

2017 Analysis on Charter Programs, Need and Growth in Washington, DC

As DC's public school enrollment continues to grow—increasing by an annual average of 2,500 students for the past five years—the demand for high-quality education options increases as well. This overview provides context to all applicants seeking to open a new public charter school and existing LEAs looking to expand. In addition, the DC Public Charter School Board (DC PCSB) has identified four wards as public charter school "Green Zones", defined as areas in particular need of high-quality seats. The designation "Green Zone" is to be taken as quidance for the development of applications, not as a mandate.

This overview begins with a look at traditional grades of pre-kindergarten to grade 12, followed by adult and alternative schools. For pre-kindergarten to grade 12, it also provides a detailed look at each Ward identified as a "Green Zone".

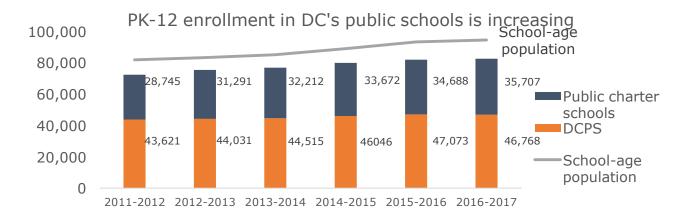
Pre-kindergarten to grade 12

Supply of public charter and DCPS seats, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

The supply of public charter and DC Public Schools (DCPS) seats forecasts expected growth in the student population and spaces available in public schools by examining historical and current enrollment, availability of quality seats, access to highly demanded programs, current student demographics, approved growth, and population forecasts. Applicants and existing LEAs can use this information to evaluate how their program fits with these forecasts.

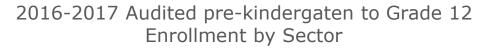
Historical enrollment, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

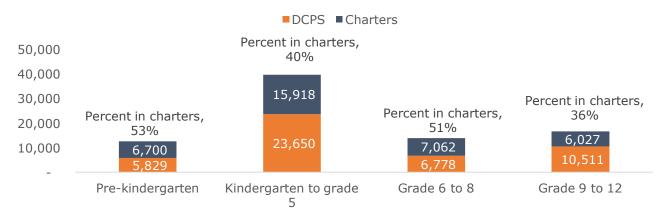
Over the past five years, DC's public charter schools' enrollment in pre-kindergarten to grade 12 has grown by approximately 7,000 students, or 1,400 per year. Enrollment in all public schools (public charter and DCPS) has increased by more than 10,000 students, or 2,000 per year.



Current enrollment, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

In 2016-2017, 43 percent of DC's public school students in pre-kindergarten to grade 12 were enrolled at public charter schools, with the remainder enrolled in DCPS. Half of DCPS students choose to attend an out-of-boundary¹, citywide, application, or alternative DCPS school, which means school choice in DC applies to DCPS as well as public charter schools.





Availability of "quality" schools, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

Access to quality public charter schools (defined in this document as schools with PMF² scores above 50 percent) varies by ward and grade band. Wards 1, 4, and 8 have a lower than average share of quality public charter schools. Certain grade bands are in higher need of quality seats (for example, just 26 percent of the charter middle school seats in Ward 8 are considered quality by DC PCSB).

Quality Public Charter School Seats by Ward and Grade Band, 2016-2017

Ward	Total	Pre- kindergarten	Kindergarten to Grade 5	Grade 6 to 8	Grade 9 to 12
1	48%	58%	24%	54%	53%
2	100%	į	100%	100%	100%
3		į	ı		
4	61%	59%	73%	71%	42%
5	82%	86%	84%	81%	61%
6	71%	81%	92%	70%	0%
7	83%	100%	96%	48%	83%
8	50%	66%	47%	26%	61%
Total (%)	68%	77%	74%	58%	56%
Total (#)	24,438	5,160	11,792	4,122	3,364

¹ Out-of-boundary school is any DCPS school that is not the student's in-boundary school, which every student has the right to attend based on where the student lives.

² PMF is the Performance Management Framework, PCSB's common accountability system, where schools received a score of between 0% and 100% based on multiple academic metrics.

Access to highly demanded programs, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

Dual language, expeditionary learning, and Montessori programs are highly demanded by families based on the likelihood of matching to these programs in the Common Lottery. Certain wards are in greater need of highly demanded programs. For example, no schools in Wards 2, 7, or 8 currently offer any dual language, expeditionary learning, or Montessori programs (Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom PCS has been approved to replicate its English, French, and Spanish language program in Ward 7 in 2018-2019).

Percent of 2016-2017 charter students enrolled in highly demanded programs by ward of school

Ward	Dual language	Expeditionary learning	Montessori
1	27% ³	0%	0%
2	0%	0%	0%
3	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	7%	19%	5%
5	25%	13%	6%
6	0%	13%	0%
7	0%	0%	0%
8	0%	0%	0%
Total	10%	8%	2%

Current charter school student demographics, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

Public charter schools serve a diverse student body that is more disadvantaged than students in DCPS schools. Across all public charter schools in 2016-2017, 78% of students were economically disadvantaged and 14% had special education needs.

Demographics of pre-kindergarten to grade 12 Public Charter School Students in 2016-2017

Subgroup	Percent of public charter school students
At Risk ⁴	48%
Economically Disadvantaged	78%
English Language Learners	7%
Special Education	14%
Black or African American	76%
Hispanic/Latino	16%
White	6%

⁴ Students are identified as at-risk if they are homeless, in the foster care system, qualify for welfare or food stamps (TANF or SNAP), or are a year behind their peers in high school.

³ Dual language/immersion enrollment in Ward 1 is at District of Columbia International School, which relocates to Ward 4 in 2017-2018.

Future enrollment in charters, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

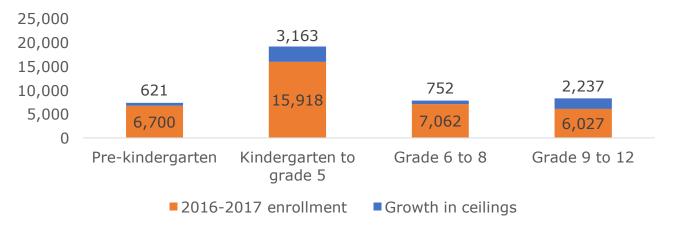
The Mayor's budget projects an increase in 2017-2018 of 3,690 pre-kindergarten to grade 12 students (2,353 in public charter schools and 1,337 in DCPS), with two new public charter campuses and no new DCPS campuses opening:

Public charter schools opening additional locations in 2017-2018

Public charter school with additional locations	Planned capacity	Description
Latin American Montessori Bilingual PCS	150	Expansion of Tier 1 Spanish/English bilingual elementary school to another Ward 4 location serving grades 1 to 5
Rocketship DC – Ward 7	600	Ward 7 replication of elementary school with blended learning model serving PK3 to grade 2 with 140 students in 2017-2018 and eventually serving students up to grade 5

Including growth in 2017-2018, DC PCSB has approved growth of 6,774 potential seats between 2016-2017 and 2021-2022. Most of these seats are in elementary and high school grades.

Potential growth in public charter school enrollment from 2016-2017 to 2021-2022



The existing LEAs in the table below will open new campuses before 2021-2022. Additional campuses may be approved to open in the coming years.

Additional expansions through 2021-2022

LEA	Opening year	Planned capacity	Description
DC Prep	2019-2020 for elementary, 2020-2021 for middle	1,000	Middle school in Ward 8 to serve current elementary school students at Anacostia campus and elementary school in Ward 7
Elsie Whitlow Stokes Community Freedom PCS	2018-2019	400	Replication of trilingual French/ Spanish/English PK3-5 school in Ward 7, opening with PK3-K
KIPP DC PCS	2019-2020	1,000	Second high school in Ward 7
Mundo Verde	2019-2020	600	Replication of bilingual Spanish/English PK3-5 school in Ward 5, opening with PK3-K
Thurgood Marshall Academy	Undetermined	530	Replication of high school

The LEAs in the table below were approved to open by DC PCSB in Fall 2018. Additional LEAs may be approved in future charter application cycles.

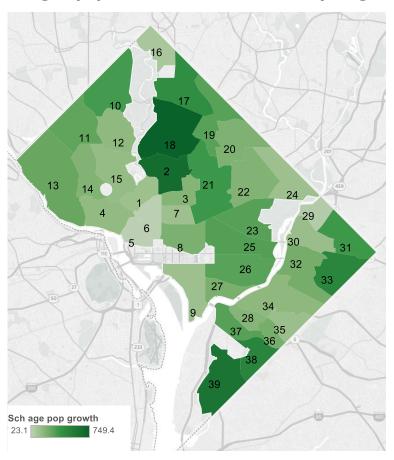
New LEAs approved

LEA	Opening year	Planned capacity	Description
Digital Pioneers Academy	2018- 2019	360	Computer-science focused middle school that seeks to locate in either Ward 7 or 8, opening with grade 6 and growing to grade 8
North Star College Preparatory Academy for Boys	2018- 2019	425	College preparatory middle school serving grades 4-8 that seeks to locate in Ward 7 or 8

Population forecasts, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

Based on DC's Office of Planning 2017 Population Forecasts, the school-aged population will grow by an estimated 10,199 students between 2016-2017 and 2021-2022. Neighborhoods with most growth in school-aged population are in Wards 4 and 8.

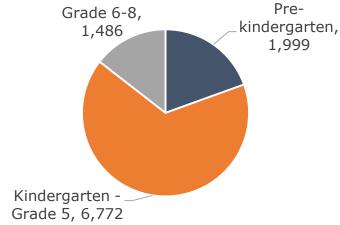
Growth in school-aged population from 2016-2017 by neighborhood cluster



Cluster	Neighborhoods	Growth in school-aged population
18	Brightwood Park, Crestwood, Petworth	749
2	Columbia Heights, Mt. Pleasant, Pleasant Plains, Park View	676
39	Congress Heights, Bellevue, Washington Highlands	621
38	Douglas, Shipley Terrace	491
33	Capitol View, Marshall Heights, Benning Heights	482
17	Takoma, Brightwood, Manor Park	433
21	Edgewood, Bloomingdale, Truxton Circle, Eckington	369
31	Deanwood, Burrville, Grant Park, Lincoln Heights, Fairmont Heights	365
10	Hawthorne, Barnaby Woods, Chevy Chase	348
25	Union Station, Stanton Park, Kingman Park	316
Total	All	10,199

The school-aged population is forecast to grow fastest in pre-kindergarten and elementary grades.





Note: Forecasted high school population growth is small and negative over this period.

Demand analysis, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

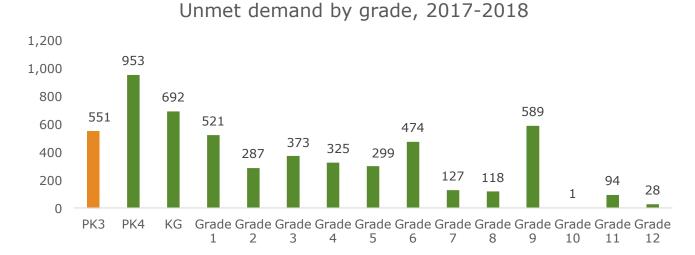
Demand for public charter schools identifies areas of unmet demand by grade and ward, shows where current charter school students live, and highlights travel patterns. Some of the analysis uses My School DC's common lottery data. The My School DC common lottery is a single, random lottery that determines placement for new students at all participating schools.⁵ Applicants can use this information to determine whether their program meets an area of unmet demand.

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⁵ All but two public charter schools serving PK-12 students participate in the common lottery.

Demand by grade, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

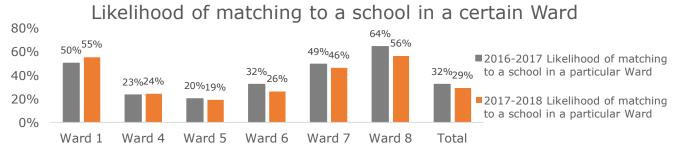
In the 2017-2018 Common Lottery, there were 5,432 more unique applicants to public charter schools than seats offered by public charter schools. This unmet demand⁶ is highest in early grades and common entry points, and increasing in almost all grades.



Notes: Orange fill indicates a lower unmet demand in 2017-2018 than 2016-2017 and green fill indicates a higher unmet demand in 2017-2018.

Demand by ward, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

It is least likely to match⁷ to a public charter school in Wards 4, 5, and 6. There was an overall decrease of 3 percentage points in the likelihood of matching to a public charter school in the Common Lottery for 2017-2018.



Notes: Ward 2 has been excluded because results uniquely identify one charter school, and there are no charter schools in Ward 3. Orange fill indicates a lower unmet demand in SY17-18 and green fill indicates a higher unmet demand in SY17-18.

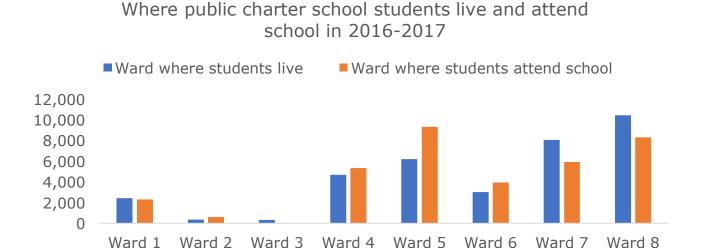
⁶ Unmet demand is calculated by subtracting seats offered from unique applicants.

⁷ Likelihood of matching is calculated by dividing the number of students matched to a charter school in each Ward by the number of applications to schools in each Ward minus the number of applications not processed.

Where charter students live, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

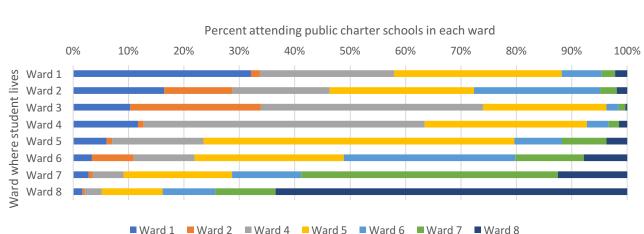
One factor to consider when choosing a location is where the majority of public charter students reside. There are many ways of thinking about the data—one is that students would prefer to have a quality school within their neighborhood, another is that parents seek diversity and would prefer to travel to join a community of similar-minded families from all over the city.

Wards 7 and 8 have the highest numbers of pre-kindergarten to grade 12 public charter school students, and most public charter school students attend schools in Ward 5.



Public charter school student commutes, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

On average, public charter school students travel 2.1 miles to attend school. Most students go to school within their home Ward, but a few other commutes are popular. For example, 29 percent of public charter students living in Ward 4 attend schools in Ward 5 and 27% attend schools in Ward 6.



Public charter school student commutes, 2016-2017

Green Zones for Public Charter Schools, pre-kindergarten to grade 12

There are pockets in the city where more school-aged students live than seats offered at quality public charter schools. These are locations where more schools offering diverse quality programs are needed. DC PCSB has identified Wards 1, 4, 6, and 8 as Green Zones for public charter schools: areas where relatively more high-quality pre-kindergarten to grade 12 charter school seats are needed between 2016-2017 and 2021-2022. These Green Zones were identified as any ward with a high-quality seat gap of 1,000 or more. Prospective charter school applicants and existing LEAs seeking to replicate should consider these Green Zones during their planning processes.

Green Zones for Public Charter Schools

Ward	Quality future additional capacity	Number that will need a quality seat	Quality gap
1	-251	1,576	-1,827
2	23	37	-14
3	0	32	-32
4	1,223	2,453	-1,231
5	2,268	2,366	-98
6	131	1,543	-1,412
7	1,455	1,886	-431
8	1,705	4,807	-3,101
Total	6,553	14,700	-8,147

Note: Public charter school Green Zone wards are highlighted in green.

Profiles of the Green Zones below highlight demand patterns, gaps by grade band, and gaps by program offering. Definitions of key terms are below.

Key terms

High-quality seats gap: High-quality seat gaps were calculated by subtracting the future need for high-quality seats (sum of growth in future school-aged population expected to enroll in charters by 2021-2022 based on current market share, and charter school students enrolled in schools with a PMF score of less than 50%) from the growth in future high-quality seats (high-quality seats coming online by 2021-2022 and vacant high-quality seats at non-growing LEAs).

True charter utilization rate by grade band: This rate is calculated by dividing enrollment by true school program capacity at the facility level by ward. Program capacity is collected by DC PCSB in the annual facility survey and trued up for against enrollment ceilings and expected enrollment for growing schools to show true capacity in a given school year. For facilities with grades in different bands, program capacity has been allocated in proportion to enrollment.

Percent attending in-boundary DCPS school: Boundary participation rate is the percent of grade-specific public school students living in each DCPS school's boundary who attend school in a certain ward. The numerator is the number of grade-specific inboundary students attending the school and the denominator is all public grade-specific

students living in the boundary within a certain ward. This is calculated by DME for their DC Factsheets.

Ratio of waitlist length to enrollment: This shows how many students are on schools' waitlists compared to current enrollment. The numerator is the total number of students on waitlists for all schools in a ward serving certain grades and the denominator is enrollment at all schools in a ward.

Ward 1 Green Zone profile

Need

- By 2021-2022, Ward 1 will need an additional 1,827 high-quality charter school seats.
- Middle school students will need most (1,067) of these additional seats.
- **Expeditionary learning and Montessori** programs are needed as no charter schools in Ward 1 currently offer these options.

Demand

- **Utilization rates for high schools are higher in Ward 1** than other wards, which is a good indication that additional high school seats would be filled.
- A lower share of students attend their in-boundary DCPS school than in other wards, which demonstrates high demand for school choice.
- The ratio of waitlists to enrollment is high for middle and high school grades compared to other wards, showing that many more students would like to attend schools that offer these grades.

Need and demand by grade band

Indicator	Total	Pre- kindergarten	Elementary	Middle	High
High-quality charter seats gap	-1,827	-159	-519	-1,067	-81
Charter utilization rate by grade band	87%	87%	84%	89%	90%
Percent attending in- boundary DCPS school	24%	32%		24%	26%
Ratio of waitlist length to enrollment	0.42	0.58	0.12	0.46	0.57

Ward 4 Green Zone profile

Need

- By 2021-2022, Ward 4 will need an additional 1,231 high-quality charter school seats.
- **High school students will need most** (935) of these additional seats.
- The three highly demand programs of dual language, expeditionary
 learning, and Montessori are currently offered by charter schools in Ward 4.

Demand

- Utilization rates for all schools and especially for middle and high schools are higher in Ward 4 than other wards, which is a good indication that additional middle and high school seats would be filled.
- Lower share of students attend their in-boundary DCPS PK-ES and high schools than in other wards, demonstrating high demand for school choice.
- Excess applicants to charter schools is higher overall and in each grade band, which means more that more seats may be needed close to where students live in Ward 4.
- The ratio of waitlists to enrollment is high overall and for prekindergarten, elementary, and middle school grades, showing that many more students would like to attend schools that offer these grades.

Need and demand by grade band

Pre-Indicator Total Elementary Middle High kindergarten **High-quality charter** -294 -309 308 -935 -1,231 seats gap True⁸ charter utilization rate by 94% 88% 91% 97% 100% grade band Percent attending in-27% 32% 35% 22% **boundary DCPS** school **Excess charter** -1,323 -529 -438 -186 -170 applications Ratio of waitlist 0.87 2.13 0.76 0.89 0.43 length to enrollment

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⁸ "True charter utilization" is defined as LEA enrollment divided by the lower of LEA enrollment ceiling or the sum of program capacity at all the LEA's facilities

Ward 6 Green Zone profile

Need

- By 2021-2022, Ward 6 will need an additional 1,412 high-quality charter school seats.
- High school students will need the highest share (615) of these additional seats.
- **Dual language and Montessori** programs are needed as no charter schools in Ward 6 currently offer these options.

Demand

- Utilization rates are higher overall and for pre-kindergarten, elementary, and middle school grades than other wards, which is a good indication that additional seats in these grades would be filled.
- Excess applicants to charter schools is higher overall and in prekindergarten and elementary grades, which means more that more seats may be needed close to where students live in Ward 6.
- The ratio of waitlists to enrollment is high for pre-kindergarten, elementary, and middle school grades, showing that many more students would like to attend schools that offer these grades.

Need and demand by grade band

Indicator	Total	Pre- kindergarten	Elementary	Middle	High
High-quality charter seats gap	-1,412	-184	-300	-313	-615
True charter utilization rate by grade band	89%	92%	92%	92%	77%
Percent attending in- boundary DCPS school	32%	379	%	24%	27%
Excess charter applications	-848	-394	-478	-38	62
Ratio of waitlist length to enrollment	0.67	1.23	0.75	0.46	0.12

Ward 8 Green Zone profile

Need

- By 2021-2022, Ward 8 will need an additional 3,101 high-quality charter school seats.
- Elementary school students will need the highest share (1,963) of these additional seats.
- **Dual language, expeditionary learning, and Montessori** programs are needed as no charter schools in Ward 8 currently offer these options.

Demand

- A lower share of students attend their in-boundary DCPS schools overall and in each grade band than in other wards, which demonstrates high demand for school choice across all grades.
- Excess applicants to charter schools is higher overall and in elementary, middle, and high school grades, which means more that more seats may be needed close to where students live in Ward 8.

Need and demand by grade band

Indicator	Total	Pre- kindergarten	Elementary	Middle	High
High-quality charter seats gap	-3,101	-559	-1,963	-824	244
True charter utilization rate by grade band	87%	91%	90%	81%	77%
Percent attending in- boundary DCPS school	22%	24	%	19%	25%
Excess charter applications	-811	334	-563	-331	-251
Ratio of waitlist length to enrollment	0.20	0.09	0.27	0.25	0.08

Adult and alternative high schools

Approximately 12 percent of DC's public charter school students enroll in adult or alternative high schools, which represent about 76 percent of students enrolled in public adult and alternative high schools citywide. This background context summarizes available information on supply and demand for DC's public charter adult and alternative high school options.

Supply of public charter adult and alternative high schools

Nine adult public charter schools are in Wards 1, 4, 5, 7, and 8. Ward 1 has the greatest number of adult public charter schools, and Carlos Rosario has the most students in its Wards 1 and 5 locations. These schools generally serve students 16 or older who are seeking a General Education Diploma (GED).

Overview of public charter adult schools, 2016-2017

School	Ages	Programs offered	Ward	Enrollment	Diplomas Offered
Academy of Hope Adult PCS	18 and older	Adult basic education (ABE)Dual enrollmentComputer skills	5, 8	375	- NEDP - English GED
Briya PCS	16 and older	- ABE- English as a Second Language (ESL)- Family Literacy- Child Development Associate- Medical Assistant	1, 4, 5	597	- NEDP
Carlos Rosario International PCS	16 and older	- ABE- Nurse's aide certification- Culinary arts certification- IT certification- ESL- Citizenship	1, 5	2,064	- English/ Spanish GED
Community College Preparatory Academy PCS	18 and older	 - ABE - ACCUPLACER Prep - Dual enrollment - Microsoft Office Suite certification - Help Desk Certification Training - Automotive Tech 	8	476	- English GED
LAYC Career Academy PCS	16 to 24	- ABE- Dual enrollment- Medical assistant- Computer skills	1	185	- English GED
Maya Angelou PCS - Young Adult Learning Center	17 to 24	- ABE - Construction certification - Telecommunications certification	7	101	- English GED
Next Step/El Próximo Paso PCS	16 to 24	- ABE - ESL	1	393	- English/ Spanish GED
YouthBuild PCS	16 to 24	- ABE- Dual enrollment- Construction education- Child Development Associate- Computer skills	1	117	- English/ Spanish GED

In addition, three "alternative" public charter high schools are held accountable under DC PCSB's Alternative Accountability Framework. These schools provide graduates with a high school diploma.

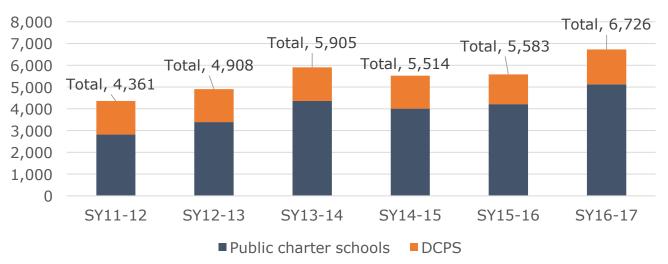
Overview of alternative high schools, 2016-2017

School	Ages	Programs offered	Ward	2016-2017 enrollment	Diplomas Offered
Goodwill Excel Center PCS	Students who have completed grade 8	Microsoft Office Suite certificationCompetency-based program	2	382	- High school diploma
Kingsman Academy PCS	Students in grades 6-12	 R.I.S.E. non-traditional learning environment Specialized learning for students with special education needs 	6	216	- High school diploma
Maya Angelou PCS - High School	High school students	- Blended and Individualized learning - Socio-emotional learning	7	209	- High school diploma

Historical enrollment, adult and alternative high schools

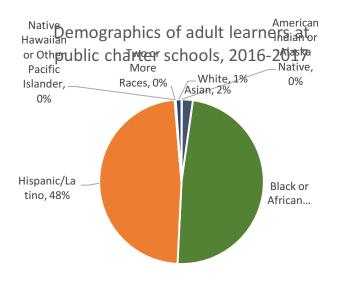
Over the past five years, DC's public charter schools' enrollment at adult and alternative high schools has grown by approximately 2,300 students, or 380 per year. Enrollment in all public adult and alternative schools (public charter and DCPS) has increased by around 2,400 students, or 470 per year.

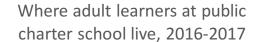


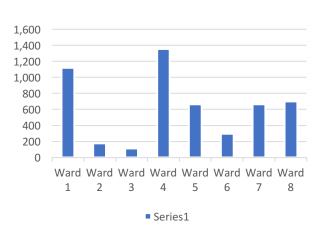


Students enrolled at adult charters and alternative high schools

Almost all adult learners in public charter schools and alternative high schools are Hispanic/Latino or Black/African American, with an almost even split between these two groups. Almost half (48%) live in Wards 1 and 4.







Projected enrollment in charters in adult charters

The Mayor's budget projects an increase of 322 adult students in public charter schools in 2017-2018, with Sustainable Futures PCS opening in 2017-2018. The Family Place PCS will open as a public charter school in 2018-2019.

Adult public charter schools opening through 2018-2019

New public charter school	Opening year	Planned capacity	Description
Sustainable Futures PCS	2017- 2018	266	Competency-based alternative high school in Ward 1 serving youth ages 14 to 21
The Family Place PCS	2018- 2019	175	Adult school in Ward 1 that will offer English as a second language, workforce training and literacy development education to low-income adults who have limited English proficiency

In addition, many existing public charter schools have enrollment ceilings⁹ that increase over time and allow them to expand in the future – including by adding more classrooms, grades, or facilities. These public charter schools have plans to grow in enrollment ceilings by about 1,200 more students by 2021-2022.

Growing adult and alternative public charter schools

LEA	Growth in enrollment ceilings from 2016-2017 to 2021-2022	
Academy of Hope Adult PCS	250	
Briya PCS	242	
Carlos Rosario International PCS	150	
Community College Preparatory Academy PCS	125	
Goodwill Excel Center PCS	35	
Kingsman Academy PCS	10	
Next Step/El Próximo Paso PCS	50	
Sustainable Futures PCS	266	
The Family Place	140	
Total	1,268	

Demand for public charter adult and alternative high schools

The nine adult public charter schools do not participate in the common lottery, so other sources of data are necessary to evaluate demand, or how many adult learners choose to enroll, and need, or how many adults do not have a high school education regardless of interest in re-enrolling. To give the broadest sense of need for adult education, an estimated 10.1% of DC's adult population (or 55,000 adults) did not have a high school diploma as of 2014.

However, the current demand for adult education is less than the total need because not all adults without a high school diploma return to school. Future demand for adult and alternative education can be estimated as the share of ninth graders who currently do not finish high school within four years, or 31 percent, 11 and the share of these non-graduates who currently enroll in GED or other non-traditional school programs, or 13 percent. 12 As context, there were 5,615 ninth graders in public schools in SY12-13 who would be eligible to graduate in 2016. If current trends continue, approximately 226 students from this cohort will reenroll in GED and non-traditional programs this year. Efforts are underway citywide to improve high school graduation rates and the number of adults with a high school education.

⁹ Enrollment ceiling is the maximum students for whom a school can receive payment.

¹⁰ Source: American Community Survey, one-year estimates.

¹¹ Source: LearnDC, District of Columbia Office of the State Superintendent for Education (OSSE).

¹² Source: DC Graduation Pathways Project Summary, prepared for the Deputy Mayor for Education.