



## Investing And Supporting Innovation In New Jersey's Education System

*"What we've seen, over and over again, is young people with incredible potential being able to get the boost they need to go and achieve their full potential. Over and over again we've had examples of inspirational teachers, who thanks to the resources provided through well-run charter schools, have been able to make a huge difference for their communities and for a new generation."*

*-Governor Christie, January 12, 2016*

In the last 6 years the Christie Administration has worked to improve the quality of education in New Jersey through key reforms, including:

- Reform Of The State's Teacher Tenure Law For The First Time In 100 Years
- Signing the Urban Hope Act
- Hands On State Support in Camden's School District
- Expansion of Inter-District School Choice Program
- Launching the College Readiness Now Program

Today, Governor Christie announced a series of regulatory and policy reforms intended to remove the burden quality charter school operators face when considering opening a school in New Jersey and enable the establishment of single-purpose charter schools. These actions further demonstrate the Christie Administration's continued commitment to increase the number of high-quality options for families through the growth of charter schools in New Jersey.

### Regulatory Relief For Charter Schools

In New Jersey, charter schools are subject to most of the same laws and regulations that apply to traditional public schools, which runs counter to the charter vision and charter law. Some states have waived such restrictions on their charter schools. Governor Christie is directing the Department of Education to aggressively prioritize regulatory relief for charter schools. The DOE will explore ways to create further flexibility in the charter school teacher certification process and opportunities to make it easier for charter schools to find facilities.

### Single-Purpose Charter Schools

Seeking to provide options for New Jersey's most at risk youths – such as students with autism or developmental delays and students who have dropped out due to life circumstances - the Department of Education is also pursuing regulatory and policy reforms needed to enable the establishment of single-purpose schools that can better provide for the academic and individual needs and circumstances of at-risk students across the state.

## RESOUNDING SUCCESS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

According to a 2015 independent [report](#) on Urban Charter Schools by The Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO), students enrolled in charter schools in Newark, on average, make statistically significantly greater gains in both reading and math compared to their counterparts enrolled in Newark's traditional public schools. While, in Newark, charter schools on average are doing a better job of closing achievement gaps than are traditional public schools.

### K-8 Schools:

- From 2009 to 2014, charter schools serving K-8 students improved 6% points in Language Arts Literacy and 15% points in Mathematics, in the aggregate, on the NJASK.
- Based on NJASK data in 2014, 64 out of 74 charter schools outperformed their comparative districts in language arts literacy.
- Based on NJASK data in 2014, 64 out of 74 charter schools outperformed their comparative districts in mathematics.

### High Schools:

- From 2009 to 2014, charter schools serving high school students improved 17% points in both Language Arts Literacy and Mathematics, in the aggregate, on the 'Banked' HSPA.
- Based on HSPA data, in 2014, 15 out of 15 charter schools outperformed their comparative districts in language arts literacy.
- Based on HSPA data, in 2014, 12 out of 15 charter schools outperformed their comparative districts in mathematics.
- Across all charter schools in 2014, the graduation rate was 90% compared to a state-wide graduation rate of 89.

## INCREASED ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOLS

### Expanding Educational Opportunities For Children And Families

Governor Christie has improved the authorizing and application process, encouraged more charter school applicants, created greater flexibility with administration and finances, and allowed districts to convert failing public schools into charters. The Christie Administration has increased the overall number of charter schools in New Jersey to 89, while relentlessly focusing on quality and holding all schools accountable for results by closing 17 charter schools to date.

Governor Christie continues to support educational options for our children by providing \$10 million for Charter School Aid in fiscal year 2016. This funding aids in the support of more than 37,000 students in our charter schools. This is in addition to the tens of millions of dollars in State Aid that flow through the districts to charter schools. In certain districts, like Newark and Camden, charter schools are educating more than 1 out of every 4 of the public school population.

### Improving Oversight

The Christie Administration has worked to improve accountability for these charter schools by instituting an oversight program that sets clear expectations for charter school performance and serves as the basis for school evaluation, monitoring, and intervention.

- [The Performance Framework](#) sets the academic, organizational and fiscal standards by which all New Jersey public charter

schools are evaluated, informing officials about school performance and sustainability.

- NJDOE officials expanded the rigorous standards and metrics by which each and every public charter school is evaluated. This enabled NJDOE officials to take multiple factors into account when evaluating public charter schools across the state.

