



Chartering in Georgia

2010-2011

A comprehensive overview of the academic performance of Georgia's charter schools.

Charter
School
Division
2010-2011
Annual
Report

December 30, 2011

Dear Georgia Public Education Supporters,

The Georgia Department of Education compiles annual academic and financial data on each operating charter school. This report examines how Georgia's charter schools are performing against other Georgia public schools. For the first time this report also compares Georgia's charter school performance to national averages.

During the 2010–11 school year, Georgia had 162 charter schools in operation serving 56 districts. Of these charter schools, 70% made Adequate Yearly Progress this year. This is comparable to the 73% of traditional public schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress this year.

Over the past year, the Georgia Department of Education has adopted new Charter Schools Rules and Guidelines that focus on accountability and transparency. We also launched a comprehensive training program for new and existing charter schools. The Georgia Department of Education is also developing additional resources for local school districts to strengthen authorizer practices.

Please note that this annual report includes summary and detailed information on each of Georgia's start-up and conversion charter schools. Detailed information on each of Georgia's start-up and conversion charter schools is included in Appendix B. Detailed information on each charter system and charter system school is included instead in the 2010-2011 Georgia Charter System Annual Report to be released separately.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and hard work in helping to strengthen Georgia's public education system.

Sincerely,

Louis Erste

Charter Schools Director

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Highlights from the 2010–2011 School Year

Many of Georgia's charter schools and charter school students were recognized for excellence in the 2010–2011 school year. Examples include:

1. Over 35% of all start-up and conversion charter schools were recognized as Distinguished Schools by Adequate Yearly Progress Standards.
 - a. 19 Start-ups
 - b. 17 Conversions
2. 60% of Georgia's Charter High Schools Scored above State and/or National Averages on the 2011 SATs¹.
 - a. 6 scored above the National Public School Average of 1483
 - b. 9 scored above the Georgia Public School Average of 1431
 - c. 4 are in the top 5% of SAT scores in Georgia
 - d. 1 additional is in the top 10%
 - e. 2 more are in the top 20%
 - f. 2 more are in the top 25% of SAT scores in Georgia

Figure 1: 2011 SAT High-Scoring Charter Schools

Charter School (District, Type)	Total Score	Rank in Georgia
<i>Charter Schools Scoring Above National Average of 1483</i>		
Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science and Technology (Gwinnett County, Start-Up)	1914	2 nd
Walton High School (Cobb County, Conversion)	1725	5 th
Riverwood International Charter School (Fulton County, Conversion)	1652	13 th
Chamblee High School (DeKalb County, Conversion)	1626	19 th
Fulton Science Academy High School (Fulton County, Start-Up)	1572	Top 10%
Morgan County High School (Morgan County, Conversion)	1489	Top 20%
<i>Charter Schools Scoring Above the State Average of 1431</i>		
Baconton Community Charter School (Mitchell County, Start-Up)	1482	Top 20%
North Springs Charter High School (Fulton County, Conversion)	1466	Top 25%
Rockdale Career Academy (Rockdale County, Conversion)	1447	Top 25%

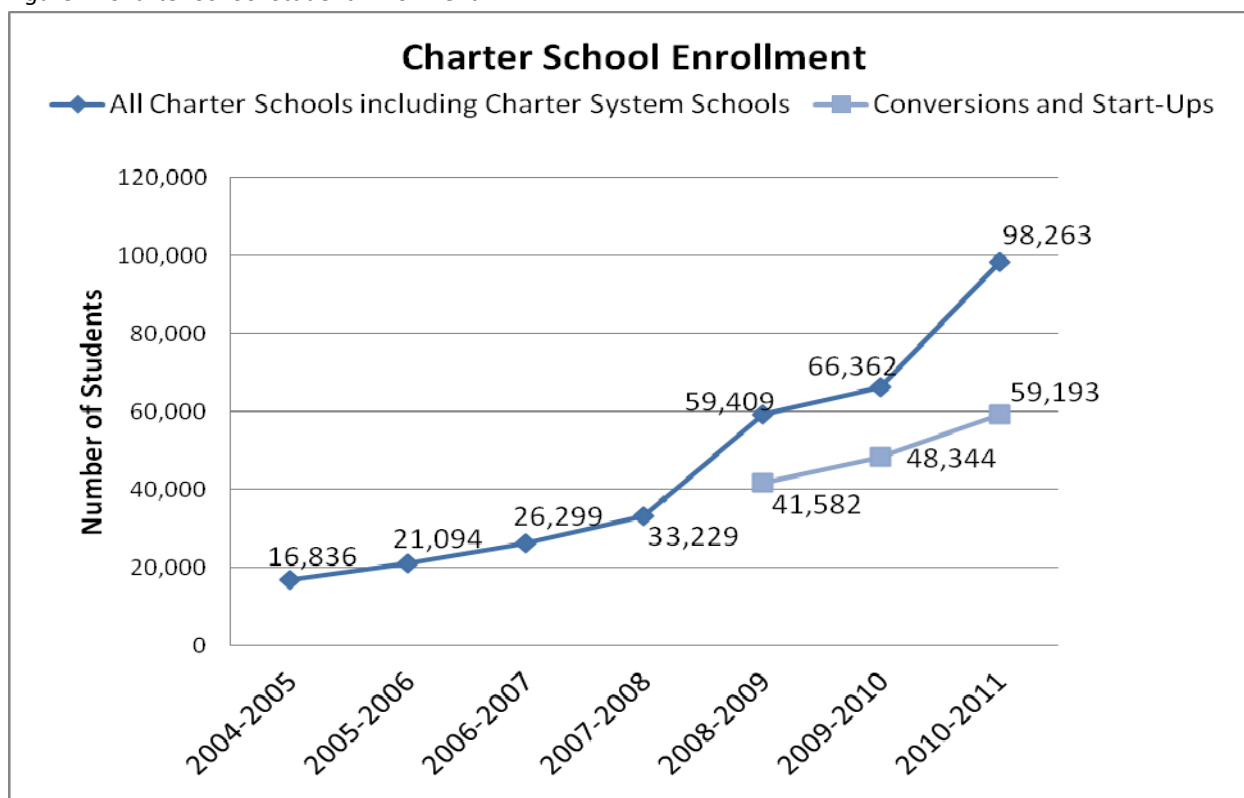
3. The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) recognized Governor Nathan Deal by awarding him the 2011 Inaugural Award for Excellence in Leadership.
4. Two Georgia charter school organizations were awarded Race to the Top Innovation Grants: Charles R. Drew Charter School and the KIPP Teacher Fellows Program.
5. The 2011 Coca-Cola Charter School of the Year was awarded to Amana Academy, a K-8 Fulton County start-up.

¹ 15 Charter High Schools administered the SAT in 2011.

6. Two out of the eight National Blue Ribbon schools named in Georgia were charter schools: Fulton Science Academy Middle School (Start-Up) and Mount Yonah Elementary School (Charter System School).
7. Ridgeview charter school, a 6-8 Fulton County Conversion Charter School, was one of three middle schools in the state to receive the distinction of the "2011 Exceptional Library Media Program."
8. Destiny Academy, a 9-12 DeKalb County start-up charter school, received \$100,000 from AT&T.
9. Seven charter schools have students serving on the Superintendent's Student Council.
10. Two charter school students were selected as "21st Century Leaders, Georgia's 20 Under 20 Class of 2011" an annual award offered through a partnership of 21st Century Leaders and Atlanta Business Chronicle's "40 Under 40."

Characteristics: Charter Students and Charter Schools

Figure 2: Charter School Student Enrollment



During the 2010-2011 school year 98,263 Georgia public school students were enrolled in either a conversion, start-up or system charter school. In the past three years, conversion and start-up charter school enrollment increased by almost 50% from 41,582 students to 59,193 students. The 2009-10 school year saw a 16% increase over the 2008-09 school year. The positive trend continued during the 2010-2011 school year with a 20% increase in student enrollment. Total charter school enrollment increased even more significantly this year with the addition of four new charter systems.²

Nationally, charter school students represent 3.7% of all public school students in the 2010-11 school year.³ Georgia charter school students represent 5.9% of the public school population in Georgia. Since 2009-2010, Georgia increased the number of charter school students by .2% each year when charter system students are included. Conversion and start-up charter schools represent over half of the total charter school enrollment with 3.5% of all public school students in Georgia.⁴

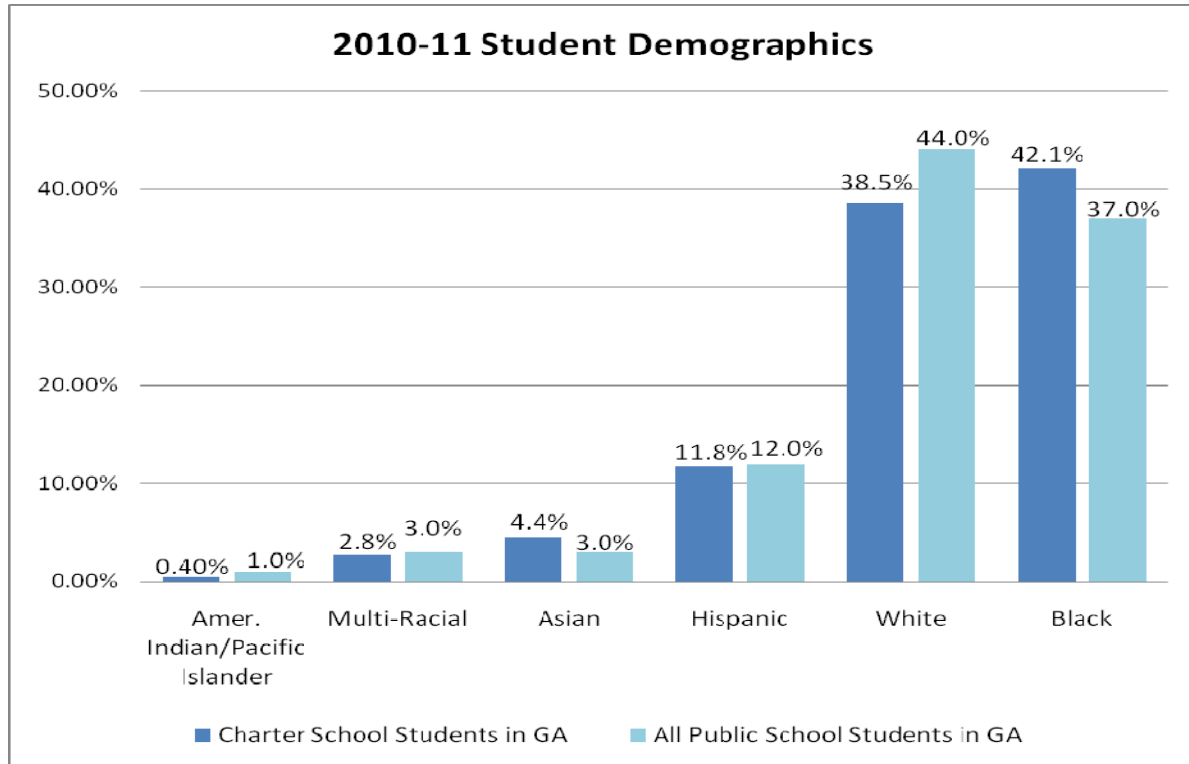
² Charter system enrollment is provided graphically and mentioned briefly to accurately depict the entire charter school enrollment landscape. However, detailed information and analysis of the charter systems can be found in the 2010-11 Charter Systems Annual Report.

³ The Public Charter Schools Dashboard, A Comprehensive Data Resource from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Accessed online via <http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/schools/year/2011>.

⁴ Enrollment is based on the October 5, 2010 (FTE 2011-1) count and can be accessed online from the Georgia Department of Education's website http://app3.doe.k12.ga.us/ows-bin/owa/fte_pack_ethnicsex.entry_form.

Georgia Charter School Student Demographics

Figure 3: Charter School Student Demographics



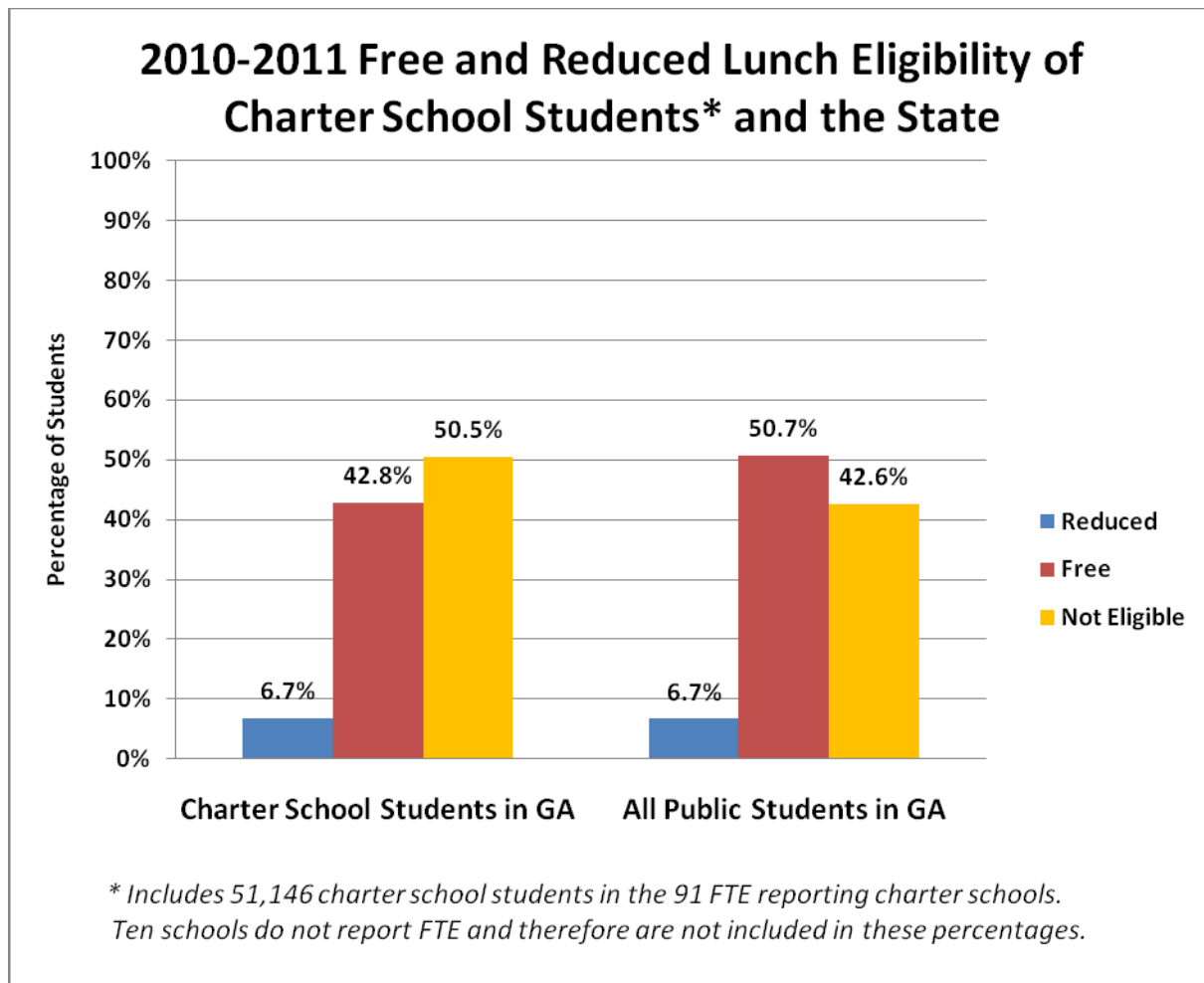
Georgia charter school students mirror closely the demographics of the state. However, charter schools enroll a slightly higher percentage of students in the Black and Asian subgroups than traditional public schools in Georgia.

The racial and ethnic demographics of Georgia's charter school students are similar to the trends nationwide. However, in charter schools across the nation, the Asian subgroup is lower in charter schools than non-charter schools and the Hispanic subgroup is higher in charter schools than non-charter schools.⁵

⁵ The Public Charter Schools Dashboard. <http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/schools/year/2011>.

Charter School Demographics: Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility, English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities

Figure 4: 2010-2011 Free and Reduced Priced Price Lunch Eligibility Compared to the State



During the 2010-11 school year 49.5% of Georgia's charter school students qualified for free and reduced lunch. There has been a steady decline in the number of charter school students eligible for free or reduced lunch from a high of 60% of charter schools students eligible for free and reduced lunch in 2007-08. This is the opposite of the overall trend in Georgia, where non-charter schools have seen a steady growth in free and reduced lunch eligibility peaking this year at 57%. The difference is because of the growing number of Georgia charter schools that serve suburban and middle class areas.

Figure 5: Three Year Trend of Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility for Charter Schools and the State

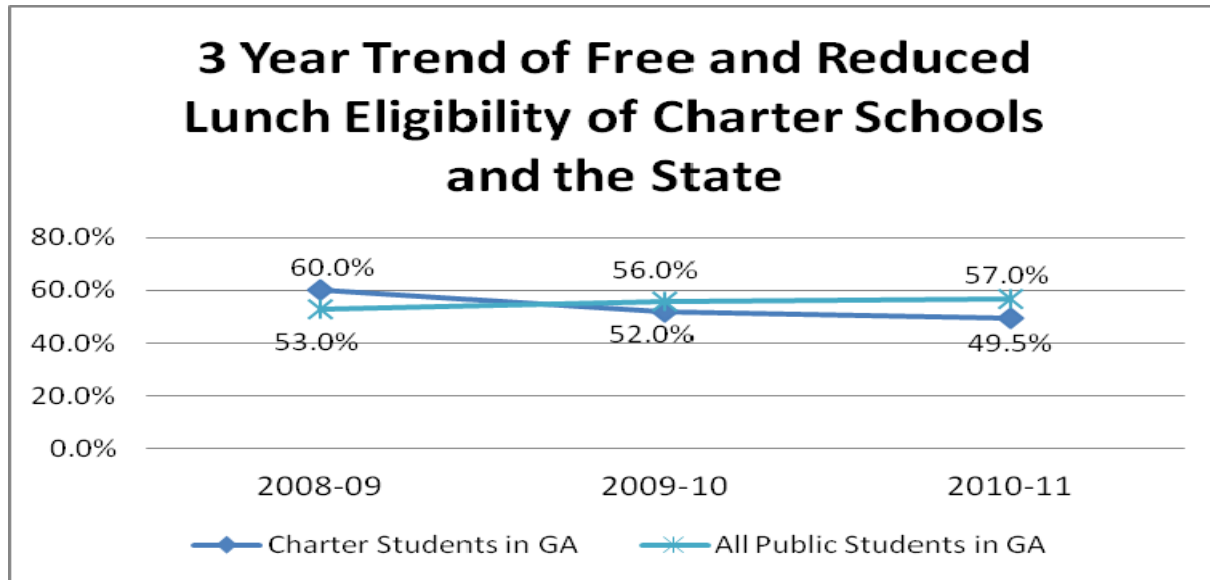
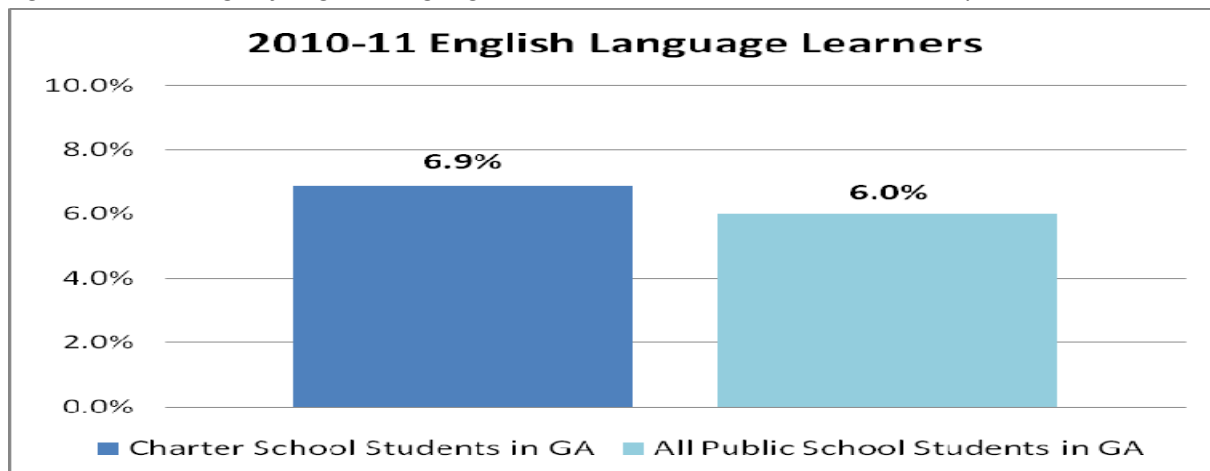
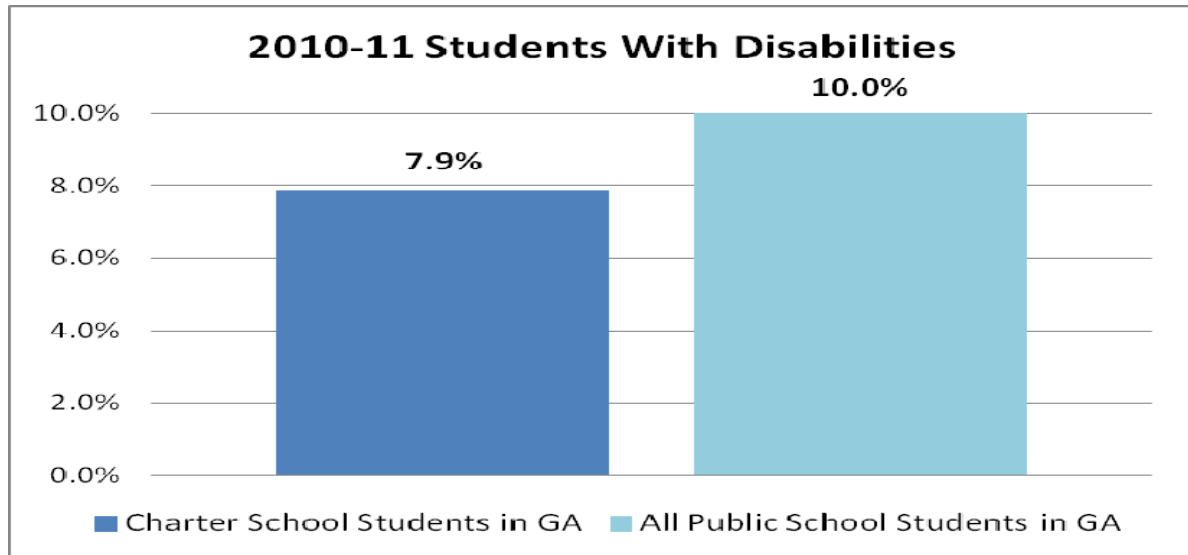


Figure 6: Percentage of English Language Learners served in Charter Schools compared to the State



Almost 7% of Georgia's charter school students are English Language Learners (ELLs), which is only slightly higher than the State's average of 6%. Although 2010-11 statistics are not yet available nationally, in 2007-08 ELLs represented 16.5% of all charter school students in the nation.⁶ However, in Georgia there is a wide variation in the percentage of ELLs that charter schools serve, with some reporting no ELL students and others reporting up to 55% of their students. Twenty-six conversion and start-up schools report ELL percentages equal to or above the state average of 6%. Nineteen of these have more than 10% of their students in the ELL category.

⁶ Dashboard. <http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/students/page/mkt/year/2011>.

Figure 7: Georgia Charter Schools Students with Disabilities Compared to the State

Georgia charter schools serve fewer students with disabilities than do non-charter schools. However, some Georgia charter schools do not serve any students with disabilities while others serve 30%. Twenty-three charter schools have 10% or more of their students with disabilities.

Charter School Enrollment Facts: Grade Level Distribution, District Enrollment

Figure 8: Georgia Charter Schools Enrollment Compared to National Charter School Enrollment

Grades Served	Georgia Charter Schools Enrollment		National Charter Schools Enrollment	
	Number of Students	% of Total Charter School Enrollment	Number of Students	% of Total Charter School Enrollment
Elementary Grade Levels K-5	24,411	41.2%	824,409	47.30%
Middle Grade Levels 6-8	12,495	21.1%	415,421	23.80%
High School Grade Levels 9-12	22,287	37.7%	503,310	28.9%
TOTALS	59,193	100%	1,743,140	100%

While the majority of Georgia's charter school students are enrolled in elementary grades (K-5), which is similar to the national distribution, more Georgia high school students are enrolled than the national percentage. A higher high school enrollment than the national average likely reflects the 15 career academies serving high school students in Georgia.

Figure 9: Charter School Student Enrollment as a Percentage of Total District Enrollment

District	% Charter Enrollment of District Enrollment	Charter Enrollment	Total District Enrollment	# of Charter Schools
Hall	16.60%	4,307	25,946	7
Dougherty	11.93%	1,898	15,906	3
Fulton	10.32%	9,480	91,864	14
APS	8.56%	4,265	49,796	13
Griffin-Spalding	6.50%	695	10,685	2
DeKalb	5.96%	5,813	97,562	11
Cobb	5.60%	5,986	107,315	6
Muscogee	2.89%	934	32,288	3
Savannah-Chatham	2.05%	722	35,246	3
Gwinnett	1.20%	1,930	160,744	4
Total/Average	5.74%	36,030	627,352	66

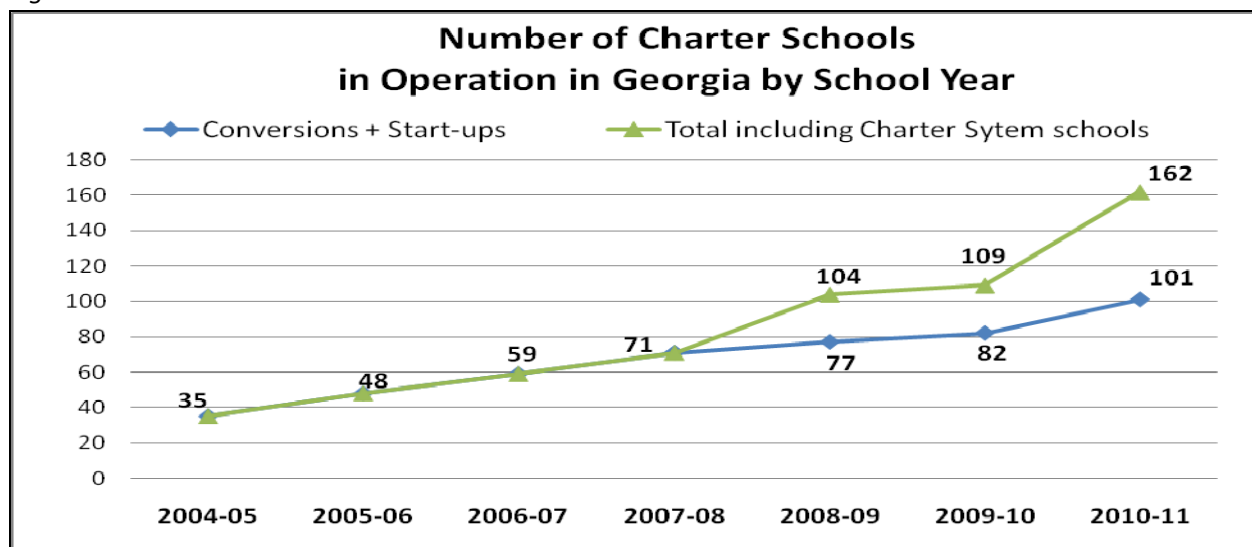
Nationally, 3.7% of all public school students are enrolled in a charter school.⁷ The ten districts with the highest percentage of charter school students in the country range from 28.4% (Detroit Public Schools) to 69.5% (New Orleans Public Schools). In Georgia, Hall County has the largest percentage (16.6%) of charter schools students.

⁷ Dashboard. <http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/students/page/mkt/year/2011>.

Charter Schools by the Numbers

For the 2010-11 school year, there were 162 charter schools in Georgia or 4.2% of all Georgia public schools. Nationally, charter schools comprise 5.4% of all public schools.⁸ Other than Florida, where charter schools represent almost 12% of public schools, Georgia's percentage of charter schools leads the neighboring states of North Carolina (3.9%), South Carolina (3.6%) and Tennessee (1.7%). Georgia's remaining neighbor, Alabama, is one of ten states that did not have a charter law in 2010-11.

Figure 10: Charter School Growth since 2004-2005



Charter School Growth

In Georgia, twenty-nine new charter schools (4 conversions, 25 start-ups) opened their doors in the fall of 2010. However, ten charter schools (6 conversions, 4 start-ups) either did not renew or closed prior to the start of 2010-11. Thus, 2010-11 saw a net increase of 19 charter schools or 23% growth in the total number of conversion and start-up schools. The national average for 2010-11 was 7% growth, while neighboring states Florida and South Carolina boasted over 12% and 15% growth, respectively. However, Florida has significantly more charter schools than Georgia at 462 and South Carolina has less than half the number of Georgia schools at 44. North Carolina, our neighbor with the most comparable number of charter schools (98), only witnessed a 2% growth in number of charter schools for 2010-11 due primarily to a cap of 100 charter schools statewide.⁹

⁸ The Public Charter Schools Dashboard, A Comprehensive Data Resource from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Accessed online December 1, 2011 via <http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/home>.

⁹ North Carolina Charter School Legislation, § 115C-238.29D(b), Final approval of applications for charter schools, Accessed online via <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/charterschools/policy/legislation/>.

Figure 11: Change in Number of Charter Schools 2009-2010 to 2010-2011

Type	Total Operating Charter Schools 2009-10	Openings	(Closings) in 2010-2011	Net Change	Total Operating Charter Schools in 2010-11
Start-ups	50	25	(4)	21	71
Conversions	32	4	(6)	(2)	30
Total/Average	82	29	(10)	19	101

Figure 12: Charter Schools Closed or Not Renewed Prior to 2010-11

Charter School	Type	District Served	Closure Status
Chattahoochee County High School	Start-up	Chattahoochee County	Did Not Apply for Renewal
Dooly County High School	Conversion	Dooly County	Did Not Apply for Renewal
Dunwoody Springs Elementary	Conversion	Fulton County	Did Not Apply for Renewal Renew
Fargo Charter School	Start-up	Clinch County	Did Not Apply for Renewal
Lewis Academy	Start-up	Clayton County	Was Not Renewed by Local District, State-chartered Special School Application was Denied by SBOE
Morgan County Elementary	Conversion	Morgan County	Did Not Apply for Renewal
Morgan County Middle School	Conversion	Morgan County	Did Not Apply for Renewal
Morgan County Primary School	Conversion	Morgan County	Did Not Apply for Renewal
Walton Career Academy	Start-up	Walton County	Did Not Apply for Renewal
Woodland Elementary School	Conversion	Fulton County	Did Not Apply for Renewal

Charter School Types

Georgia's ratio of start-ups to conversions has held relatively steady at about 3 to 1 during the past three years. Georgia has the second highest percentage of conversions in the nation of the 27 states that have conversion charter schools.

Figure 13: Three Year Growth of Georgia Charter Schools by Type

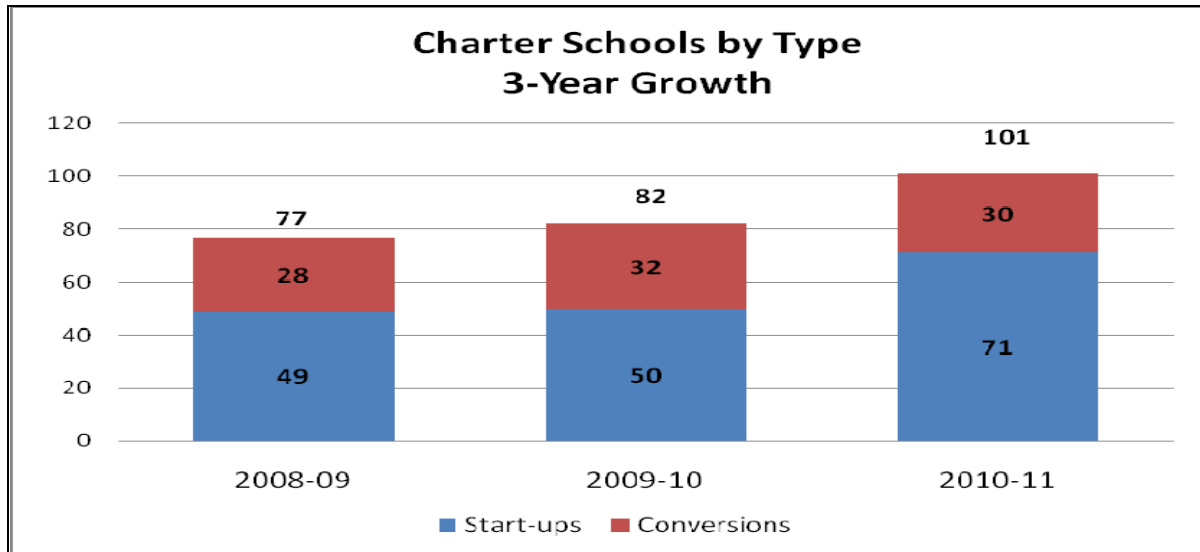
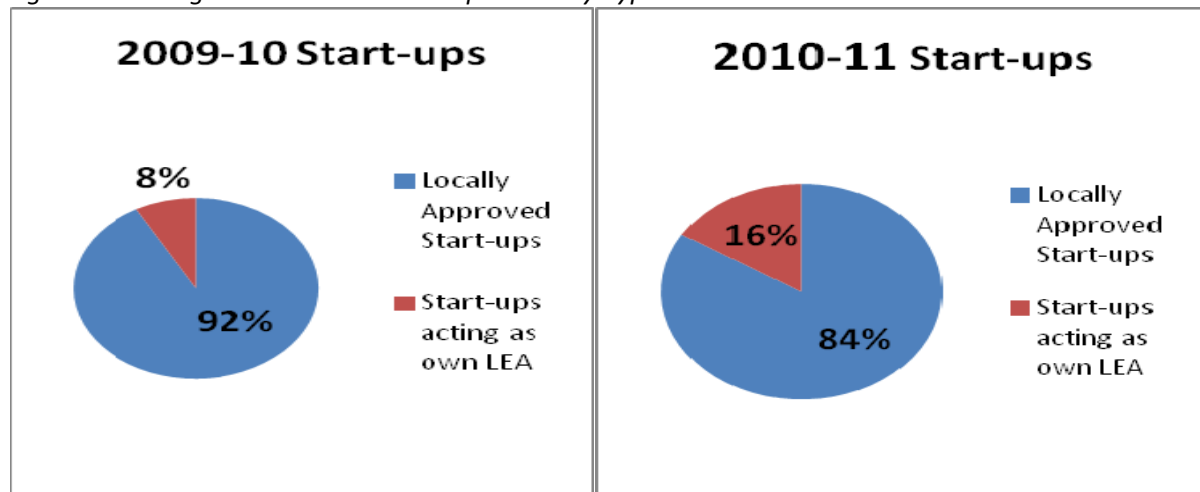
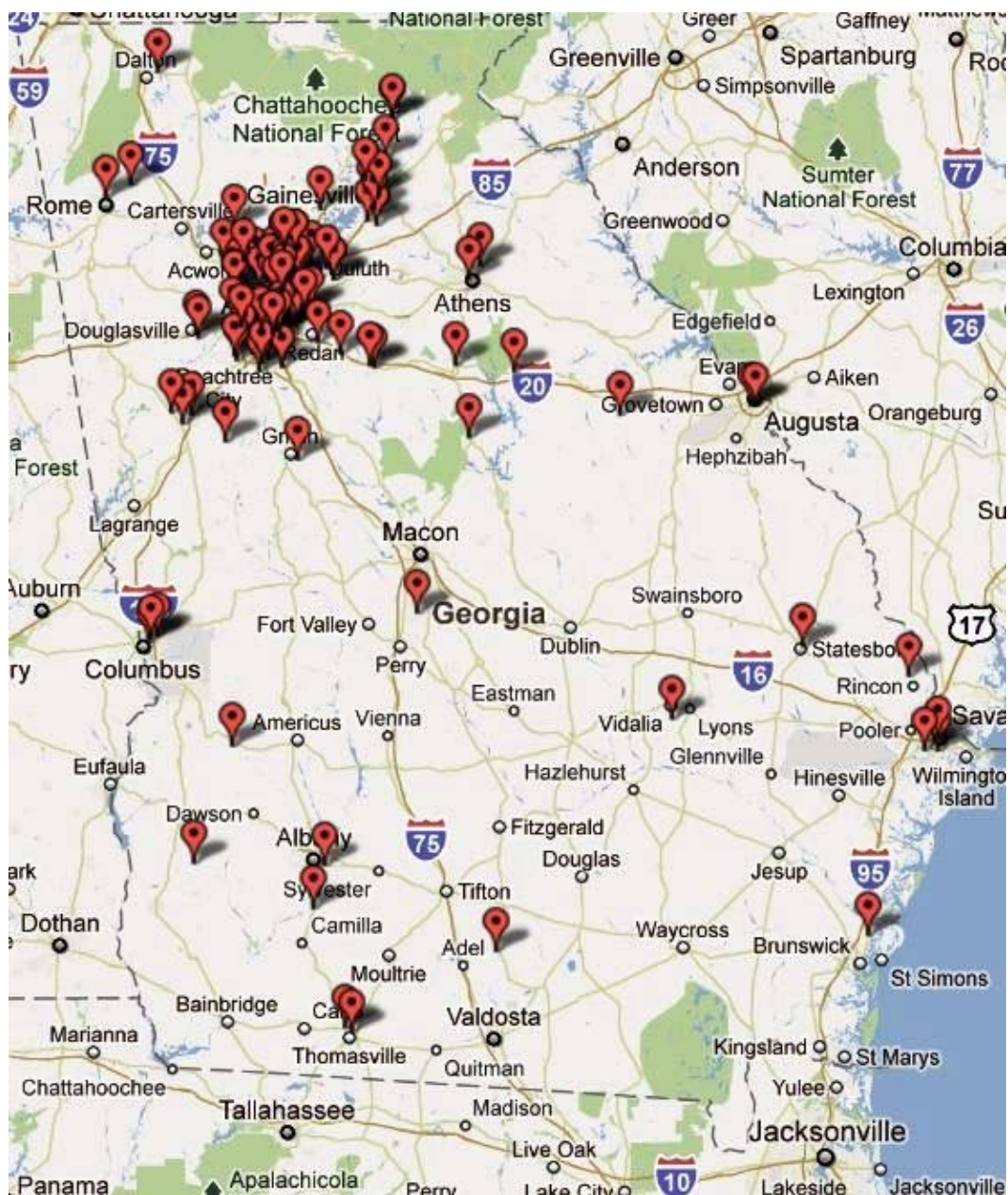


Figure 14: Georgia Charter School Composition by Type



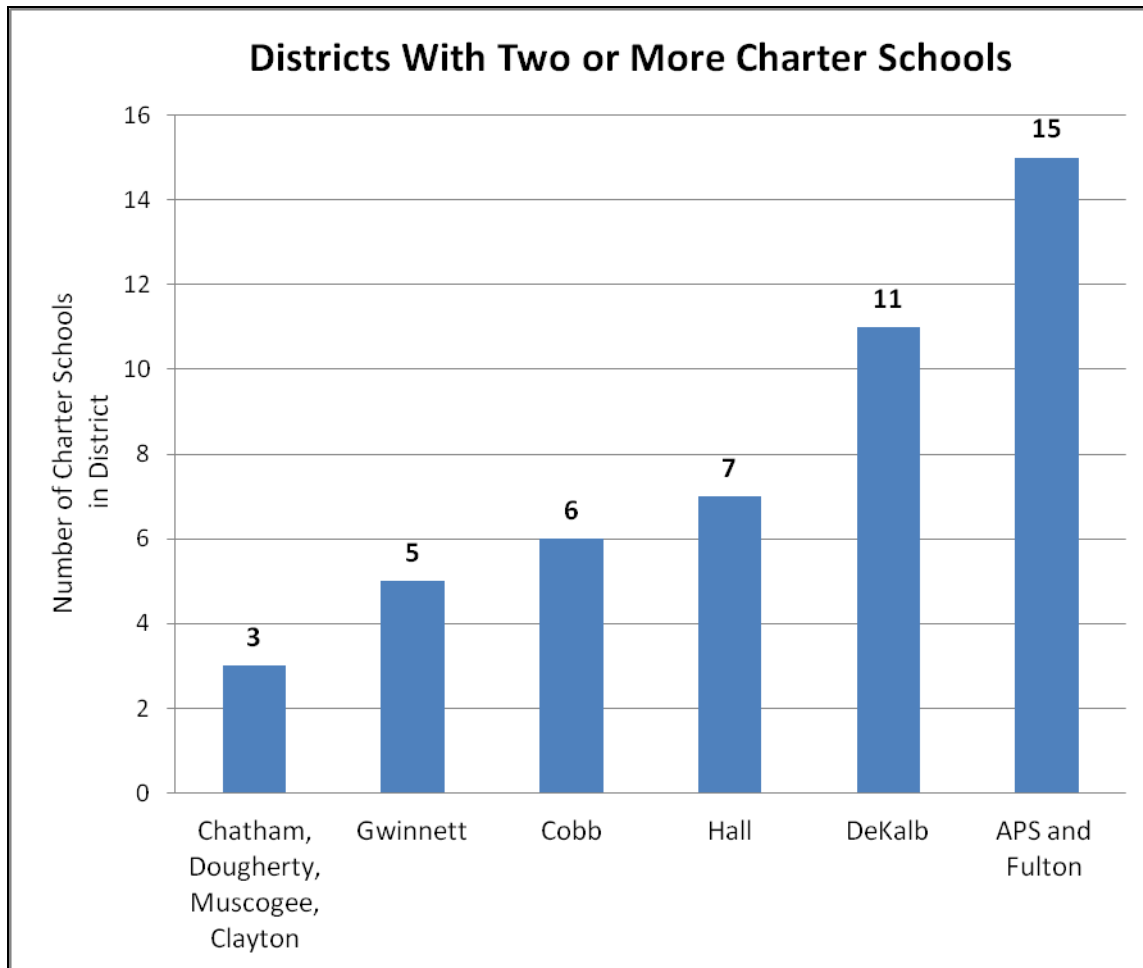
Of the start-up charter schools in operation in 2010-11, 11 start-ups operated as their own LEA. This is an increase of 7 from 2009-10.

Charter School Locations in Georgia



- Consistent with previous years, more charter schools are clustered around the Metro Atlanta area than any other part of the state.
- 64% of charter schools are located within the 28-county Atlanta Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA).
- Of the districts with more than five charters within their district lines, only one (Hall County) is outside of the Metro Atlanta area. There are nine districts which house three or more charter schools.

Figure 15: Districts with Two or More Charter Schools



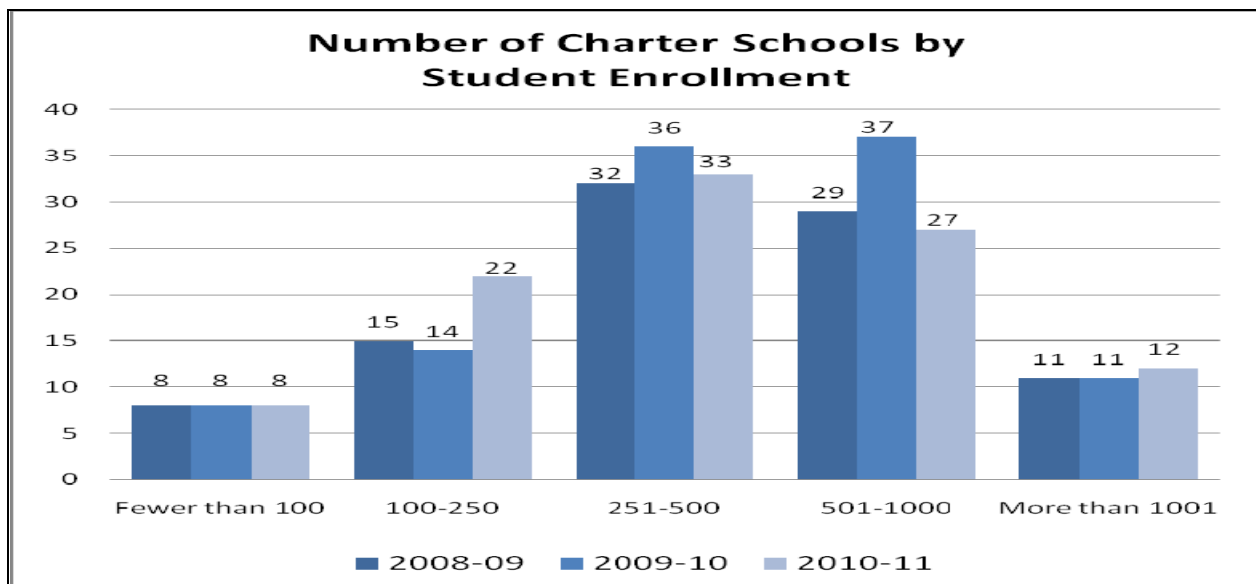
Charter School Enrollment Trends

Figure 16: Enrollment Statistics of Georgia's Charter Schools by Type

Type of Charter School	Total Enrollment	Average Enrollment Size
All Conversions and Start-ups	59,193	591
Brick and Mortar Charter Schools only	53,772	532
Start-ups	32,800	482
Brick and Mortar Start-ups	26,255	386
Start-ups operating as their own LEA	9,956	905
Conversions	27,517	809

Georgia charter schools range in size from 13 students (Effingham Gateway to College) to 6,545 students (Odyssey Charter School with the Georgia Cyber Academy), with the average size of 591 students. Conversion charter schools are often slightly larger than start-up charter schools with an average enrollment of 809 students compared to 386 students for bricks and mortar start-ups. The largest conversion charter school is Walton Comprehensive High School with an enrollment of 2,676 students. The smallest conversion charter school is Jenkins-White Elementary Charter School with 373 students. The smallest charter school is the start-up Effingham Gateway Academy with 13 students. The largest start-up charter school is International Academy of Smyrna with 806 students.

Figure 17: Number of Charter Schools by Student Enrollment



Grade Level Configuration

Figure 18: Grade Configuration of Charter Schools in Georgia vs. Charter Schools Nationwide

Type of School	Georgia		National	
	Number of Schools	Percentage of Charter Schools	Number of Schools	Percentage of Charter Schools
Elementary Schools	35	34.6%	2,192	46%
Middle Schools	12	11.8%	490	10%
High Schools	29	28.7%	1,005	21%
Elementary/Middle	18	17.8%	n/a	n/a
Middle/High Schools	5	4.9%	525	11%
Elementary/Middle/High Schools	2	1.9%	577	12%
TOTALS	101	100.00%	4,789	100.00%

Lottery / Wait List

Figure 19: Number of Lottery Participants and Students on the Wait List as of the 1st Day of School 2010-11

	Lottery		Wait List	
	Median	Mean	Median	Mean
Number of Students	148	205	96.5	155

Forty-seven charter schools, including 32 start-ups and 15 conversions, held a lottery for the 2010-2011 school year. The number of lottery participants varied widely at Georgia charter schools from 12 (multiple schools) to over 2,000 (Georgia Cyber Academy). Georgia had three charter schools that had over 700 lottery participants: Elite Scholars Academy, Coweta Charter Academy and Lake Oconee Academy. Each of these charter schools are the only charter schools that serve their grade ranges in the districts in which they are located. This might indicate that there is sufficient community and parental interest in additional charter schools in these districts. Georgia Cyber Academy also had the largest number of students on a wait list as of the first day of the 2010-11 school year (712) and for non-online schools, Fulton Science Academy Middle School had the most students on a wait list at 552.

Figure 20: Conversion Charter Schools that Held a Lottery for the 2010-11 School Year

School	District(s) Served	Lottery Participants	Seats Available	Wait List
Chamblee Charter High School	DeKalb	284	94	190
Smoke Rise Elementary Charter School	DeKalb	281	133	148
Peachtree Charter Middle School	DeKalb	260	0	260

World Language Academy	Hall	205	130	75
Reese Road Leadership Academy	Muscogee	100	75	25
Kingsley Charter School	DeKalb	100	0	100
Clubview Elementary School	Muscogee	83	15	68
Martin Technology Academy of Math and Science	Hall	75	65	10
Chesnut Charter School	DeKalb	64	0	64
Ridgeview Charter School	Fulton	53	21	32
Wauka Mountain Multiple Intelligences Academy	Hall	32	32	0
Futral Road Elementary	Spalding	27	5	22
Sedalia Park Elementary	Cobb	21	10	11
Sandy Springs Charter Middle School	Fulton	12	12	0
Sardis Enrichment School	Hall	12	12	0

Figure 21: Start-up Charter Schools that Held a Lottery for the 2010-11 School Year

<u>School</u>	<u>District(s) Served</u>	<u>Lottery Participants</u>	<u>Seats Available</u>	<u>Wait List</u>
Odyssey - GA Cyber Academy	State-wide	2040	1328	712
Coweta Charter Academy	Coweta	736	220	516
The Main Street Academy K - 2nd	Fulton	710	501	209
Elite Scholars Academy	Clayton	700	385	315
Fulton Science Academy Middle School	Fulton	679	127	552
Fulton Sunshine Academy	Fulton	610	238	372
Gwinnett School of Mathematics Science and Technology	Gwinnett	460	341	119
KIPP South Fulton Academy	Fulton	416	74	342
Oglethorpe Charter School	Chatham	377	107	270
Hapeville Charter Middle School	Fulton	350	215	135
Brighten Academy	Douglas	310	41	269
Ivy Preparatory Academy	Gwinnett	281	160	121
Lake Oconee Academy	Greene	255	105	150
Scholars Academy	Clayton	247	87	160
Rockdale Career Academy	Rockdale	200	200	0
Kennesaw Charter Science and Math Academy	Cobb	198	151	47
International Academy of Smyrna	Cobb	181	31	150
The Museum School of Avondale Estates	DeKalb	169	150	19
International Community School	Dougherty	150	40	110
Baconton Community Charter School	Mitchell	149	99	50

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KIPP WAYS Academy	APS	148	30	118
Amana Academy	Fulton	146	104	42
Pataula Charter Academy	Multiple	137	125	12
Wesley International Academy	APS	101	42	59
Odyssey School	Coweta	93	55	38
The Kindezi School	APS	92	50	42
Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School Middle Campus (formerly Atlanta Charter Middle School)	APS	83	64	19
Neighborhood Charter School	APS	72	26	46
Forsyth County Academy	Forsyth	53	38	15
Savannah Gateway Academy	Chatham	50	43	7
Charter Conservatory	Bulloch	21	14	7
Leadership Preparatory Academy	DeKalb	15	15	0

National Research-based Educational Models

The Georgia Department of Education surveyed all operating charter schools about the types of instructional models that the school uses.¹⁰ A total of 17 charter schools reported using one of four models: Expeditionary Learning, International Baccalaureate, Montessori or Core Knowledge. Of the 17 schools, all are start-ups but five. There are five conversion charter schools using the International Baccalaureate program.

Figure 22: Georgia Charter Schools using one of the top six National Models

Charter School	Type	National Model
Intown Academy, The	Start-up	Core Knowledge
Lake Oconee Academy	Start-up	Core Knowledge
Mountain Education Center	Start-up	Core Knowledge
Oglethorpe Charter School	Start-up	Core Knowledge
Amana Academy	Start-up	Expeditionary Learning
Pataula Charter Academy	Start-up	Expeditionary Learning
Scholars Academy	Start-up	Expeditionary Learning
Clubview Elementary School	Conversion	International Baccalaureate
Imagine International Academy of Mableton	Start-up	International Baccalaureate
International Academy of Smyrna	Start-up	International Baccalaureate
International Community School	Start-up	International Baccalaureate
International Studies Elementary Charter School	Conversion	International Baccalaureate
Morgan County Charter HS	Conversion	International Baccalaureate
Ridgeview Charter School	Conversion	International Baccalaureate
Riverwood International Charter School	Conversion	International Baccalaureate
Wesley International Academy	Start-up	International Baccalaureate
Coastal Empire Montessori	Start-up	Montessori

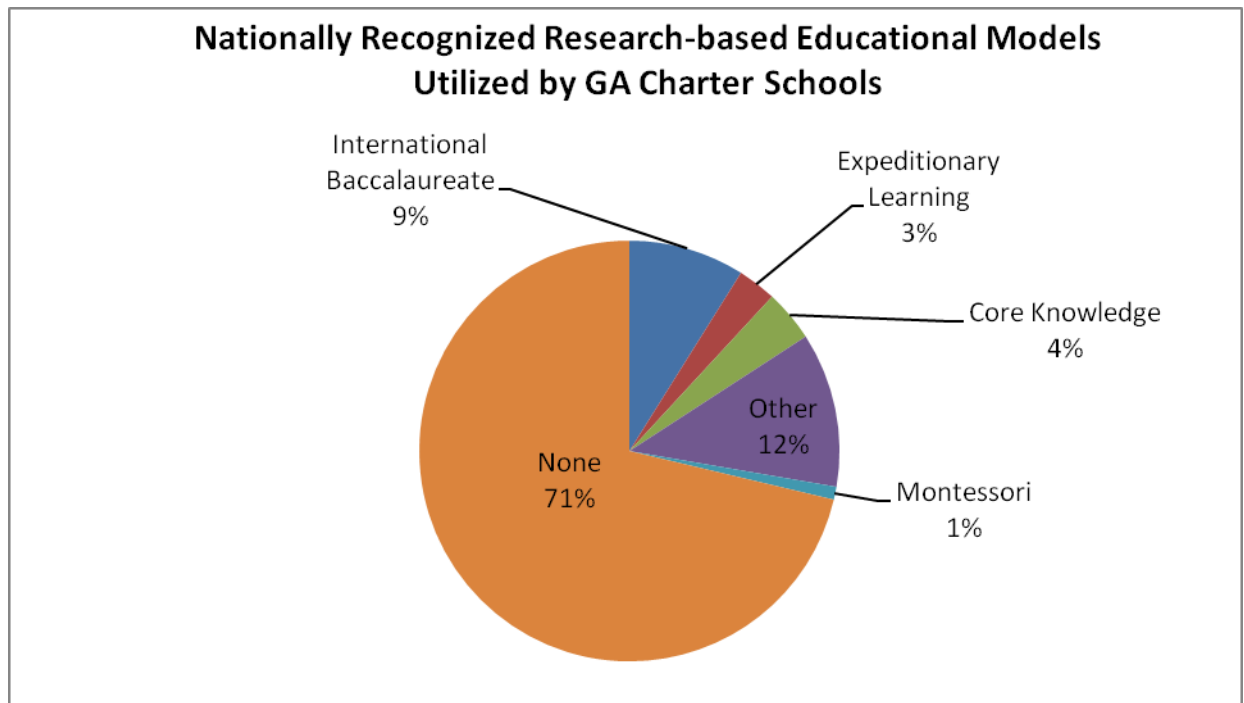
¹⁰ The survey response rate was 97%. There were only 3 charter schools who did not submit a response to the annual report survey: Dougherty Comprehensive High School, Dougherty Middle School, and Peachtree Hope Charter School. All three schools are no longer charter schools due to closure or their decision to withdraw their petition prior to the 2011-2012 school year.

In addition to the 17 charter schools listed in the previous figure, twelve charter schools indicated using other instructional and teaching models not included in the “top six”. Additional models cited include:

- Academies of Inquiry and Talent Development
- Constructivist Teaching
- Developmental Approaches in Science, Health and Technology (DASH)
- Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies Next Generation Learning (Ford PAS)
- Gateway to College
- Learning Focused
- Museum School Model
- Multiple Intelligences
- Science and Technology Program for Children (STC)
- Thematic Learning

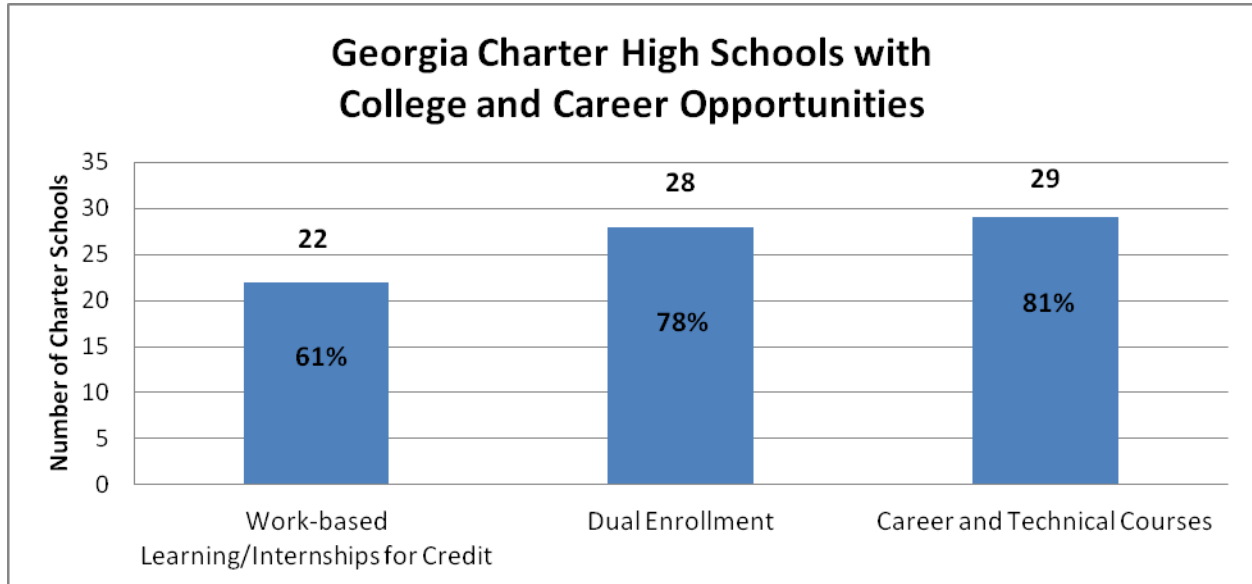
In total 29 charter schools use at least some type of innovative research-based educational model. Of the 29 schools, 76% are start-ups (22 schools) and 24% (seven schools) are conversions. Of the seven conversions, five use the International Baccalaureate model, one uses the Academies of Inquiry and Talent Development model and the other uses Thematic Learning. Seventeen of the schools serve elementary grades or are an elementary-middle combination school, four are middle schools, seven are high schools and one is a middle/high school combination school. More than two-thirds of charter schools (72 schools) indicated they do not use a specific national model.

Figure 23: Nationally Recognized Research-based Educational Models



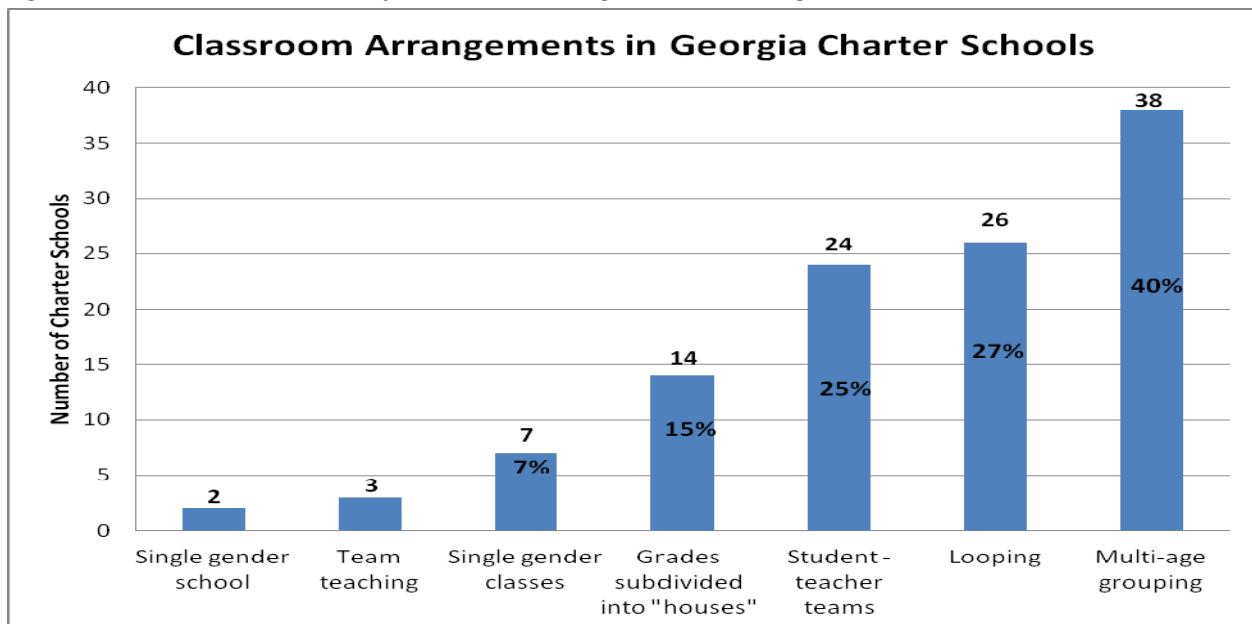
Program and Operating Services and Innovative Features

Figure 24: Georgia Charter High Schools with College and Career Opportunities



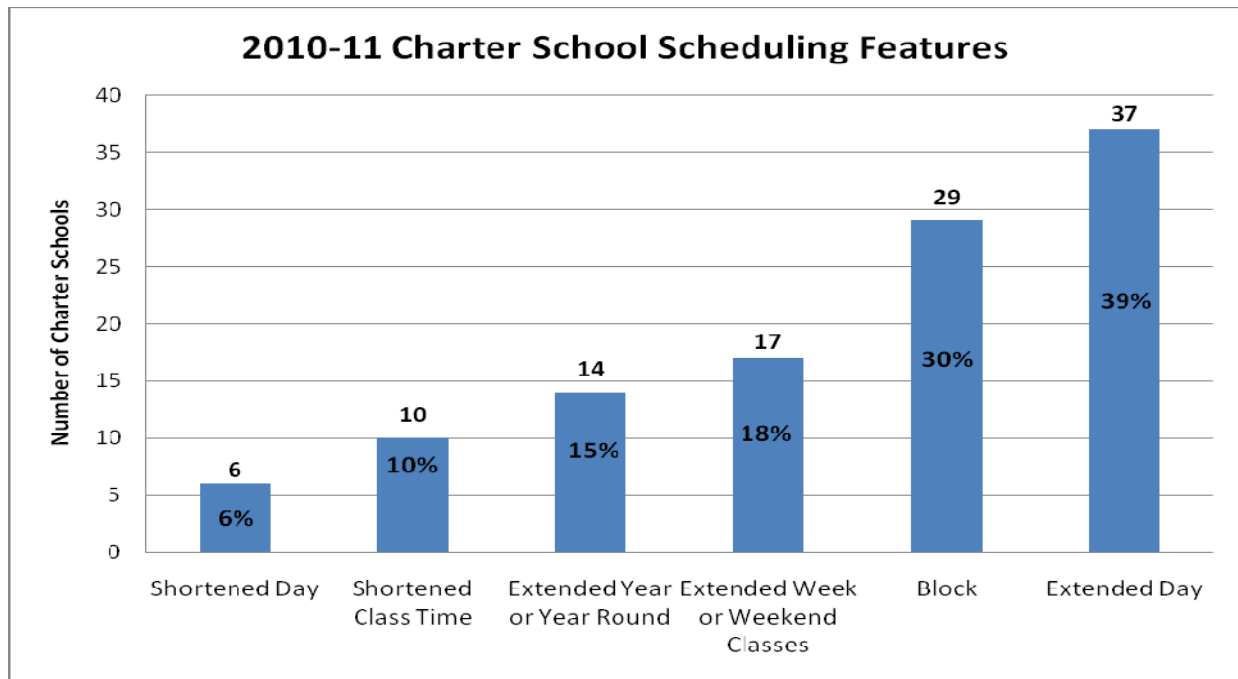
Of the 36 schools serving at least one high school grade level, more than 80% offer career and technical courses. In fact, only four schools serving high school students do not offer at least one of these options.

Figure 25: Innovative Features of Classroom Arrangements in Georgia Charter Schools



No increase occurred in the number of single gender classes or single-gender schools from the previous school year.

Figure 26: Innovative Scheduling Features in Charter Schools



Just over 70% of charter schools indicated they use one or more of the innovative scheduling features listed in the above chart.

The Role of Management Organizations

Georgia charter schools partner with eight Educational Management Organizations (EMOs) and one Charter Management Organization (CMO). Two EMOs (Imagine Schools, Inc. and EdisonLearning) and one CMO (KIPP) each operate four schools in Georgia. The remaining six EMOs in Georgia operate one school each. EMOs are for-profit organizations that contract with a school or group of individuals to provide administrative and management services to operate a public school. A CMO is a non-profit organization that contracts with a school or group of individuals to provide administrative and management services to operate a school.

Figure 27: Management Organizations in Georgia

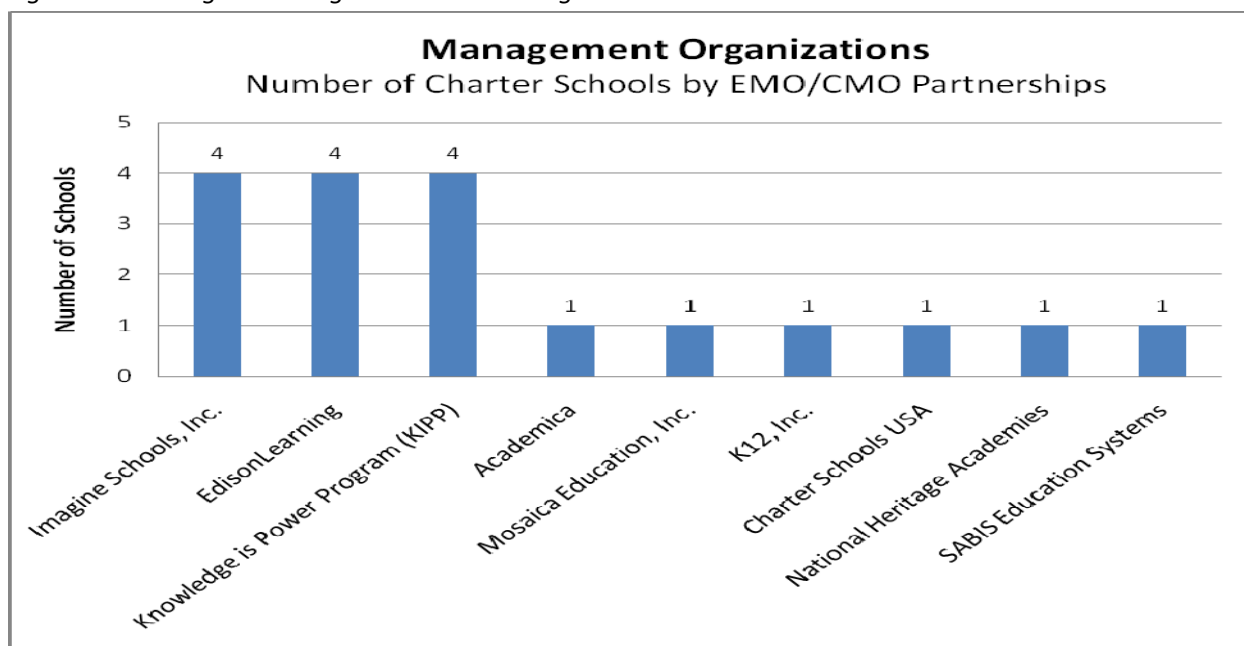


Figure 28: CMO and EMOs with Multiple Charter Schools in Georgia

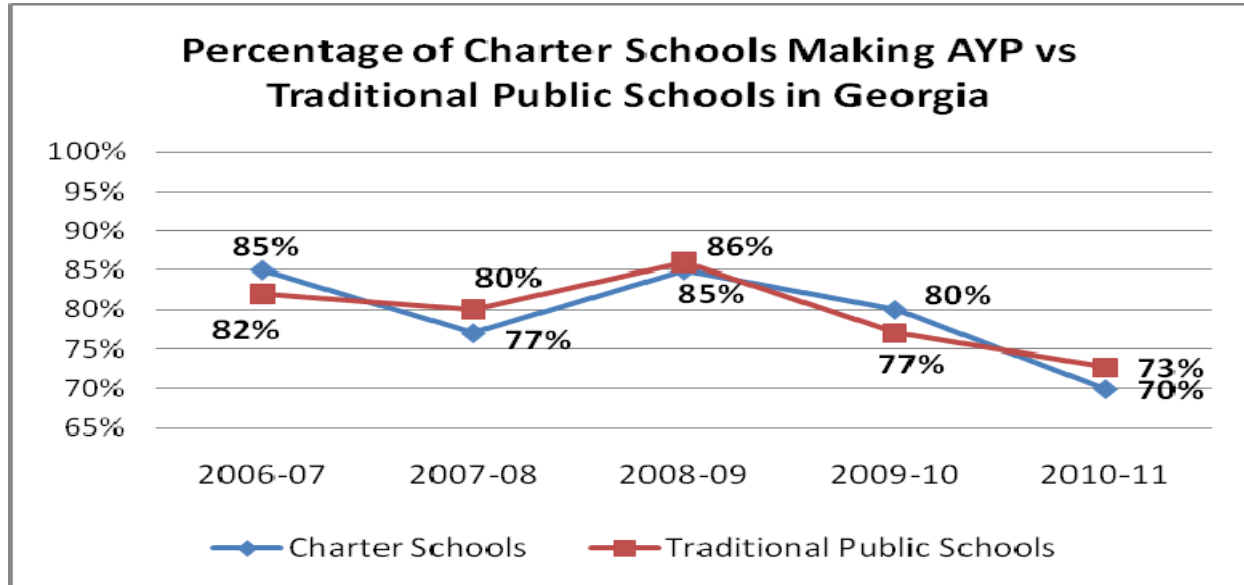
CMO/EMO	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4
KIPP	KIPP South Fulton	KIPP Strive	KIPP Vision	KIPP WAYS
Imagine	Imagine International Academy of Mableton	Marietta Charter School	Imagine International Academy of Smyrna	Wesley International Academy
EdisonLearning	Charles R. Drew Charter School	The Intown Academy	Main Street Charter Academy Elementary	Main Street Charter Academy Middle

The remaining EMOs with one school each are: Atlanta Heights (National Heritage Academies), Atlanta Preparatory Academy (Mosaica), Coweta Charter Academy (Charter Schools USA), Ivy Preparatory Academy (Academica), Odyssey School (K12, Inc.), and Peachtree Hope (SABIS Education Systems).

Academic Performance of Georgia's Charter Schools Compared to Local Districts and the State

Charter School Students

Figure 29: Percentage of Charter Schools Making AYP vs. Traditional Public Schools in Georgia

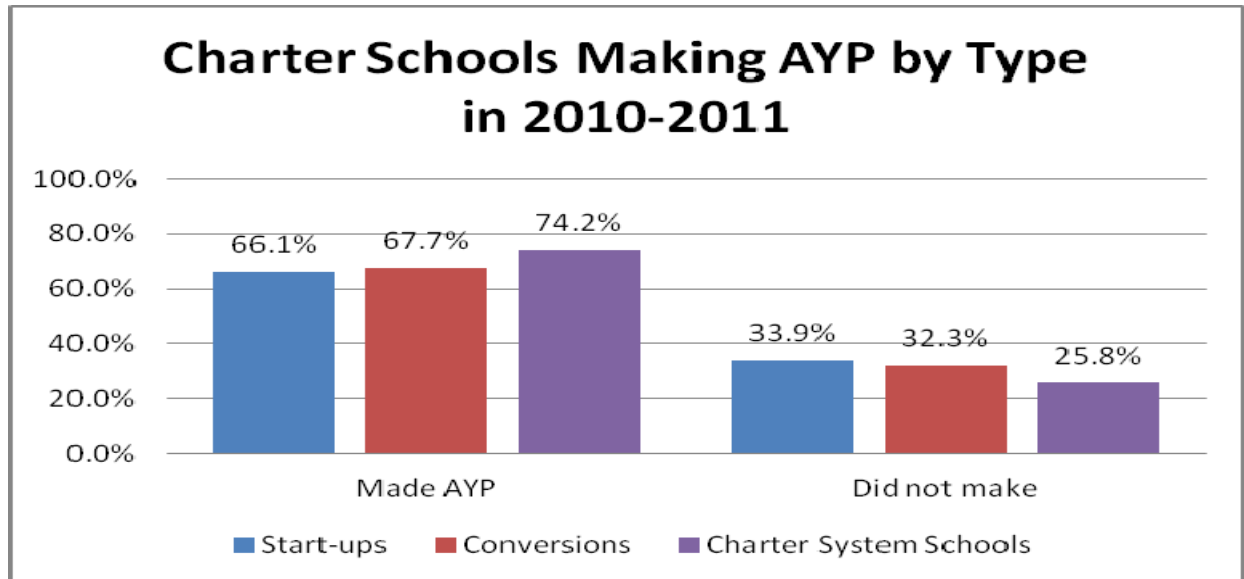


While 70% of all charter schools including charter system schools made AYP, only 67% percent of conversion and start-up charter schools made AYP in 2010-11.¹¹ This is a decrease from 80% in 2009-10. In comparison, traditional public schools also declined from 2009-10 to 2010-11 although by a smaller percentage.¹² Over the past five years, the overall performance of charter schools compared to traditional public schools has been mixed but both groups have traditionally demonstrated the same general performance trends.

¹¹ Disclaimer: While there were 101 conversion and start-up schools in operation for the 2010-11 year, 87 have AYP designations and are included in the following figures. The other fourteen charter schools did not receive AYP designations because the school is considered a program, it was too small, or it did not serve students that took state-mandated tests in AYP grades.

¹² Nationally the percentage of schools making AYP is down as well, although direct comparisons are not possible as each state uses different tests and target levels to indicate whether AYP is achieved.

Figure 30: Charter Schools Making AYP by Type



Of the 29 charter schools that did not make AYP for 2010-11, 10 schools are in Needs Improvement status. Five of the 29 schools are schools that did not have their charters renewed for 2011-12 or were closed. Two of those schools represented the only charter schools to have a Needs Improvement status higher than an NI-2. In addition, three additional schools are in Needs Improvement status, but made AYP for 2010-11 and thus are on track to be removed from the Needs Improvement list.

Figure 31: Charter Schools Not Making AYP in 2010-11

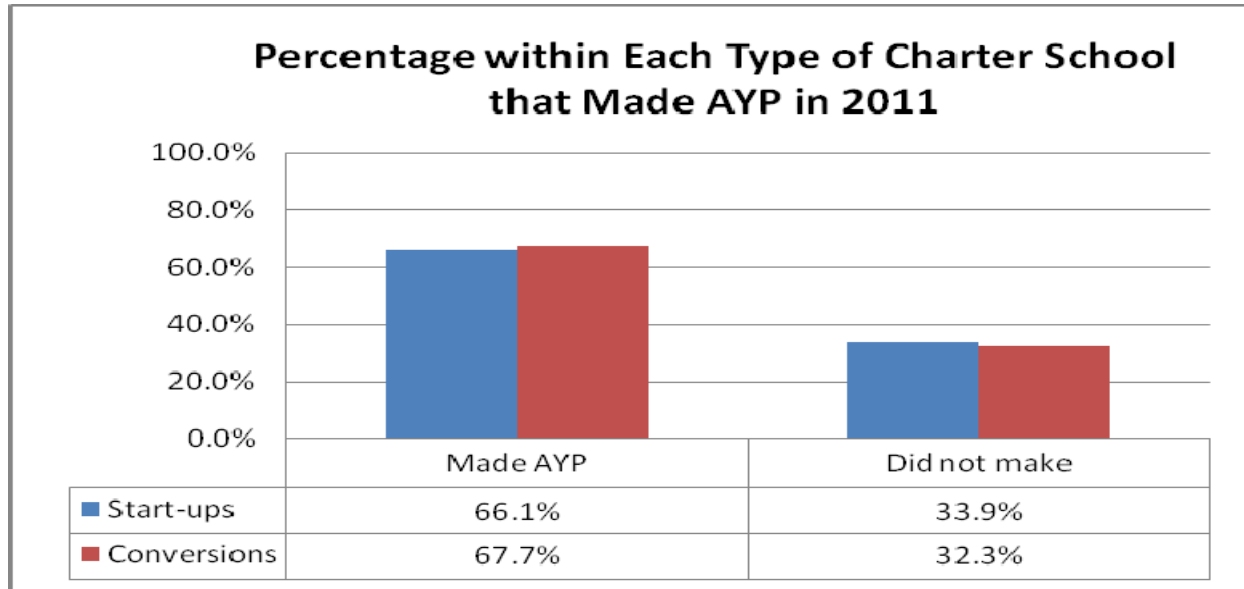
Charter School	Grades Served	Type of Charter School	AYP Status	Reason
Atlanta Heights Charter Commission School	Elementary	Start-up/LEA	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - All Students
Atlanta Preparatory Academy	Elementary	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - All Students
Bishop Hall Charter School	High	Start-up	NI - 1	Graduation Rate
Challenge Charter Academy	Middle	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - All Students; Attendance Rate
Chamblee Charter High School	High	Conversion	Did Not Meet - Adequate	ELA - Econ. Disadv. Subgroup
Dougherty Comprehensive High School [^]	High	Conversion	NI - 4	Graduation Rate
Forsyth Academy	High	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Test Participation
Fulton Science Academy High School	High	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Graduation Rate
Gateway to College Academy (DeKalb)	High	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Graduation Rate
Houston County Career Academy	High	Start-up	NI - 1	Graduation Rate
Imagine International Academy of Smyrna	Elementary	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - Black subgroup
Imagine Wesley International Academy	Elementary	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - Econ. Disadv. Subgroup
International Community School	Elementary	Start-up	NI - 1	Math - ELL and Econ. Disadv. Subgroups; ELA - ELL subgroup
Intown Charter Academy	Elementary	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - All Students
Kingsley Elementary School	Elementary	Conversion	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - Hispanic and Econ. Disadv. Subgroups
Lanier Career Academy	High	Start-up	NI - 1	Math and ELA - All Students; Graduation Rate
Marietta Charter School*	Elementary	Start-up	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Attendance
Morgan County High School	High	Conversion	NI - 2	Math - Black and Econ. Disadv. subgroups; ELA - Econ. Disadv. Subgroup
Mountain Education Center School	High	Start-up/LEA	NI - 1	Math - All Students
Murphey Middle Charter School [^]	Middle	Conversion	NI - 8	Math - All Students

Figure 33: Charter Schools Not Making AYP in 2010-11(Continued)

Charter School	Grades Served	Type of Charter School	AYP Status	Reason
Odyssey School	Elementary	Start-up/LEA	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - Black subgroup
Peachtree Hope Charter School*	Elementary	Start-up/LEA	Did Not Meet -Adequate	Math and ELA - All Students
Peachtree Middle School	Middle	Conversion	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math - Hispanic, SWD, ELL and Econ. Disadv. subgroups; ELA - ELL subgroup
Reese Road Elementary School	Elementary	Conversion	Did Not Meet -Adequate	Math - SWD and Econ. Disadv. Subgroups; ELA - SWD subgroup
Ridgeview Charter School	Middle	Conversion	NI - 1	Math - ELL subgroup
Sandy Springs Middle School	Middle	Conversion	Did Not Meet - Adequate	Math and ELA - SWD subgroup
Sardis Elementary School	Elementary	Conversion	Did Not Meet -Adequate	Math - ELL and Econ. Disadv. Subgroups
University Community Academy	Elementary	Start-up	NI - 2	Math - All Students
Whitfield County Career Academy	High	Start-up	Did Not Meet -Adequate	ELA - All Students; Graduation Rate
* School is closed as of the 2011-2012 school year.				
^ School was not renewed as a charter school.				

AYP Status by Type of School

Figure 32: Georgia Charter School AYP status by Type



Conversion and start-up schools performed similar, with 67.7% of conversions and 66.1% of start-ups making AYP.

Charter School Academic Performance by Grades Served

Figure 33: Percentage of Charter Schools by Type that Made AYP

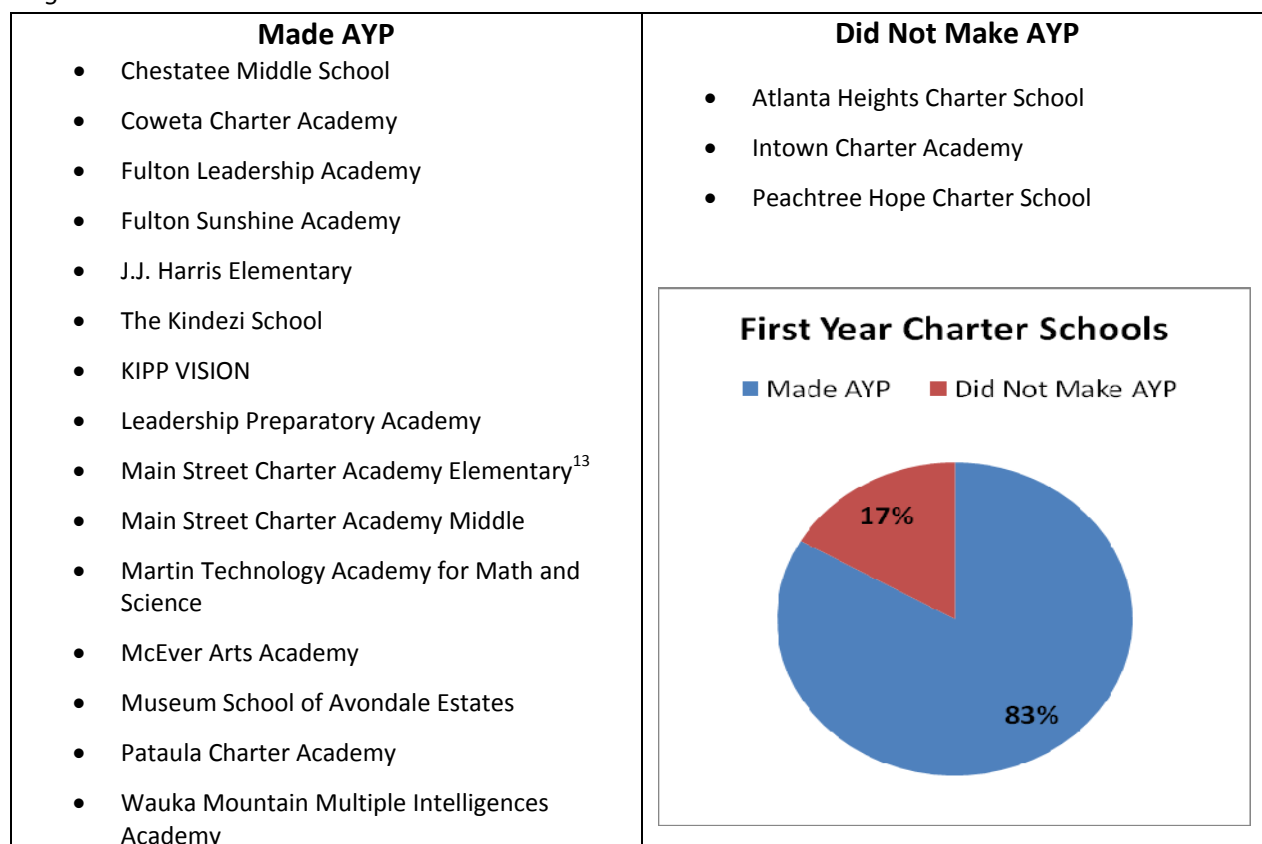
Grade Levels Served	Charter Schools	State	Better Than the State?
Elementary	78.4%	83.1%	NO
Middle	73.3%	70.6%	YES
High School	41.9%	41.5%	YES
K-12	100.0%	n/a	n/a

The percentage of middle and high school charter schools that made AYP was higher than the state percentages of all middle and high schools making AYP for 2010-11.

New Schools for 2010-11

Schools in their first year of operation for the 2010-11 school year outperformed all other categories of charter schools. More than four-fifths of charter schools in their first year made AYP. Only three new schools did not make AYP, one of which is now closed. All five new conversion charter schools made AYP in 2010-11 and all but one is a distinguished school.

Figure 34: First Year Charter Schools AYP Status



¹³ Main Street Charter Academy has only one charter but two separate campuses which each receive a separate AYP designation.

Academic Performance of Charter Schools that Partner with EMOs and CMOS

Of the 18 charter schools partnering with either an EMO or a CMO, ten schools (53%) made AYP. The KIPP schools were the most successful with 100% of their four schools making AYP. EdisonLearning is next with three out of four of its schools making AYP. Of the three EMOs operating multiple schools, Imagine performed the worst with only one of its four schools making AYP. The other two EMO operated schools making AYP are in partnerships with Charter Schools USA and Academica.

Figure 35: 2010-11 AYP Status of Charter Schools that partnered with an EMO or CMO

EMOs in Georgia	Made AYP	Did Not Make AYP
KIPP	4 - KIPP STRIVE, KIPP South Fulton, KIPP VISION, and KIPP WAYS	0
EdisonLearning	3 - Charles R. Drew Charter School, Main Street Academy of Excellence Elementary, Main Street Academy of Excellence Middle	1- Intown Charter Academy
Imagine Schools	1 - Imagine International Academy of Mableton	3 - Imagine International Academy of Smyrna, Marietta Charter School, Wesley International Academy
Charter Schools USA	1 -Coweta Charter Academy	0
Academica	1 - Ivy Preparatory Academy	0
K12, Inc.	0	1 - Odyssey School
Mosaica Education, Inc.	0	1 - Atlanta Preparatory Academy
National Heritage Academies	0	1 - Atlanta Heights Commission Charter School
SABIS Education System	0	1 -Peachtree Hope Charter School
TOTAL	10	8

Looking Forward to 2011 – 2012

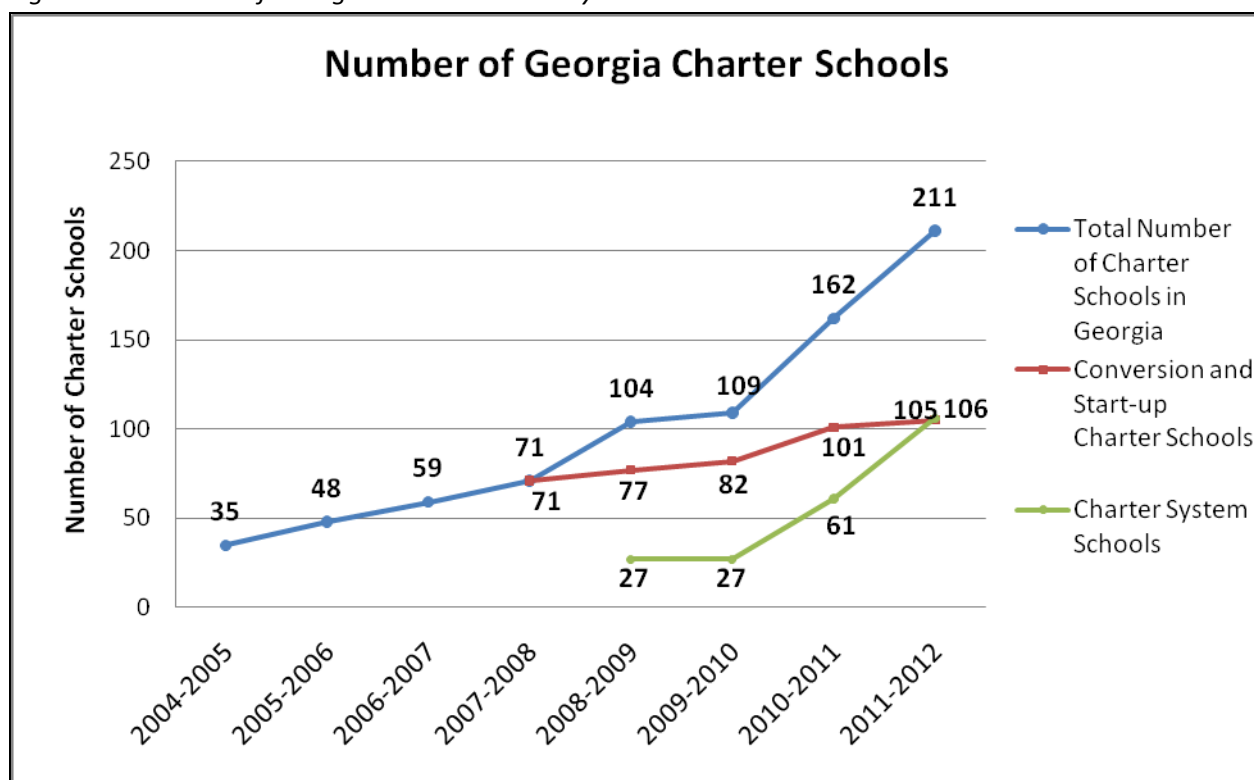
Figure 36: 2010-11 SBOE and Charter Commission Activity

State Board of Education Petition Activity 2010-2011				
	Approved	Withdrawn	Denied	Totals
Start-ups	8	1	1	10
Conversions	1	1	1	3
Renewals	10	7	0	17
Charter Systems	6	1	0	7
State Chartered Special Schools	11	5	0	16
Locally Approved former Commission Schools	2	1	4	7
Subtotal	38	16	6	60
Amendments	5	n/a	n/a	5
Terminations	1	n/a	n/a	1
Closed	4	n/a	n/a	4
Subtotal	10	n/a	n/a	10
Commission Petition Activity 2010-2011				
	Approved	Withdrawn	Denied	Totals
Start-ups	8	4	13	25
Renewals	0	1	0	1
Subtotal	8	5	13	26

The State Board of Education and the former Georgia Charter Schools Commission had a busy 2010-11 year reviewing applicants for charter schools and charter systems. A total of 86 schools came before the State Board of Education (SBOE) and/or the Charter Commission. The end of the 2010-11 school year saw a flurry of activity when the Supreme Court ruled the Georgia Charter School Commission unconstitutional in May 2011. The ruling placed sixteen schools in jeopardy and the SBOE acted swiftly and efficiently under a promise from the Superintendent to ensure none of the students would start 2011-12 without a quality charter school to attend.

The State Board, working with local districts, was able to approve charters for thirteen of the sixteen schools either under local authority, Ivy Preparatory (Gwinnett County Schools) and The Museum School of Avondale Estates (DeKalb County Schools) or, as State Chartered Special Schools. One underperforming former Commission school (Peachtree Hope Charter School) was not approved locally or by the State Board of Education. Two other approved commission charter schools had not previously opened and withdrew their applications (Chattahoochee Hills Charter School, Heron Bay Academy).

Figure 37: Number of Georgia Charter Schools by Year



The 2011-12 school year began with the addition of nine new start-up charter schools and one conversion charter school. There was a net gain of four conversions and start-up schools due to the closure or non-renewal of six schools which offset the ten new schools. This school year also started with the addition of six new charter systems bringing total number of charter schools to 211. For the first time, charter system schools make up 50% of the total number of charter schools.

The new start-ups are split relatively equally with four Locally Approved start-ups and five State-Chartered Special Schools. Two of the new schools are virtual schools with intentions to serve K-12 when fully enrolled, Georgia Connections Academy serving grades K-8 for its first year and Gwinnett County Online Campus serving high school grades 9–12 this year. Four of the charter schools are a result of expansions of currently successful models. KIPP opened its first high school in Georgia, KIPP Atlanta Collegiate enrolling 9th grade its first year. Ivy Preparatory Academy in Gwinnett opened two new schools in DeKalb, Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood for Girls and Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood for Boys, both serving grades K – 6 in their first year. Cherokee Charter Academy is a Charter Schools USA school which launched this year after the successful first year of Charter Schools USA's Coweta Charter Academy. Of the three remaining new start-ups, one is a career academy (Baldwin County Career Academy), one is a middle school located in Atlanta Public Schools, (Heritage Preparatory Academy) and one is a high school in DeKalb County (Destiny Achievers Academy of Excellence).

Appendix A

Charter Types referred to in this report

1. Conversion: a charter school that existed as a local school prior to becoming a charter school. To apply as a conversion, a majority of the faculty and instructional staff members and a majority of parents or guardians of students enrolled in the petitioning school must vote by secret ballot to apply for a charter.
2. Start-up: a charter school created by a petition brought forth by private individuals, private organizations, or a state or local public entity.
 - a. State-Chartered Special School: a charter school created as a special school that is operating under the terms of a charter between the charter petitioner and the SBOE. Petitioners may apply to become a state chartered special school if their petition is first denied by the local board and they apply for state chartered special school status to the SBOE. Conversion charter school petitioners may not apply to be state chartered special schools.
 - b. Charter Commission School: a charter school created as an independent school that operated under terms of a charter between the charter petitioner and the Georgia Charter Schools Commission. Petitioners were apply to become a charter commission school if their petition was denied by their local board or if they draw students from five or more counties.
 - c. Locally Approved Start-up: a charter school that is operating under the terms of a charter between the charter petitioner and the local district.
3. Charter System: a local school district that operates under a charter between the district as the charter petitioner and the SBOE.

Conversions, start-ups, and system charter schools are under the management and control of their local board, with the SBOE as a third party to the contract. Only state-chartered special schools are under the management and control of the SBOE. Commission schools were managed and monitored by the Georgia Charter Schools Commission, however, since the Commission disbanded no more Commission schools currently exist. All Commission schools were either approved by their local districts, became State Chartered Special Schools or were closed.

Testing History

In 2000, the State instituted the first year of the state assessment, the Criterion Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT), for grades four, six, and eight. Spring 2002 and 2004 marked the first operational administrations in all grades, which included English/ Language Arts, Mathematics, and Reading in grades 1 through 8. Science and Social Studies are covered in grades 3 through 8.

Academic Data

From the academic data available on Georgia's public schools, this Report highlights the most useful. To look at progress over time, this Report includes standardized test scores for each charter school, its local district, and the state. This selection of data allows readers to compare the charter school's achievement level to the local district and the State as well as to compare the charter school's rate of improvement to the local district and state. Further disaggregated data can be found for each charter school on the Governor's Office of Student Achievement website (www.gaosa.org).

Progress Towards Goals and Financial Audit

For locally-approved charter schools, information on academic goals and the financial audit was provided by each charter school. This Report also contains information about the financial condition of each charter school, including whether each school had a surplus at the end of the reporting period and how much each school spent on facilities costs. Charter schools' progress towards the academic goals stated in their charters is important because, in conjunction with state and national accountability systems, charter schools are held accountable for meeting these goals.

Acronyms

Throughout the report, a number of acronyms appear. Among these are: AYP or Adequate Yearly Progress; CRCT or Criterion Reference Competency Test; GHSGT or Georgia High School Graduation Test; GaDOE or Georgia Department of Education; LEA or Local Educational Agency; SBOE or State Board of Education.

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Appendix B - 2010-2011 Charter School Individual Academic Performance Data

Appendix B includes individual school templates for 101 charter schools. Every charter school was required to submit an annual report to the Georgia Department of Education by October 1st, 2011.

- Please note that three charter schools did not submit annual reports: Dougherty Middle School, Dougherty High School and Peachtree Hope Charter School. All three of these schools either closed or decided not to renew their charters.
- Please note that we have included academic performance graphs for all charter schools even ones that did not have students that took either the CRCT or GHSGTs. For these charter schools, the graphs contain information on how the local district and state performed.
- Please note that if a charter high school was the only high school within a local district, that there will not be a separate high school line on the academic performance graphs.
- Please note that all academic performance data is the official GaDOE report card data. Please be aware that other information is self-reported data including progress towards goals and innovative features. Any typos or inaccuracies contained within these self-reported sections reflect the school's self-reported responses to the annual report survey.
- Please note that Ivy Preparatory Academy was authorized by Gwinnett County for the 2011-2012 school year. Additionally, the Museum School of Avondale Estates was authorized by DeKalb County for the 2011-2012 school year. All other former Commission charter schools are now State-Chartered Special Schools with the exception of Peachtree Hope Charter School, which is now closed.

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¹⁴ MainStreet Academy has two separate campuses (Elementary and Middle) that receive AYP designations. MainStreet Academy only has one charter.

¹⁵ New Life Academy of Excellence has two separate campuses that receive AYP designations. New Life Academy of Excellence only has one charter.

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