

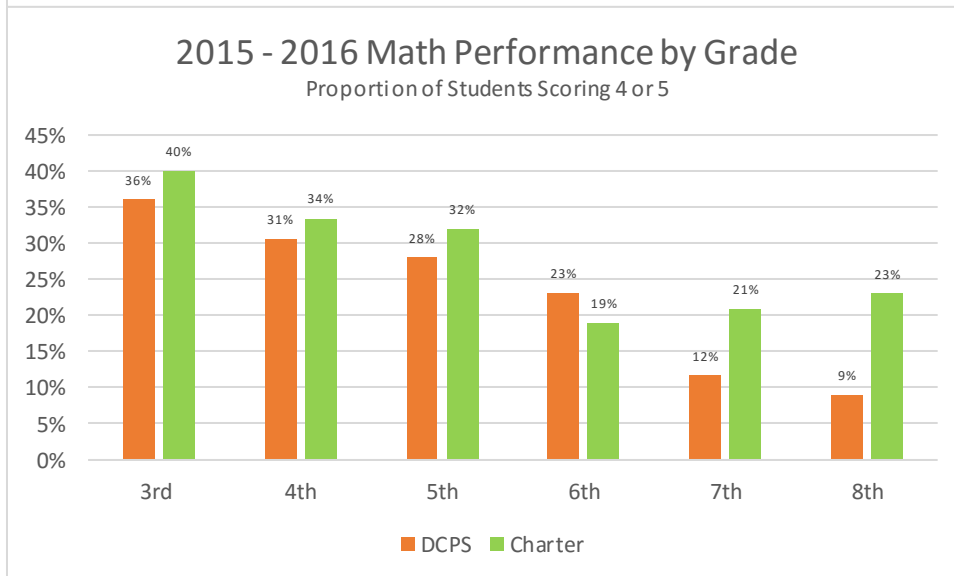
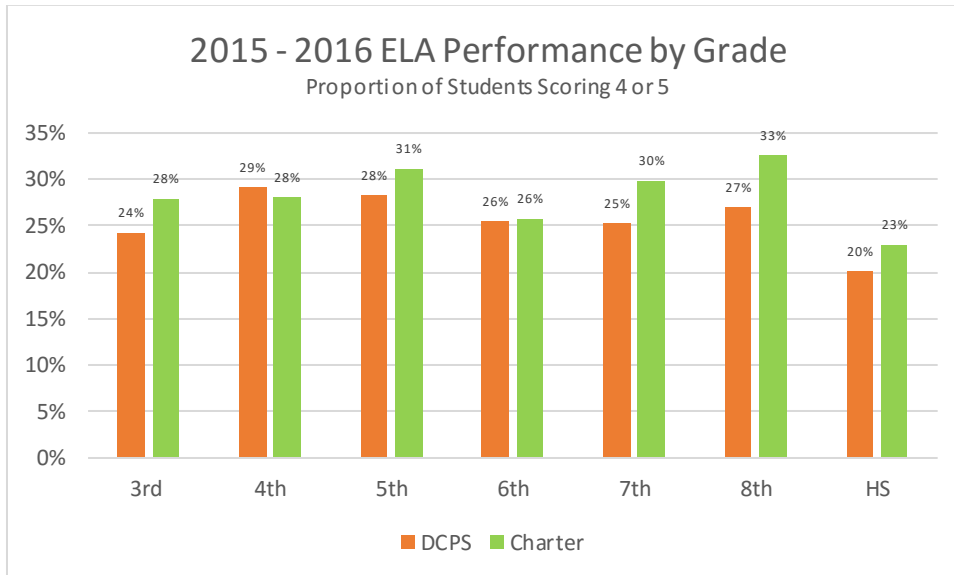
For Immediate Release

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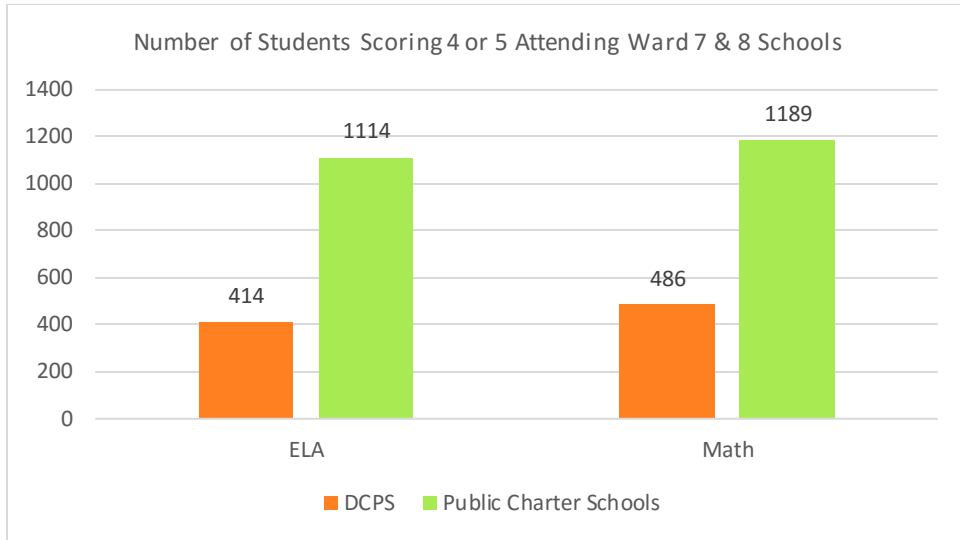
DC Public Charter Schools Continue Improvement Trend

WASHINGTON, DC – Today’s release of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Careers (PARCC) results show that DC public charter schools have continued to improve, while showing particular strength in serving the city’s most vulnerable students. Overall the public charter sector increased the number of students earning 4 or 5 (meets or exceeds academic expectations) on the PARCC by 4 percentage points in English Language Arts (ELA) and 2.5 percentage points in math. Across the city, public charter schools outperformed their District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) counterparts in nearly every grade level and subject.

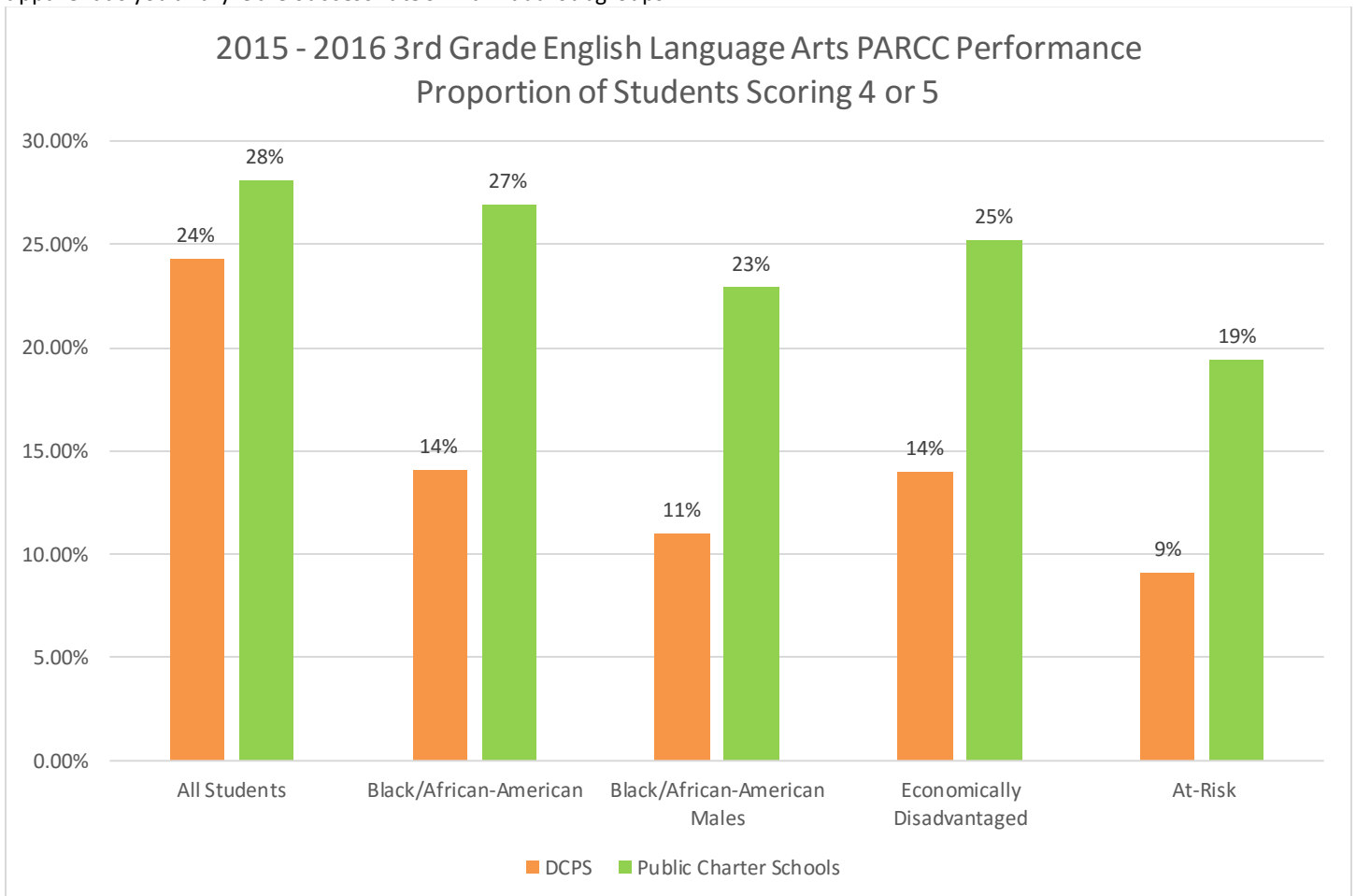


**8th Grade Math Results include the 8th Grade math test and Algebra I test taken by 8th graders.

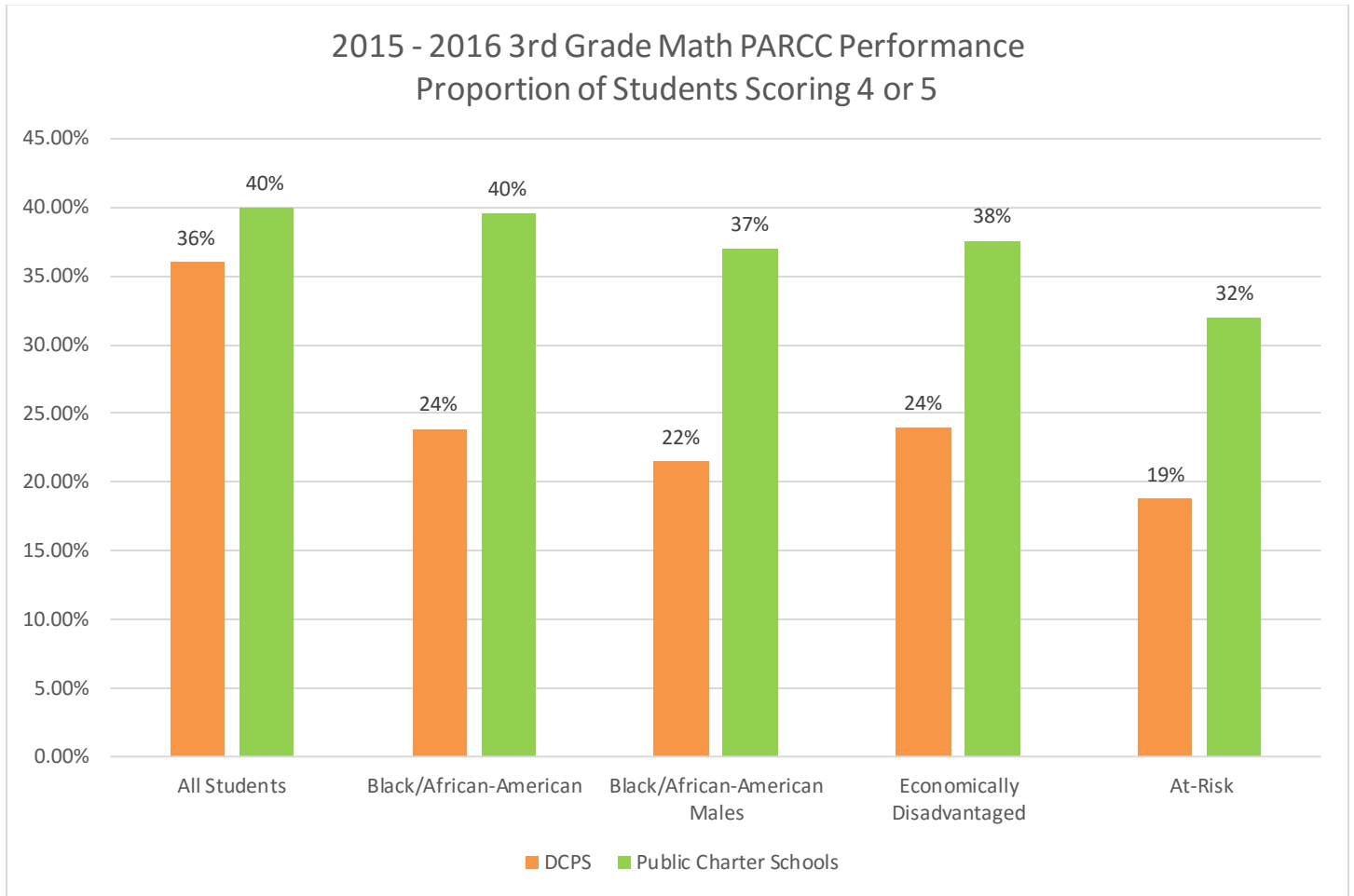
In Wards 7 and 8, public charter schools have nearly three times the number of students that are meeting or exceeding the college and career readiness benchmark as compared to DCPS.



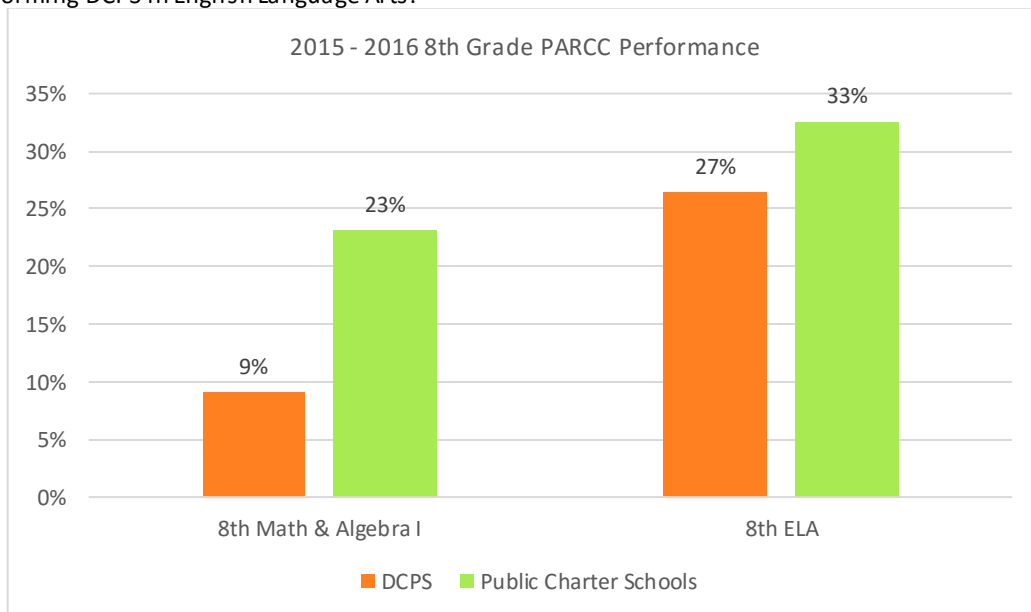
Third grade English Language Arts is widely regarded as a key measure of future success. While at first glance, DC public charter schools appear to only slightly outperform DCPS at 28.1% to 24.3%, the success of the city’s public charter schools become more apparent as you analyze the success rate of individual subgroups.



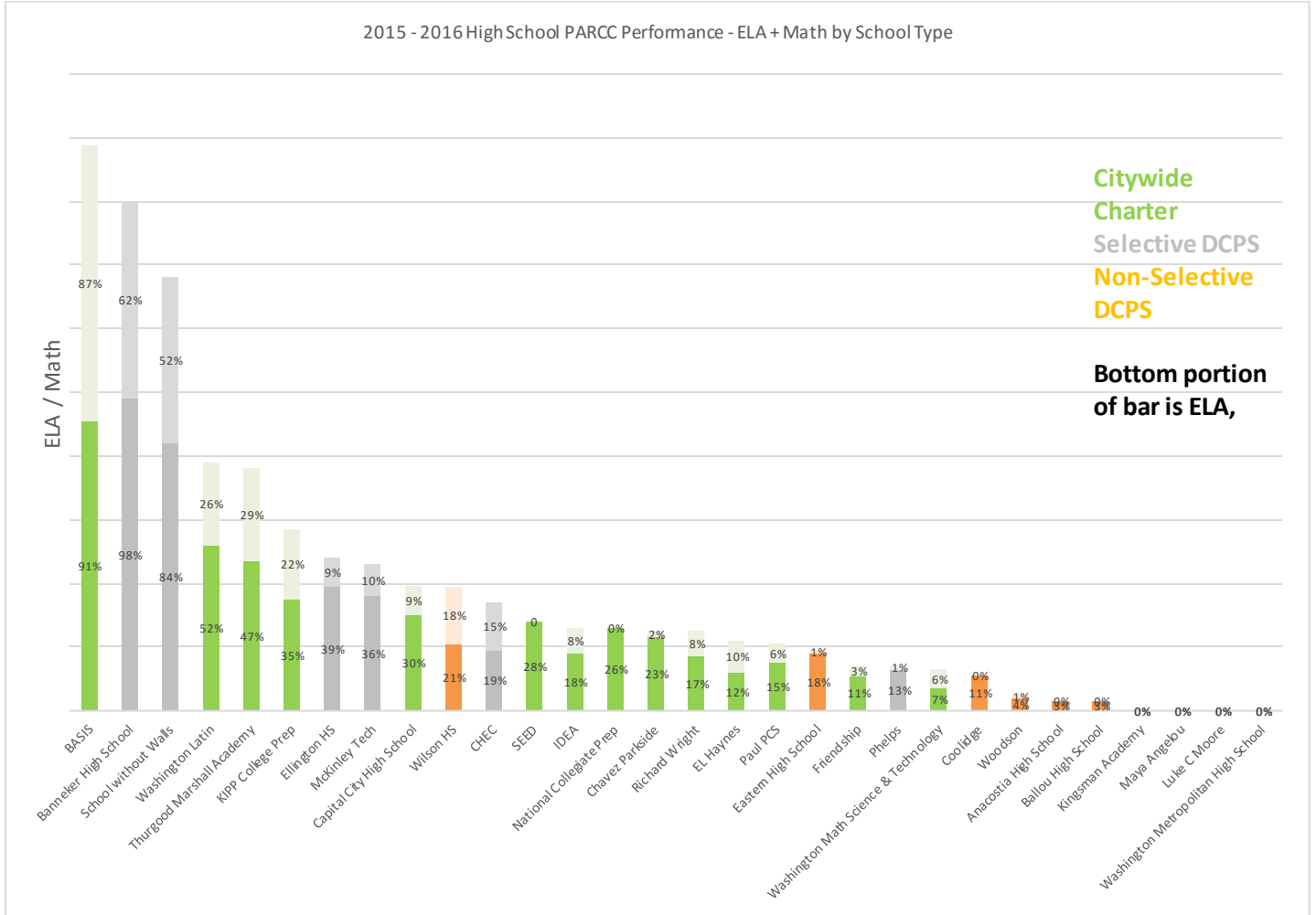
This pattern of success is also evident in 3rd grade math performance.



An analysis of 8th grade scores shows public charter schools producing over double the number of students who scored 4 or 5 in math (a *leading indicator* on the DC Public Charter School Board’s Performance Management Framework) as compared to DCPS, while also outperforming DCPS in English Language Arts.



Public charter schools also rose to the top of non-selective, citywide high schools. BASIS, while not reported by OSSE because they had fewer than 40 tested students, is the highest performing high school in the city, with Washington Latin, Thurgood Marshall Academy, KIPP DC College Prep, and Capital City public charter schools outperforming all but the traditional school system's application-only high schools.



“Improved PARCC performance across the city is a testament to the hard work of teachers and students across both sectors;” said Irene Holtzman, Executive Director of FOCUS, “but the ability of public charter schools to reach and teach all students, particularly those traditionally most under-served, is one of the many reasons that demand for quality public charter school options is at an all-time high.”

FOCUS supports the diverse set of public charter schools in DC by advocating for and strengthening autonomy, equity, and quality. In the 2015-2016 school year, DC’s public charter schools educated over 39,000 students, or 45% of all public school students in the District of Columbia.

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