New York City Charter Schools: 2012-13 Enrollment Lottery Trends

Out of the 158 New York City charter schools currently enrolling students for 2012-13, 130 (82%) 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 133,000 applications for 14,600 new seats. Discounting for families who apply to more than one school, this represents an estimated 67,500 applicants for 14,600 seats—creating a citywide charter school “waiting list” of an estimated 52,900.

Approximately 4.62 applicants are competing for each charter school seat.

NYC charter school applicants by enrollment status (2012-13, estimated)¹

Almost every charter school has a waiting list for enrollment.

Reporting charter schools by waiting list status (2012-13, n=130)¹

¹ Source: NYC Charter School Center Survey, April 2012
Charter school applications have risen dramatically, as more students apply and the average applicant applies to more schools.

Total applications to NYC charter schools, historical and estimated (estimated, 2007-2013)²

Applicants exceed available seats in every borough.

NYC charter school applicants and seats, by borough (2012-13 estimated)³

A majority of applicants apply in Harlem, the South Bronx, or Central Brooklyn.

³ Source: NYC Charter School Center Survey, April 2012
NYC charter school applicants and seats, by neighborhood (2012-13 estimated)\(^4\)

Harlem is defined as Community School District 4, 5; South Bronx 7, 8, 9; Central Brooklyn 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 32.

\(^4\)