

English Language Learner and Immigrant Students in NYC Charter Schools

2018



Charter Schools Are Public Schools

The public education system in New York City is enormous; there are over one million students to educate! For this reason, the City has different kinds of public schools for parents to choose from. Charter schools are a special type of public school. They are free and open to all New York City students, including English language learners and immigrants, and do not require any special entrance exams.

Charter Schools Serve All Students

Charter schools welcome all students, including students with disabilities, English language learners, and immigrants. Charter schools do not select students based on academic background or tests. Instead, students are chosen through a random lottery after parents fill out a short application. There are currently 227 charter schools in NYC, educating approximately 114,000 students in all grades and in all five boroughs.

What Supports Do English Language Learners Receive?

Charter schools are required by law to communicate with their families in a language that the families understand. They are also required to provide English language learners with research-based supports that help them learn English and the same content as all other students in the school. Charter schools aim to ensure that all students' needs are met by offering, among other things, smaller class sizes, co-teaching, more time for reading and math, a "full-inclusion" setting, and a longer school day and year.

Charters Help English Language Learners Achieve

The English language learner students enrolled in NYC charter schools score proficient in Math and English Language Arts (ELA) at higher rates than citywide averages. For example, last year English language learners at charters were 24.1% proficient in math, as opposed to 14.7% for students in district schools.

Visit CharterNYC.org to find information in your language about the charter schools in your community.

Educate Yourself: Visit and Ask!

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- 1.** How do you make sure English language learner and immigrant families feel safe and included at your school?
- 2.** What training do teachers have in working with English language learners?
- 3.** Which academic and/or behavior supports are available?
- 4.** How do you make sure that English language learner students learn English and the same content as all other learners in their classes?

How to Apply to NYC Charter Schools



There are three ways to apply to NYC charter schools. Applications are accepted between December 1 and April 1.

- 1.** Use the Common Online Charter School Application, which is available in ten languages, to apply to multiple schools at once! Visit www.nyccharterschools.org/apply for details.
- 2.** Visit the school's website directly to download its application or to apply online.
- 3.** Stop by the school in person to pick up an application or call the school and ask them to mail you an application.

When there are more student applications than available seats, charter schools are required to hold lotteries to randomly select students for admission. Students whose names are not selected will be added to the school's waiting list or may be admitted as seats become available in the future.