



Black Student Performance in Charter Schools Overview

675,000

Approximate
Number of Charter
School Students in
CA in 2019-20

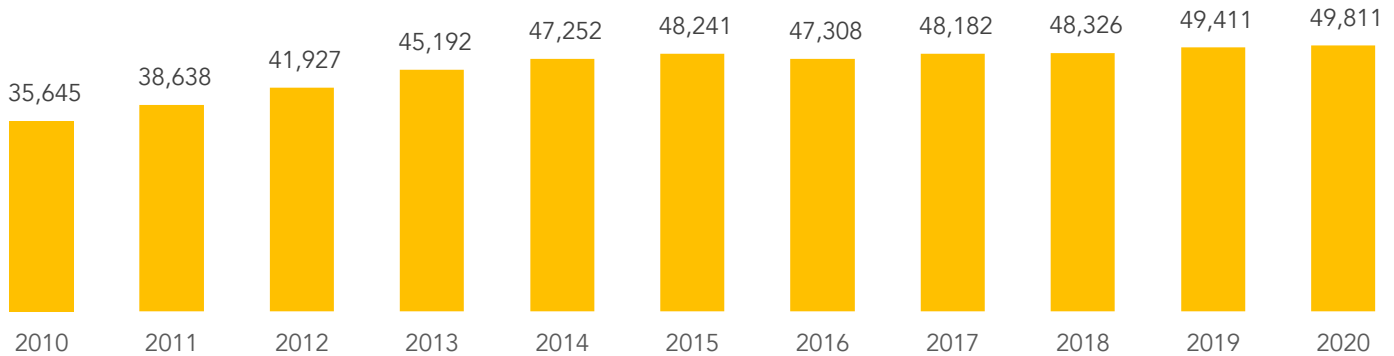
CALIFORNIA
CHARTER SCHOOLS
ATTENDANCE

1,310

Number of Charter
Schools in CA in
2019-20

Black Charter School Student Enrollment

Over the last 10 years, the number of Black students enrolled in California’s charter public schools has grown steadily, from 35,645 students in 2009-10 to almost 50,000 students in 2019-20.



Black Charter School Student Enrollment by Geographic Area

As seen in previous years, in the 2019-20 academic year, Black students were more likely to attend a charter school than a traditional public school (TPS) both at the statewide level and in a majority of the large school districts we analyzed.

Geographic Area	Percentage Black Students	
	Charter Schools	Traditional Schools
California	7%	5%
Fresno Unified	10%	8%
Los Angeles Unified	8%	8%
Oakland Unified	20%	23%
Sacramento City Unified	23%	13%
San Diego Unified	12%	7%
San Francisco Unified	17%	6%
West Contra Costa Unified	11%	15%
San Jose City*	2%	2%

*For statistical significance we reference San Jose City, which has more schools collectively than San Jose Unified School District.

Black Charter School Student Academic Performance

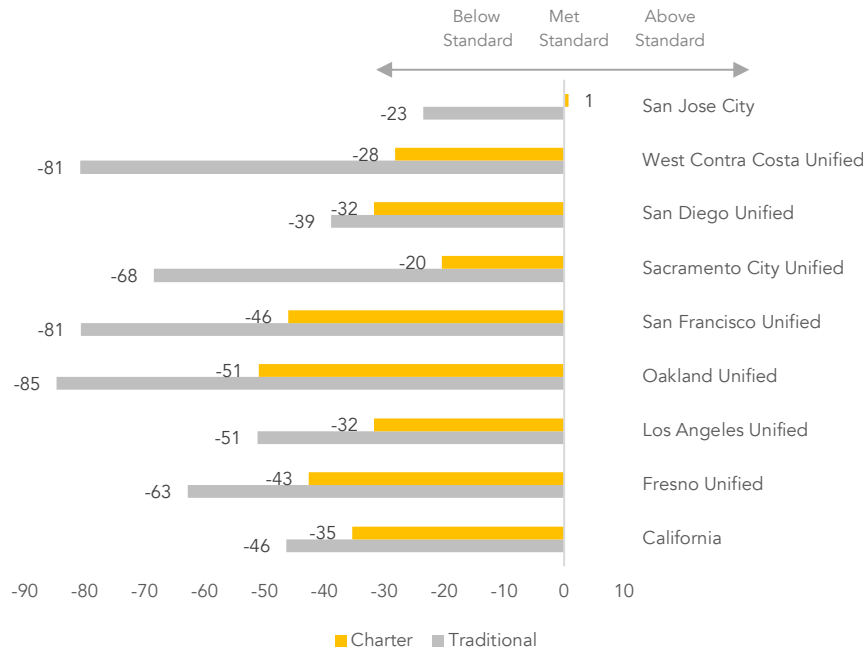
Across all California public schools, Black student performance lags behind that of other student subgroups, and the state as a whole. For example, the average public-school student in California scores 1 point above the met standard in English Language Art (ELA) and 29 points below the met standard in Math. In comparison, Black public-school students score 45 points below the met standard in ELA and 85 points below the met standard in Math.

Recognizing this opportunity gap, charter public schools are taking steps to boost the performance of Black students, ensuring they make progress towards grade-level proficiency and leave school prepared for college and career. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, state testing in California was cancelled for the 2019-20 school year, therefore the results below correspond to the most recent year of testing: 2018-19.

Distance from Standard

According to this metric, in each of the seven listed major school districts in California, Black charter public school students are academically outperforming their peers in traditional public schools. This is true for both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math.

2018-19 English Language Arts CAASPP Results by District



California State Assessment:

Commonly referred to as CAASPP, these computer-based tests measure knowledge of California’s English language arts (ELA) and mathematics standards for students in grades three through eight, and grade 11.

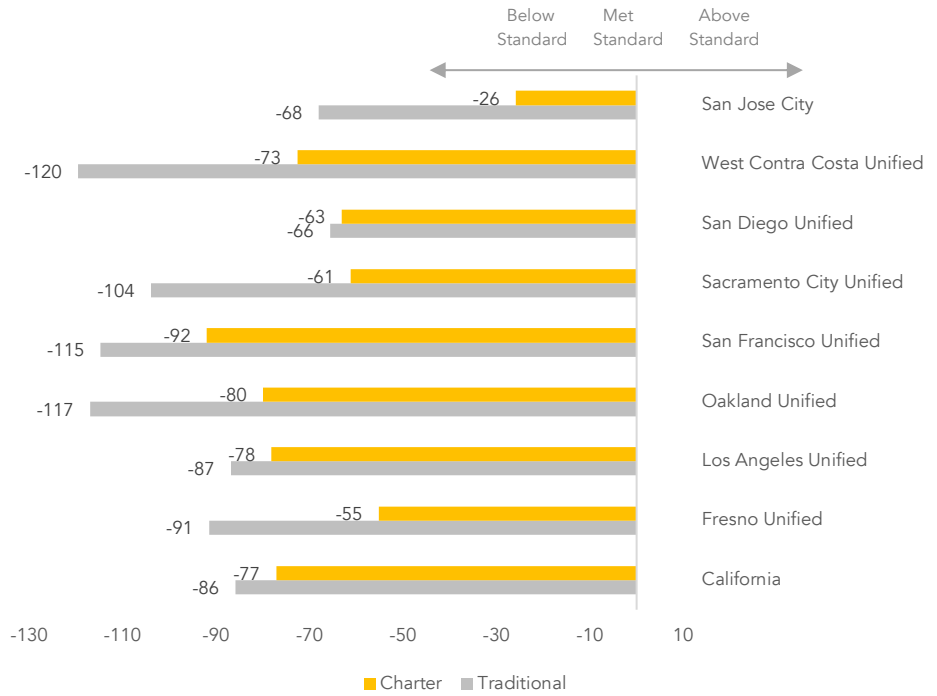
Distance from Standard:

Distance from Standard (DFS) describes how many scale score points a student or group of students has scored away from the “met” standard. A DFS of zero means the standard has been met, a DFS below zero means the standard has not been met.

State Level Accountability

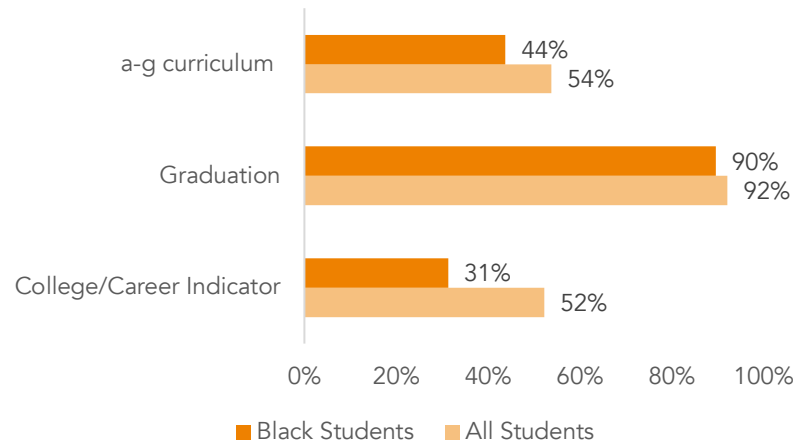
Each year, California publishes the [California School Dashboard](#) to spotlight the performance of public schools across the state on a variety of academic and non-academic measures.

Black students perform do not perform above a 'Yellow' on any of these indicators.

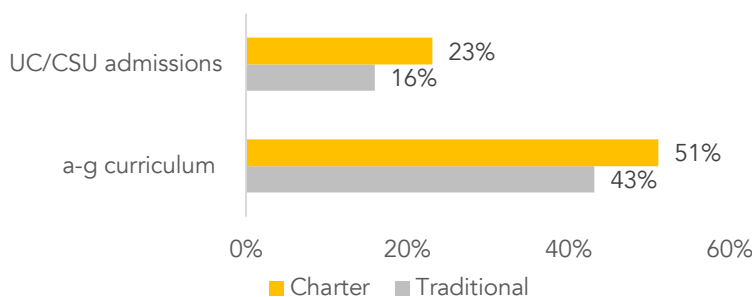


Post-secondary Readiness & School Climate

Academic performance differences between Black students and other students extend into measures of post-secondary readiness and school climate/culture. Black students are twice as likely to be chronically absent from school (22% for Black students versus 11% for all students), and more likely to be suspended than the overall student body (8% for Black students versus 3% for all students). As shown to the right, Black students are also less likely to complete a-g curriculum (required for UC/CSU admission), less likely to be considered prepared for college or career (CCI) and less likely to graduate from high school in four years.

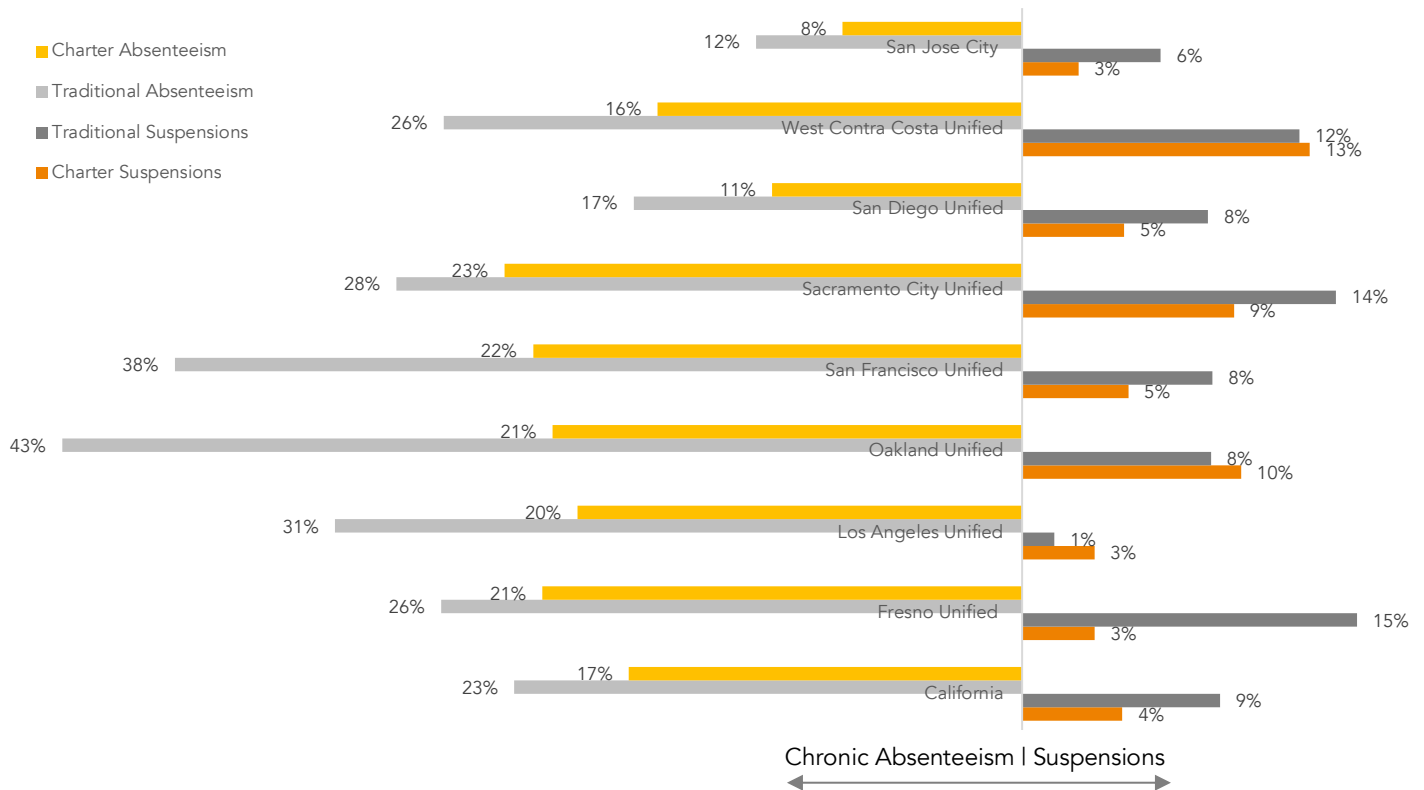


Despite these clear discrepancies, Charter schools are making a difference for Black students in terms of access to college. Black charter school students are completing a-g coursework at a higher rate than their traditional school peers (51% for Black charter students versus 43% for Black traditional students). Black charter students are also



suspended at lower rates (4% for charter students versus 9% for traditional students) and are less likely to be chronically absent (17% for Black charter students versus 23% for Black traditional students). However, there is still work to be done to close the gap between the performance of Black students and other subgroups. Black charter school students graduate at slightly lower rates and are more likely

to drop out of high school before graduation. The differences between charter schools and traditional school suspensions and chronic absenteeism rates are also evident at the district level, with charter schools outperforming in a majority of the large districts shown below.



Charter Schools Serving Black Students with Excellence

The success of Black students in charter schools are not one-off scenarios, particularly when looking at schools serving a high proportion of Black students. Across California, there are 107 public schools whose student body is majority Black (50% or more). Of these 43 are charter public schools and 64 are traditional public schools. When looking at Black student performance on state testing, 8 charter schools and 5 traditional schools have excelled in terms of Black student performance. All of these schools are site-based (as opposed to independent study), independent (or autonomous) charter schools. The schools are located in six different school districts, with varying percentages of Black student enrollment at the district level.

Charter School	School District	Black Student	
		CAASPP Percentile*	Enrollment
Wilder's Preparatory Academy Charter Middle (6-8)	Inglewood Unified	99th	86%
Wilder's Preparatory Academy Charter (K-5)	Inglewood Unified	98th	85%
Hardy Brown College Prep (K-5)	San Bernardino City	87th	66%
Sacramento Charter High (9-12)	Sacramento City Unified	81st	57%
Today's Fresh Start-Compton (K-8)	Los Angeles Unified	79th	55%
CATCH Prep Charter High, Inc. (9-12)	Los Angeles Unified	78th	63%
Fortune (K-10)	Elk Grove Unified	77th	65%
Pasadena Rosebud Academy (K-8)	Pasadena Unified	75th	58%

* CAASPP percentile shows which percentile of performance (on a 1-100 scale) students in are performing in compared to students in the same subgroup statewide.

Connecting Diverse Leaders with Diverse Students

When looking at the leadership diversity across each of these high performing charter schools we see a common trend: each a lead or founded by a leader of color. CCSA is aware of the importance of leadership of color, as studies have shown that all students, especially those of color, have greater academic outcomes when they are exposed to an educational leader of color.

In 2019, CCSA produced a report on [“Charting the Course to Equity: K-12 Leaders of Color and Student Success”](#). The report explores how Black and Latinx leaders benefit all students in an analysis focused on the relationship between the 2017-2018 academic year’s school-level outcomes in California’s public schools and the presence of leaders of color.