

Research Brief

Fourth Grade Achievement Gap in Charter Schools Mirrors MPS

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A consistent yet troubling reality in education today is the achievement gap that exists by race and income. For example, recently released National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores revealed that the gap between the performances of black and white fourth-graders in public schools in Wisconsin on reading was 25 percentage points. One of the reasons that charters are such an exciting education reform is the hope that this gap will be lessened and eventually eliminated. Yet, instead of turning this system upside down, charter schools in Milwaukee are mirroring the test score gap of both MPS and the state, according to the latest test scores. Fourth grade reading scores of white charter school students were 23 percentage points higher than African American and Hispanic students; the MPS gap is 22 points. The gap in math scores in charter schools is even higher at 32 percentage points, slightly above the 25 point gap in MPS.

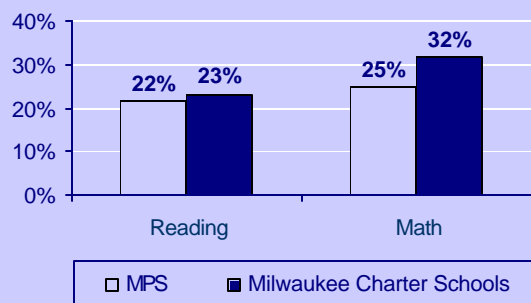
In 2003-04 there are 35 charter schools in the City of Milwaukee. Twenty-five received their charters from MPS, five from UWM, and five from the City of Milwaukee. These charter schools have an important mandate—freedom from burdensome regulations should spur innovation and lead to improvement in education. At this point charter schools are facing the same hurdle as traditional schools in Milwaukee. How they overcome it is critical for the parents in Milwaukee who want to ensure that their educational choice, either charter or MPS, will lead to real educational improvement for their children. There are exemplary charter and traditional public schools that eliminate the performance gap. Unfortunately, the few schools that do so cannot, on their own, improve outcomes for the city as a whole.

Key Facts

- Overall demographic enrollment of charter schools resembles enrollment in traditional public schools in MPS. For example, charter schools are 60.3 percent African American compared to 59.4 percent in MPS, 19.1 percent Hispanic compared to 18 percent in MPS, and 17.1 percent white compared to 17.3 percent in MPS.
- Six of the 28 charter schools reporting 2002-03 test score data outperformed the state average score on at least one of the state-administered reading tests. These include **Highland Community School, IDEAL School, Westside Academy II, and Whittier Elementary School**. All of these schools received their charters from MPS. They are joined by **Marva Collins Preparatory School**, chartered by UWM. **Bruce Guadalupe**, an MPS chartered school, holds the distinction of surpassing the state average reading score for both the 4th and 8th grade tests.
- Fifteen charter schools serve fourth graders. Of these, 13 report tests for these students. Two schools have fewer than five students. For these schools DPI does not report test score data. Of the reported data, 74 of the students are white, and 437 are African American or Hispanic. For white students in charter schools, 77 percent were proficient or advanced in reading compared to 55 percent of Black/Hispanic. In math, 74 percent of white students were advanced or proficient compared to 42 percent of Black/Hispanic students.

Please see www.publicpolicyforum.org for the list of all schools and their test scores by race/ethnicity.

Difference in 4th Grade Scores:
White Vs. African American & Hispanic





Hispanic Enrollment Growing in Charter Schools

Milwaukee charter schools' racial breakdown still closely mirrors that of Milwaukee Public Schools, but there are some differences. This year the Hispanic student composition is one percentage point higher than in MPS. There was not much change in the percentage of African American students compared to 2002-03, with Milwaukee charter schools' percentage being slightly higher than that of MPS. A decrease in the percentage of white students in both MPS and Milwaukee charter schools occurred this year, but the loss was larger in the charter schools.

In terms of individual schools, there are now two majority Hispanic schools up from one last year. There are now 22 majority African American schools, up from 19, and there are six majority white schools, up from five.

2003-2004 Milwaukee Charter School Enrollment by Race

School Name	Agency	% Asian	% Black	% Hispanic	% Indian	% White	Total
Academy of Learning & Leadership	City	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	105
Central City Cyberschool	City	0.0%	98.7%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	305
DLH Academy	City	0.0%	99.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.4%	241
Downtown Montessori	City	11.5%	23.1%	11.5%	0.0%	53.8%	78
Khamit Institute	City	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	102
Afro Urban Institute	MPS	0.6%	96.2%	0.6%	0.6%	1.9%	159
Audubon Tech & Communication Center	MPS	6.9%	24.3%	32.5%	1.3%	34.9%	970
Bruce Guadalupe Community School	MPS	0.0%	0.9%	96.1%	0.6%	2.5%	691
Carter School of Excellence	MPS	0.0%	93.9%	2.6%	1.0%	2.6%	196
Fairview School	MPS	2.7%	11.8%	12.6%	1.0%	71.8%	625
Fritsche Middle School	MPS	6.0%	24.9%	27.3%	1.9%	39.9%	1,055
Highland Community School	MPS	1.0%	67.3%	1.0%	0.0%	30.6%	98
IDEAL Charter School	MPS	3.1%	26.2%	12.0%	3.1%	55.5%	191
Juneau Business Charter High School	MPS	5.9%	69.9%	6.0%	1.1%	17.1%	904
La Causa	MPS	0.3%	3.5%	92.2%	0.5%	3.5%	399
Learning Enterprise Voc & Trng Institute	MPS	4.7%	84.4%	1.6%	1.6%	7.8%	64
Malcolm X Academy	MPS	0.2%	98.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.9%	536
Milwaukee Leadership Training Center	MPS	0.0%	74.8%	17.1%	0.8%	7.3%	123
New Hope Institute of Science & Tech	MPS	3.2%	80.2%	4.8%	0.8%	11.1%	126
Northern Star School	MPS	0.0%	80.5%	9.8%	0.0%	9.8%	41
Phoenix High School	MPS	0.8%	91.3%	3.1%	0.0%	4.7%	127
Professional Learning Institute	MPS	3.0%	23.9%	20.9%	1.5%	50.7%	67
Siefert Elementary School	MPS	0.9%	96.1%	1.3%	0.0%	1.7%	461
Veritas High School	MPS	0.0%	13.3%	34.7%	1.7%	50.3%	173
Walker International Middle School	MPS	6.8%	28.6%	48.4%	3.5%	12.7%	808
Westside Academy I	MPS	3.3%	93.7%	1.4%	0.0%	1.6%	427
Westside Academy II	MPS	5.2%	93.0%	0.5%	0.3%	1.0%	385
Whittier Elementary School	MPS	1.4%	6.1%	6.6%	1.4%	84.5%	213
Wings Academy	MPS	0.0%	42.6%	19.1%	4.4%	33.8%	68
Wisconsin Career Academy	MPS	3.2%	48.8%	18.5%	1.7%	27.7%	346
Marva Collins Preparatory School	UWM	0.0%	99.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	428
Milwaukee Academy of Science	UWM	0.0%	99.0%	0.6%	0.2%	0.2%	882
Milwaukee Urban League Academy	UWM	0.0%	99.4%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%	804
School for Early Develop & Achievement	UWM	4.3%	87.0%	4.3%	0.0%	4.3%	46
YMCA Youth Leadership Academy	UWM	0.4%	99.4%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	487
Total Charter School		2.7%	60.3%	19.1%	0.9%	17.1%	12,731
MPS		4.4%	59.4%	18.0%	0.9%	17.3%	97,359
State		3.4%	10.5%	5.8%	1.4%	78.8%	880,031

Table 1



Milwaukee Charter School Enrollment Inching Upward

Once again, Milwaukee charter school enrollment increased from last year to this year. Currently, there are 12,731 students in Milwaukee charter schools. This is a 10.7 percent increase from the 11,497 students that attended charter schools in 2002-03. Nineteen out of the 30 schools from last year had a gain in enrollment, and one school closed (YW Global Career Academy). There are five new schools this year, which accounted for 66 percent of the enrollment growth.

There were two schools that more than doubled in size from 2002-03 to 2003-04. Afro Urban Institute had the largest percent increase: enrollment went from 59 to 159 students, a 170 percent increase. The Milwaukee Leadership Training Center also more than doubled in size with a 112 percent enrollment increase.

For the second year in a row, Milwaukee Urban League Academy had the largest raw number increase, gaining 122 students. Central City Cyberschool had the largest decrease compared to last year, losing 12 percent of its enrollment, or 41 students.

Although the total Milwaukee charter school enrollment has increased every year since the program was initiated, the size of the increase has lessened each year. This year's enrollment increased 11 percent, compared to 22 percent last year. The growth from 1999-00 to 2000-01 was 305 percent. With over 22 new applications submitted this year to open charter schools in Fall 2004, we anticipate a steady increase in the number of charter school students.

Percent Change in Milwaukee Charter School Enrollment

Year Chartered	School Name	1999-00 Enrollment	2000-01 Enrollment	2001-02 Enrollment	2002-03 Enrollment	2003-04 Enrollment	One-Year Change	% Change from 1st Year Present*
1996-97	Highland Community School	65	92	82	95	98	3.2%	50.8%
1997-98	Downtown Montessori	29	66	91	80	78	-2.5%	169.0%
1998-99	Khamit Institute	66	92	84	83	102	22.9%	54.5%
1999-00	Central City Cyberschool	38	379	331	346	305	-11.8%	702.6%
1999-00	Fritsche Middle School	1,041	1,042	1,040	1,076	1,055	-2.0%	1.3%
2000-01	Bruce Guadalupe Community School		545	581	624	691	10.7%	26.8%
2000-01	Milwaukee Academy of Science		917	901	878	882	0.5%	-3.8%
2000-01	Walker International Middle School		773	814	793	808	1.9%	4.5%
2000-01	Westside Academy I		457	463	416	427	2.6%	-6.6%
2000-01	Westside Academy II		411	429	387	385	-0.5%	-6.3%
2000-01	Wisconsin Career Academy		112	192	290	346	19.3%	208.9%
2001-02	Audubon Tech & Comm Center			946	956	970	1.5%	2.5%
2001-02	Fairview School			628	631	625	-1.0%	-0.5%
2001-02	IDEAL Charter School			190	192	191	-0.5%	0.5%
2001-02	Juneau Business Charter High School			851	880	904	2.7%	6.2%
2001-02	Learning Enterprise Voc & Trng Institute			91	50	64	28.0%	-29.7%
2001-02	Milwaukee Leadership Training Center			61	58	123	112.1%	101.6%
2001-02	Milwaukee Urban League Academy			566	682	804	17.9%	42.0%
2001-02	Phoenix High School			131	132	127	-3.8%	-3.1%
2001-02	Sch for Early Develop & Achievement			16	31	46	48.4%	187.5%
2001-02	Siefert Elementary School			498	483	461	-4.6%	-7.4%
2001-02	Veritas High School			135	164	173	5.5%	28.1%
2001-02	Whittier Elementary School			212	217	213	-1.8%	0.5%
2002-03	Afro Urban Institute				59	159	169.5%	169.5%
2002-03	DLH Academy				227	241	6.2%	6.2%
2002-03	Malcolm X Academy				536	536	0.0%	0.0%
2002-03	Marva Collins Preparatory School				410	428	4.4%	4.4%
2002-03	Northern Star School				37	41	10.8%	10.8%
2002-03	Wings Academy				50	68	36.0%	36.0%
2002-03	YMCA Youth Leadership Academy				505	487	-3.6%	-3.6%
2003-04	Academy of Learning & Leadership					105	n/a	n/a
2003-04	Carter School of Excellence					196	n/a	n/a
2003-04	La Causa					399	n/a	n/a
2003-04	New Hope Institute of Science & Tech					126	n/a	n/a
2003-04	Professional Learning Institute					67	n/a	n/a
	Total Charter School**	1,239	5,022	9,442	11,497	12,731	10.7%	927.5%

*1999-00 was the first year data were available.

** The 1999-00 to 2002-03 total enrollments include YW Global Career Academy which closed after the 2002-03 school year.



MPS Charter Schools Continue to Outscore both City and UWM

Table 3 shows each of the Milwaukee charter schools and their standardized test scores as provided to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The data are somewhat limited due to the fact that new schools are not included, and some schools have small numbers of students taking the tests.

As in years past, MPS charter schools scored higher on average than the City and UWM chartered schools on all levels of tests. The difference is especially large on the 3rd grade reading test. The percent of 3rd grade students that scored at or above proficient for all MPS charter schools was 66 percent. The City charter schools had 40 percent of their 3rd grade students at or above proficient and the UWM schools had 35 percent of the 3rd grade students at or above proficient.

On the 4th grade WKCE 56 percent of City and 49 percent of UWM charter school students scored at or above proficient, while 62 percent of the students at MPS charter schools were at or above proficient. On the 8th grade reading test, 65 percent of MPS charter school students scored at or above proficient followed by 52 percent of the UWM charter school students. Only 40 percent of City charter school students scored at or above proficient.

On the 10th grade WKCE, MPS charter schools had a slightly higher percentage of students at or above proficient than MPS overall. The percent of both Milwaukee charter school and traditional MPS students at or above proficient is still well below the state's average.

2002-2003 Milwaukee Charter School Standardized Test Scores

School Name	Agency	3rd Gr % At/Above Proficient	Rank	4th Gr Reading % At/Above Proficient	Rank	8th Gr Reading % At/Above Proficient	Rank	10th Gr Reading % At/Above Proficient	Rank
Audubon Tech & Comm Center	MPS					62%	9		
Bruce Guadalupe	MPS	74%	6	93%	1	92%	1		
Central City Cyberschool	City	30%	14	48%	9	39%	12		
DLH Academy	City	51%	10	68%	5				
Downtown Montessori	City	*	*	*	*				
Fairview El	MPS	74%	5	67%	6				
Fritsche Middle School	MPS					74%	4		
Highland Community School	MPS	100%	1						
IDEAL	MPS	75%	4	87%	3	67%	8		
Juneau High School	MPS							47%	3
Khamit Institute	City	33%	12	43%	11	44%	10		
La Causa**	MPS	38%	11	50%	8				
Malcolm X Academy	MPS					35%	13		
Marva Collins Prep	UWM	73%	7	92%	2	84%	2		
Milwaukee Academy of Science	UWM	25%	15	56%	7	42%	11		
Milwaukee Leadership Trng Ctr	MPS					75%	3	*	*
Milwaukee Urban League Acad	UWM	24%	16	33%	13				
Northern Star School	MPS					*	*		
Phoenix High School	MPS							22%	4
Siefert Elementary School	MPS	52%	9	43%	11			67%	1
Veritas High School	MPS								
Walker International Middle School	MPS					72%	5		
Westside Academy I	MPS	53%	8						
Westside Academy II	MPS	89%	3	47%	10	71%	7		
Whittier Elementary School	MPS	100%	1	74%	4				
Wings Academy	MPS					*	*	*	*
Wisconsin Career Academy	MPS					72%	5	58%	2
YMCA Youth Leadership Academy	UWM	33%	12	*	*	*	*		
MPS		63%		63%		56%		40%	
State		81%		81%		84%		73%	

*Group of five or less tested

**La Causa was not a charter school in the 2002-03 school year.

Note: Third Grade Scores are from the Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (WRCT).

Note: Fourth, eighth, and tenth grade scores are from the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concept Exams (WKCE). The scores are the percentage of students that scored at or above proficient in Reading.

Table 3



2003-2004 Milwaukee Charter School Directory

School	Contact Person	Address	Zip	Phone	Grades Offered
Academy of Learning & Leadership	M. Camille Mortimore	2739 N. 15th St.	53206	699-5008	PK-8
Afro Urban Institute	Elder Franklin Atwater Sr.	600 W. Walnut St., Suite 39	53201	562-6969	9-12
Audubon Technology & Communication Center	Katrice Cotton	3300 S. 39th St.	53215	902-7800	6-8
Bruce Guadalupe Community School	Pascual Rodriguez	1028 S. 9th St.	53224	643-6441	K4-8
Carter School of Excellence	Lorraine Carter	2001 W. Vliet St.	53205	933-4044	K4-5
Central City Cyberschool	Christine Faltz	4301 N. 44th St.	53216	444-2330	K4-8
DLH Academy	Barbara P. Horton	7151 N. 86th St.	53224	358-3542	K-6
Downtown Montessori	Virginia Flynn	2319 E. Kenwood Ave.	53211	332-8214	K3-4
Fairview School	Jacqueline Scudder	6500 W. Kinnickinnic River Pkwy.	53219	546-7700	K3-8
Fritsche Middle School	Robin Kitzrow	2969 S. Howell Ave.	53207	294-1000	6-8
Highland Community School	Kathy Ronco	3030 Highland Blvd.	53208	342-1412	K3-4
IDEAL Charter School	Barbara Ernest	4965 S. 20th St.	53221	304-6200	K4-8
Juneau Business Charter High School	Myron Cain	6415 W. Mount Vernon Ave.	53213	256-8200	9-12
Khamit Institute	Jerry Tarrer	4714 W. Fond du Lac Ave.	53216	445-0602	K4-8
La Causa	David Espinoza	1643 S. 2nd St.	53204	902-1660	K3-6
Learning Enterprise Vocational & Training Institute	Kathy A. Harrell-Patterson	8920 W. Brown Deer Rd.	53224	362-9710	11-12
Malcolm X Academy	Lonnie Anderson	2760 N. 1st St.	53212	267-8600	6-9
Marva Collins Preparatory School	Robert Rauh	2449 N. 36th St.	53210	446-8020	K4-8
Milwaukee Academy of Science	Tracey Sparrow	2000 W. Kilbourn Ave.	53233	933-0302	K4-8
Milwaukee Leadership Training Center	Leslie Seib	2360 N. 52nd St.	53210	874-8588	5-11
Milwaukee Urban League Academy	David DeBerry	3814 W. North Ave.	53208	615-3915	K4-7
New Hope Institute of Science & Technology	Rosella Tucker	1501 S. Layton Blvd.	53215	527-1733	9-10
Northern Star School	Valerie Benton-Davis	8135 W. Florist Ave.	53218	393-6183	6-9
Phoenix High School	Michael Endress	3620 N. 18th St.	53206	875-6438	9-12
Professional Learning Institute	Theresa Erbe	4965 S. 20th St.	53221	475-8443	9-10
School for Early Development & Achievement	Cynthia Whaples-Dennis	1905 W. Wisconsin Ave.	53233	342-4008	K4-K5
Siefert Elementary School	Janel Howard	1547 N. 14th St.	53205	935-1500	K3-5
Veritas High School	Marcia Spector	3025 W. Oklahoma Ave.	53215	389-5575	9-12
Walker International Middle School	Hector Perez LaBoy	1712 S. 32nd St.	53215	902-7500	6-8
Westside Academy I/II	James Sonnenberg	1945 N. 31st St./1940 N. 36th St.	53208	934-5000	K3-5/3-8
Whittier Elementary School	Ruth Maegli	4382 S. 3rd St.	53207	294-1400	K3-5
Wings Academy	Dani LaPorte	1501 S. Layton Blvd.	53215	431-1356	4-11
Wisconsin Career Academy	Ibrahim Duyar	4801 S. 2nd St.	53207	483-8070	6-12
YMCA Youth Leadership Academy	Ronn Johnson	1350 W. North Avenue St.	53212	374-9400	K4-8

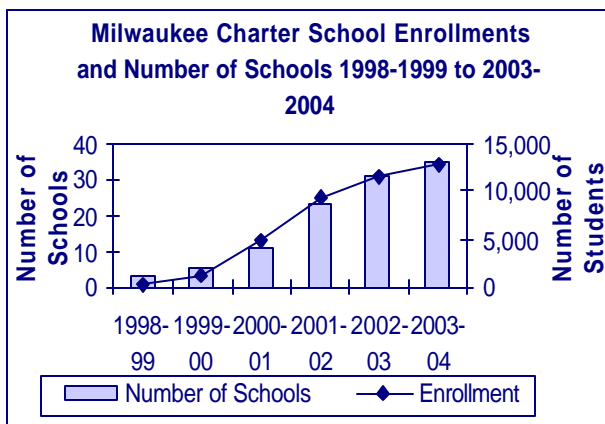
Table 4



2003-2004 Charter Schools

A Snapshot of Milwaukee Charter Schools

- Enrollment is increasing in Milwaukee charter schools, but the pace of the increase continues to slow down each year since the 2001-02 school year. Enrollment increased 10.7 percent from the 2002-03 school year, bringing the enrollment to 12,731 students. Individually, two schools, the Afro Urban Institute and the Milwaukee Leadership Training Center, more than doubled in size, with increases of 170 percent and 112 percent respectively.
- This year Hispanic enrollment in Milwaukee charter schools increased by more than three percentage points, mainly due to the fact that there are now two majority Hispanic schools. Both the percent of African American students and the percent of white students decreased from last year.
- MPS charter schools scored higher than the City and UWM charter schools on state standardized tests for 2002-03. MPS charter schools also scored higher than traditional MPS schools on Wisconsin's 3rd, 8th, and 10th grade exams.



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