



National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

TOP 10 CHARTER COMMUNITIES BY MARKET SHARE Second Annual Edition

Todd Ziebarth

**Senior Policy Analyst, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools
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In the year that has elapsed since our first report on charter market share, the list of communities with sizeable proportions of charter school students has grown. According to data from the 2006-07 school year, there are now 29 communities, with many ties in percentages, occupying our “Top 10” charter-market slots, with New Orleans again heading the list at 57 percent of students enrolled in public charter schools.

There are additional indications of growth:

- While the floor for the “Top 10” list remained the same as last year’s 13%, the number of communities that made the list increased from 19 to 29.
- Among communities with at least 10,000 public school students, eight had at least 1/5th of their public school students in public charter schools, an increase from six in the 2005-06 school year.
- Ten new communities from nine states have been added to the list this year.
- Communities in two new states have joined the list: New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The table below details our new findings.

The “Top 10”

Community	<u>Charter Market Share</u>	<u>Charter</u>	<u>Non-Charter</u>	<u>All</u>
1. New Orleans, LA	57%	14,822	11,343	26,165
2. Southfield, MI	27%	3,565	9,426	12,991
Dayton, OH	27%	6,036	16,272	22,308
Washington, DC	27%	19,924	55,164	75,088
3. Pontiac, MI	23%	2,687	9,003	11,690
Youngstown, OH	23%	2,615	8,835	11,450

4. Detroit, MI	20%	29,455	117,598	147,053
Kansas City, MO	20%	6,084	24,610	30,694
5. Toledo, OH	18%	6,356	29,368	35,724
6. Chula Vista, CA	17%	4,693	22,198	26,891
Cleveland, OH	17%	11,573	54,814	66,387
Cincinnati, OH	17%	6,846	33,935	40,781
Milwaukee, WI	17%	15,825	78,603	94,428
7. Buffalo, NY	16%	6,538	34,589	41,127
Dearborn, MI	16%	3,487	18,529	22,016
8. Oakland, CA	15%	7,208	39,804	47,012
Brighton, CO	15%	1,751	9,885	11,636
Albany, NY	15%	1,505	8,603	10,108
St. Louis, MO	15%	5,405	31,691	37,096
9. Minneapolis, MN	14%	5,854	36,337	42,191
10. Camden, NJ	13%	2,313	15,244	17,557
St. Paul, MN	13%	6,014	40,034	46,048
Philadelphia, PA	13%	26,834	179,376	206,210
Columbus, OH	13%	8,312	55,699	64,011
Vista, CA	13%	3,487	23,447	26,934
Saginaw, MI	13%	1,456	9,934	11,390
Mohave County, AZ	13%	3,572	24,383	27,955
Napa Valley, CA	13%	2,219	15,199	17,418
Appleton, WI	13%	1,915	13,328	15,243

A Closer Look

Size of Communities Ranges from 10,108 to 206,210: Fifteen of the 29 communities in the “Top 10” each have fewer than 30,000 public school students. Six are large urban communities, with Detroit charters now accounting for 20 percent of the city’s public school population. The other “big urbans” are Columbus, Cleveland, Washington, DC, Milwaukee, and Philadelphia. The smallest community in the “Top 10” is Albany, and the largest one is Philadelphia.

4 of the 6 Big Charter States are Represented in the “Top 10”: California has the largest number of students enrolled in charter schools (220,000), and four communities on our list. Michigan and Ohio (#2 and #6 charter states by student population) are also well represented, with five communities from Michigan and six from Ohio. All but one of Michigan’s high-share charter communities are concentrated in the Detroit metropolitan area. Ohio law formerly restricted chartering to a few big cities – and six of them made our list. Arizona is the #4 charter state, but only had one community on our list. Florida and Texas, also among the largest charter states in terms of student population, have no communities in the “Top 10.”

Ten Communities are New to the “Top 10” List: Ten communities from nine states made the list for the first time this year. Eight of them are from states that

already had communities on the list. Two of them, though, represent states that are new to the list (Camden, NJ, and Philadelphia, PA).

Public Charter Schools in New Orleans: A Central but Evolving Role in Rebuilding the City's Public School System: Last year, we reported that charters served 69 percent of New Orleans public school students. Although the number of students in charter schools has nearly doubled since last year, the current charter market share is 57 percent, due to even faster growth in the non-charter sector. As thousands of students have returned to the city post-Katrina, the state created a commendably rigorous approval process for charter schools. This process led to fewer charters opening than initially anticipated – and to an increase in the number of public schools directly operated by the state-run Recovery District. Still, with 57 percent of public school students enrolled in charters, New Orleans has the highest charter market share of any community in the nation.

A Note About Methodology

In this analysis, we examined market share in communities with more than 10,000 public school students (both charter and non-charter) in the 2006-07 school year. We gathered charter and non-charter public school enrollment data from state department of education personnel and databases, and from state charter association and resource center staff.

As we found out in the course of our research, charter market share means different things in different places. In most places, it means the percentage of public school students in a given community attending public charter schools. But, a couple of states don't gather the data at that level of detail, and instead organize it by either county (Arizona) or metropolitan area (Texas).

The growing numbers of virtual charter schools that enroll children from across an entire state present another issue. Because many states haven't developed student enrollment reporting systems that allow the sorting of individual students by community of residence at each charter school, we excluded communities where virtual charter schools enrolling large numbers of students from outside the community constituted much of the charter market share in that community. We recognize that this decision might create some undercounting in communities of residence.

After gathering out the data, we determined the ten highest market share percentages: 57, 27, 23, 20, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, and 13. As shown above, several of these percentages included multiple communities.

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