



**PA'LANTE - IT'S TIME
TO MOVE FORWARD**

**IMPROVING THE LIVES
OF PHILADELPHIA'S
HISPANIC CHILDREN**

*A **Children First** Report on the State
of Hispanic Children in Philadelphia*

March 2024

children
FIRST
THE ADVOCATE FOR KIDS

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Executive Summary

Pa'lante is short for para Adelante, meaning to move forward. It is a widely recognized cultural call to action. Philadelphia's Hispanic children are, in spite of structural inequities and hostilities associated with race, culture, or economic status, in many respects beating the odds and moving forward. At the same time, institutions charged with meeting their health care, social service, and educational needs are not yet making the level of effort needed to make it possible for Hispanic children to graduate high school healthy and equipped for a prosperous, self-sufficient life.

Even if just one child is being let down by the health care, social service, or educational institutions intended to help them thrive, more must be done. Given the rapidly growing share of Philadelphia's children who are Hispanic, the institutions intended to promote the welfare and education all children must make much more of an effort in consort with parents to enable every Hispanic child—indeed all Philadelphia children—to thrive.

Pa'lante!

Overview

Hispanic Philadelphians are the fastest growing racial subgroup in the city, rising from 187,611 in 2010 to 238,112 in 2020. Some—but not all—of these new residents are new Americans, learning not only a new language but how to navigate new customs and public systems. Regardless of their immigration history, Hispanic parents are like all parents—keen to navigate the health care, education, and other systems so their children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in a career and life.

The data in this report illuminates the active role Hispanic parents are playing in their children's education. They make sure to register their young kids in pre-k and, as necessary, they enlist the support of early intervention services to ensure their children's physical and emotional development needs are met. Hispanic parents are active educational decision makers working to take advantage of all educational options.

Sadly, Philadelphia's child-serving institutions are struggling to demonstrate the same level of investment in Hispanic children and teens. The indicators are:

- Forty-four percent of Hispanic children live in poverty.
- Less than half of all Hispanic high school students in Philadelphia score proficient or advanced in the state's standardized tests, placing them in the second lowest proficiency rate.
- Seven out of every ten Hispanic public school students are not testing on grade level in Math or English.
- Less than sixty percent of Hispanic students in Philadelphia graduate high school on time and only a quarter advance to college the following fall.



Contributing to these poor outcomes are the structural barriers of racism, anti-immigrant sentiment, and animosity toward foreign-language speakers and the failure of the child serving systems to sufficiently compensate for these barriers.

It is abundantly clear that the public systems intended to help Hispanic children thrive are not doing a good enough job to move them forward.

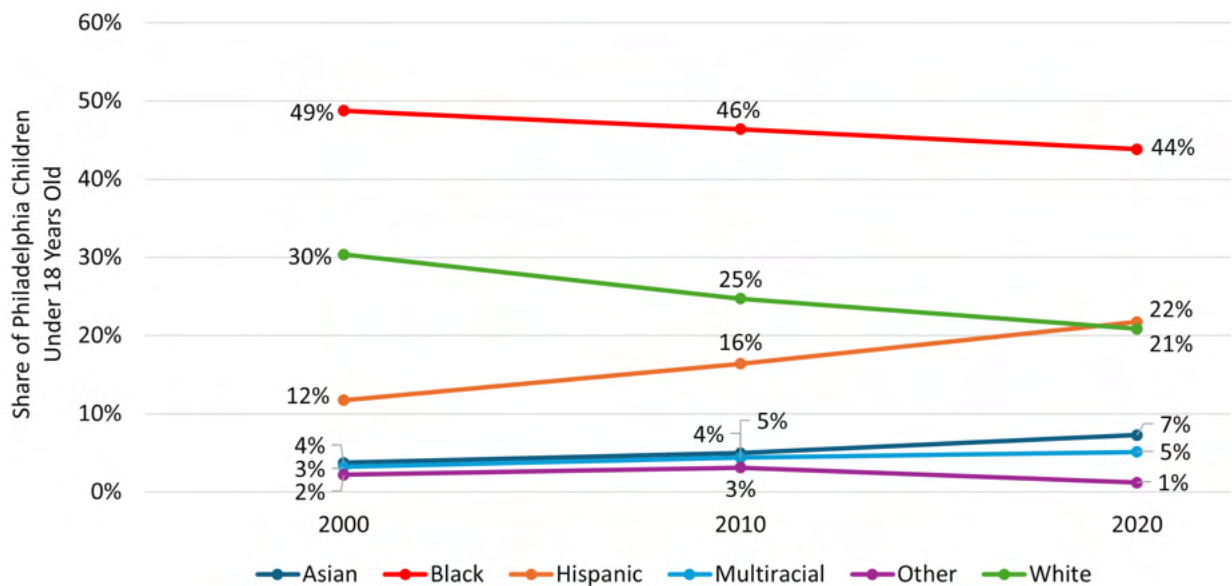
A Look at the Numbers

The racial composition of the city's children has changed since the beginning of the century as the Hispanic population grew. The latest census indicates that of the 322,000+ children under 18 years old in Philadelphia, approximately 70,000 are children in Hispanic families or about 22%.

Philadelphia is now home to two and half times as many Hispanic children compared to Asian children since 2000. In fact, both the share of Asian and Hispanic children increased in the last twenty years, with the percentage of Hispanic children rising by 10% and Asian children increasing by 4%.

Especially good news is the sizable drop in Hispanic children growing up in poverty, declining from 58% in 2015 to 44% by 2022 when the Census Bureau found an estimated 23,375 Hispanic children in Philadelphia were living at or below the federal poverty level (\$26,000 for family of four). This is a huge improvement, but more than four out of every ten Hispanic child still lives in a family struggling to make ends meet.

Chart 1: The Share of Hispanic Children Rising Fastest



Health

Health Care Coverage

Since 2010 the share of uninsured Hispanic children rose by 2.6% while the share of Black and white children declined in the same period. Ten percent of Hispanic children are uninsured and are three times as likely to be uninsured as Black or white children. A significant reason for the absence of health insurance coverage among Hispanic children can be attributed to many children living in Philadelphia without citizenship documents who, as a result, are barred from accessing public health insurance options. The rising share of Hispanic children without health care coverage means that more than 7,000 Hispanic kids don't see a doctor for regular check-ups or when they get sick, potentially leading to serious ailments requiring an emergency room visit. Half of them likely haven't seen a dentist in more than a year, and most of them are going without medications. All of these factors impact their well-being but also their ability to learn.



Pre-Natal/Post Natal Health Indicators

The rising birth rate among Hispanic families led to a 20.5% increase in the number of Hispanic children under five between 2010 and 2022. Of the 93,080 total Philadelphia children under five years old, 25.4% or 23,672 of them are Hispanic. Asian children witnessed the next highest share of growth in young children under five with an increase of 16%.

Hispanic babies suffer less from infant mortality and are more likely to be born at a healthy weight and be delivered at the appropriate period of pregnancy compared to Black babies. However, from 2010 to 2020, the share of Hispanic babies under the healthy weight at birth rose from 8.8% to 9.9% – a faster increase in this critical indicator than Black babies in the same period. White and Asian babies were born full term and at healthy birth weights at higher rates compared to Hispanic babies.

Gun Violence

Fortunately, Hispanic youth have been spared from much of the city's gun violence. Still horribly tragic, 17 of the 191 Philadelphia children and teens killed by gun violence from 2020 to 2023 were Hispanic. Of the 1,079 nonfatal shooting of children and teens during the same four years, 71 were Hispanic and suffered the ravages of gun violence.

General Health Indicators

Given the negative, lifetime health impacts of obesity, 27.5% of Hispanic boys ages 5 to 18 were classified as obese, a rate far higher than children of any other race, with Black boys capping out at the next highest rate (20%) based on the latest data from 2016. Hispanic and Black girls have similar rates of obesity at 23% and children of other races have lower rates of obesity among children of both genders.

According to the Philadelphia's Health Department's Community Health Assessment, "Childhood asthma is a key concern for many children in Philadelphia. The rate of asthma-related hospitalizations dropped to below 20 hospitalizations per 10,000 children in 2020. Despite this overall improvement, non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic children had asthma-related hospitalization rates over 4 times higher than the rate in non-Hispanic White children." The data shows that the hospitalization rate for Hispanic children due to asthma was 15.8 per 10,000 children under 18 years old, while the rate for Black children was 27.8 per 10,000 children.

Teen Pregnancy

A terrific example of effective public policy is the staggering 51% drop in the number of births by all girls ages 15 to 19 years-old since 2011. Hispanic teenage girls experienced the greatest drop in teenage births among all racial subgroups, seeing a decline of roughly four percentage points across the decade, an indication that culturally responsive prevention methods are working.

Still Hispanic girls ages 15 to 19 years old have had the highest share of teenage pregnancies and births over the better part of the last fifteen years. In 2021, roughly 3.8% of Hispanic teenage girls gave birth, almost twice the share of Black teenage births at 2.2%.

Children at Risk of Neglect or Abuse

Fortunately, the number of children separated from their family due to the risk of neglect or abuse has declined for all races of children in the decade from 2011 to 2021, with 12% fewer children removed from their home by the City's Department of Human Services.

While Hispanic children under 18 account for 21.7 % of all children, they represent a smaller share of the children removed from their home due to abuse or neglect at 16%. Nevertheless, the share of Hispanic children in the foster care system rose by 4% from 2011 to 2021. By way of comparison, the percentage of white children in the foster care system rose by 8% and Black children rose by 27%.



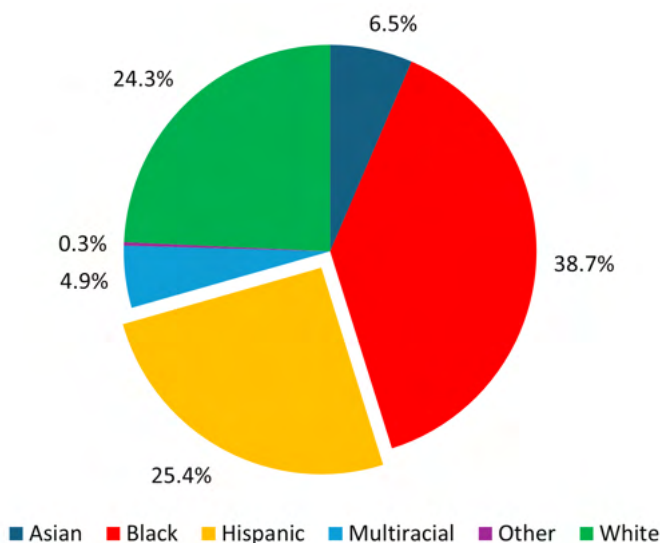
Education

Early Childhood Education

Hispanic parents increasingly rely on public child care to enable them to go to work. Among working parents of Hispanic children who rely on subsidized child care, parents of 1,197 Hispanic children used subsidies to cover the cost of infant or toddler care in September 2023, accounting for 20% of all infants and toddlers in subsidized care. Since September 2020, the share of Hispanic infants and toddlers in subsidized child care grew by 9% (or 448 additional children).

There were more Hispanic infants and toddlers in subsidized care than white or Asian children, but much less than Black children who account for 47% of all infants or toddlers in subsidized care, as of September 2023.

Chart 2: More Than a Quarter of Young Children are Hispanic

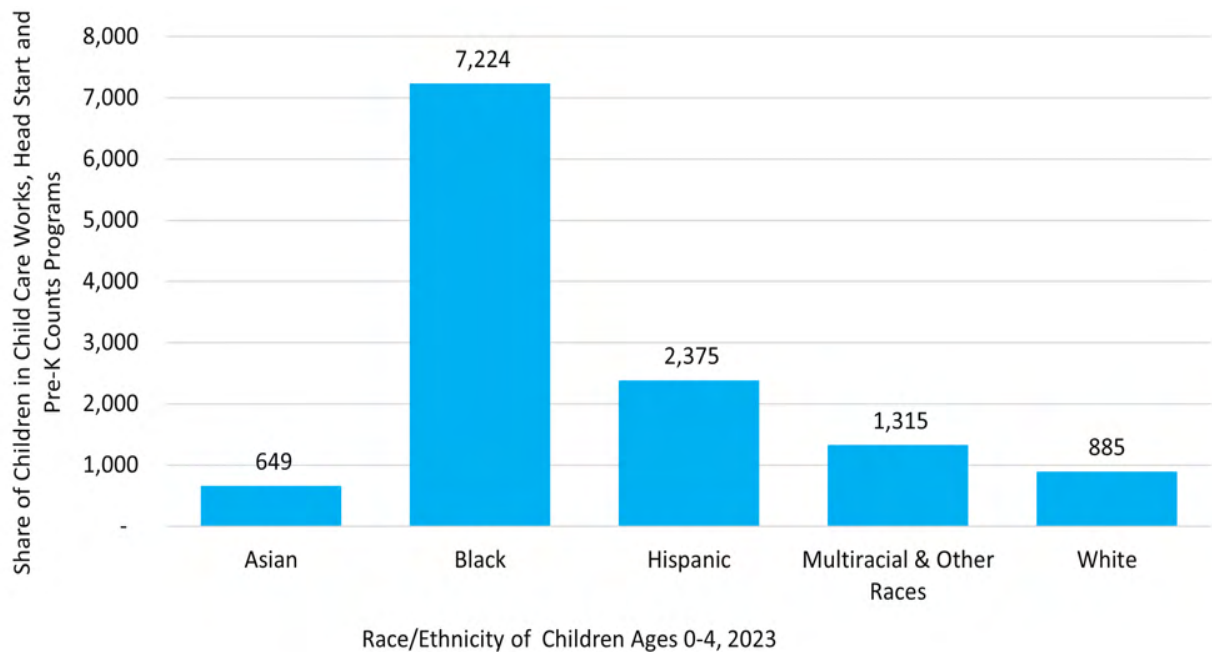


2022 data for all children five and under

Among children in child care there is always a shortage of high-quality options where parents know their child will be engaged in developmental activities. That fact is especially true for Hispanic children. Nearly 4,000 child care seats in high-quality child care, Head Start, or Pre-K programs for children under five were available in neighborhoods that were over 50% Hispanic in 2023. This is half the number of high-quality child care seats available to communities that are predominately white, and roughly 22% the supply of seats in predominately Black communities.

In 2023, just over 12% of all Hispanic children ages three and four attended subsidized pre-k programs, a slightly higher level than in 2020. This staggeringly low share of Hispanic children in pre-k is due to the shortage of resources. However, it's noteworthy that Hispanic children made up nearly 27% of children in subsidized pre-k programs, in September 2023, a share consistent with their share of all three- and four-year-olds in the city and a strong indication that their parents are finding the best options possible to enroll their children in pre-k, the essential smart start in a child's educational journey.

Chart 3: Hispanic Children Comprise 2nd Highest Share of Early Learning Program Enrollees



Early Intervention

Hispanic three- and four-year-olds comprise 25% of all children receiving early intervention services in the Preschool Intervention Program, which is also relatively consistent with their share of the population and a strong indication that providers are doing a good job in addressing the needs of this very special population. While little is known about the level of need, it is a promising sign that this vulnerable population isn't disproportionately underserved and that our public policy in this critical area is performing at an adequate level.

Race and ethnic data for infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services in Philadelphia is not available, resulting in the inability to determine if a similar level of service penetration meets these children's needs.

Access to Pre-K May Account for Indicators of Kindergarten Readiness

The Philadelphia School District conducts assessments with incoming kindergarten students so that teachers can help students enter first grade prepared for the rigor of traditional classroom learning. Only one in five Hispanic children are starting kindergarten with appropriate social/emotional skills like self-regulation and the foundational capacity to approach learning. In this early developmental measure, Hispanic children are on par with Black children but are behind their white and Asian peers. Also noteworthy is the fact that a quarter of Hispanic girls have stronger skills in this regard than Hispanic boys who were further behind.

Alarming with respect to foundational academic skills for starting kindergarten, Hispanic children had the weakest scores compared to any other racial subgroup assessed by the Kindergarten Readiness Inventory.

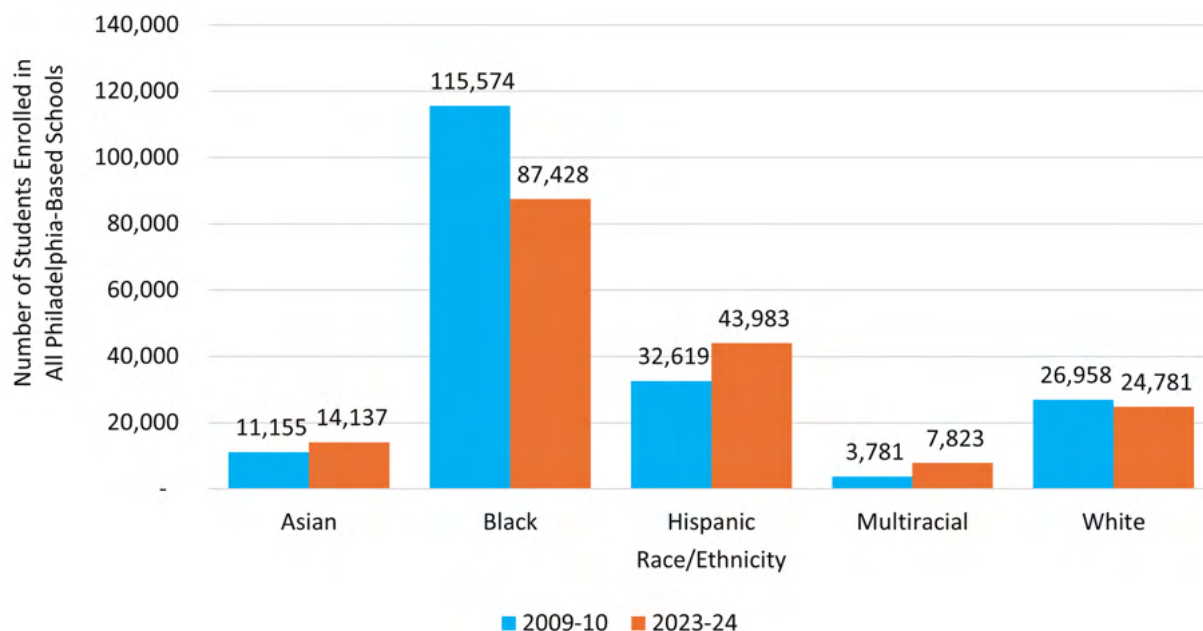
It's not possible to know if this lag is due to challenges with the English language but it's reasonable to assume that in homes where Spanish is the first language, children may be behind in this school readiness indicator. Further, the data points to the need for an extra effort by the schools to help those with limited English proficiency catch up before the end of kindergarten.

K-12 Education

Enrollment

Hispanic children accounted for 43,983 of the 178,758 students enrolled across Philadelphia's district, charter, and cyber charter schools in 2023. This brings the share of Hispanic students to nearly a quarter of the K-12 student population, the second largest racial group after Black students who comprise 49% of the student demographic.

Chart 4: The Number of Hispanic Public School Students Increased by 35% in the Last 13 Years



Reflecting the overall trends in the child population, the enrollment of Hispanic students in all Philadelphia-based schools grew at a greater rate than any other racial subgroup in the last fifteen years with an increase of over 11,000 students since 2009.

In that same period, 7,000 more Hispanic students enrolled in charters between 2009-10 and 2019-20, before slightly decreasing by roughly 700 Hispanic students following COVID. Today, Hispanic students comprise 11,725 students or 18% of total charter school enrollment, the second largest share of students after Black students (60%).

Notably, Hispanic students comprise the largest number of Philadelphia-based cyber charter students with 1,478 students or 80% of total cyber charter students in 2023. Almost two-thirds of them enrolled in the four years since the start of the COVID pandemic.

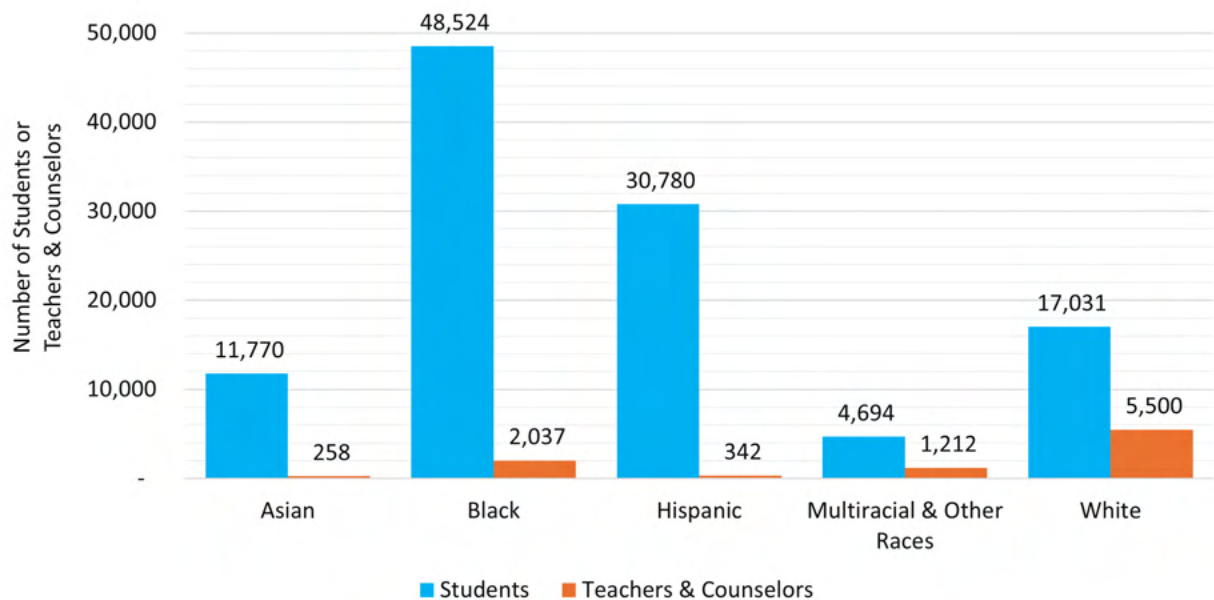
Still, the vast majority of Hispanic students are enrolled in the School District of Philadelphia (SDP), which saw an increase of more than 3,400 Hispanic students over the last fifteen years. The bulk of that increase occurred following the 2019-20 school year, where an additional 2,400+ students entered the district. Hispanic students make up 30,780 students (27%) of district enrollment in 2023-24.

Teacher, Counselor, and School Leader Diversity

Research shows that students feel more welcomed in school and perform better academically and behaviorally when they share the same race and ethnicity as their educators.

Unfortunately, the School District of Philadelphia's educator body severely lacks in comparison to the diversity of its students, especially when it comes to Hispanic teachers. Only 342 teachers and counselors (3.7%) of all 9,349 SDP teachers and counselors identify as Hispanic compared to 27% of its students. That is one Hispanic teacher or counselor for every 90 Hispanic students, the largest student-to-educator ratio among any racial subgroup in the city. The next largest racial demographic ratio between Asian students and educators is only half the amount.

Chart 5: The Ratio of Hispanic Teachers to Students is 1:90 - Widest Racial Disparity in the District



2023 data

Hispanic representation among district school leaders does not fare that much better with just 32 (6%) of the district's 530 school leaders identifying as Hispanic. While significantly lower than the number of white and Black school leaders, the share of Hispanic school leaders is not as low as Asian school leaders at just 1%.

English Language Learners

Between 2017-18 and 2022-23, the number of English Language Learners (ELL students) whose first language is Spanish spiked 51%, from 9,000 students to 13,563 students. Spanish-speaking ELL students make up more than half (54%) of all English Language Learners citywide. Seventy-eight percent of all Spanish-speaking ELL students attend SDP, compared to brick and mortar and cyber charters, which enroll 19% and 3% of all Spanish-speaking ELL students, respectively.



Attendance

Hispanic student attendance remains low among all racial subgroups within SDP following COVID. The share of Hispanic students with attendance rates of 95% or more for the 2022-23 school year unfortunately stands at 31%, the same disappointing rate as Black students. While the attendance rate of Hispanic students did increase by 2% from the prior school year, it is still a substantial 10% drop from the pre-pandemic rate. While SDP must address the overall attendance crisis among students, special efforts to understand the unique experiences of Hispanic students missing school will require bilingual staff to reach out to families and culturally competent support staff who can work with parents and students to remove barriers to regular school attendance.

Code of Conduct Violations

Like their peers, nearly every Hispanic student attends school peacefully and adheres to school behavioral codes. Ninety-four percent of Hispanic students have never gotten into trouble at school, similar to white students (96%) and Black students (89%).

Unfortunately, student offenses have increased among all racial subgroups over the last five years. (The School District of Philadelphia records students cited for offenses ranging from minor altercations to violent assault, bullying, and drug possession.) It's troubling that the number of Hispanic students breaking school codes more than doubled between 2017-18 and 2022-23 from 1,204 students to 2,574 students.

Academic Performance

In Pennsylvania, the general assessments used to measure academic proficiency for federal accountability include the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and the Keystone Exams. The PSSA is administered in grades 3 through 8 and measures academic proficiency in the English/Language Arts (ELA) and math. The Keystone Exam is administered to eleventh graders and measures proficiency in Literature and Algebra I. While academic proficiency in English and math are not the only means to define the performance of schools, they provide one of the few quantitative measurements useful to determine education quality.

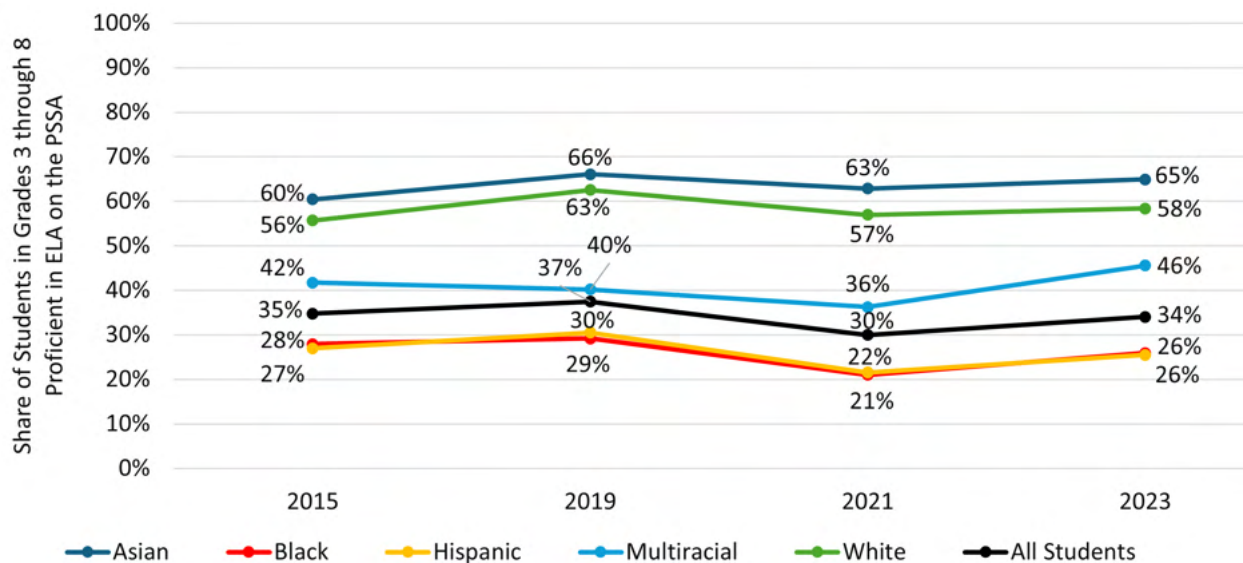
PSSA Performance

In comparison to other racial subgroups, Hispanic students between grades 3 through 8 performed the lowest on the ELA assessment and the second lowest on math across all public schools in 2023.

Only one in four Hispanic students scored proficient or advanced on the ELA portion of the 2023 PSSA. Although also incredibly low, roughly 1% more Black students scored proficient or above on the ELA assessment. The share of white and Asian students proficient in ELA were much higher at 58% and 65% respectively.

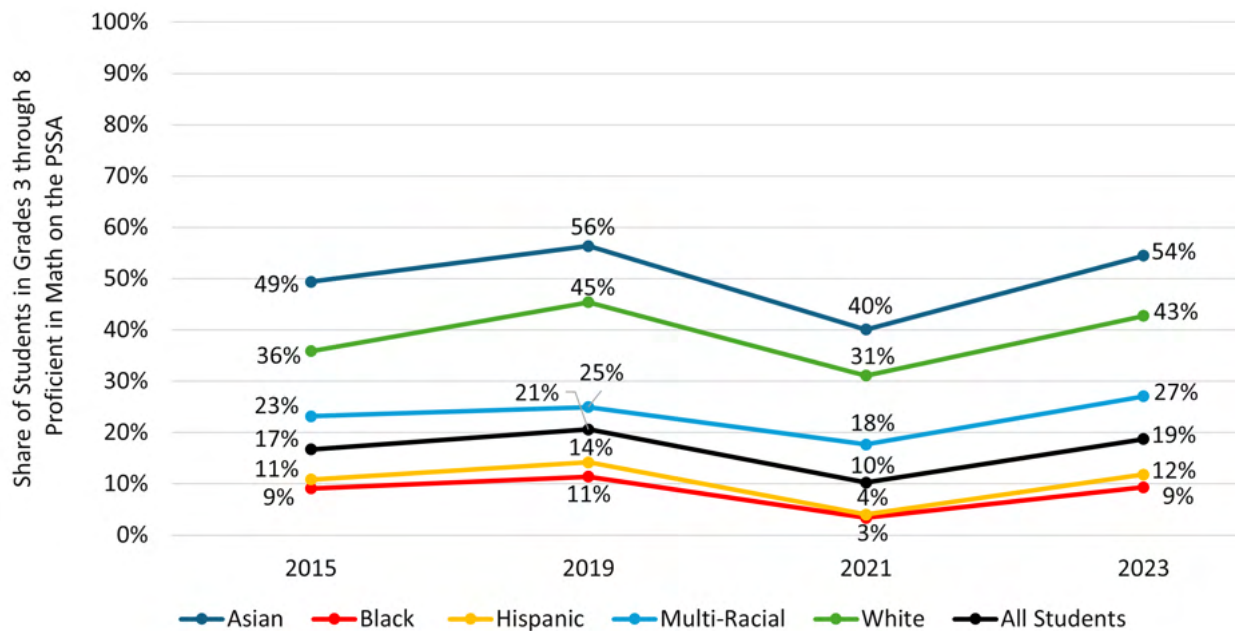
Alongside Philadelphia's other racial subgroups, the share of Hispanic students proficient in ELA fell after COVID. Hispanic student proficiency in ELA decreased by 9% between 2019 and 2021, the greatest decrease in proficiency among any student subgroup during this period. While that share has bounced back by 4% since 2021, Hispanic student ELA proficiency is still 5% below where it was four years ago.

Chart 6: Hispanic Students Consistently Struggle the Most to Pass English/Language Arts Assessments



Given the dramatic jump in the number of ELL students and the high likelihood that many of those students are Hispanic, these disappointing student assessment results in ELA indicate the need for schools to support the learning needs of ELL students more intentionally and effectively.

All student racial subgroups performed worse on the math PSSA than the ELA portion. Just 12% of Hispanic students scored proficient or advanced in math in 2023. Black students, however, scored only 9%, while white and Asian students performed much greater with proficiency rates of 43% and 54%, respectively. While the numbers for Hispanic students are disturbingly low, they are an improvement from COVID times when performance plunged.

Chart 7: Hispanic Students Math Outcomes are Second Lowest of All Racial Subgroups

Thirty-one percent of Hispanic charter students were proficient in ELA compared to 23% of district students. Likewise, 14% of Hispanic charter students scored proficient in math compared to 11% of district students. Hispanic students in Philadelphia-based cyber charters, however, performed worse with a mere 7% of Hispanic students passing the ELA assessment and less than 1% scoring proficient on the math exam.

Hispanic students are not receiving the academic supports they need to succeed evidenced by the fact that seven out of ten Hispanic students are not testing proficient in English or math on the PSSA's in District run schools or in any type of charter school.

It's not valid to draw simple comparisons between the performance of students in district-run and charter schools because other factors such as poverty, family stability, and special needs play a significant role in student performance, often more pronounced than race.

Keystone Performance

Based on the results of the 2023 Keystone Exams, academic performance among eleventh graders of all races and ethnicities surpassed the performance of their third-to-eighth grade counterparts. Still, compared to other racial subgroups of students, Hispanic students rank relatively low in literature and Algebra I proficiency.

Just about 45% of all eleventh-grade Hispanic students in the city scored proficient or advanced on the literature Keystone exam in 2023, the second lowest proficiency rating after Black students (44%). White and Asian students scored 75% and 74% respectively.

Although literature proficiency severely declined among all eleventh graders initially following the COVID pandemic, all racial subgroups' proficiency rates rose by 2023. Between 2019 and 2023, the share of Hispanic students proficient in literature increased

by almost 3%, the largest growth in academic proficiency during this period, followed closely by white students with a 2.7% increase.

All racial subgroups of eleventh graders experienced a significant drop in the Algebra I exam during COVID, which is troubling because proficiency in Algebra I is a gateway to post-secondary education.

Only 17% of Hispanic students scored proficient or above on the Algebra I exam, down from 31% in 2019. Black students fared worse at only 13% in 2023, down from 25% in 2019. White and Asian student proficient or higher Algebra I exam scores also dropped but even their low 2023 percentages (47% and 60% respectively) were still higher than 2019 high benchmark Hispanic scores.

Over 53% of charter school Hispanic students scored proficiently on the literature Keystone exam compared to over 43% of district students; 23% of Hispanic charter school students were proficient in Algebra I compared to 15% of Hispanic district students. Hispanic students in cyber charters scored considerably worse with less than 15% of students proficient in literature and a measly 2% of students proficient in Algebra I.

High School Enrollment and Admission

Upon entering the eighth grade, Philadelphia students can apply to attend one of three types of high schools: special admissions (criteria-based), citywide, and neighborhood (catchment) high schools.

Special admissions high schools have their own set of admission criteria but overall students must have good behavior and high attendance rates, grades, and test scores to be considered for admission. Neighborhood high school enrollment is based on a student's home address but do allow some students from outside the neighborhood to apply through an impartial selection process.

Chart 8: 70% of Hispanic Students Attend District-Run Schools, 27% Attend Brick and Mortar Charter Schools

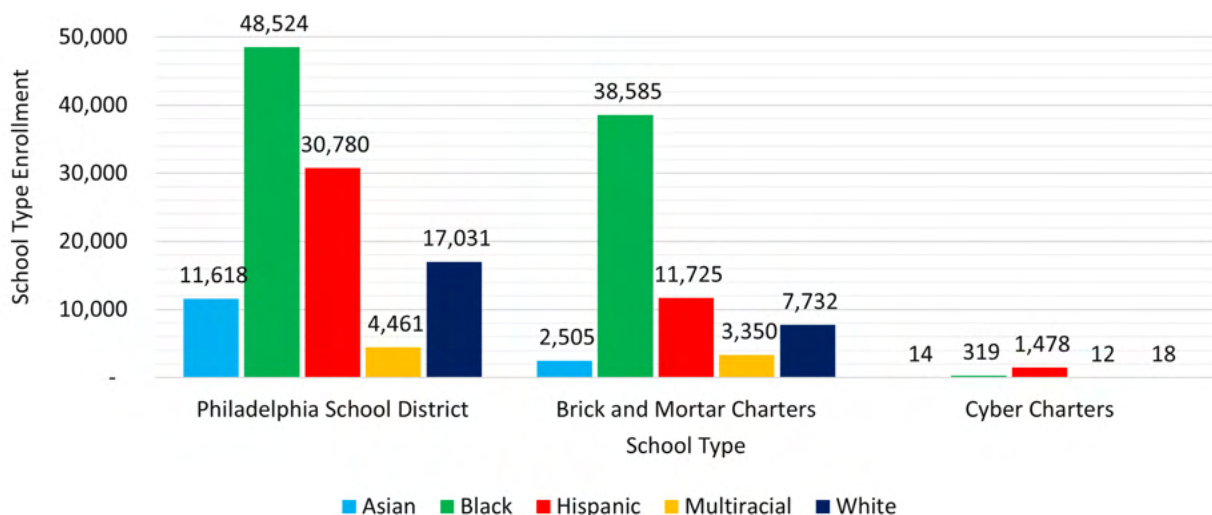
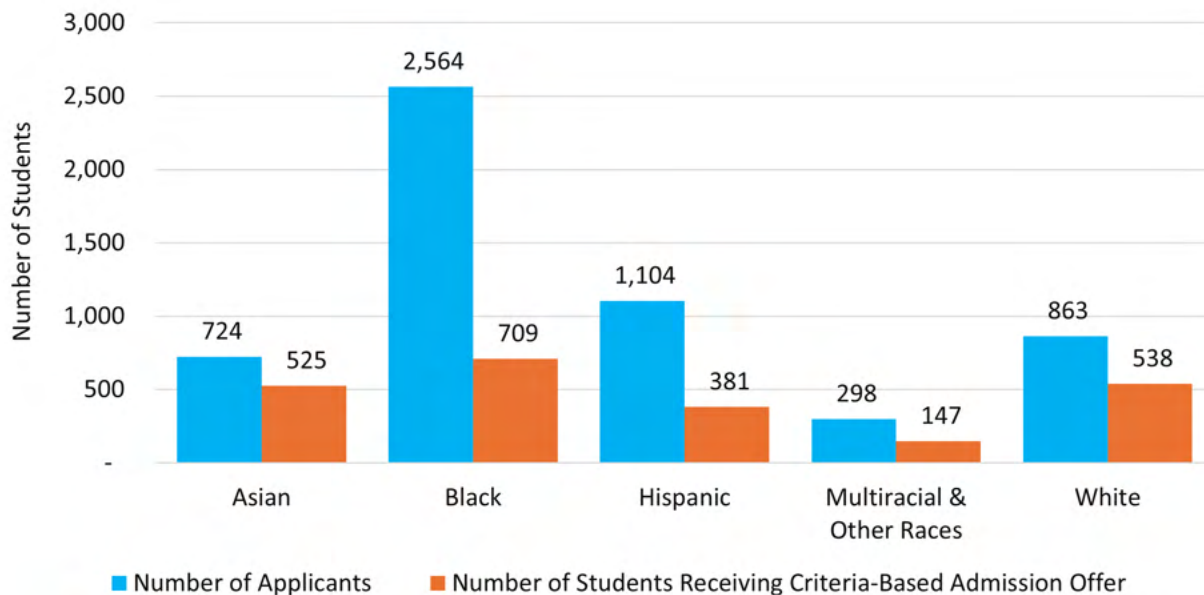


Chart 9: More than 34% of Hispanic Student Applicants to a Criteria-Based High School Were Accepted



2023 data

Citywide high schools accept students from across the city and do not have admission criteria but select through an impartial lottery process.

In 2023-24, 1,475 Hispanic high schoolers (17%) attend special admissions schools, comprising a little over 13% of overall enrollment. Hispanic students have both the lowest share of representation in special admissions schools and the lowest share of students enrolled. By comparison, Black students make up nearly half (45%) of special admissions student enrollment. The majority of all Asian students (51%) in Philadelphia attend special admissions schools.

Out of the 2,204 Hispanic eighth graders enrolled in SDP in 2022-23, only 403 or 18% of students met or exceeded the minimum academic qualifications to apply to special admissions schools. This places Hispanic students alongside Black students for the lowest share of students eligible for special admissions schools, greatly behind the qualification rates of Asian and white students.

Notably, all racial subgroups saw a spike in the number of qualified students in 2021-22 when the district dropped the PSSA requirements from the criteria-based school qualifications, before witnessing an immense decrease in 2022-23 when the PSSA requirements were reinstated.

Out of those Hispanic eighth graders in 2022-23 who met the academic criteria to attend special admissions schools, only half applied, the lowest share of qualified students to do so. Contrary to that, hundreds of other Hispanic eighth graders applied to special admissions high schools in 2022-23 even though they didn't meet the requirements. This disconnect may reflect the need for more culturally relevant materials to help Hispanic parents have a deeper understanding of the school systems.

Of the 1,104 total Hispanic applicants to a special admissions school, only 381 (34.5%) received an offer from a special admissions school. While that figure is low, it is a welcome 8% increase from admission offers made in 2020-21. In comparison, Black applicants, who represent a much larger demographic, were less than 28% (709 students) accepted to special admissions schools. By contrast, Asian and white students, who make up the smallest racial groups, saw the highest acceptance rates at 73% and 62% respectively.

Nearly three out of four Hispanic students attend neighborhood high schools, more than any other racial subgroup and making up over 33% of neighborhood school enrollment overall. For comparison, less than 49% of Black students, the largest group of students in neighborhood high schools, are enrolled in these schools. The share of Hispanic high schoolers attending neighborhood schools has increased by 5% since COVID.

The remaining 11% of Hispanic students are enrolled in citywide schools. These 997 students account for 19% of enrollment in citywide schools and are the second largest racial subgroup in such schools.

High School Graduation

Given the disappointing effort on the part of district schools on behalf of Hispanic students, it's no surprise that only 57% of Hispanic students graduated on time in 2021-22, the lowest among all racial subgroups. In contrast, the next lowest racial subgroup of student graduating within four years was Black students (68%).

Over the last fourteen years, a significantly higher share of Hispanic students graduated on time from brick and mortar and cyber charter schools than those in district schools. This trend continues into 2021-22, where more than 87% of Hispanic twelfth graders graduated on time from brick and mortar charter schools, and a little less than 65% graduated on time from cyber charters.



Still, Hispanic student on-time graduation rates in charters are often lower than most other racial subgroups. In 2021-22, the Hispanic graduation rate from brick and mortar charters was greater than white students, but less than both Black and Asian students. For cyber charters, Hispanic students graduated at a higher rate than Black students, but significantly lower than white and Asian students.

College Matriculation and Persistence

Given the increasingly competitive labor market where college-degreed adults command higher pay than those with less education, it's especially problematic that Hispanic students have the smallest overall college matriculation rate compared to all other racial subgroups in the School District of Philadelphia.

Slightly more than 22% of Hispanic students who graduated in 2022 were enrolled in a four-year university the following fall. Another 13% of Hispanic graduates were enrolled in a two-year institution. By comparison, almost one-third of Black student graduates were enrolled in a four-year college the first fall after graduating, and another 11% in two-year institutions.

Of the Hispanic students who enrolled in a higher education program after graduating from the district in 2021, 69% were still enrolled in college by the fall of 2022, the second lowest college persistence rate after Black students (75%).

Conclusion

In the spirit of Pa'lante, there is considerable promise for change if Philadelphia's leaders work together to remove the myriad of obstacles Hispanic families face.

Success for Hispanic children and teens depends on a holistic strategy that addresses their unique language and cultural needs, as well as reducing poverty and the impact of structural racism and anti-immigrant sentiment. As the Hispanic population in Philadelphia grows, so does the potential of Hispanic children to be the city's next generation of leaders in business, politics, and community development.

The findings in this report point to an urgent need to give Hispanic parents culturally responsive information to enable them to access youth-serving systems like health care, education enrichment, and social supports. Because a growing share of Hispanic parents are from countries where high school and post-secondary training are essential to adult economic success, more must be done to build a deeper understanding of key benchmarks starting from early childhood through high school, and what these benchmarks mean for their child's success in life.

Further, as the data suggests, many Hispanic parents are actively involved in making educational decisions for their children. This level of parental engagement presents an opportunity that must be met with the same or greater level of effort by public and private agencies charged with preparing children for a lifetime of success. Working in partnership with parents is an essential and proven strategy for achieving positive outcomes for children.

Beyond the need for culturally responsive and language-appropriate materials and a renewed effort to tap into the energy and involvement of Hispanic parents, specific public investments are necessary to ensure Hispanic children grow up healthy and equipped to support themselves, raise their families and contribute to the prosperity and civic vitality of the city when they become adults.

Recommendations

Early Childhood

- Expanding access to culturally accessible, high-quality, affordable child care and pre-k programs so parents can work, and young children build a strong learning foundation.
- Supporting bilingual child care providers so young children can boost reading and writing in both languages, which is proven to build greater brain development.

K-12 Education

- Expanding tutoring opportunities during and after the school day for English Language Learners.
- Building an educator pipeline that works to diversify the teacher workforce and hire more Hispanic and bilingual teachers to increase student attendance and performance.
- Hiring more educational outreach staff to support monolingual parents so they can better engage in their child's education.
- Adopting general policies that promote smaller class sizes, offer modern textbooks and equipment, and make classrooms safe and welcoming.
- Implementing strategies that connect more Hispanic students to state-of-the-art career-related learning in high school, as these options are proven to boost high school graduation rates and post-secondary enrollment and completion rates.

Health Care

- Ensuring all Hispanic children have comprehensive medical insurance – including children without citizenship documentation – and increase children's access to mental health, dental, and vision care.



All sources of data can be found at:
www.childrenfirstpa.org/hispanicreportsources

Children First, formerly known as Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY), serves as the leading child advocacy organization improving the lives and life chances of children in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Children First undertakes specific and focused projects in areas affecting the healthy growth and development of children, including child care, public education, child health, juvenile justice, and child welfare.

Through thoughtful and informed advocacy, community education, targeted service projects, and budget analysis, Children First watches out and speaks out for children and families.

Children First serves the families of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties as well as children across the Commonwealth. We are a committed advocate and an independent watchdog for the well-being of all our children.

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