

# Pittsburgh's charter schools

*Charter schools are free, public schools operated independently of school districts. Three of Pittsburgh's charter schools provided information for this report.*

## Additional definitions and sources for charter schools

Definitions presented here include indicators, or definitions of indicators, that are unique to charter schools. For common indicators, see pages 106 and 107.

*All information is from the 2007-08 school year unless noted.*

### Tests given by the school

#### City Charter High School:

**Definition:** ACT assessments in English, Reading, Mathematics and Science: standard scores for a cohort of students who took the ACT series—the EXPLORE assessment in 9th grade, the PLAN assessment in 10th grade, and the ACT assessment in 11th grade (a test some students take instead of the SAT). Scores for all subject areas were combined into one composite standard score. The cohort represents students who took the assessment in 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08. The combined scores would remain the same year to year if school growth occurred at the same rate as the national norm group.

**Source:** City Charter High School.

#### Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh:

**Definition:** Mean Normal Curve Equivalent (MNCE) for the TerraNova Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics assessments, in 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades. MNCE is calculated by adding the normal curve equivalent scores of all students in the group and dividing by the total number of students in that group. Test scores were reported on a scale from 1-99, with 50 being an average score.

**Source:** Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School.

#### Manchester Academic Charter School:

**Definition:** Median national percentiles for the TerraNova standardized assessment in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics, for kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades.

**Source:** Manchester Academic Charter School.

### Special education 2008-09

**Definition:** Special education services provided by the school for the 2008-09 school year. *Note:* By law, charter schools must serve students according to their Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Like school districts, charter schools must not discriminate against students based on disability.

**Sources:** Individual charter schools.

### ACT standard scores for 11th grade students (City Charter High School only)

**Definition:** The ACT is a college readiness assessment some students take instead of the SAT.

**Source:** City Charter High School.

### Percent of students taking the ACT (City Charter High School only)

**Definition:** The number of 11th graders in 2008 taking the ACT divided by the total number of 11th graders.

**Source:** City Charter High School.

### Seniors who earned college credit (City Charter High School only)

**Definition:** Percentage of students who earned credit for courses they took at the Community College of Allegheny County during their senior year of high school (2007-08).

**Source:** City Charter High School.

# Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School

K-5 charter school

327 N. Negley Ave., 15206  
East Liberty  
412-361-1008

Chief Executive Officer: Gail Edwards  
Number of teachers: 22

## Enrollment/Attendance

230 students  
African-American: 98%  
White: 0%  
Other: 2%

Student stability rate: 96.6%

Principal stability: 1 chief executive officer in the last four years

Student daily attendance: 95%  
Teacher daily attendance: 96%

## Special education 2008-09

Resource room instruction  
Speech/language instruction  
Occupational therapy  
Physical therapy

## Family income status

75.1% of students eligible for free/reduced lunch.

## Student disciplinary actions 2006-07

For violence, weapons, and controlled substances  
Number of incidents: 0

## Special accomplishments

- Celebrated 10th year as the first charter school in the city
- State Keystone Achievement Award for academic progress, 2 years
- Students created art with local artists for an art auction

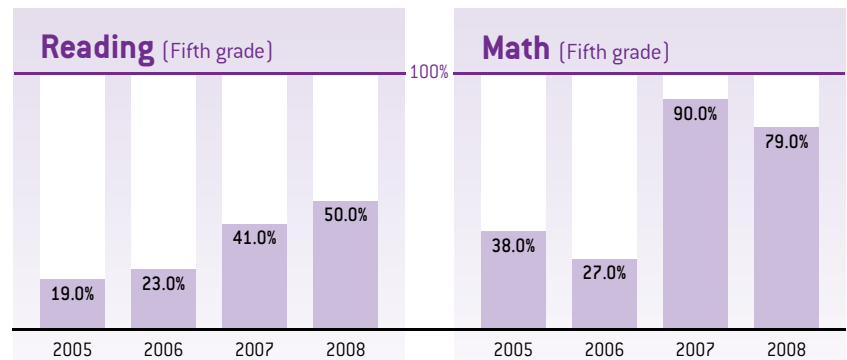
## Tests given by the school: TerraNova standardized assessment

Grade	Mean Normal Curve Equivalent*		
	Reading	Language Arts	Mathematics
1st grade (2008)	54.9	60.0	57.2
2nd grade (2008)	47.5	52.6	50.4
4th grade (2008)	44.0	48.3	50.1

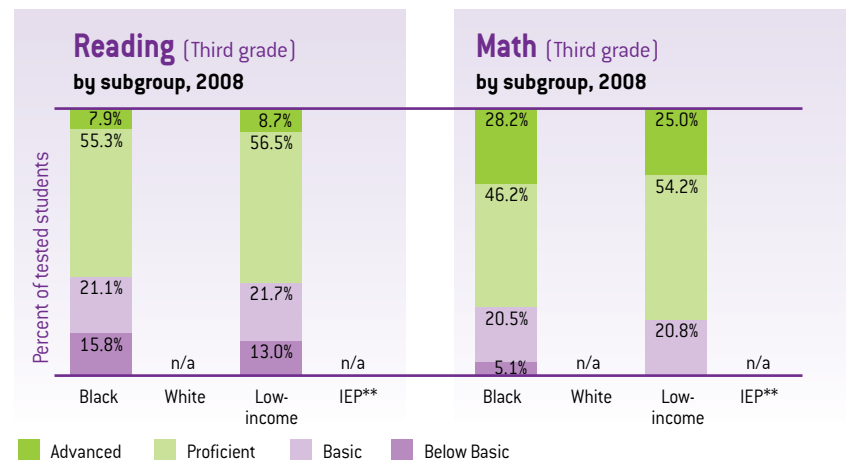
\* Test scores were reported on a scale of 1-99, with 50 being an average score.

## Percentage of students at Proficient/Advanced levels on PSSA tests

Reading 2008 (3rd)	62.5%
Math 2008 (3rd)	73.1
Writing 2008 (5th)	70.4



## Percentage of students at each PSSA achievement level



Fifth grade scores were not available by subgroup.

\*\* Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education, excluding students identified as "gifted"

# Manchester Academic Charter School

K-8 charter school

1214 Liverpool St., 15233  
Manchester  
412-322-0585

Chief Executive Officer: Vasilius  
Scoumis

Number of teachers: 20

## Enrollment/Attendance

198 students

African-American: 99%

White: 1%

Other: 0%

Student stability rate: 95%

Principal stability: 1 chief  
executive officer in the last  
four years

Student daily attendance: 97%

Teacher daily attendance: 97%

## Special accomplishments

- 2008 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School
- State Keystone Achievement Award for academic progress
- Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools

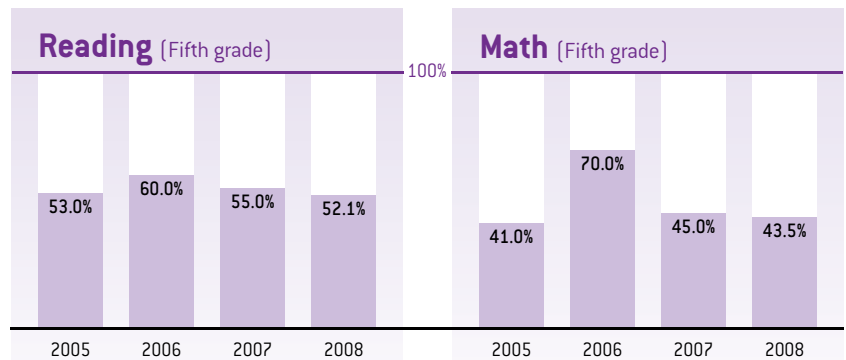
Elementary grades

## Tests given by the school: TerraNova standardized assessment 2008

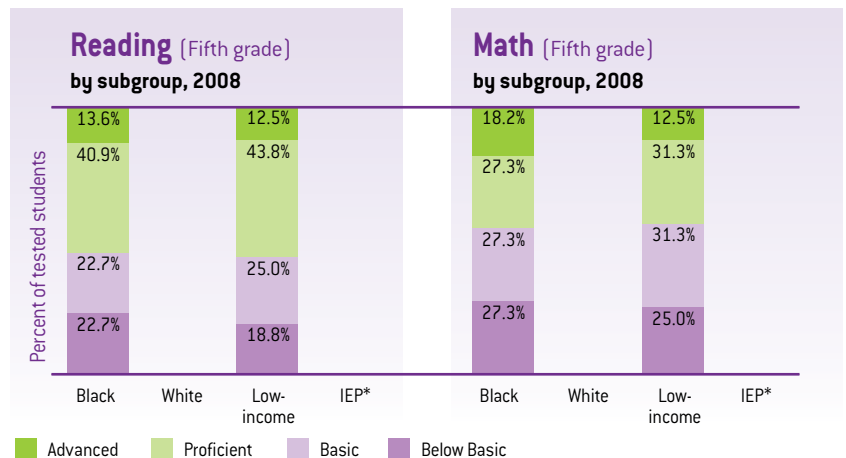
	Median percentile rank		
	Kindergarten	1st grade	2nd grade
Reading	72.0	82.3	45.0
Language Arts	66.8	84.0	62.0
Mathematics	60.0	59.0	38.0
Total Score	64.0	80.0	50.0

## Percentage of students at Proficient/Advanced levels on PSSA tests

Reading 2008 (3rd)	52.2%
Math 2008 (3rd)	65.2
Writing 2008 (5th)	39.1



## Percentage of students at each PSSA achievement level

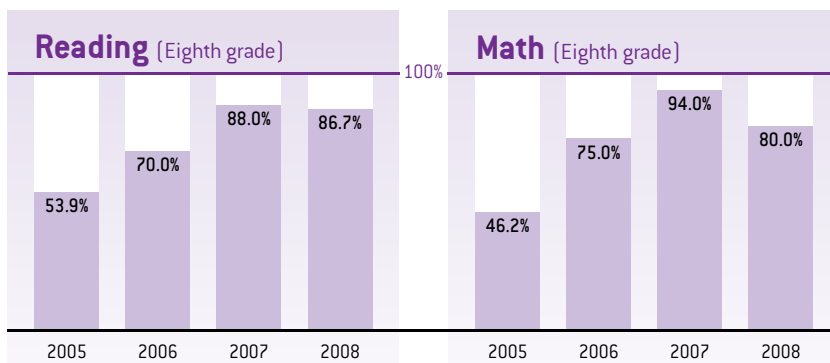


\* Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education, excluding students identified as "gifted"

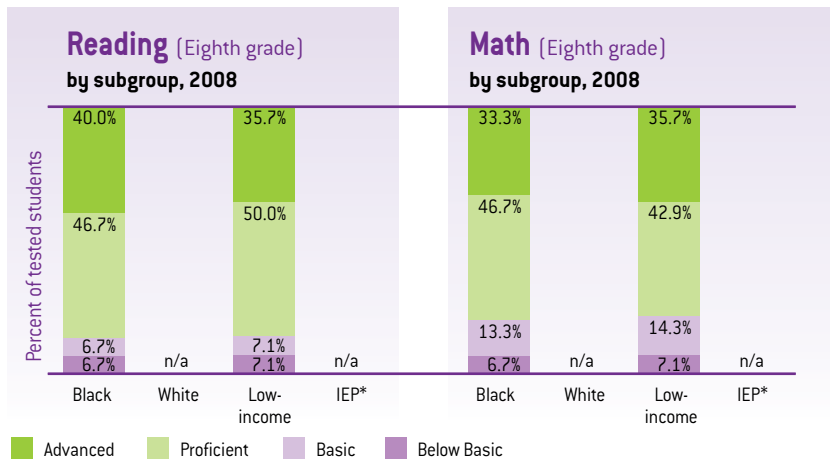
Middle grades

**Percentage of students at Proficient/Advanced levels on PSSA tests**

Reading 2008 (6th)	45.4%
Math 2008 (6th)	77.3
Writing 2008 (8th)	50.0



**Percentage of students at each PSSA achievement level**



**Special education 2008-09**

- Learning support
- Emotional support
- Speech/language support
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy

**Family income status**

84% of students eligible for free/reduced lunch.

**Student disciplinary actions 2006-07**

*For violence, weapons, and controlled substances*

Number of incidents: 0

\*Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education, excluding students identified as "gifted"

# City Charter High School

9-12 charter school

717 Liberty Ave., Suite 900  
15222

Downtown

412-690-2489

Chief Executive Officer: Richard Wertheimer

Number of teachers: 53

## Enrollment/Attendance

488 students

African-American: 54.5%

White: 41.2%

Other: 4.3%

Student stability rate: Over 90%

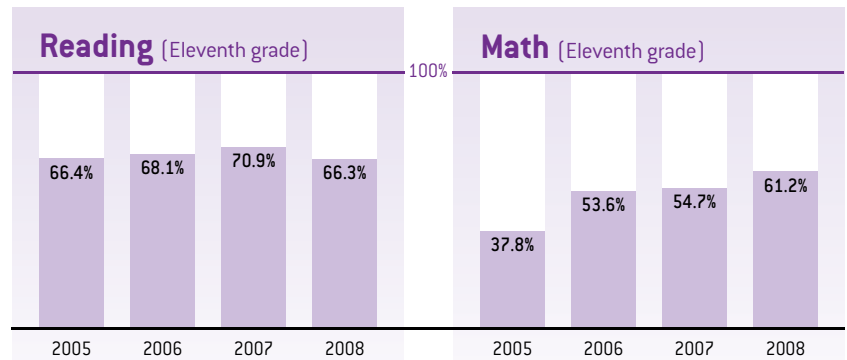
Principal stability: 2 chief executive officers in the last four years

Student daily attendance: 92.9%

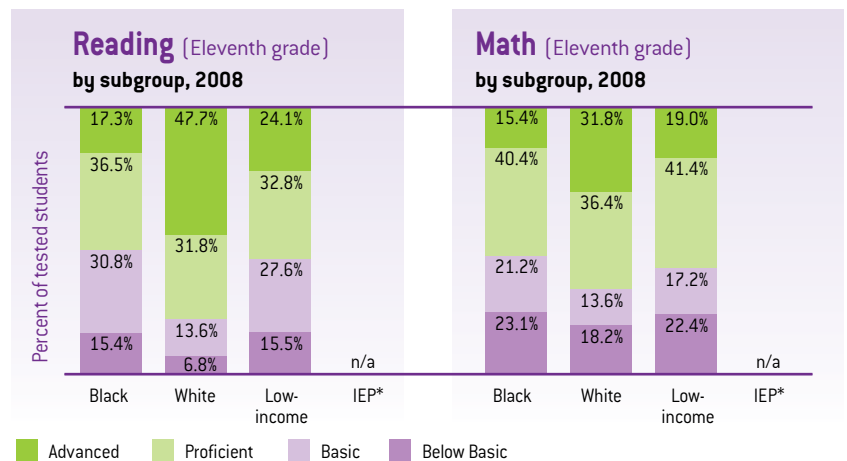
Teacher daily attendance: 98.6%

## Percentage of students at Proficient/Advanced levels on PSSA tests

Writing 2008 (11th) 93.9%



## Percentage of students at each PSSA achievement level



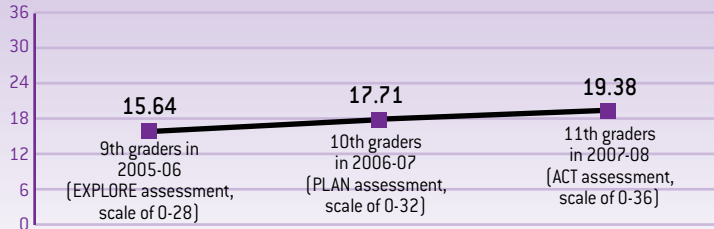
\* Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education, excluding students identified as "gifted"

## Special accomplishments

- Accredited by the Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools
- Member of "Schools That Can" national network of high performing urban charter and independent schools
- Bronze Medal of Distinction from *U.S. News & World Report*

## Tests given by the school

### ACT assessments: English, Reading, Mathematics, Science (measuring growth over time for a group of students)\*



\* Scores were combined for all subject areas. Growth in scores over time indicates a greater rate of progress than the national norm group.

**Graduation rate 2007:** 97%

The graduation rate for 2008 was not available.

## College/Post-secondary readiness

**Percent of seniors eligible for Pittsburgh Promise scholarship\*\*:** 89%

\*\* Grade point average eligibility only

**College-bound seniors:** 92.6%

### ACT standard scores for 11th grade students, 2007-08

[scale of 0-36]	All students	Black	White	Low-income
Reading	18.83	16.89	21.10	17.61
Math	18.39	16.87	20.00	17.76
English	17.63	15.82	19.59	16.18
Writing	17.49	15.80	19.05	16.11
Science	19.48	17.93	21.12	18.57

The ACT is a college readiness assessment some students take instead of the SAT.

**Percent of students taking the ACT:** 94%

**Percent of seniors who earned college credit:\*\*\*** 22%

\*\*\* Comparable to AP course-taking

## Special education 2008-09

Inclusion services for all disabilities

## Family income status

58.6% of students eligible for free/reduced lunch.

## Student disciplinary actions 2006-07

For violence, weapons, and controlled substances

Number of incidents: 30

Number of incidents per 100 students: 5.9

Number of expulsions: 8