



# NOLA by the Numbers: School Enrollment & Demographics

March 2011

Scott S. Cowen Institute for  
Public Education Initiatives  
Tulane University  
200 Broadway Street, Suite 108  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118  
504-274-3690  
<http://education.tulane.edu>

The Scott S. Cowen Institute for Public Education Initiatives at Tulane University launched the NOLA by the Numbers series in October 2010. This series aims to provide journalists, policymakers, community leaders, and the public with a timely and comprehensive report of state-released data on public schools in New Orleans. This report focuses on public school enrollment and demographics. This briefing, and others released by the Cowen Institute in the past, can be found at <http://education.tulane.edu>.

Each school year, the Louisiana Department of Education conducts two student enrollment counts: on October 1<sup>st</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>. These counts also document the race, sex, grade level, and free and reduced lunch eligibility status of students. The enrollment counts are particularly important because they are used to determine the amount of funding schools and districts receive from the state. The data used in this report was released to the Cowen Institute by the state Department of Education on March 15, 2011 and will be made accessible at <http://www.louisianaschools.net/data/>.

The February 1, 2011 enrollment and demographic data shows little change from the October 1, 2010 student count with one exception: at Recovery School District direct-run schools, the proportion of low-income students increased by nearly 15 percentage points. According to the February 1<sup>st</sup> student count, 100 percent of students in grades PK-12 at RSD direct-run schools are eligible for free or reduced lunch. It is unclear why such a large change occurred, though it may be due to district and school officials encouraging more parents to complete the necessary paperwork.

## Fast Facts

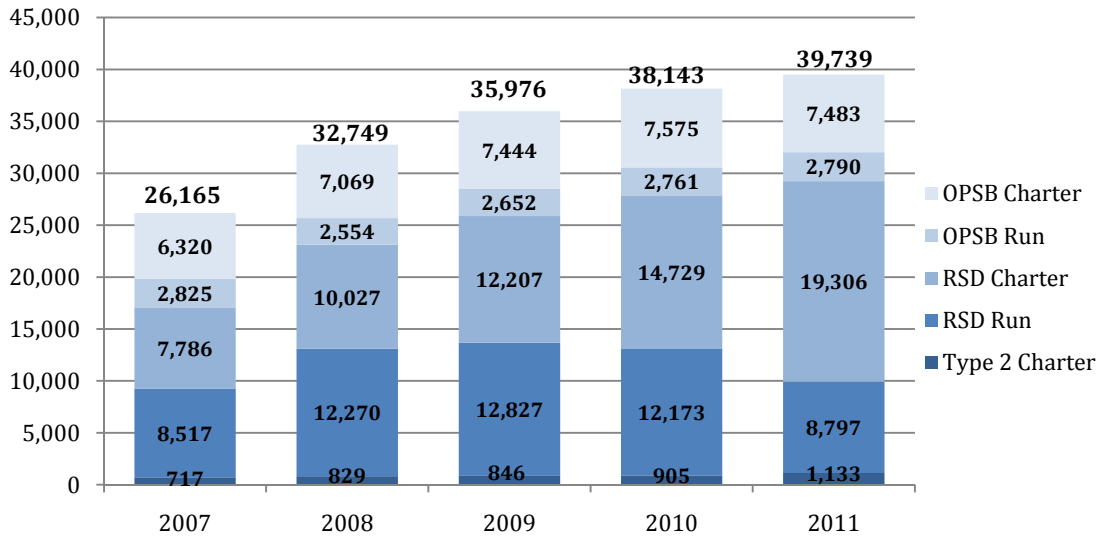
- **39,739** students are enrolled in public schools in New Orleans, a slight decrease of 0.4% from October 2010 and an increase of 4% from last school year.
- **92** public schools are currently open in the city.
- **70%** of students in public schools attend charter schools, more than any other city or district in the nation.
- **87%** of students in public schools qualify for free or reduced lunch, compared to the state average of 67% and the national average of 45%.
- **89%** of students in public schools are African-American, while **6%** are white and **5%** are another race or ethnicity.



## Total Public School Enrollment

Public school student enrollment in New Orleans today has grown continuously since public schools reopened after Hurricane Katrina, though the rate of growth continues to slow each year. From February 2010 to February 2011, enrollment in all public schools in Orleans Parish grew from 38,143 to 39,739 or four percent. This was less than the six percent gain seen from February 2009 to February 2010, the 10 percent gain from the 2008-2009 school year, and the large 25 percent gain from 2007-2008. Today's enrollment is just over half the 78,000 it was a decade ago and is nearly two-thirds the 65,000 it was in the year prior to Katrina. The graph below shows total public school enrollment by school type for February 2007-2011.

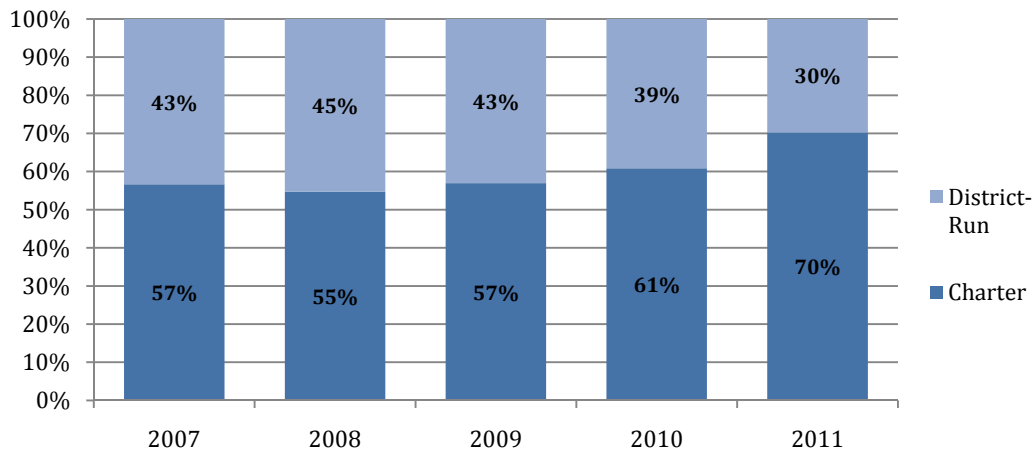
**Public School Enrollment, Feb. 2007 - Feb. 2011**



## Charter School Enrollment

While growth in overall enrollment seems to be stabilizing, the percentage of total students enrolled in charter schools has continuously risen. There was a particularly large jump in charter enrollment this year, with over 70 percent of students attending charter schools in February 2011, compared to 61 percent in February 2010. This was due largely to the significant number of formerly Recovery School District (RSD)-run schools (six schools) that were converted to charters this school year. New Orleans continues to have a larger percentage of its public school students attending charter schools than any other city or district in the nation. The graph below shows the change in the percentage of students attending public district-run and charter schools from 2007 to 2011. "District-run" refers to both RSD-run and Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB)-run schools, while "charter" includes RSD charters, OPSB charters, and Type 2 charter that are authorized by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

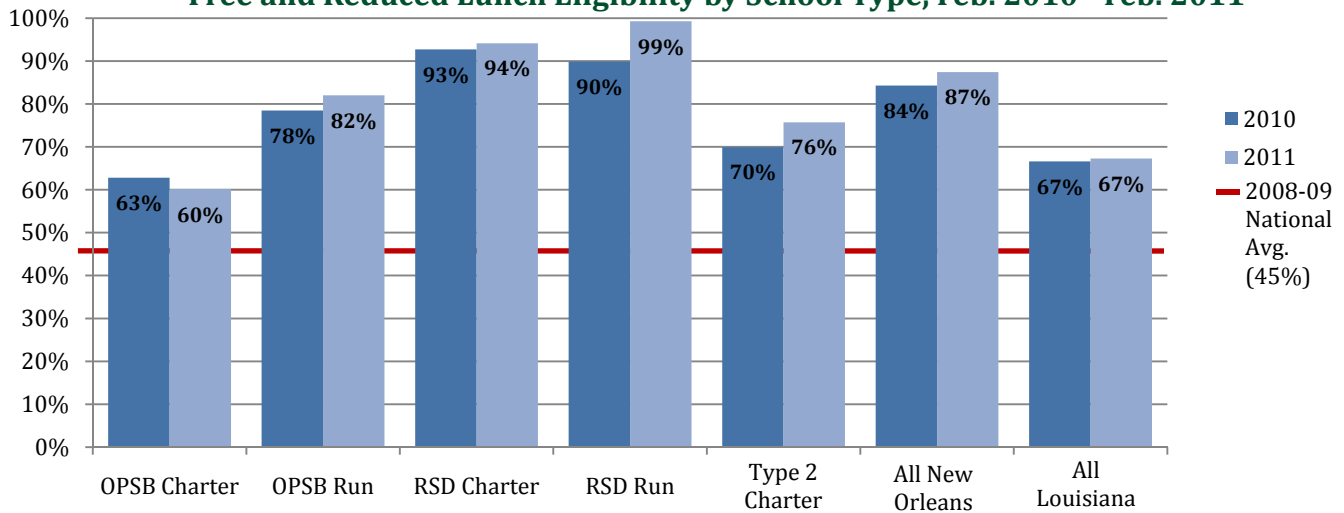
**Percentage of Students Enrolled in District-Run and Charter Schools, Feb. 2007 - Feb. 2010**



## Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility

The proportion of students eligible for free and reduced lunch, an accepted measure of students from low-income families, increased by three percentage points in February 2011 to 87 percent of the total student population. This remains well above the Louisiana average of 67 percent. In particular, there was a large jump in low-income students at RSD-run schools from 90 percent in February 2010 and 86 percent in October 2010 to 99 percent in February 2011. In fact, 100 percent of students at all RSD-run schools are eligible for free and reduced lunch except for 116 pre-school students counted under the RSD's central office, whose low rate of eligibility brings down the overall average. It is unclear why such a large change occurred, though it may be due to district and school officials encouraging more parents to complete the necessary paperwork. The graph below shows the percentage of low-income students enrolled in the various types of schools in February 2010 and 2011.

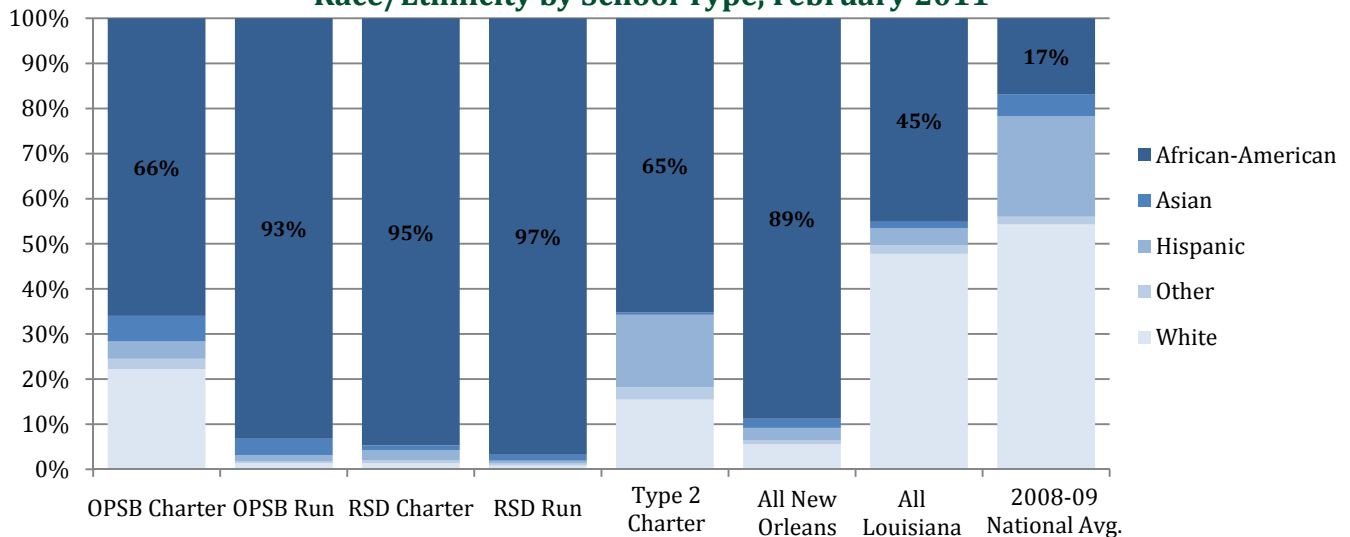
**Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility by School Type, Feb. 2010 - Feb. 2011**



## Race/Ethnicity

As in previous years, nearly 90 percent of students enrolled in public schools in New Orleans are African-American, compared with 45 percent in all Louisiana public schools and a national average of 17 percent. This does not reflect the city's population as a whole, which, according to the 2010 U.S. Census data, is about 60 percent African-American. Additionally, the percentage of black or minority students varies by school type. OPSB charter schools and Type 2 charters enroll a smaller percentage of African-Americans than do the other types of schools, though African-Americans still make up the majority of their students. The graph below shows the percentage of students in each type of school by race or ethnicity.

**Race/Ethnicity by School Type, February 2011**



## Appendix: Enrollment, Free & Reduced Lunch, & Race/Ethnicity by School

School Name	School Type	Total Students Reported	% Free and Reduced Lunch	% Asian	% Black	% Hispanic	% White	% Other
A.P. Tureaud Elementary School	RSD-Run	287	100.0%	0.0%	99.0%	0.7%	0.4%	0.0%
Abramson Science & Technology Charter School	RSD Charter	563	95.4%	7.1%	90.8%	1.2%	0.5%	0.4%
Akili Academy of New Orleans	RSD Charter	216	89.4%	0.0%	89.4%	0.0%	1.4%	9.3%
Algiers Technology Academy	RSD Charter	322	88.8%	1.2%	93.2%	3.4%	1.9%	0.3%
Alice Harte Elementary Charter School	OPSB Charter	630	70.0%	1.9%	87.8%	4.6%	5.4%	0.3%
Andrew H. Wilson Charter School	RSD Charter	553	93.1%	0.2%	95.8%	2.0%	1.1%	0.9%
Arise Academy	RSD Charter	240	100.0%	0.0%	98.8%	0.4%	0.8%	0.0%
Arthur Ashe Charter School	RSD Charter	318	93.4%	0.6%	94.0%	0.9%	3.5%	0.9%
Audubon Charter School	OPSB Charter	738	46.2%	3.3%	43.6%	3.4%	43.9%	5.8%
Benjamin Banneker Elementary School	RSD-Run	453	100.0%	0.2%	93.8%	3.1%	2.0%	0.9%
Benjamin E. Mays Preparatory School	RSD Charter	196	99.5%	0.0%	99.5%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Benjamin Franklin Elem. Math and Science	OPSB-Run	633	77.9%	1.1%	92.6%	1.4%	4.1%	0.8%
Benjamin Franklin High School	OPSB Charter	647	28.6%	22.6%	29.7%	3.1%	41.4%	3.3%
Carver Elementary School	RSD-Run	199	100.0%	0.0%	98.5%	0.5%	1.0%	0.0%
Crocker Arts and Technology School	RSD Charter	224	90.6%	0.0%	96.0%	0.5%	3.1%	0.5%
Dr. Charles Richard Drew Elementary School	RSD-Run	292	100.0%	0.0%	99.0%	0.0%	1.0%	0.0%
Dr. M.L.K. Charter School for Science & Tech.	RSD Charter	745	98.1%	0.0%	99.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.1%
Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School	RSD Charter	593	91.1%	5.9%	88.7%	3.9%	1.4%	0.2%
E. P. Harney Spirit of Excellence Academy	RSD Charter	364	98.1%	0.0%	97.8%	0.3%	1.4%	0.6%
Edna Karr Secondary School	OPSB Charter	863	75.7%	2.6%	92.8%	2.8%	1.4%	0.5%
Edward Hynes Charter School	OPSB Charter	532	64.5%	0.9%	64.7%	2.6%	28.4%	3.4%
Einstein Charter School	OPSB Charter	467	93.2%	28.1%	64.2%	7.1%	0.6%	0.0%
Eleanor McMain Secondary School	OPSB-Run	646	78.0%	15.3%	81.6%	2.9%	0.2%	0.0%
Esperanza Charter School	RSD Charter	401	94.5%	0.0%	45.6%	49.4%	1.8%	3.2%
F.W. Gregory Elementary School	RSD-Run	333	100.0%	1.5%	91.6%	2.7%	2.7%	1.5%
Fannie C. Williams Elementary School	RSD-Run	514	100.0%	0.8%	97.9%	0.6%	0.6%	0.2%
G.W. Carver High School	RSD-Run	409	100.0%	0.0%	99.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Gentilly Terrace School	RSD Charter	404	92.1%	0.0%	95.3%	1.0%	3.5%	0.3%
Greater Gentilly High School	RSD-Run	258	100.0%	0.8%	95.4%	1.2%	1.6%	1.2%
H.C. Schaumburg Elementary School	RSD-Run	611	100.0%	0.0%	97.9%	0.5%	0.0%	1.6%
Harriet Tubman Elementary School	RSD Charter	498	96.8%	0.4%	96.6%	2.2%	0.6%	0.2%

School Name	School Type	Total Students Reported	% Free and Reduced Lunch	% Asian	% Black	% Hispanic	% White	% Other
Hope Academy	RSD-Run	152	100.0%	0.7%	99.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
International High School	Type 2 Charter	185	90.3%	0.5%	62.7%	23.2%	11.4%	2.2%
International School of Louisiana	Type 2 Charter	517	53.0%	0.8%	42.4%	24.0%	28.4%	4.5%
James M. Singleton Charter School	RSD Charter	635	99.2%	0.0%	98.9%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
James Weldon Johnson School	RSD-Run	302	100.0%	0.0%	96.7%	1.7%	1.0%	0.7%
John Dibert Community School	RSD Charter	414	93.5%	0.0%	90.6%	5.6%	3.9%	0.0%
John McDonogh Senior High School	RSD-Run	453	100.0%	0.2%	99.1%	0.2%	0.4%	0.0%
Joseph A. Craig School	RSD-Run	562	100.0%	0.2%	98.9%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%
Joseph S. Clark Senior High School	RSD-Run	373	100.0%	0.0%	98.1%	1.3%	0.3%	0.3%
KIPP Believe College Prep (Phillips)	RSD Charter	351	86.3%	0.0%	97.7%	0.3%	2.0%	0.0%
KIPP Central City Academy	RSD Charter	379	95.3%	0.0%	99.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
KIPP Central City Primary	RSD Charter	301	93.4%	0.0%	99.7%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
KIPP McDonogh 15 School for the Creative Arts	RSD Charter	499	89.2%	0.8%	91.6%	1.6%	5.8%	0.2%
KIPP New Orleans Leadership Academy	RSD Charter	105	95.2%	0.0%	99.1%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%
KIPP Renaissance High School	RSD Charter	141	85.1%	0.0%	96.5%	0.7%	2.8%	0.0%
L. B. Landry High School	RSD-Run	528	100.0%	0.2%	97.9%	0.2%	1.0%	0.8%
Lafayette Academy of New Orleans	RSD Charter	807	94.9%	0.1%	97.8%	1.2%	0.9%	0.0%
Lagniappe Academies of New Orleans	RSD Charter	59	88.1%	0.0%	98.3%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School	OPSB Charter	457	85.6%	4.2%	94.3%	1.1%	0.0%	0.4%
Langston Hughes Academy Charter School	RSD Charter	596	94.5%	0.2%	99.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Laurel Elementary School	RSD Charter	618	95.8%	0.3%	95.3%	1.0%	0.5%	2.9%
Live Oak Elementary School	RSD Charter	568	93.0%	0.2%	94.4%	1.9%	0.9%	2.6%
Lusher Charter School	OPSB Charter	1,630	27.4%	3.7%	33.9%	6.9%	50.9%	4.5%
Mahalia Jackson Elementary School	OPSB-Run	76	92.1%	0.0%	97.4%	1.3%	1.3%	0.0%
Martin Behrman Elementary School	RSD Charter	639	96.1%	0.6%	96.7%	1.4%	1.1%	0.2%
Mary Bethune Elementary Literature/Technology	OPSB-Run	371	83.6%	0.8%	94.6%	1.1%	2.4%	1.1%
Mary D. Coghill Elementary School	RSD-Run	574	100.0%	0.0%	99.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%
McDonogh #28 City Park Academy	RSD Charter	402	95.3%	0.0%	98.5%	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%
McDonogh #32 Elementary School	RSD Charter	543	95.6%	0.2%	98.9%	0.7%	0.0%	0.2%
McDonogh #35 Senior High School	OPSB-Run	933	84.9%	0.1%	98.9%	0.8%	0.1%	0.1%
McDonogh #42 Elementary Charter School	RSD Charter	543	99.6%	0.0%	99.1%	0.2%	0.7%	0.0%
Milestone SABIS Academy of New Orleans	Type 2 Charter	431	96.8%	0.2%	93.7%	3.5%	1.6%	0.9%
Miller-McCoy Academy	RSD Charter	520	86.9%	0.0%	99.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.6%

School Name	School Type	Total Students Reported	% Free and Reduced Lunch	% Asian	% Black	% Hispanic	% White	% Other
Morris Jeff Community School	RSD Charter	139	59.7%	2.2%	51.8%	2.2%	38.9%	5.0%
Murray Henderson Elementary School	RSD-Run	352	100.0%	0.0%	98.3%	1.4%	0.3%	0.0%
Nelson Elementary School	RSD Charter	407	98.0%	1.5%	97.3%	0.7%	0.3%	0.3%
New Orleans Career Academy	RSD-Run	54	100.0%	0.0%	88.9%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
New Orleans Charter Science and Math Academy	RSD Charter	243	88.1%	0.4%	97.1%	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%
New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics High	OPSB Charter	366	68.6%	0.6%	85.5%	2.2%	10.7%	1.1%
NOLA College Prep Charter School	RSD Charter	601	96.3%	0.2%	99.2%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%
O.P. Walker Senior High School	RSD Charter	881	92.5%	0.0%	99.4%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
P. A. Capdau School	RSD Charter	362	95.0%	0.0%	98.6%	0.0%	0.8%	0.6%
Paul B. Habans Elementary School	RSD-Run	382	100.0%	0.0%	92.4%	5.8%	1.6%	0.3%
Pride College Preparatory Academy	RSD Charter	202	95.5%	0.0%	97.5%	2.0%	0.5%	0.0%
Priestley School of Architecture/Construction	OPSB-Run	247	78.5%	0.0%	98.4%	0.4%	1.2%	0.0%
Rabouin Career Magnet High School	RSD-Run	12	100.0%	0.0%	91.7%	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Recovery School District-LDE Central Office	RSD-Run	116	45.7%	1.7%	84.5%	1.7%	9.5%	2.6%
Robert Russa Moton Charter School	RSD Charter	298	100.0%	0.3%	99.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Samuel J. Green Charter School	RSD Charter	492	95.3%	0.0%	93.5%	2.2%	2.9%	1.4%
Sarah Towles Reed Elementary School	RSD-Run	606	100.0%	1.7%	94.9%	2.5%	0.7%	0.3%
Sarah Towles Reed Senior High School	RSD-Run	513	100.0%	5.3%	91.8%	2.5%	0.0%	0.4%
Schwarz Alternative School	RSD-Run	90	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sojourner Truth Academy	RSD Charter	241	93.0%	0.0%	94.2%	3.7%	0.8%	1.2%
Sophie B. Wright Inst.of Academic Excellence	RSD Charter	402	100.0%	0.0%	95.8%	2.5%	1.5%	0.3%
Success Preparatory Academy	RSD Charter	330	96.7%	0.0%	99.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
The Alternative Learning Institute	OPSB-Run	90	100.0%	0.0%	98.9%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
The Intercultural Charter School	RSD Charter	366	93.2%	27.1%	66.1%	6.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Thurgood Marshall Early College High School	RSD Charter	397	89.9%	0.0%	98.2%	1.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Walter L. Cohen High School	RSD-Run	372	100.0%	0.0%	98.9%	0.8%	0.0%	0.3%
Warren Easton Senior High School	OPSB Charter	855	83.9%	0.1%	97.4%	1.9%	0.6%	0.0%
William J. Fischer Elementary School	RSD Charter	486	97.5%	0.0%	98.8%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Youth Study Center	OPSB-Run	24	100.0%	0.0%	95.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%