

# 2017-18

# NYC CHARTER SCHOOL LOTTERY ESTIMATES

May 2017

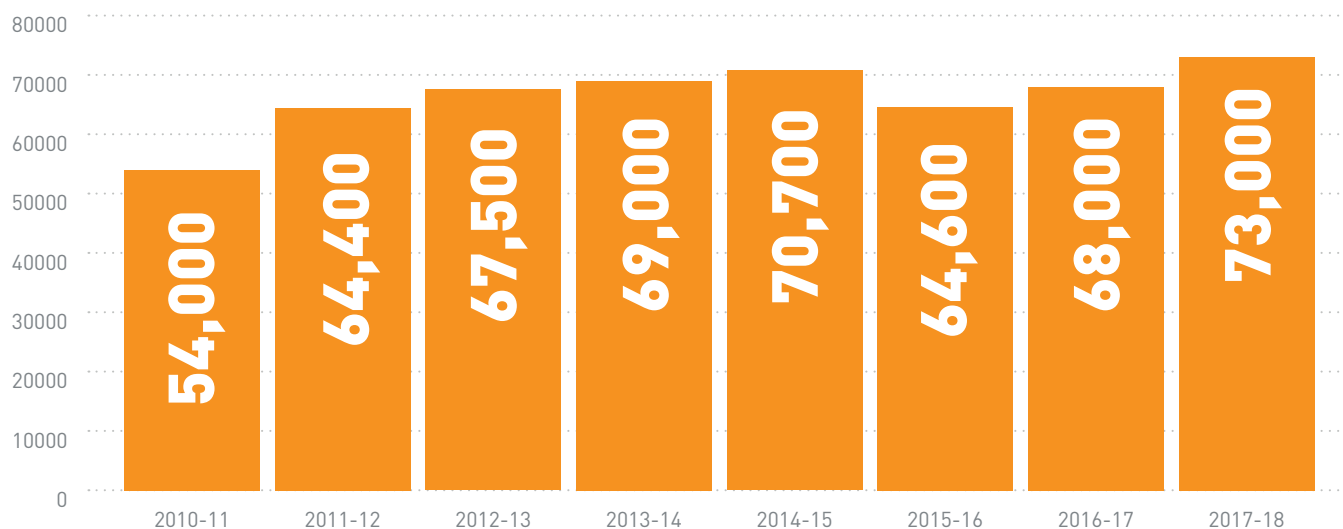


Since 2010, the New York City Charter School Center (“Charter Center”) has produced estimates of the enrollment lottery for all NYC charter schools using a combination of survey data and data from the Charter Center’s Common Online Charter School Application (“Common Online App”). This spring, 206 out of the 227 (91%) NYC charter schools currently enrolling students for the 2017-18 school year responded to the Charter Center’s survey, a rate consistent with past years. First launched in 2011, the Common Online App provides families with a simple way in which to apply to the schools of their choice at one time. This year, over 75 percent of NYC’s charter schools participated in the Common Online App.

Based on the survey results and data from the Common Online App, the Charter Center estimates that NYC charter schools received a total of 287,960 applications for kindergarten through grade 12. Adjusting for students who apply to more than one charter school, this represents an estimated 73,000 applicants for nearly 25,200 available seats—creating a citywide charter school waitlist of an estimated 47,800.

Demand for charter school seats remains strong with a **7% increase** in applicants ...

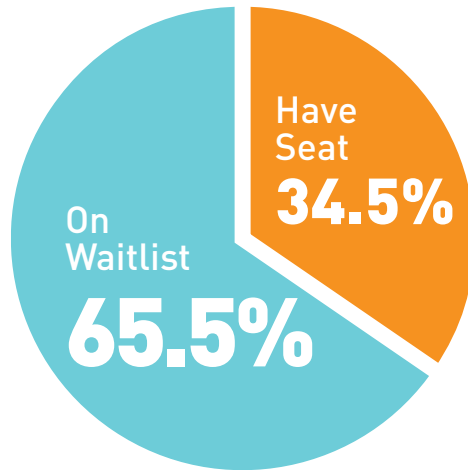
**TOTAL APPLICANTS TO NYC CHARTER SCHOOLS**  
(Estimated, 2010-2017)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Source: NYC Charter School Center survey and analysis, 2010-2017

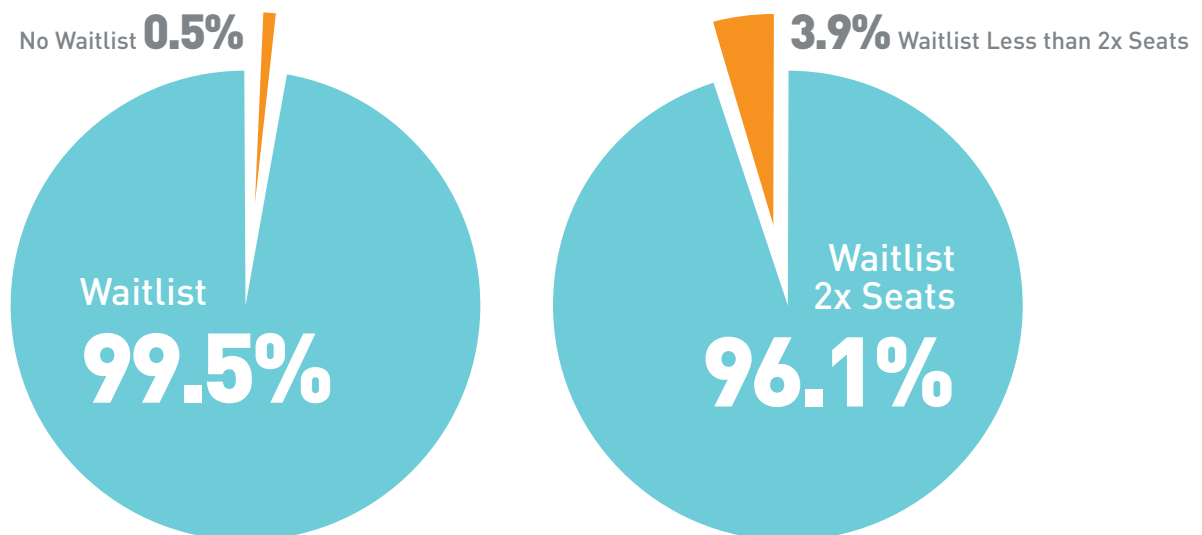
... Nearly **two-thirds** of charter school applicants are on waitlists

**NYC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANTS BY WAITLIST STATUS**  
(Estimated, 2017-18)<sup>2</sup>



**9 in 10** charter schools have waitlists that are at least twice the number of available seats

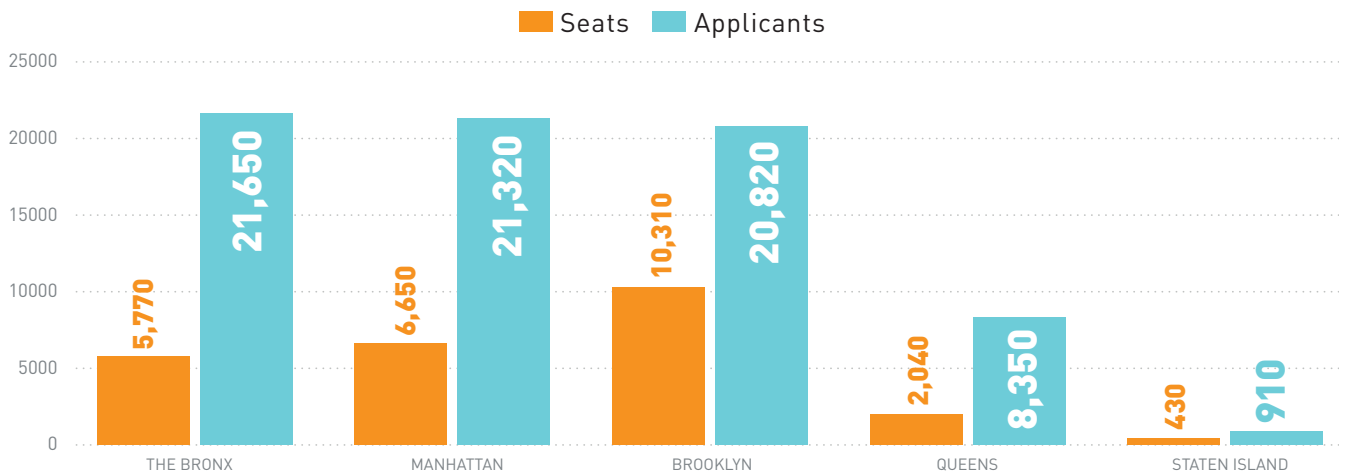
**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY NYC CHARTER SCHOOLS RELATIVE TO AVAILABLE SEATS**  
(Estimated, 2017-18)<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Source: NYC Charter School Center survey and analysis, 2017

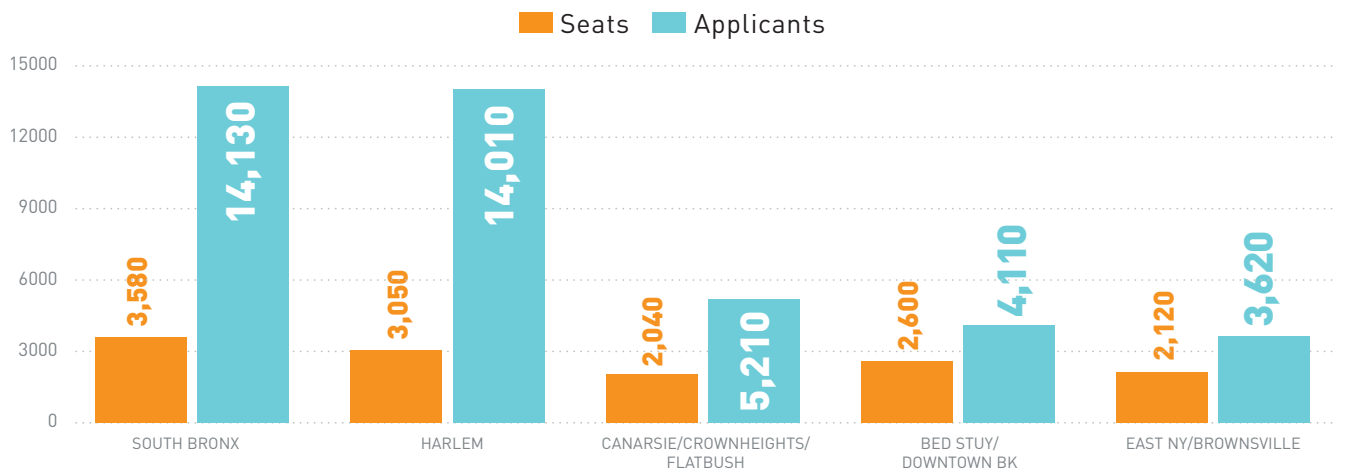
# Applicants continue to **outnumber** available seats in every borough

**NYC CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANTS AND SEATS, BY BOROUGH**  
(Estimated, 2017-18)<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, 2017-18)<sup>4</sup>

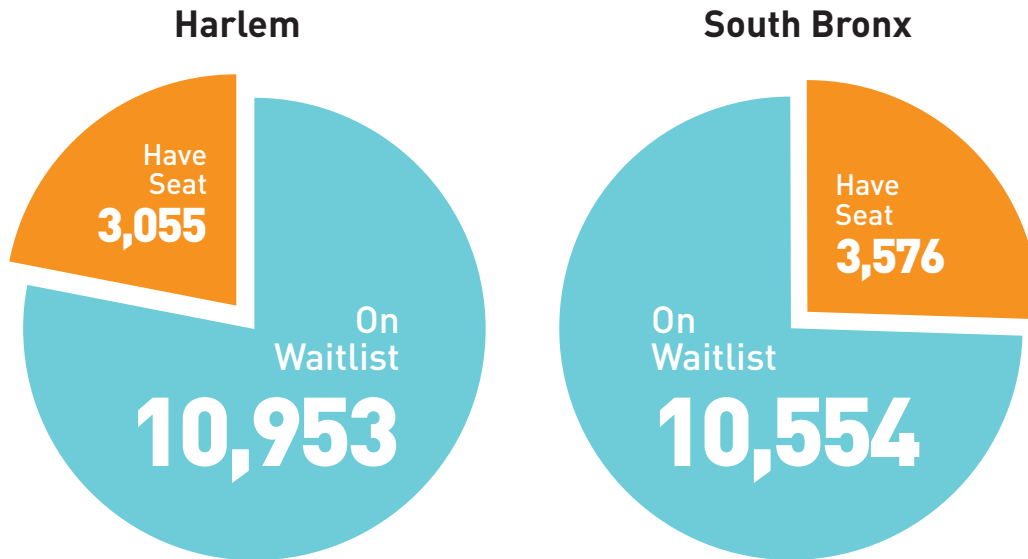


<sup>3</sup> Reporting Charter Schools n=207

<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.

There are approximately **four applicants**  
for each charter school seat in Harlem and the South Bronx

**CHARTER SCHOOLS BY WAITLIST STATUS**  
(Estimated, 2017-18)



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

**CHARTER APPLICANTS RANKED BY BOROUGH AND CSD**  
(Estimated, 2017-18)<sup>5</sup>

BOROUGH	CSD	APPLICANTS	SEATS AVAILABLE	APPLICANTS PER SEAT
Manhattan	5	9,370	2,000	4.69
	4	5,100	1,160	4.40
	6	2,910	1,150	2.53
	3	2,160	1,030	2.10
	2	1,040	790	1.32
	1	730	520	1.40

*continued on next page*

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

<b>BOROUGH</b>	<b>CSD</b>	<b>APPLICANTS</b>	<b>SEATS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>APPLICANTS PER SEAT</b>
<b>Bronx</b>	7	6,020	2,020	2.98
	9	4,980	1,090	4.57
	11	4,160	670	6.21
	8	3,470	860	4.03
	10	1,970	730	2.70
	12	1,050	410	2.56
<b>Brooklyn</b>	13	3,010	1,580	1.91
	18	2,610	960	2.72
	17	2,600	1,070	2.43
	23	2,030	860	2.36
	14	1,950	1,010	1.93
	15	1,930	880	2.19
	19	1,690	1,260	1.34
	32	1,600	630	2.54
	22	1,460	620	2.35
	16	1,100	1,020	1.08
<b>Queens</b>	21	850	410	2.07
	30	3,380	580	5.83
	27	1,380	520	2.65
	29	1,380	490	2.82
	28	1,180	160	7.38
<b>Staten Island</b>	24	1,030	290	3.55
	31	910	430	2.12

## 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 (Common Online App). 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 methodology resulted in a system-wide estimate of each charter applicant applying to 3.94 schools (down incrementally from 4.0 last year), which has been relatively constant the past few years. Though some charter schools choose to not participate in the Common Online App for a variety of reasons, including some schools having a unique student population requiring targeted recruitment efforts, the trend has been for an increasing number of schools to do so. Additionally, most networks use an internal online system for applying, which allows families to apply to all schools in a particular network. Further, the Charter Center continues to integrate several system enhancements that has improved 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 Common Online App, which increased parent accessibility to apply to charter schools.

For the third year, the Common Online App allowed parents to submit applications for pre-kindergarten seats in charter schools offering programs under Universal Pre-K. The data from the Common Online App shows that nearly 2,600 applications were submitted from approximately 1,000 unique applicants for an estimated 500 pre-k seats projected to be available for the 2017-18 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.