



# **New York City Charter Schools: 2016-17 Enrollment Lottery Estimates**

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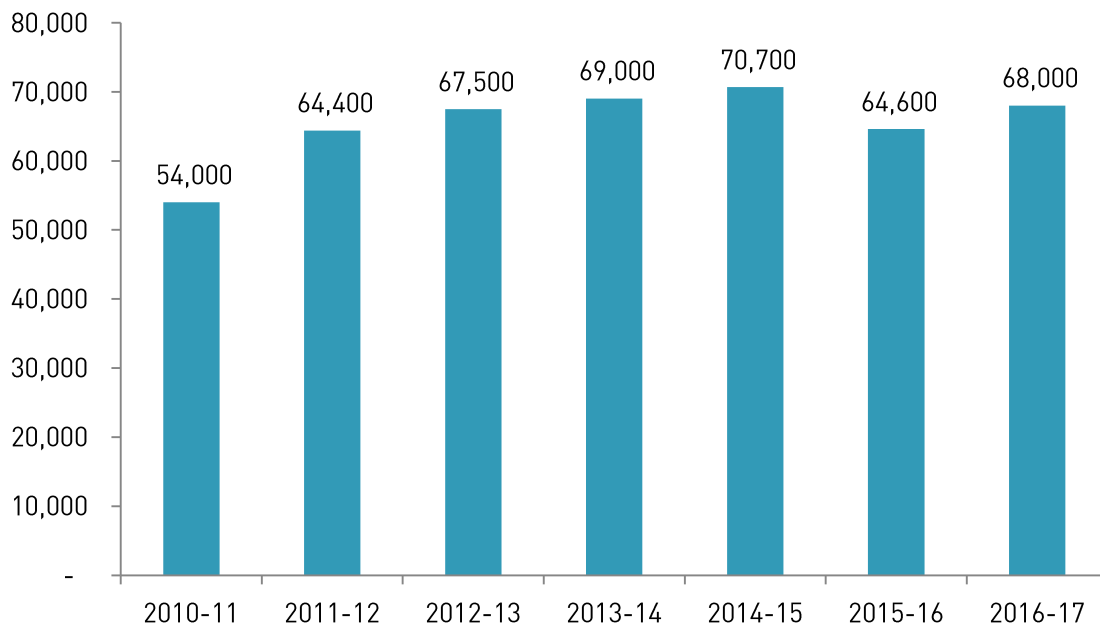
*June 2016*

## New York City Charter Schools: 2016-17 Enrollment Lottery Estimates

Since 2010, the New York City Charter School Center has conducted a survey of all NYC charter schools about their lottery application rates. This spring, out of the 220 NYC charter schools currently enrolling students for 2016-17, 201 (91%) responded to the Charter Center’s survey. Based on survey data and data from the Common Online Charter School Application, the Charter Center estimates that NYC charter schools received a total of 270,250 applications for kindergarten through grade 12. Adjusting for students who apply to more than one charter school, this represents an estimated 68,000 applicants for nearly 23,600 available seats—creating a citywide charter school waiting list of an estimated 44,400.

### Demand for charter school seats remains strong with a 4% increase in applicants ...

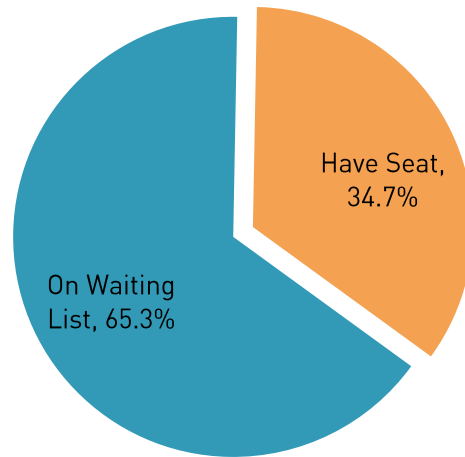
*Total applicants to NYC charter schools (estimated, 2010-2016)<sup>1</sup>*



<sup>1</sup> Source: NYC Charter School Center survey and analysis, 2010-2016

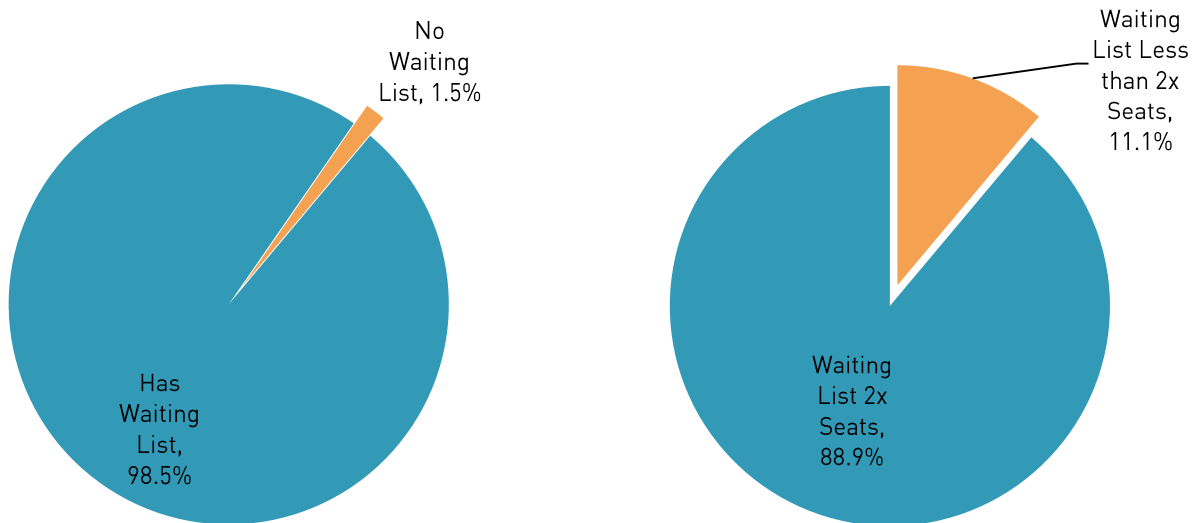
... Which translates to nearly two-thirds of applicants on waitlists.

*NYC charter school applicants by waiting list status (2016-17, estimated)<sup>2</sup>*



**Nearly every charter school has a waiting list ... And about 9 in 10 charter schools have waiting lists that are at least twice the number of available seats.**

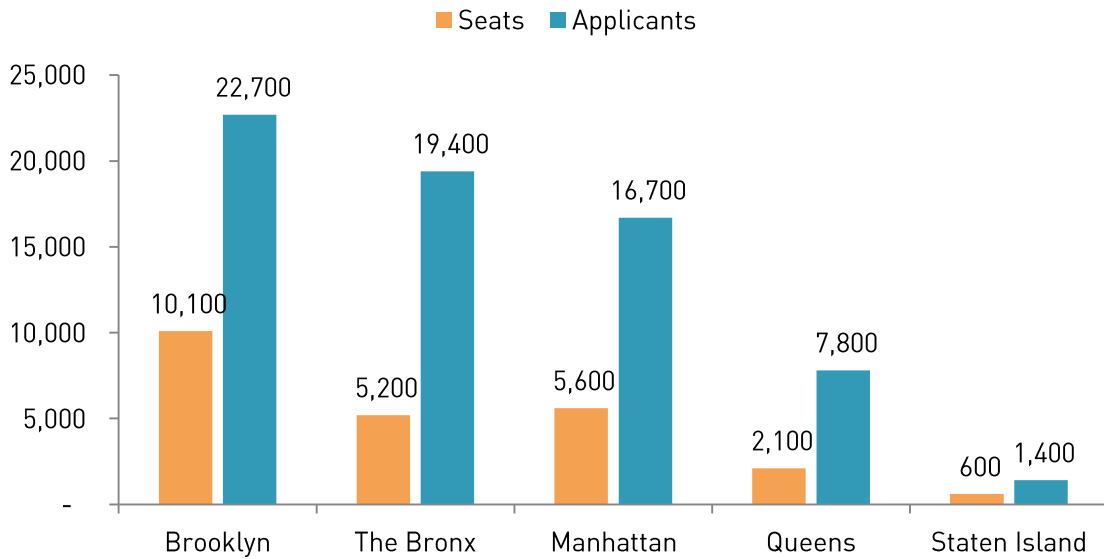
*Applications received by NYC charter schools relative to available seats (Reporting charter schools n=201)<sup>2</sup>*



<sup>2</sup> Source: NYC Charter School Center survey and analysis, 2016

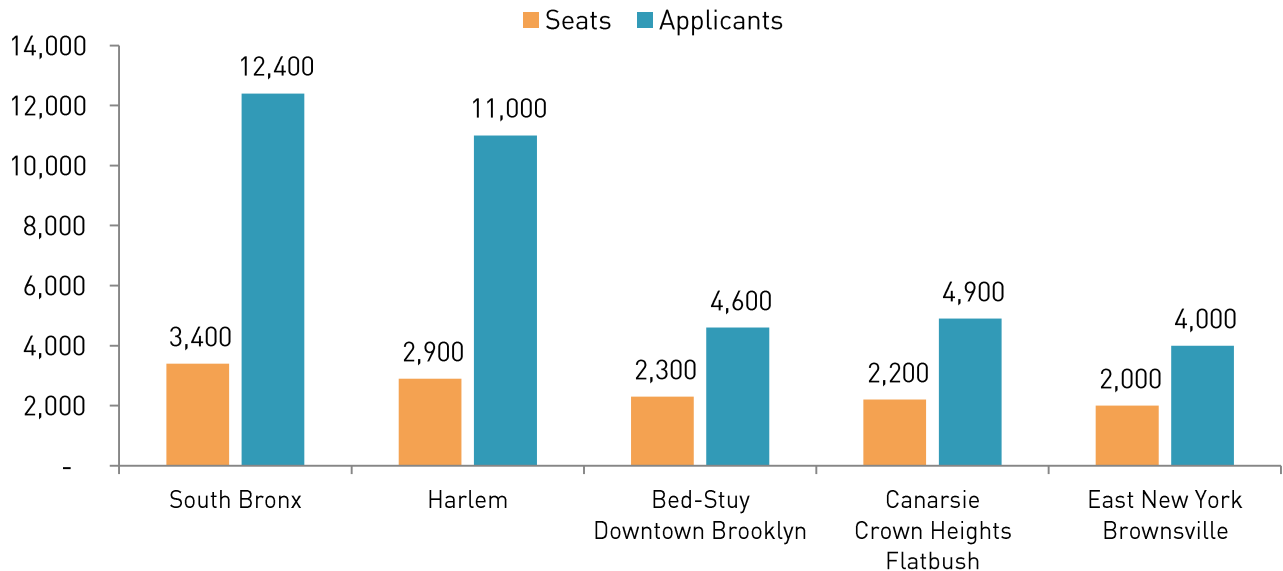
**Applicants continue to outnumber available seats in every borough.**

*NYC charter school applicants and seats, by borough (estimated, 2016-17)<sup>3</sup>*



**More than half of applicants apply in Harlem, the South Bronx, or Central Brooklyn neighborhoods.**

*NYC charter school applicants and seats, by neighborhood (estimated, 2016-17)<sup>4</sup>*

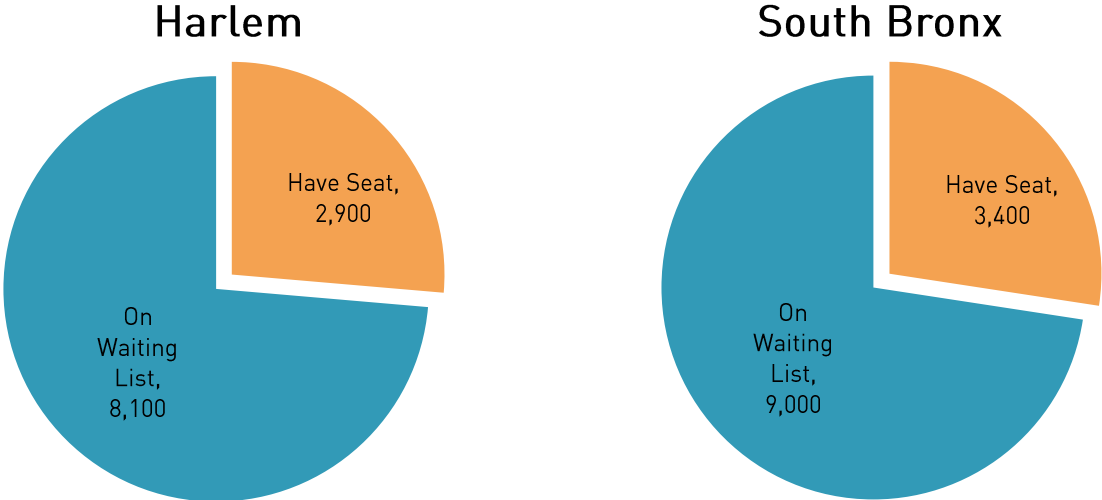


<sup>3</sup> Source: NYC Charter School Center survey and analysis, 2016

<sup>4</sup> South Bronx is defined as CSD 7, 8, 9; Harlem as CSD 4, 5; Bed-Stuy & Downtown Brooklyn as CSD 13, 16; Canarsie, Crown Heights, & Flatbush as CSD 17, 18; East New York & Brownsville as CSD 19, 23.

For each charter school seat in Harlem and the South Bronx, there are nearly four applicants.

*Charter schools by waiting list status (2016-17)<sup>1</sup>*



**Parent demand exceeds available seats throughout all Community School Districts in every borough.**

*Ranked CSDs by applicants to local charter schools, with seats (estimated, 2016-17)<sup>5</sup>*

<i>Borough</i>	<i>CSD</i>	<i>Applicants</i>	<i>Seats</i>	<i>Applicants per Seat (est.)</i>
Brooklyn	13	3,000	1,350	2.2
	17	2,450	1,050	2.3
	18	2,450	1,150	2.1
	14	2,300	1,100	2.1
	15	2,300	900	2.6
	23	2,100	900	2.3
	32	2,050	600	3.4
	19	1,900	1,100	1.7
	16	1,600	950	1.7
	22	1,600	650	2.5
	21	1,000	300	3.3
The Bronx	9	4,700	700	6.7
	7	4,550	1,900	2.4
	11	4,200	650	6.5
	8	3,150	800	3.9
	10	1,700	800	2.1
	12	1,100	400	2.8
Manhattan	5	6,700	1,900	3.5
	4	4,300	1,000	4.3
	3	2,300	800	2.9
	6	1,700	1,000	1.7
	2	1,100	600	1.8
	1	550	300	1.8
Queens	30	4,000	700	5.7
	27	1,450	600	2.4
	29	1,400	550	2.5
	24	500	250	2.2
Staten Island	31	1,400	550	2.5

<sup>5</sup> CSDs with fewer than two charter schools are excluded.

## **Notes: Estimation Methodology and Pre-Kindergarten Applications**

The Charter Center's annual estimates of total citywide charter school applicants have always carefully adjusted 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 just 9% of charter schools this year, 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 4.0 schools (up from 3.87 last year). 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, this year's Charter Center's Common Online Charter School Application integrated several system enhancements that improved its usability for parents: a more robust mapping feature allowed parents to find the charter schools closest to their home address, and the application allowed parents to create a single family profile to search for schools offering enrollment preferences to match their profile. Finally, the Department of Education's Kindergarten Resource page also provided a link to the Charter Center's Common Online Application, which increased parent accessibility to apply to charter schools.

For the second year, the Charter Center's Common Online Application allowed parents to submit applications for pre-kindergarten seats in charter schools offering programs under Universal Pre-K. Though the Charter Center's survey did not collect pre-k data from the sector, the data from the Common Online Application shows that 2,200 applications were submitted from 850 unique applicants for 470 pre-k seats projected to be available for the 2016-17 school year. This sample of data suggests parent demand for high quality public school options is expanding into early childhood programs, and that the increasing demand is outpacing available pre-k seats in charter schools.