
	Roosevelt School District 66	AZ	25%	3,590	10,558	14,148
	Toledo Public Schools	OH	25%	8,209	24,799	33,008
	Youngstown City Schools	OH	25%	2,528	7,655	10,183
9.	Adams County School District 50	CO	23%	2,971	9,709	12,680
	Grand Rapids Public Schools	MI	23%	4,967	17,091	22,058
	The School District of Philadelphia	PA	23%	46,801	154,262	201,063
10.	Milwaukee Public Schools	WI	22%	18,565	67,429	85,994
	Phoenix Union High School District	AZ	22%	7,472	25,906	33,378
11.	Columbus City School District	OH	21%	14,022	51,953	65,975
	Flagstaff Unified School District	AZ	21%	2,560	9,494	12,054
	Grossmont Union High School District	CA	21%	4,884	18,686	23,570
	Minneapolis Public Schools	MN	21%	9,339	34,436	43,775
12.	Brighton 27J School District	CO	20%	3,200	12,449	15,649
13.	Falcon School District 49	CO	19%	2,832	12,231	15,063
	Harrison School District Two	CO	19%	2,162	9,370	11,532
	Saint Paul Public Schools	MN	19%	8,776	37,864	46,640
14.	Camden City Public Schools	NJ	18%	2,905	13,620	16,525
	Chula Vista Elementary School District	CA	18%	4,975	23,118	28,093
	Cincinnati City	OH	18%	7,357	34,612	41,969
	Houston Independent School District	TX	18%	40,549	188,025	228,574
	Mesa Public Schools	AZ	18%	14,192	65,662	79,854
	Oakland Unified School District	CA	18%	8,525	37,752	46,277
15.	Tucson Unified School District	AZ	18%	11,182	52,191	63,373
	Newark Public Schools	NJ	17%	7,310	35,415	42,725
16.	Buffalo City Schools	NY	16%	5,852	30,831	36,683
	Greeley 6	CO	16%	3,267	16,573	19,840
	Inglewood Unified School District	CA	16%	2,396	12,505	14,901
	Yuma School District One	AZ	16%	1,767	9,133	10,900
17.	Academy School District 20	CO	15%	3,498	20,159	23,657
	Baltimore City Public Schools	MD	15%	12,326	71,886	84,212
	Duncanville ISD	TX	15%	2,321	13,079	15,400
	East Central Independent School District	TX	15%	1,708	9,462	11,170
	Franklin-Mckinley Elementary	CA	15%	1,592	9,028	10,620
	Glendale Union High School District	AZ	15%	2,713	15,033	17,746
	Los Angeles Unified School District	CA	15%	98,576	562,725	661,301
18.	Amphitheater Public Schools	AZ	14%	2,418	14,417	16,835
	Appleton Area School District	WI	14%	2,049	13,070	15,119
	Brandywine School District	DE	14%	1,696	10,801	12,497
	Cartwright Elementary School District	AZ	14%	2,907	18,388	21,295
	Dysart Unified School District	AZ	14%	4,232	25,259	29,491
	Lee County Public Schools	FL	14%	11,413	72,483	83,896
	Napa Valley Unified School District	CA	14%	2,452	15,604	18,056
	Ogden School District	UT	14%	1,977	12,652	14,629
	West Chester Area School District	PA	14%	1,847	11,827	13,674

Rank	School District	State	Charter Market Share	Charter Enrollment	Non-Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment
19.	Alameda Unified School District	CA	13%	1,419	9,217	10,636
	Colorado Springs School District 11	CO	13%	3,914	27,286	31,200
	Deer Valley Unified District	AZ	13%	5,301	35,009	40,310
	Duluth Public Schools	MN	13%	1,372	9,143	10,515
	Gilbert Public Schools	AZ	13%	5,718	37,240	42,958
	Lansing School District	MI	13%	1,850	12,755	14,605
	Little Rock School District	AR	13%	3,518	23,405	26,923
	Red Clay Consolidated School District	DE	13%	2,488	16,103	18,591
	Robbinsdale Area Schools	MN	13%	1,836	12,062	13,898
	Twin Rivers Unified School District	CA	13%	3,997	27,587	31,584
Vista Unified School District	CA	13%	3,298	22,398	25,696	
20.	Akron City	OH	12%	3,320	24,179	27,499
	Alhambra Elementary School District	AZ	12%	2,023	14,245	16,268
	Bethlehem Area School District	PA	12%	1,894	14,427	16,321
	Broward County Public Schools	FL	12%	29,817	229,316	259,133
	Colonial School District	DE	12%	1,375	9,855	11,230
	Dallas Independent School District	TX	12%	20,709	156,965	177,674
	Denver Public Schools	CO	12%	9,945	70,945	80,890
	Kyrene Elementary School District No. 28	AZ	12%	2,574	18,025	20,599
	Lake County Schools	FL	12%	4,960	36,355	41,315
	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL	12%	41,767	308,460	350,227
	Natomas Unified School District	CA	12%	1,489	10,833	12,322
	Oshkosh Area School District	WI	12%	1,244	8,820	10,064
	Polk County Public Schools	FL	12%	11,059	84,975	96,034
	Santa Fe Public Schools	NM	12%	1,675	12,722	14,397
Sarasota County Schools	FL	12%	4,789	36,287	41,076	
Stockton Unified School District	CA	12%	4,630	34,815	39,445	
Traverse City Area Public Schools	MI	12%	1,332	9,770	11,102	
21.	Aurora Public Schools	CO	11%	4,379	36,046	40,425
	Chicago Public Schools	IL	11%	44,870	358,515	403,385
	Coppell Independent School District	TX	11%	1,346	10,676	12,022
	Fulton County Schools	GA	11%	9,986	82,776	92,762
	Jersey City Public Schools	NJ	11%	3,498	27,394	30,892
	Nebo School District	UT	11%	3,718	29,724	33,442
	Oklahoma City Public Schools	OK	11%	4,900	39,062	43,962
	Sanger Unified School District	CA	11%	1,170	9,702	10,872
	School District Of Indian River County	FL	11%	1,998	15,964	17,962
St. Vrain Valley School District	CO	11%	2,973	25,136	28,109	
22.	Albuquerque Public Schools	NM	10%	9,589	89,618	99,207
	Atlanta Public Schools	GA	10%	5,260	45,818	51,078
	Boston Public Schools	MA	10%	6,423	55,027	61,450
	Chico Unified School District	CA	10%	1,365	12,276	13,641
	Christina School District	DE	10%	1,908	16,848	18,756
	Durham Public Schools	NC	10%	3,450	32,654	36,104
	Hall County Schools	GA	10%	2,589	23,672	26,261
	Litchfield Elementary School District #79	AZ	10%	1,203	10,508	11,711
	Paradise Valley Unified District	AZ	10%	3,620	33,478	37,098
	Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District	TX	10%	3,382	31,635	35,017
	Port Huron Area School District	MI	10%	1,035	9,757	10,792
	Pueblo City Schools	CO	10%	1,877	16,155	18,032
	San Diego Unified School District	CA	10%	13,215	117,504	130,719
	School District Of Osceola County	FL	10%	5,685	49,091	54,776
Vacaville Unified School District	CA	10%	1,210	11,345	12,555	
Waco Independent School District	TX	10%	1,694	15,329	17,023	



Additional district and school-level data can be found on the **Public Charter School Dashboard**: <http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/home>.

APPENDIX B

TOP 50 SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS, 2011-2012

Rank	School District	State	Charter Enrollment	Non-Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment	Charter Market Share
1.	Los Angeles Unified School District	CA	98,576	562,725	661,301	15%
2.	New York City Department of Education	NY	48,057	970,760	1,018,817	5%
3.	Detroit Public Schools	MI	47,086	66,626	113,712	41%
4.	The School District of Philadelphia	PA	46,801	154,262	201,063	23%
5.	Chicago Public Schools	IL	44,870	358,515	403,385	11%
6.	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL	41,767	308,460	350,227	12%
7.	Houston Independent School District	TX	40,549	188,025	228,574	18%
8.	New Orleans Public Schools	LA	32,597	10,098	42,695	76%
9.	District Of Columbia Public Schools	DC	31,562	45,191	76,753	41%
10.	Broward County Public Schools	FL	30,438	228,695	259,133	12%
11.	Dallas Independent School District	TX	20,709	156,965	177,674	12%
12.	Milwaukee Public Schools	WI	18,565	67,429	85,994	22%
13.	Cleveland Municipal	OH	15,886	41,528	57,413	28%
14.	San Antonio Independent School District	TX	15,114	44,129	59,243	26%
15.	Mesa Public Schools	AZ	14,192	65,662	79,854	18%
16.	Columbus City School District	OH	14,022	51,953	65,975	21%
17.	San Diego Unified School District	CA	13,215	117,504	130,719	10%
18.	Baltimore City Public Schools	MD	12,326	71,886	84,212	15%
19.	Lee County Public Schools	FL	11,413	72,483	83,896	14%
20.	Tucson Unified School District	AZ	11,182	52,191	63,373	18%
21.	Saint Louis Public Schools	MO	11,155	24,665	35,820	31%
22.	Polk County Public Schools	FL	11,059	84,975	96,034	12%
23.	Indianapolis Public Schools	IN	10,690	31,998	42,688	25%
24.	School District Of Palm Beach County	FL	10,137	166,764	176,901	6%
25.	Fulton County Schools	GA	9,986	82,776	92,762	11%
26.	Kansas City, Missouri School District	MO	9,954	16,610	26,564	37%
27.	Denver Public Schools	CO	9,945	70,945	80,890	12%
28.	Albuquerque Public Schools	NM	9,589	89,618	99,207	10%
29.	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL	9,452	187,549	197,001	5%
30.	Minneapolis Public Schools	MN	9,339	34,436	43,775	21%
31.	Hawaii Public Schools	HI	9,301	173,404	182,705	5%
32.	Saint Paul Public Schools	MN	8,776	37,864	46,640	19%
33.	Oakland Unified School District	CA	8,525	37,752	46,277	18%
34.	Toledo City	OH	8,209	24,799	33,008	25%
35.	Phoenix Union High School District	AZ	7,472	25,906	33,378	22%
36.	Cincinnati City	OH	7,357	34,612	41,969	18%
37.	Newark Public Schools	NJ	7,310	35,415	42,725	17%
38.	Clark County School District	NV	7,271	302,997	310,268	2%
39.	Alpine School District	UT	7,022	68,233	75,255	9%
40.	Memphis City Schools	TN	6,549	100,942	107,491	6%
41.	Jeffco Public Schools	CO	6,501	79,250	85,751	8%
42.	Orange County Public Schools	FL	6,463	173,526	179,989	4%
43.	Boston Public Schools	MA	6,423	55,027	61,450	10%
44.	Dekalb County School System	GA	6,205	92,079	98,284	6%
45.	Cobb County School District	GA	6,065	101,226	107,291	6%
46.	Dayton City	OH	5,900	16,422	22,321	26%
47.	Buffalo City Schools	NY	5,852	30,831	36,683	16%
48.	Gilbert Public Schools	AZ	5,718	37,240	42,958	13%
49.	School District Of Osceola County	FL	5,685	49,091	54,776	10%
50.	Deer Valley Unified District	AZ	5,301	35,009	40,310	13%



METHODOLOGY

1. In this analysis, we examined market share in school districts with more than 10,000 public school students (both charter and non-charter) in the 2011-2012 school year. We gathered charter and non-charter public school enrollment data from state department of education databases and personnel.
2. More than 50 percent of charter schools nationwide are their own independent Local Education Agencies (LEAs), rather than part of traditional public school district LEAs. In the past, this fact meant that it was not always clear as to which public school district charter schools were physically located, especially for charter schools located in large metropolitan cities with more than one school district (e.g., Phoenix, Arizona and Houston, Texas). For the three most recent editions of the “Top 10” charter communities by market share report, we used a geo-coding method to increase the accuracy of identifying the geographically relevant school districts for each charter. Specifically, we geo-coded every charter school that is an independent LEA to the geographically relevant traditional public school district LEA by mapping charter school addresses onto school district boundary maps available through the U.S. Census Bureau.
3. For Michigan and Ohio, we used student resident enrollment data that indicate the total number of students attending charter schools based on the district where students reside. The student residence enrollment data present more accurate information regarding how many students from a school district attend charter schools. Some students may attend charter schools outside of their traditional district boundaries.
4. The growing numbers of virtual charter schools enrolling children from across an entire state presents another issue. Because many states haven’t developed student enrollment reporting systems that allow the sorting of individual students by community of residence at each charter school, we excluded virtual school enrollment data from both the charter and total district enrollment data when calculating market share percentages. We recognize that this decision might create some undercounting in school districts where large numbers of students are enrolled in virtual charter schools. We do include enrollment from virtual schools in the District of Columbia and Hawaii where there is only one school district in the states and in Michigan and Ohio where we have resident enrollment data and we know the district where students live.
5. The approximate number of 610,000 students on waiting lists to attend charter schools was estimated from a national survey of charter schools during the 2011-2012 school year with a 30 percent response rate.

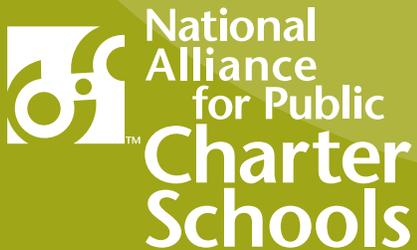
¹ <http://www.pdkintl.org/poll/index.htm>

² <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121011/METRO01/210110335/1409/metro/Detroit-parents-embrace-school-choice-poll-says>

³ The Scott Cowen Institute. (2012). The state of public education in New Orleans: 2012 report. New Orleans, LA: Author. <http://www.coweninstitute.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/SPENO-2012-web-7-17-12.pdf>

⁴ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2012). Common core of data: Local education agency (school district) universe survey data, 2010-2011. Washington, DC: Author. <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/pubagency.asp>

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