

MAY 2024

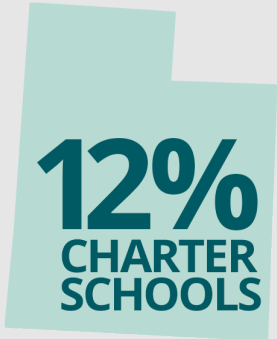
FACT SHEET

CHARTER SCHOOLS & HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT



Charter Schools in Utah

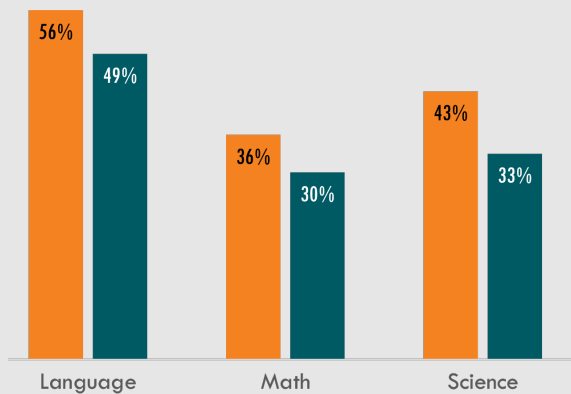
Charter schools are tuition-free public schools open to any Utah student. A public school is defined as a school that is open to the public, funded by the public, and accountable to the public. They offer parents and students additional choices about where students attend school and the school's curricular emphasis, and they allow educators freedom to try new strategies to inspire students and to experiment with innovative ways of educating students (USB, n.d.a). In SY2023, 12% of K-12 students went to charter schools in Utah. There are 291 high schools in Utah, with 257 being traditional public schools and 34 being charter schools.



Achievement Among Utah High Schools

When aggregating the results of the 10th-grade UA+ tests for SY2022 and SY2023, charter school students achieved proficiency at 56%, 36%, and 43% in Language, Math, and Science, respectively, while traditional school students scored 49%, 30%, and 33%.

SY23 Utah Aspire Plus Percent Proficient

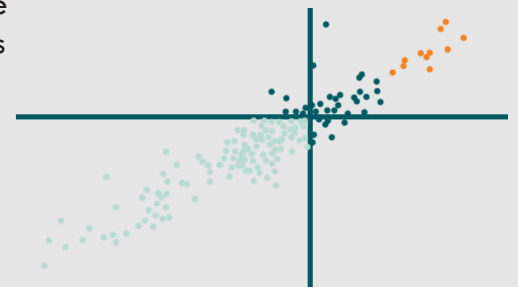


Moreover, grade 11 charter school students scored an average of 20.1 on the ACT composite score, compared to an average of 19.8 for traditional school students.



Outliers in High School Achievement

Some high schools in Utah stand out for their performance on these standardized tests. ULEAD has found 10 Utah high schools that have been among the top 25% in proficiency in Math and Language on the 10th grade UA+, as well as in composite score on the 11th grade ACT, for the past two academic years. Eight of these 10 outlier schools are charter schools. These were the only schools of the 291 schools included in the analysis that showed the highest achievement for both UA+ Math and Language and ACT composite score.



If you are interested in partnering with USBE and obtaining a list of these outliers in order to qualitatively research why these schools have experienced success on high school standardized assessments, contact ULEAD at ulead@schools.utah.gov to learn more!

Outlier Schools

8 charter schools **2** traditional public schools | State Average 13% charter

4 Title 1 schools **6** non-Title 1 schools | State Average 40% Title 1

9th & 10th Grade Student Demographics	Utah 9th & 10th Graders	Identified Schools 9th & 10th Graders
Racial / Ethnic Minorities	29%	29%
Economically Disadvantaged	31%	15%
Multilingual Learners	9%	2%
Students with Disabilities	14%	5%



2 City Schools

State Average
28% of schools



7 Suburban Schools

State Average
53% of schools



1 Town/Rural Schools

State Average
19% of schools

Criteria Rationale

Why...

Focus on grades 10-11?

For grade 10: Students in grades 9-10 take the Utah Aspire Plus (UA+) test in Utah, but grade 9 students may attend either a junior high or a high school. Grade 10 only includes high schools and not junior highs. For grade 11: The ACT is given to all high school students in grade 11 in Utah.

Use UA+ and ACT as the data sources? And Math and Language as the UA+ subject tests?

Utah Aspire Plus is the only standardized reading and math assessment administered statewide to Utah students in grade 10. Similarly, ACT is the only standardized assessment administered statewide to students in grade 11.

Use Percent Proficiency as the measure for student achievement?

“Proficiency” reflects that a student “demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter” (National Assessment of Educational Progress). It is a categorical measure of achievement that is appropriate for school-level analysis.

Look at multiple years of data (SY2022, SY2023)?

Multiple years of comparison data increases confidence that results are more likely to be meaningful and less likely to be aberrational. For some analyses, USBE does not advise direct comparisons of SY2021 achievement scores across student groups, schools, and districts (USBE, n.d.b).

Utah State Board of Education. (n.d.a). *Charter schools*. <https://www.schools.utah.gov/charterschools>

Utah State Board of Education. (n.d.b). *Data privacy*. Utah’s Educational Data Gateway. <https://datagateway.schools.utah.gov/>

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Grades Served

Title I Status

Locale

% Racial Minority

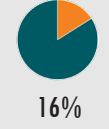
% Low Income

% Limited English

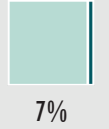
% Students with Disabilities

Charter High School

9-12

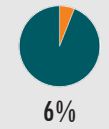
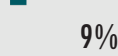


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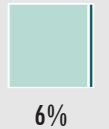


Traditional High School

10-12

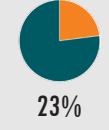
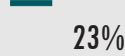


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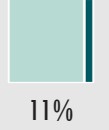


Charter High School

7-12

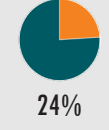


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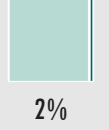


Charter High School

9-12

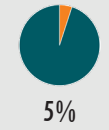


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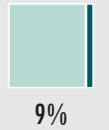


Charter High School

7-12



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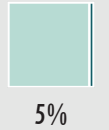


Charter High School

10-12

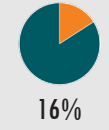


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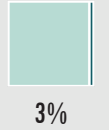


Charter High School

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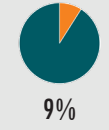


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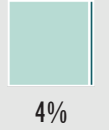


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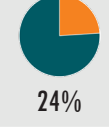
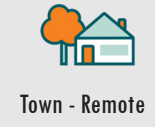


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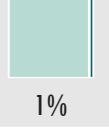


Charter High School

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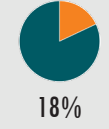


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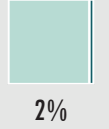


Charter High School

9-12



2%



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