What are Charter Schools?

Charter schools-like traditional public schools- are tuition-free and their students must participate in statewide testing programs; however, they are schools of choice, which means that parents can and must choose to enroll their children. Charter schools are created through an agreement or "charter" typically between the school, community organization, and the local district school boar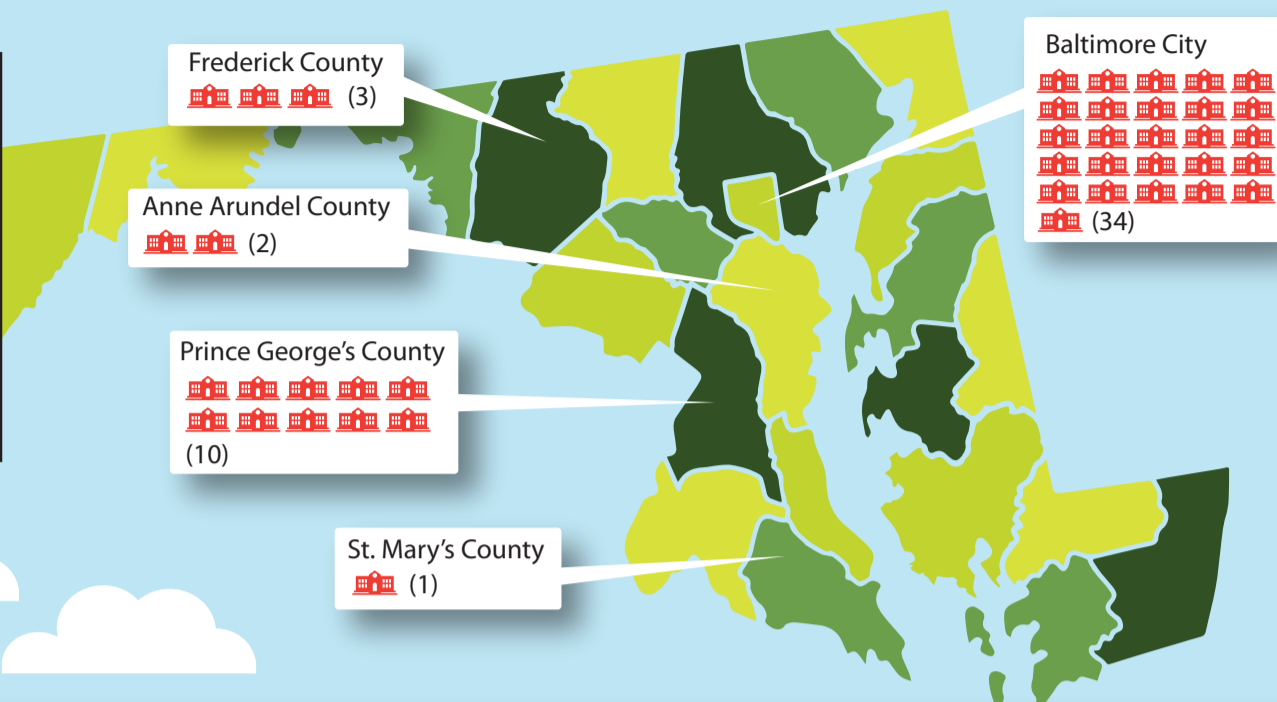d. This charter gives the school more flexibility compared to traditional public schools in return for a commitment to certain academic results. Since 2003, Maryland charter schools have played a key role in increasing parental options in public education and providing innovative learning opportunities for students.

During the 2017-18 school year, over 20,000 students were enrolled in 50 public charter schools, run by 31 non-profit organizations in Maryland, in five Local School Systems across the State. Some charter schools include themed learning approaches focusing on areas such as arts, sciences, and technologies. Other charter schools provide services to special populations such as students at risk of academic failure or students with disabilities.
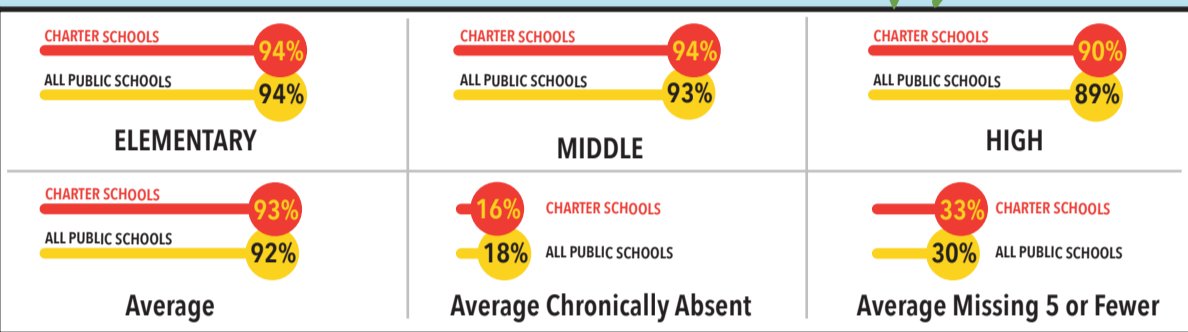
CHARTER SCHOOLS 2017-2018

50 Public Charter Schools

5 Local School Systems

Frederick County (3)

Anne Arundel County (2)

Prince George's County (10)

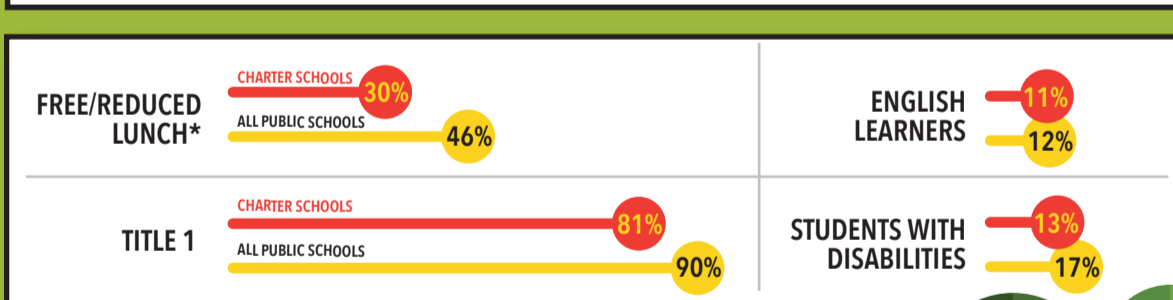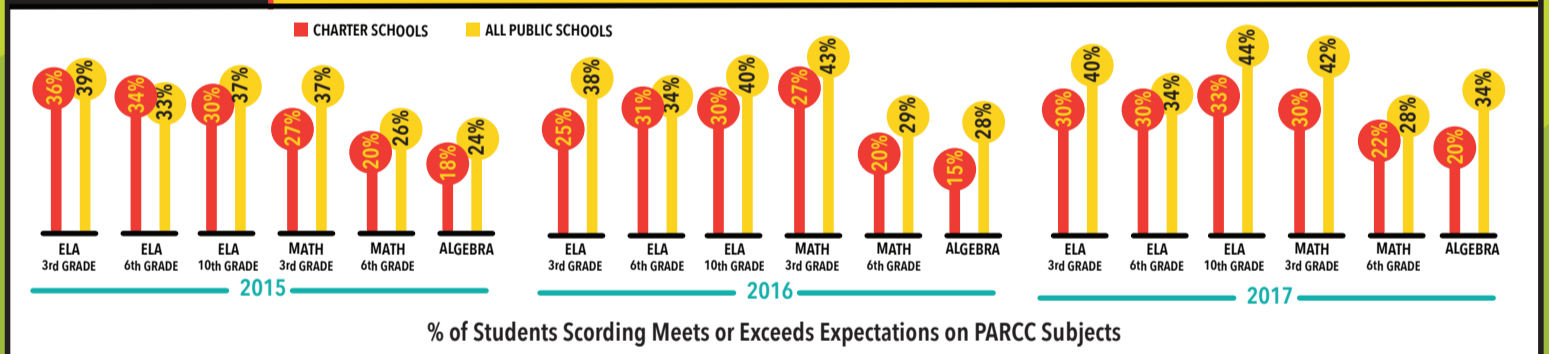St. Mary's County (1)

Baltimore City (34)

ATTENDANCE

In 2017, charter schools in Maryland had on average fewer chronically absent students and more students missing 5 days or fewer than their district counterparts.

ELEMENTARY
- CHARTER SCHOOLS 94%
- ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 94%

MIDDLE
- CHARTER SCHOOLS 94%
- ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 93%

HIGH
- CHARTER SCHOOLS 90%
- ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 89%

Average
- CHARTER SCHOOLS 93%
- ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 92%

Average Chronically Absent
- CHARTER SCHOOLS 16%
- ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 18%

Average Missing 5 or Fewer
- CHARTER SCHOOLS 33%
- ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 30%

TEST SCORES

In the three years that PARCC has been administered, more students in traditional district schools have met or exceeded expectations at the 3,6, and 10th grade levels. However, some levels have seen improvement in the charter sector from 2015 to 2017.

■ CHARTER SCHOOLS ■ ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2015

	CHARTER	ALL PUBLIC
ELA 3rd GRADE	36%	39%
ELA 6th GRADE	34%	33%
ELA 10th GRADE	30%	37%
MATH 3rd GRADE	27%	37%
MATH 6th GRADE	20%	26%
ALGEBRA	18%	24%

2016

	CHARTER	ALL PUBLIC
ELA 3rd GRADE	25%	38%
ELA 6th GRADE	31%	34%
ELA 10th GRADE	30%	40%
MATH 3rd GRADE	27%	43%
MATH 6th GRADE	20%	29%
ALGEBRA	15%	28%

2017

	CHARTER	ALL PUBLIC
ELA 3rd GRADE	30%	40%
ELA 6th GRADE	30%	34%
ELA 10th GRADE	33%	44%
MATH 3rd GRADE	30%	42%
MATH 6th GRADE	22%	28%
ALGEBRA	20%	34%

% of Students Scoring Meets or Exceeds Expectations on PARCC Subjects

SPECIAL SERVICES

Maryland charter schools served fewer students with special services than in other district schools in 2017.

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH*
- CHARTER SCHOOLS 30%
- ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 46%

TITLE 1
- CHARTER SCHOOLS 81%
- ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS 90%

ENGLISH LEARNERS
- 11%
- 12%

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
- 13%
- 17%

* Baltimore City is not included in the calculation.

SCHOOL GROWTH & ENROLLMENT

Maryland Charter Law passed in **2003**

NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	1	15	23	30	34	37	39	45	47	47	47	50	50

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

25,000
20,000
15,000
10,000
5,000
0