2023 Annual Charter Schools Report

Ms. Ashley Baquero
Executive Director
Office of Charter Schools

Overview

- Legislation and Historical Background
- Legislative Updates
- Charter School Accountability and Performance Framework
- Charter Sector Growth and Sustainability
- Enrollment and Demographics
- Special Population Student Enrollment
- Eliminating Barriers to Access
- Academic Performance
- Impact on Local Districts
- Best Practices and Innovation
- Discussion and Questions

Charter Numbers at a Glance

- 210 Charter Schools currently operating
- 145,075 students enrolled for the 22-23SY representing over 10% of the total state enrollment of 1,428,765.
- 169 schools reported having a waitlist (23-24 SY) totaling 85,551 students.
- 83 charter schools report having a wait list of 200 or more students, and 37 of those with 700 or more. Charter schools in 26 zip codes had a waitlist of more than 800 students.

Background

Background

In 1996, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the Charter School Act, thereby authorizing the establishment of "**a system of charter schools** to provide opportunities for teachers, parents, pupils, and community members to establish and maintain schools that operate independently of existing schools, as a method to accomplish all of the following:

1. **Improve student learning**;
2. **Increase learning opportunities for all students**, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are identified as at-risk of academic failure or academically gifted;
3. Encourage the use of **different and innovative teaching methods**;
4. Create **new professional opportunities for teachers**, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning at the school site;
5. **Provide parents and students with expanded choices** in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system;
6. **Hold the schools established under this Part accountable** for meeting measurable student achievement results and provide the schools with a method to change from rule-based to performance-based accountability systems."

NC Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB)

Charter School Oversight

- SL 2023-110 or House Bill 618, converted the Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB) to the Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB) shifting the authority of charter school oversight. CSRB authority includes, but is not limited to, the approval of charter applications, the approval of material revisions to the charter agreement, and the renewal of charter agreements.
- House Bill 618 defines the role of the SBE to have the following duties: rulemaking, funding, appeals, and accountability.
- Creates a right of appeal (re CSRB decisions) to SBE.

CSRB Membership

Appointed By	First Name	Last Name	Start Date of Current Term	End Date of Current Term
State Board of Education	Alex	Quigley	2023	June 30, 2027
State Board of Education	Eric	Sanchez	2021	June 30, 2025
Superintendent	Alex	Granados	2023	June 30, 2025
Lt. Governor	Stephen	Gay	2023	December 31, 2025
House	Bruce	Friend	2021	June 30, 2025
House	Hilda	Parlér	2021	June 30, 2025
House	Dave	Machado	2022	June 30, 2025
House	Shelly	Shope	2021	June 30, 2025
Senate	Bartley	Danielson	2022	June 30, 2025
Senate	Rita	Haire	2021	June 30, 2025
Senate	John	Eldridge	2021	June 30, 2025
Senate	Todd	Godbey	2021	June 30, 2025

Legislative Updates

Legislative Updates

- CSAB to CSRB
- No impact statement consideration allowed
- Subgroup performance
- Enrollment max removed for non-low performing schools – LP schools can request
- Parent's Bill of Rights
- Remote Charter Academies

NCDPI
Office of Charter Schools

The NC Office of Charter Schools exists to sustain the success of quality charter schools through operations, compliance, and support.

The Office of Charter Schools is currently fully staffed with eight consultants and an executive director. An assistant director has been allotted in the most recent budget and is in the hiring process.

Office of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
NC Department of Public Instruction

OCS Office Structure

- Authorizing Team: Applications, Ready to Open, Amendments, Rules/Reports, SBE/CSRB
- Accountability Team: Performance Framework, Renewals, Risk Assessment, School Improvement
- External Support Team: Stakeholder Support, Partnerships/School Support, Communications/Data

Accountability and Performance Framework

Charter Accountability

Statute,
Rules, Policy

Charter
Agreement

Academic
Monitoring

Performance
Framework

Renewal
Process

Closure

Termination

Charter Closure/Termination

Charter closures occur under a number of circumstances and fall into four categories: relinquishment, assumption, non-renewal, or revocation.

- Relinquishment occurs when a charter board voluntarily surrenders the charter.
- Assumption occurs when a charter board's Charter Agreement is assumed by another charter board.
- Non-renewal occurs when a charter board fails to receive a renewal term and the current Charter Agreement expires.
- And finally, revocation occurs when a charter board's Charter Agreement is revoked pursuant to legal allowances for the termination of a charter.

At the conclusion of the 2022-2023 school year, two charter schools closed permanently due to non-renewal. Invest Collegiate Transform and Eastside STREAM Academy, both located in Charlotte Mecklenburg district, were nonrenewed by the State Board of Education.

Performance Framework

- The State Board of Education's 2025 Statewide Strategic Plan includes the following goal:

  Goal II: Improve School and District Performance

  Objective 8: Increase the number of charter schools meeting or exceeding ***academic, operational, and financial goals.***

The Performance Framework reports on 46 operational, financial, and academic indicators. Some measurements were not applicable to all schools, such as required EMO/CMO reporting, posting of previous performance scores (not applicable to first year schools), and the renewal criteria.

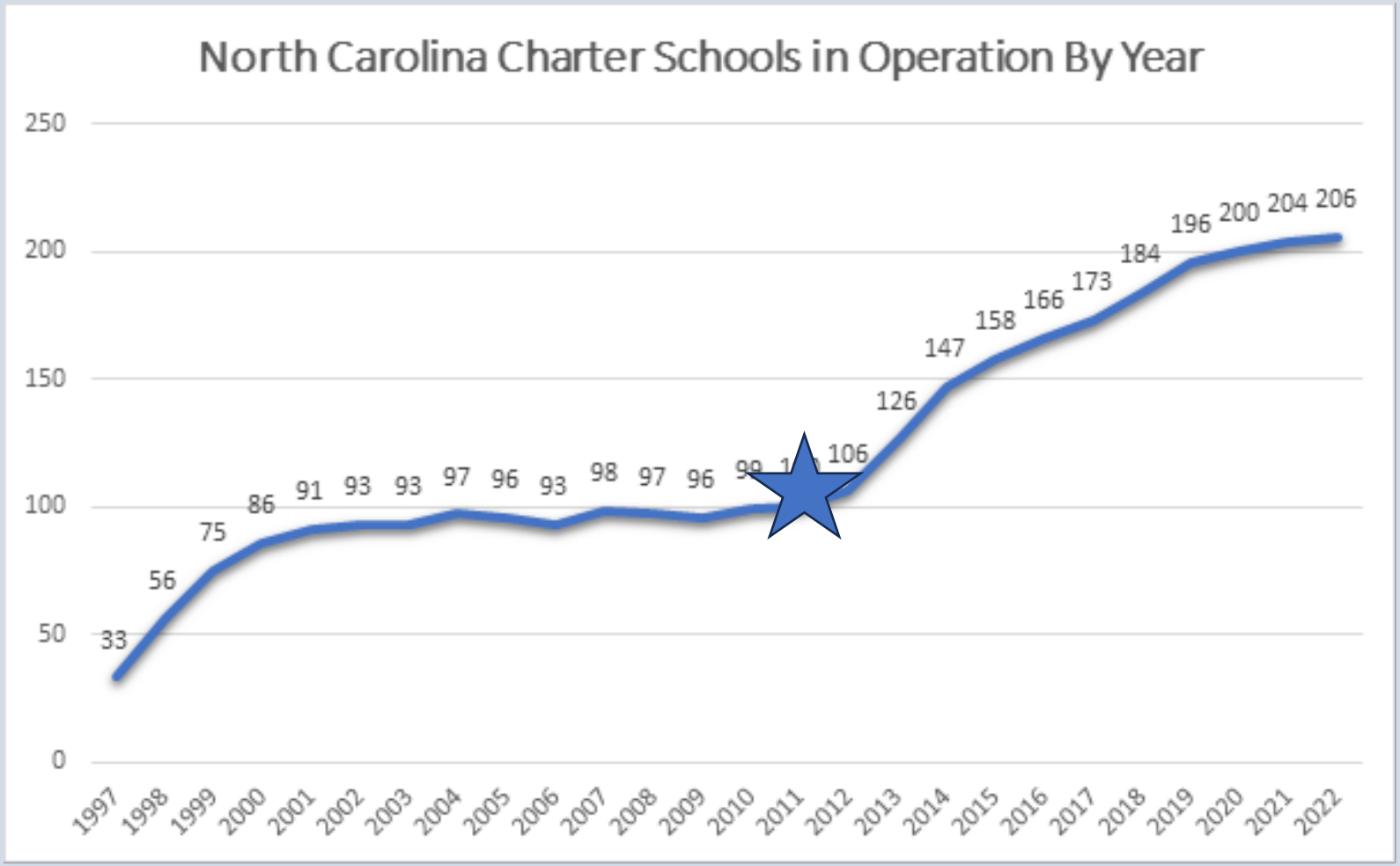
2022-2023 Performance Framework

- Operational
  - 65% of charters achieved at or above 80% but less than 100% success in the category of operational annual monitoring criteria.
  - 34% were compliant in every applicable measure.
  - Two schools fell below the 80% threshold, scoring 78% and 79% respectively.

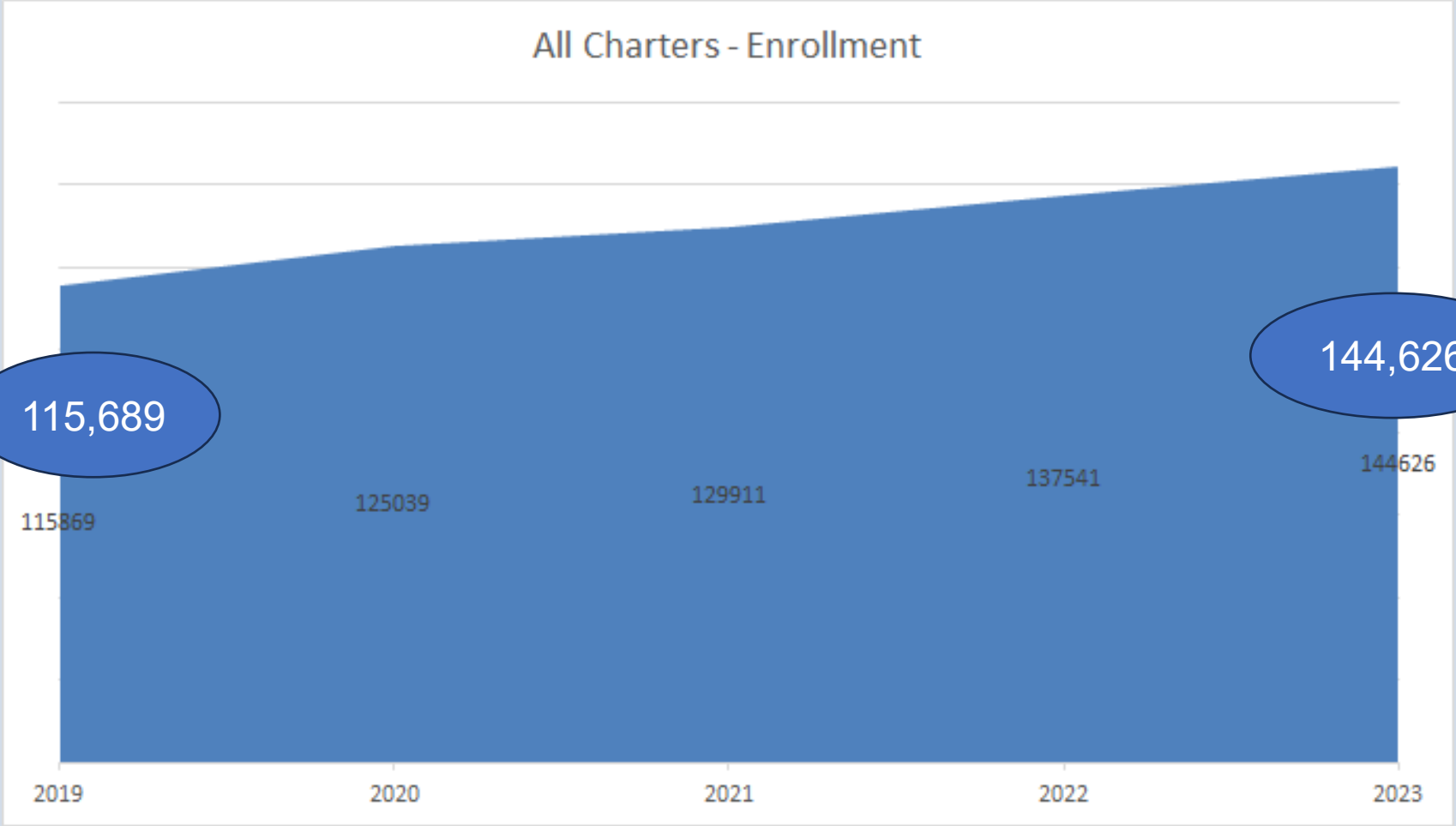
- Financial- Of the 206 operating charter schools in 2022-2023, 7 were reported as having cautionary or disciplinary financial status.

Charter Growth

Charter Schools Per Year



Charter Enrollment Growth



2023-2024 Charter Growth

7 new operating schools

3 scheduled to open in fall 2024 and 16 in 2025

15 charter applications received

8 Standard Timeline approvals

Charter School Authorizing Staff

OCS serves as staff to CSRB and creates, implements, monitors, and supports the entire authorizing process from application creation to final ready to open status.

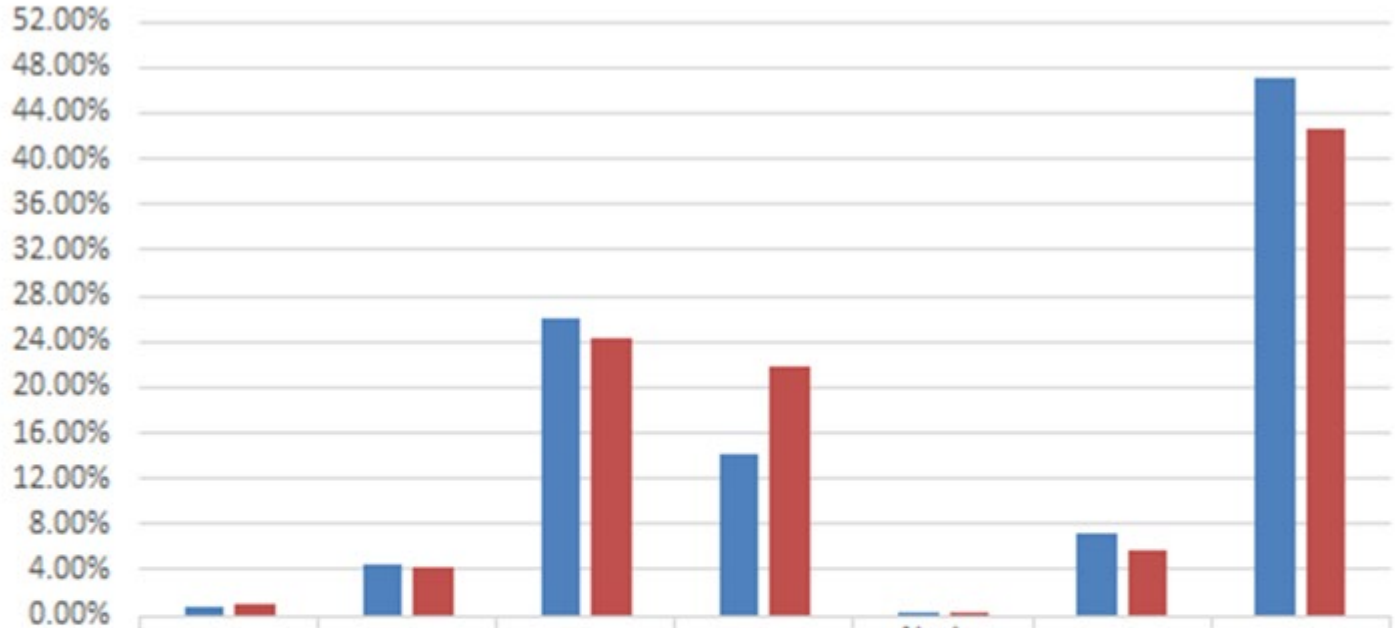
Once operating, OCS supports and monitors pursuant to the processes established for operating schools.

OCS supports both non-operating charter board applications and over 200 operating schools.

80% of authorizers have a ratio of no more than 10 schools per full-time employee. OCS currently provides a ratio of 26.25 per consultant.

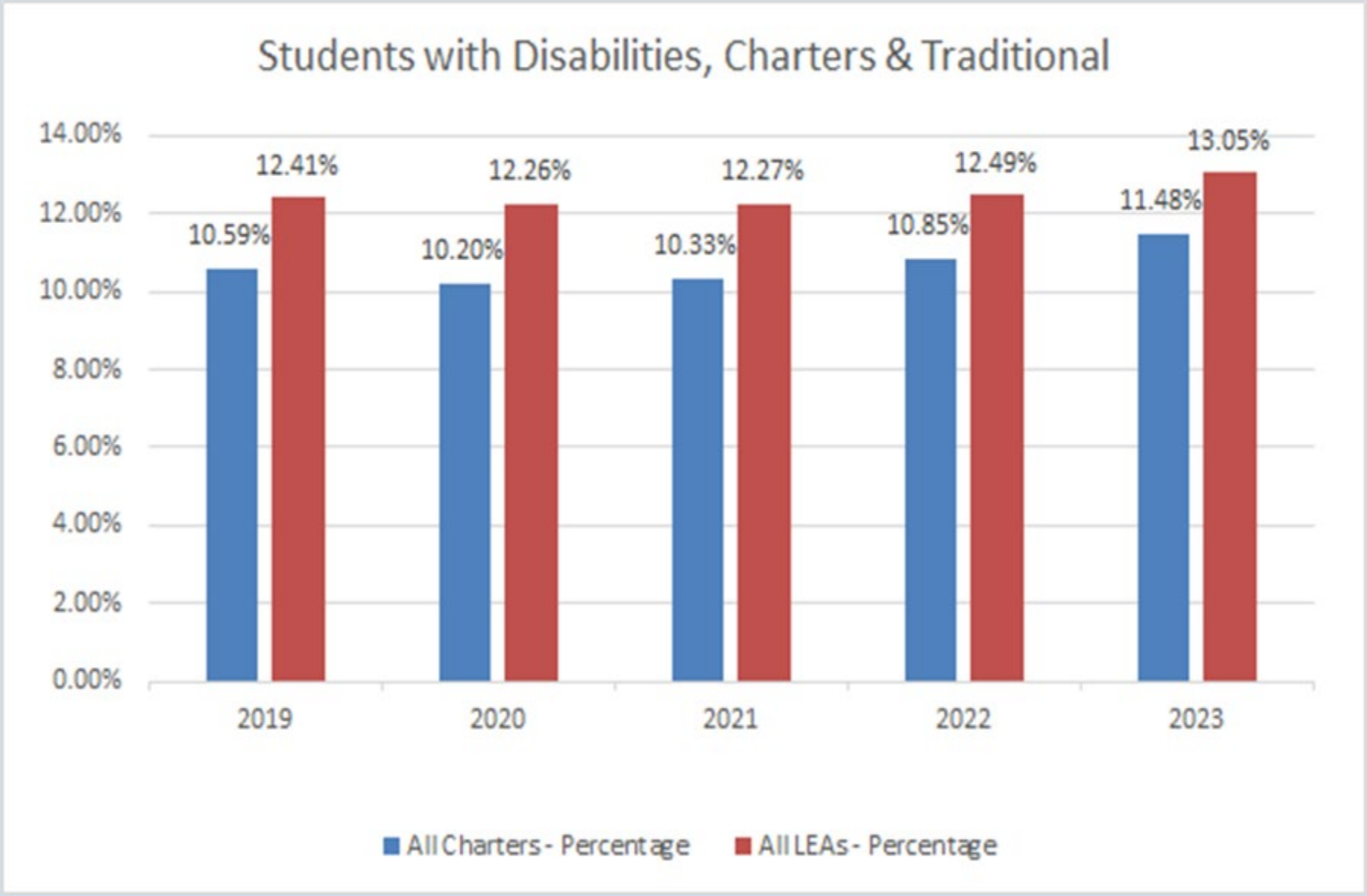
Charter Student Demographics and Special Populations

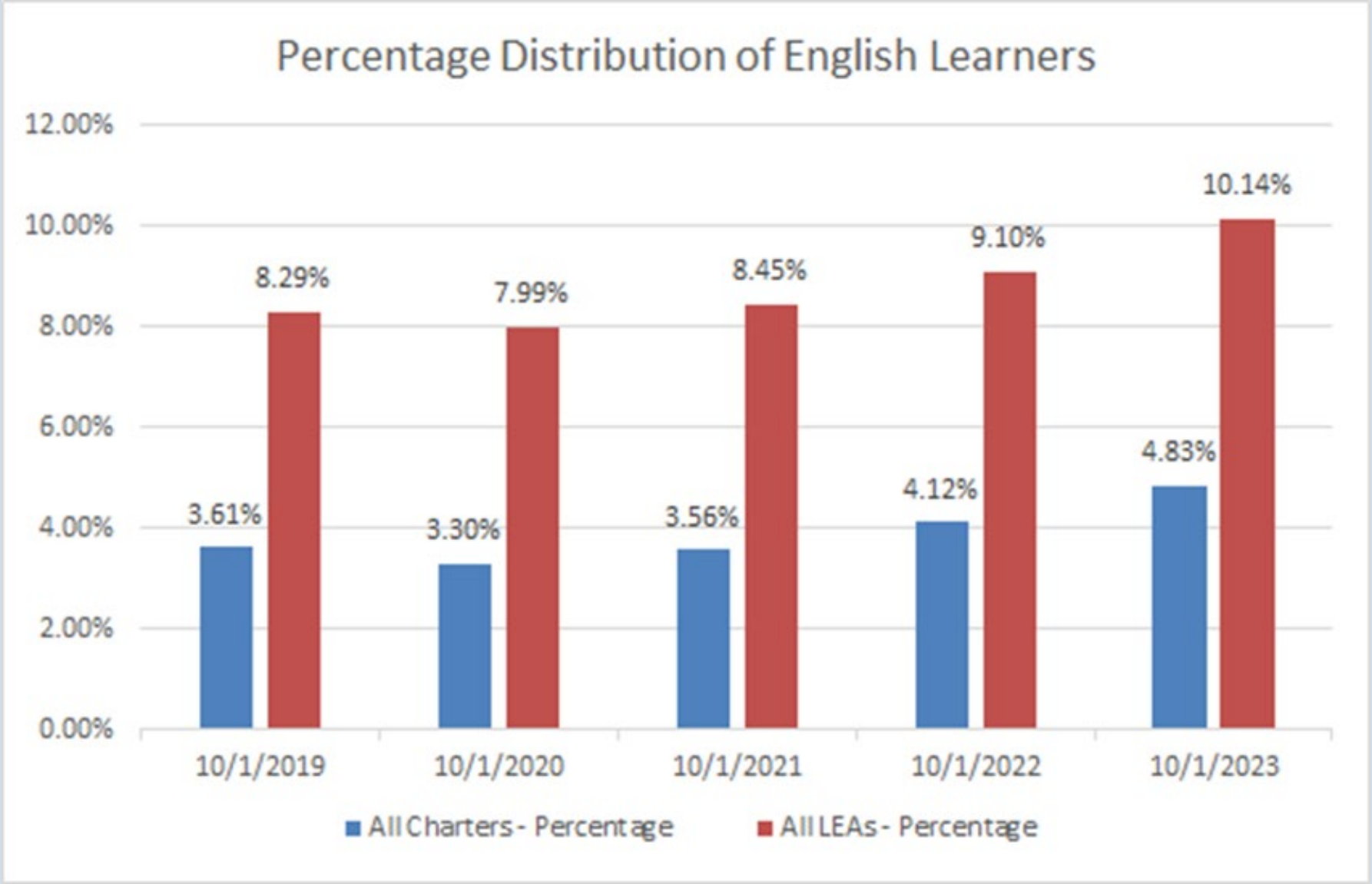
2023 Ethnicity and Racial Data

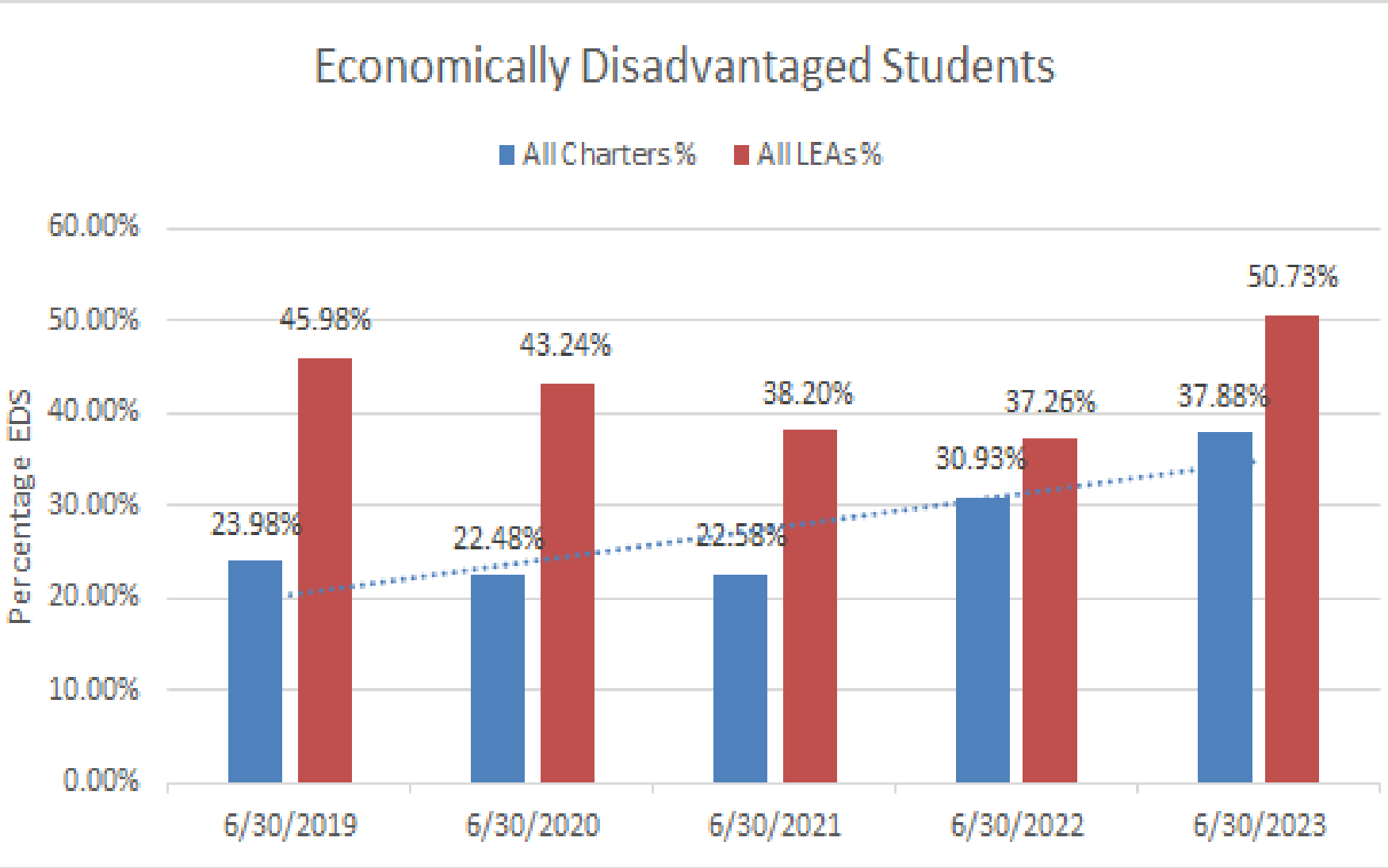


	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	White
				10/1/2023			
All Charters - Percentage	0.82%	4.49%	26.06%	14.21%	0.11%	7.14%	47.17%
All LEAs - Percentage	1.02%	4.20%	24.39%	21.88%	0.14%	5.64%	42.72%

All Charters - Percentage All LEAs - Percentage


Students with Disabilities, Charters & Traditional
14.00%
12.00%
10.00%
8.00%
6.00%
4.00%
2.00%
0.00%
10.59%
12.41%
10.20%
12.26%
10.33%
12.27%
10.85%
12.49%
11.48%
13.05%
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
All Charters - Percentage
All LEAs - Percentage


Percentage Distribution of English Learners
12.00%
10.00%
8.00%
6.00%
4.00%
2.00%
0.00%
3.61%
8.29%
3.30%
7.99%
3.56%
8.45%
4.12%
9.10%
4.83%
10.14%
10/1/2019
10/1/2020
10/1/2021
10/1/2022
10/1/2023
All Charters - Percentage
All LEAs - Percentage

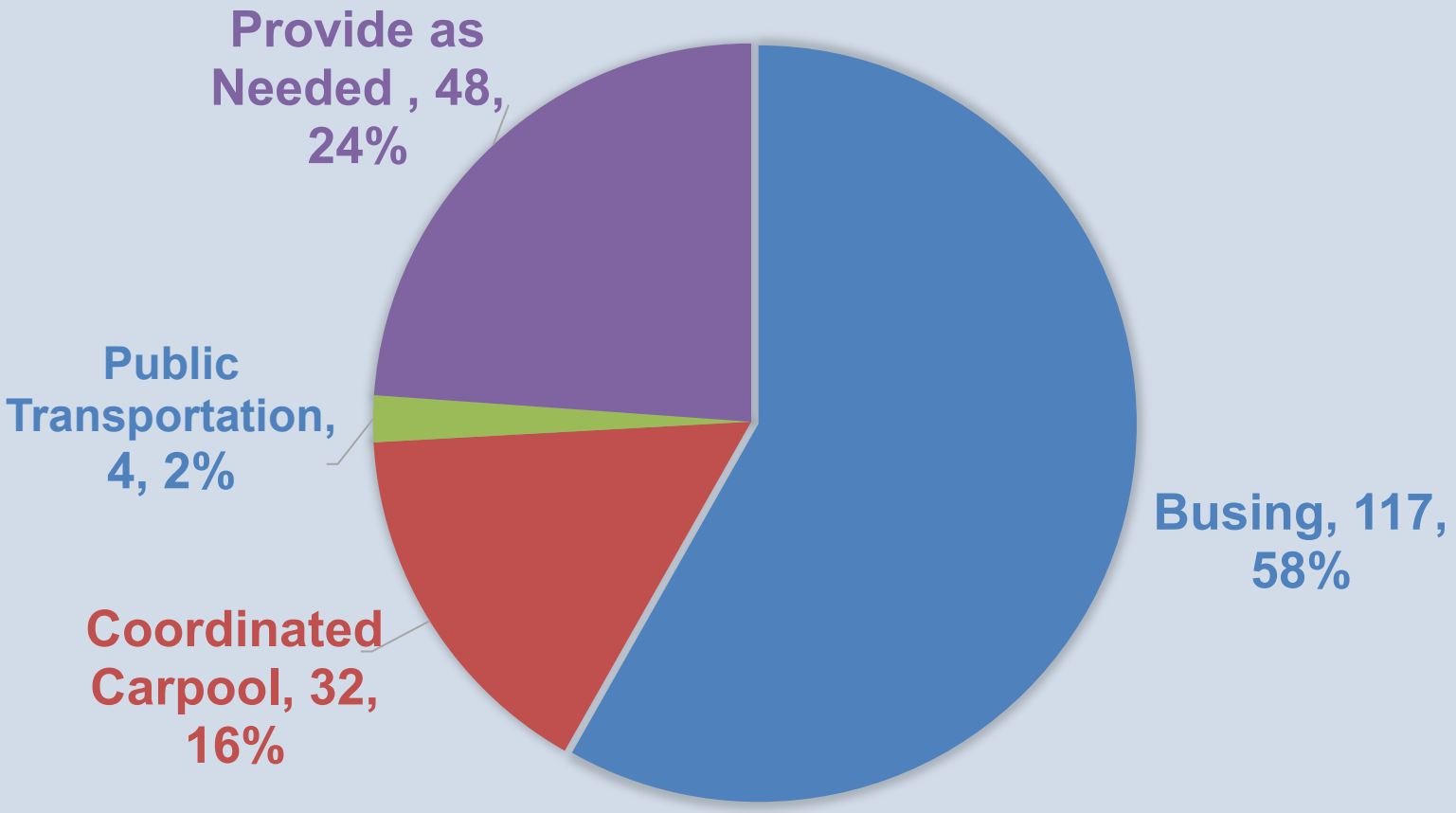

Economically Disadvantaged Students
All Charters %
All LEAs %
Percentage EDS
60.00%
50.00%
40.00%
30.00%
20.00%
10.00%
0.00%
23.98%
45.98%
22.48%
43.24%
22.58%
38.20%
30.93%
37.26%
37.88%
50.73%
6/30/2019
6/30/2020
6/30/2021
6/30/2022
6/30/2023

Charter School Access

Weighted Lotteries

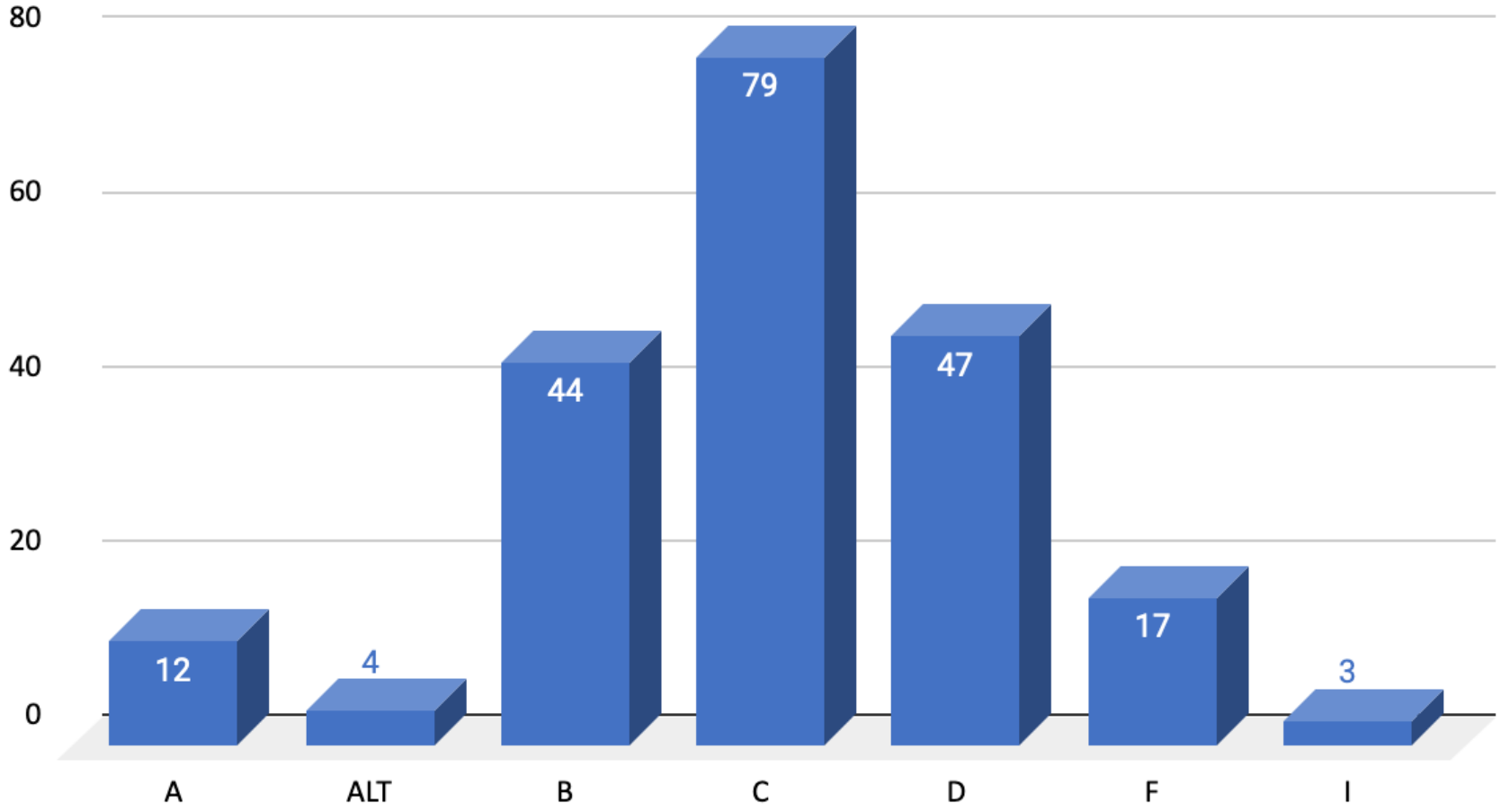
- 2018- Awarded a federal Charter Schools Program grant to increase EDS access – over 60 awards
- Led to increase in use and awareness of the procedure
- Over 70 charter schools approved to utilize a weighted lottery
- Information about how a weighted lottery works is provided in full report
- New legislation allows a Durham charter to establish a pilot weighted lottery program using walk zones

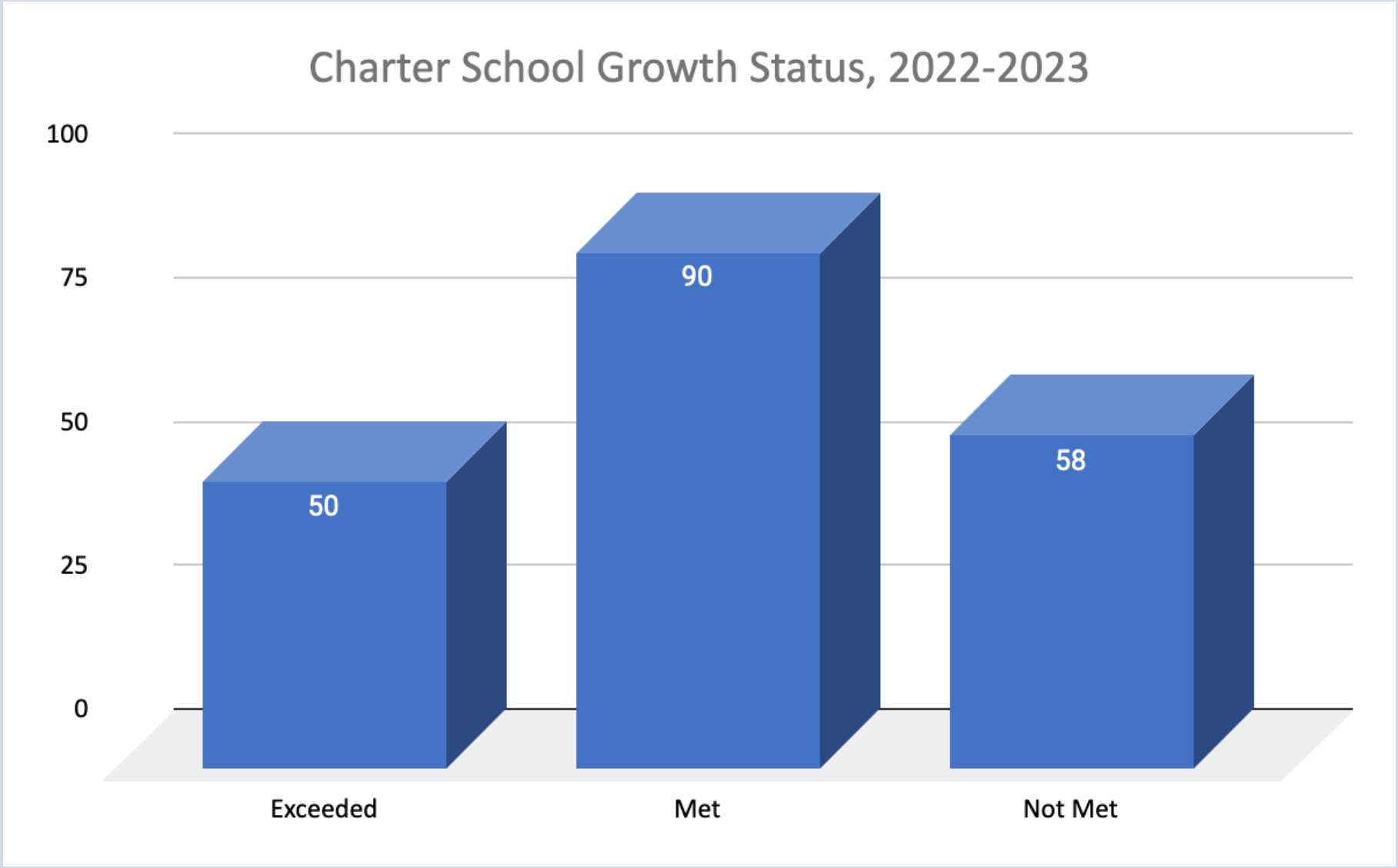
Transportation



Charter Academic Performance

Charter School 2022-23 School Performance Grades




Charter School Growth Status, 2022-2023
100
75
50
25
0
50
90
58
Exceeded
Met
Not Met

Low-Performing Schools

LOW-PERFORMING:	CONTINUALLY LOW- PERFORMING:
School performance grade of D or F AND School growth score of “met expected growth” or “not met expected growth.”	Low-performing at least two of three consecutive years.

Low-Performing Charters

Category	# of Schools	% of Open Charters
LP	56	27%
CLP	55	26%
LP + CLP	49	23%
Total LP or CLP	62	30%

Comparison Data for 21-22 to 22-23

	Schools 2022	Schools 2023	Leavers LP Status	Stayers LP Status	Enters LP Status	Change
LP Traditional PSU	793	741	258	535	206	-52
LP Charter	67	60	19	48	12	-7
LP Lab Schools	4	3	1	3	0	-1
LP Districts	29	25	11	18	7	-4
Recurring Traditional LP Schools	464	658	57	407	251	194
Continually LP Charters	35	57	5	30	27	22

Charter School Funding

Funding and Membership

- 22-23 fiscal year, charter schools received $985,919,148 in state funding out of the $11.9B Public School Budget
- State funds are based on ADM
- Federal funds are targeted to special populations
- Local funds based on local current expense appropriation in the county which the student resides
- Charter schools often pull students from many districts

Additional Information

Best Practices

Portrait of a Graduate Exemplars

TOY and POY; recognitions

MyFutureNC Attainment Profiles

Office of
CHARTER SCHOOLS
NC Department of Public Instruction