

Background

The State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA) recently approved a new five-year strategic plan, in which one of our goals is to “Increase the diversity of students served by SPCSA schools” with the ultimate aim of serving a population of students that is representative of the State with regard to race/ethnicity and additional student groups. To better understand current student demographics, SPCSA staff conducted an analysis where we compared the percent of students identified as Economically Disadvantaged (FRL), English Learners (EL), and Students with Disabilities (IEP) to 1) the respective district percentages, and 2) the respective percentages for the local, zoned school.

This document summarizes 2019-20 school year enrollment comparisons of FRL, EL, and IEP populations between SPCSA schools and their zoned school(s)/district. SPCSA staff plan to provide school-level data to each charter leader to ensure they are aware of how their school’s demographics compare to local schools and districts.

Summary

In regard to FRL enrollment rates, a large number of SPCSA-sponsored schools (~70 to 80%) were at least 10 percentage points lower than their zoned school and district. In regard to EL enrollment rates, 53% of SPCSA-sponsored schools were within 5 percentage points of their zoned school, but 71% were at least 5 percentage points lower than their zoned district. In regard to IEP enrollment rates, about 60 to 70% of SPCSA-sponsored schools were within 5 percentage points of their zoned school and district.

Economically Disadvantaged (FRL)

110 SPCSA-sponsored schools could be compared (i.e. had ≥ 10 FRL students)

- Compared to zoned school
 - 79 schools (72%) at least 10 percentage points lower
 - 29 schools (26%) within 10 percentage points
- Compared to district
 - 89 schools (81%) at least 10 percentage points lower
 - 17 schools (15%) at least 10 percentage points higher

English Learners (EL)

66 SPCSA schools could be compared (i.e. had ≥ 10 EL students)

- Compared to zoned school
 - 24 schools (36%) at least 5 percentage points lower
 - 35 schools (53%) within 5 percentage points
- Compared to district
 - 47 schools (71%) at least 5 percentage points lower
 - 11 schools (17%) at least 5 percentage points higher

Students with Disabilities (IEP)

101 SPCSA schools could be compared (i.e. had ≥ 10 IEP students)

- Compared to zoned school
 - 32 schools (32%) at least 5 percentage points lower
 - 62 schools (61%) within 5 percentage points
- Compared to district
 - 26 schools (26%) at least 5 percentage points lower
 - 71 schools (70%) within 5 percentage points