



# **New York City Charter Schools: 2014-15 Enrollment Lottery Estimates**

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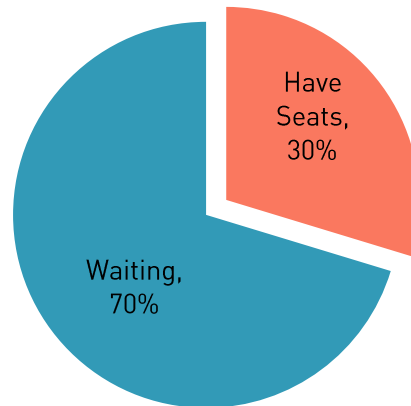
*April 2014*

## New York City Charter Schools: 2014-15 Enrollment Lottery Estimates

Out of the 198 New York City charter schools currently enrolling students for 2014-15, 179 (90%) responded to the NYC Charter School Center's survey about their lottery application rates. Based on survey data, the Charter Center estimates that New York City charter schools received a total of 212,500 applications for 21,000 available seats. Discounting for students who apply to more than one school, this represents an estimated 70,700 applicants for 21,000 seats—creating a citywide charter school “waiting list” of an estimated 49,700.

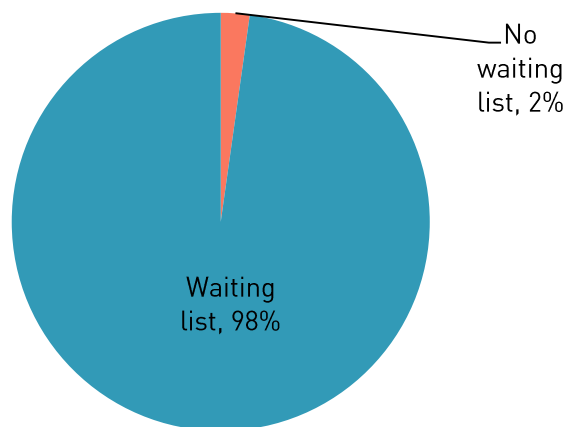
**Approximately 3.4 applicants are competing for each charter school seat.**

*NYC charter school applicants by enrollment status (2014-15, estimated)<sup>1</sup>*



**Almost every charter school has a waiting list for enrollment.**

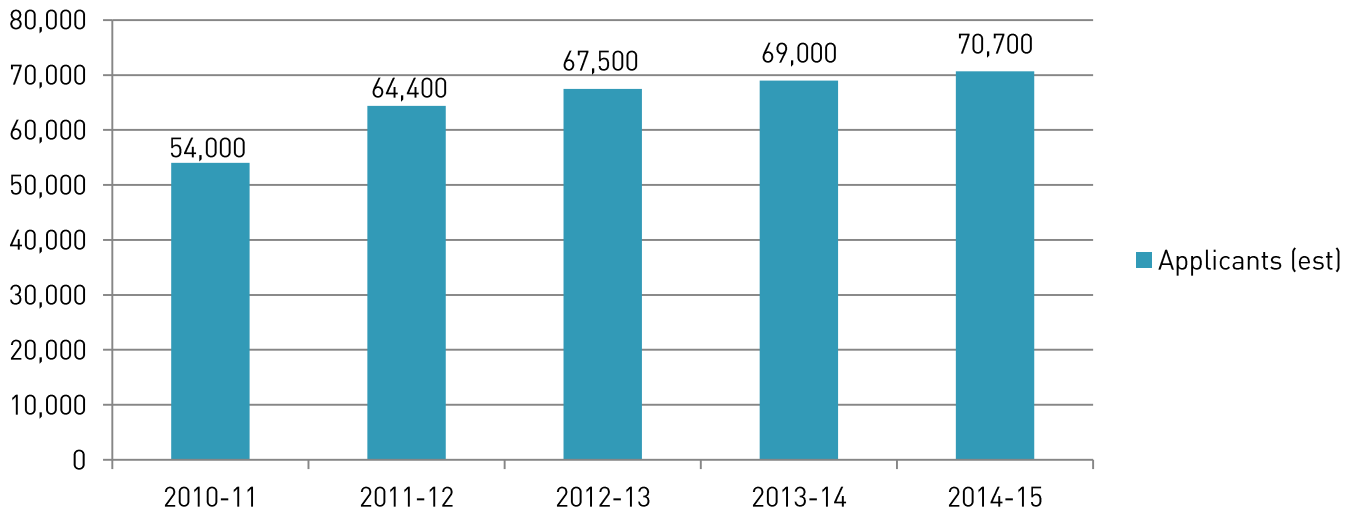
*Reporting charter schools by waiting list status (2014-15, n=179)<sup>1</sup>*



<sup>1</sup> Source: NYC Charter School Center survey and analysis, April 2014

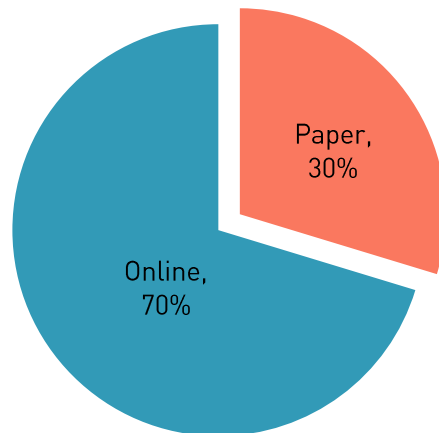
**Charter school applicants have steadily increased over time.**

*Total applicants to NYC charter schools (estimated, 2010-2014)<sup>2</sup>*



**More than two out of three applications are submitted online.**

*Total applications NYC charter schools by application type (estimated, 2014-15)<sup>3</sup>*

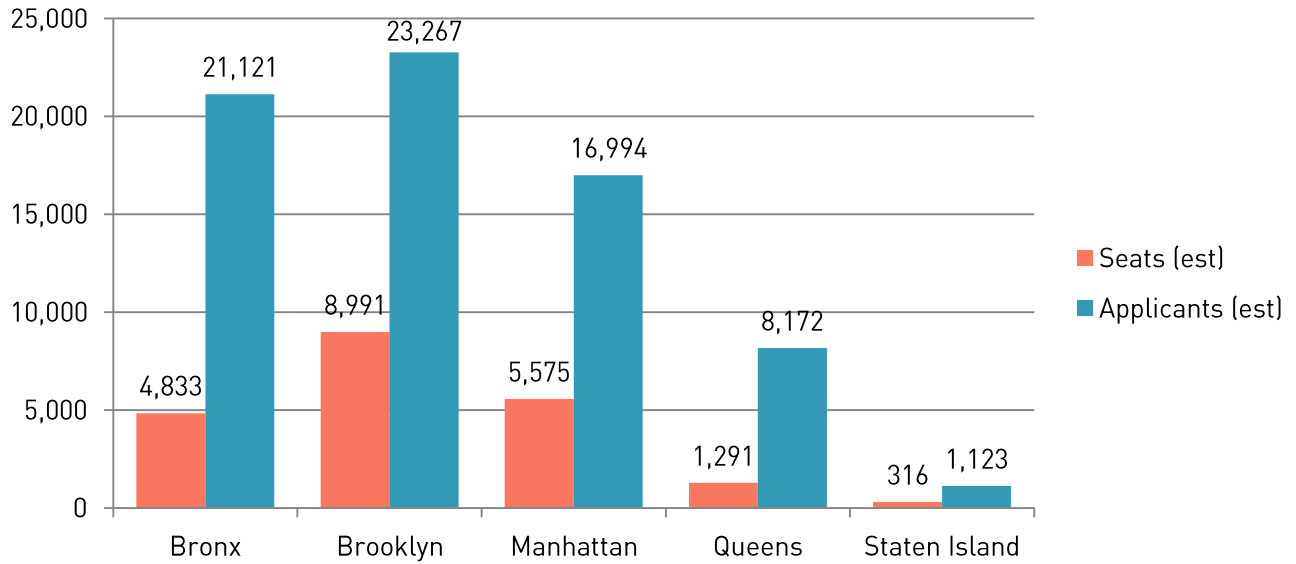


<sup>2</sup> Sources: Charter Center survey and analysis, April 2010, April 2011, April 2012, May 2013, April 2014

<sup>3</sup> Source: Charter Center survey and analysis, April 2014

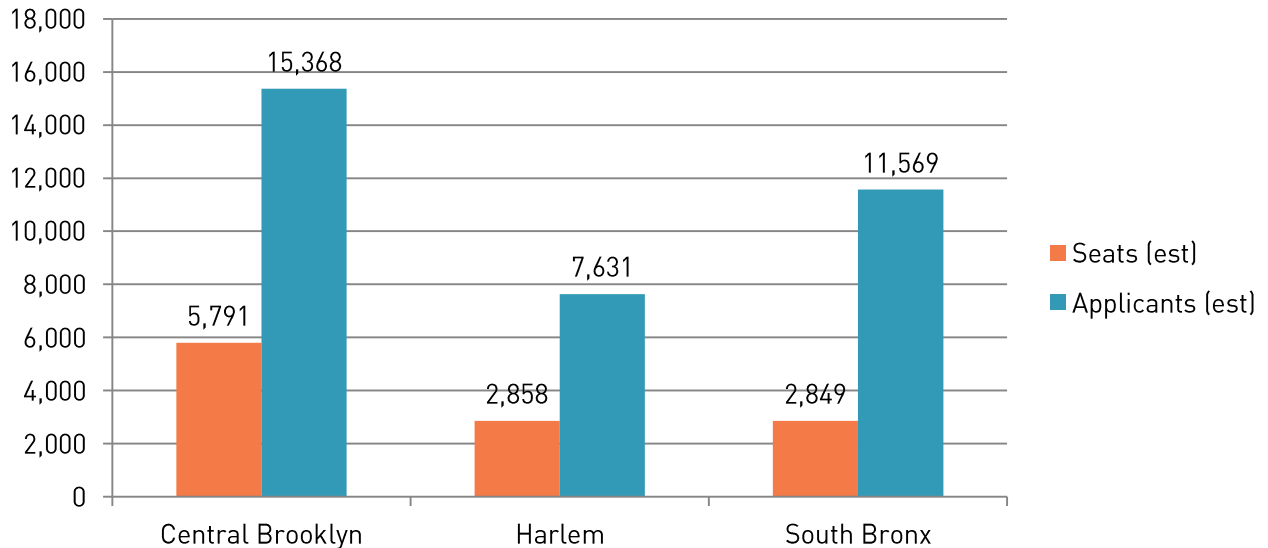
**Applicants exceed available seats in every borough.**

*NYC charter school applicants and seats, by borough (estimated, 2014-15)<sup>4</sup>*



**About 50% of applicants apply in Harlem, the South Bronx, or Central Brooklyn.**

*NYC charter school applicants and seats, by neighborhood (estimated, 2014-15)<sup>5</sup>*



<sup>4</sup> Source: NYC Charter School Center Survey, May 2014

<sup>5</sup> Harlem is defined as CSD 4, 5; Central Brooklyn 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 32; South Bronx 7, 8, 9.

**Applicants exceed seats in every Community School District,  
with thousands of applicants in many CSDs.**

*Ranked CSDs by applicants to local charter schools, with seats (estimated, 2014-15)<sup>6</sup>*

| <i>Rank</i> | <i>CSD (Neighborhood)</i>       | <i>Applicants (est.)</i> | <i>Seats (est.)</i> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1           | CSD 11 (NE Bronx)               | 6,104                    | 456                 |
| 2           | CSD 3 (West Harlem / West Side) | 4,749                    | 839                 |
| 3           | CSD 5 (Central Harlem)          | 4,637                    | 1,806               |
| 4           | CSD 7 (S Bronx)                 | 4,558                    | 1,763               |
| 5           | CSD 9 (SW Bronx)                | 4,301                    | 811                 |
| 6           | CSD 30 (NW Queens)              | 3,564                    | 434                 |
| 7           | CSD 4 (East Harlem)             | 3,219                    | 1,108               |
| 8           | CSD 8 (SE Bronx)                | 3,157                    | 836                 |
| 9           | CSD 18 (Central Brooklyn)       | 3,026                    | 627                 |
| 10          | CSD 29 (SE Queens)              | 2,919                    | 313                 |
| 11          | CSD 14                          | 2,868                    | 1,124               |
| 12          | CSD 19                          | 2,790                    | 1,126               |
| 13          | CSD 15                          | 2,742                    | 732                 |
| 14          | CSD 13                          | 2,543                    | 1,096               |
| 15          | CSD 17                          | 2,291                    | 729                 |
| 16          | CSD 10                          | 2,019                    | 657                 |
| 17          | CSD 22                          | 2,003                    | 1,106               |
| 18          | CSD 2                           | 1,928                    | 867                 |
| 19          | CSD 6                           | 1,659                    | 556                 |
| 20          | CSD 23                          | 1,578                    | 777                 |
| 21          | CSD 16                          | 1,334                    | 713                 |
| 22          | CSD 32                          | 1,145                    | 576                 |
| 23          | CSD 31                          | 1,123                    | 316                 |
| 24          | CSD 12                          | 982                      | 310                 |
| 25          | CSD 21                          | 947                      | 386                 |
| 26          | CSD 27                          | 869                      | 289                 |
| 27          | CSD 1                           | 803                      | 399                 |
| 28          | CSD 24                          | 396                      | 220                 |

<sup>6</sup> CSDs with fewer than two charter schools are excluded

## Estimation Methodology

The Charter Center's annual estimates of total citywide charter school applicants have always carefully discounted for applicants who apply to multiple charter schools. To develop the estimates reported above, we use 1) survey data about individual charter schools' applications and available seats, by grade level; 2) survey data about charter school networks' unique applicant counts across schools, where available; and 3) data about unique applicants across the Charter Center's Common Online Charter School Application. Our method also uses insights about single-school vs. common application rates from spring 2012, when the Charter Center hosted an online application in both formats.

Taking into account geographic proximity to other charter schools accepting applications in the same grade levels, network affiliation, and school age, we estimate a set of deflation factors that are specific to each charter school and each grade level where the school had available seats. For survey non-respondents, which represented 10% of charter schools in this year's survey, we estimate applications received based on two regression models of the responding charter schools' key characteristics and applications received. We then use the grade-by-grade applications and deflation factors to calculate fractional estimates of citywide-unique applicants who applied to each school, which are then summed to create the total citywide estimate.

This year, our deflation methodology resulted in a system-wide estimate of each charter applicant applying to 3.01 schools (up from 2.63 last year). In other words, this year's citywide discount rate—to estimate applicants from applications—was 67% (up from 62%). This shift can be attributed to an increase in charter schools using common applications provided by networks and/or the Charter Center, as well as an increase in charter school options across the five boroughs. Additionally, the Department of Education's Kindergarten Connect application also provided a direct link to the Charter Center's Common Online Application, which resulted in more accessibility for parents to apply to charter schools.

For more information about the Charter Center's enrollment estimates, contact Petra Tuomi at [ptuomi@nyccharterschools.org](mailto:ptuomi@nyccharterschools.org).