



INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
 Los Angeles Unified School District
 Office of Data and Accountability

INFORMATIVE
 September 17, 2015

TO: Members, Board of Education
 Ramon Cortines, Superintendent

FROM: Cynthia Lim, Executive Director

SUBJECT: CHARTER SCHOOL SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT RESULTS,
 SPRING 2015

This informative provides the results of the new Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) for independent charter schools authorized by LAUSD. Last week, the California Department of Education (CDE) released results for all school districts and independent charter schools in California. Results for LAUSD’s affiliated charters were included in District counts and averages last week. Results for independent charters became publicly available on September 9.

All public schools in California administered the new Smarter Balanced Assessments, including independent charter schools. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 took these online assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics this past spring. The tests were computer based and taken online only. The SBA results for this year should be used as a baseline measure for LAUSD and charter schools in terms of future growth and goals for student progress.

The results in this analysis include 196 independent charter schools with valid scores on the tests. Although 211 charter schools were authorized by LAUSD in 2014-15, the schools without test scores did not have the tested grades (3-8 or 11) in their school configuration.

Across all the grade levels tested, there were over 48,000 valid test scores among independent charter schools. Table 1 presents the number of valid scores in English Language Arts and Mathematics by grade level. Grades 6 and 11 had the highest count of test scores with over 9,000.

Table 1. Number of Valid Scores by Grade Level, Independent Charter Schools

	Number of Valid Scores, Charter Schools							Grade 11
	All Grades	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	
English Language Arts	48,630	5,077	4,666	5,034	9,039	8,269	7,170	9,375
Mathematics	48,706	5,082	4,669	4,987	9,089	8,301	7,184	9,361

Overall Performance

Students receive an overall scale score that ranges from 2,000 to 3,000. Scale scores on these new assessments are grouped into four achievement or performance bands:

- Standard Exceeded
- Standard Met
- Standard Nearly Met
- Standard Not Met

Students who have met or exceeded the standard are considered to be college and career ready or have demonstrated the knowledge and skills needed for success in future coursework.

For all grade levels combined, 39% of students in independent charters met or exceeded standards compared to 44% in California and 33% in LAUSD. When examined by grade level, a larger percentage of students in independent charter schools met or exceeded standards than LAUSD with the exception of grade 6, where 30% met or exceeded standards at charters versus 31% for LAUSD. In grade 11, charters exceeded the state average by one percentage point at 57% versus 56% for California and 48% for LAUSD.

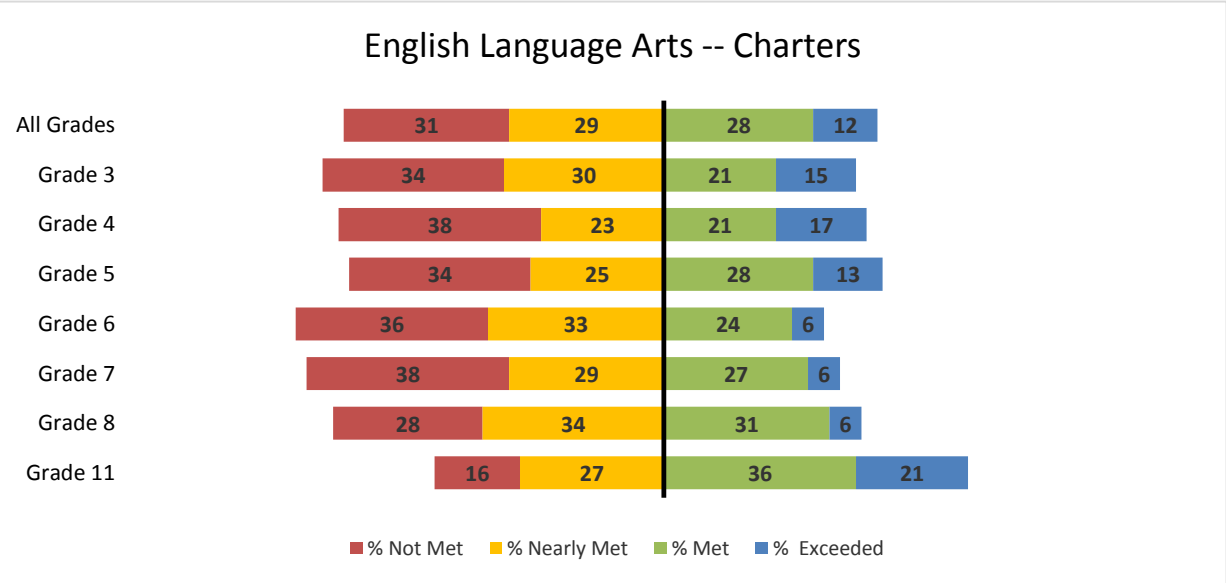
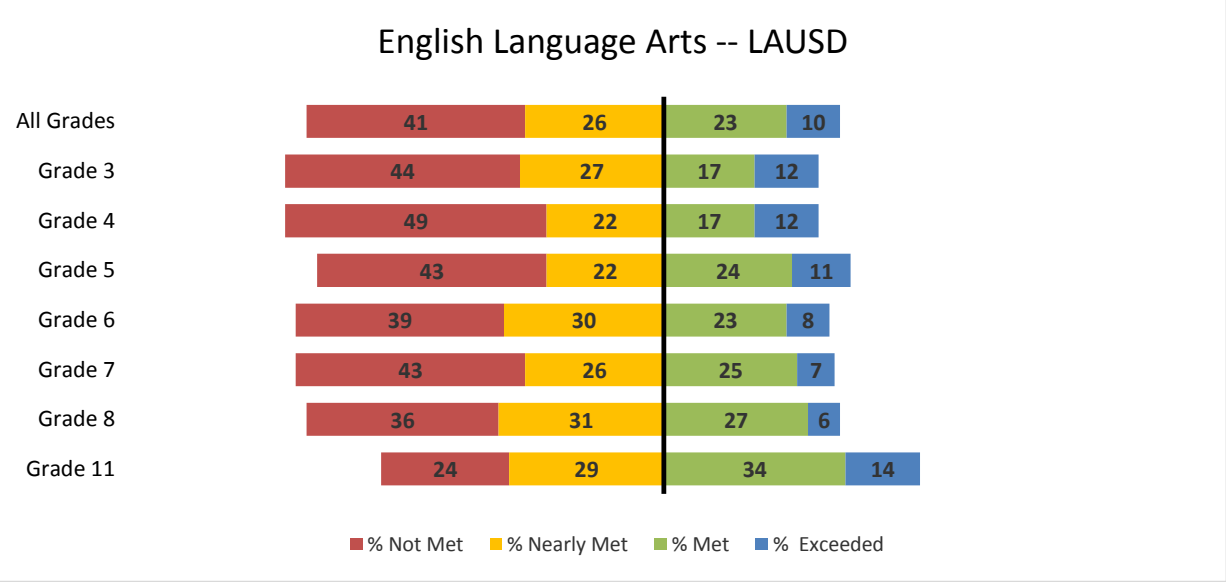
In Mathematics, 28% of students in charters met or exceeded standards, compared to 33% statewide and 25% in LAUSD. When examined by grade level, percentages were higher for charters in all grades except for grades 6 and 7. In grade 6, 21% of charter students met or exceeded standards, compared to 24% in LAUSD. In Grade 7, performance of charters was on par with LAUSD at 24%.

Table 2. Percentage that Met or Exceeded Standards, LAUSD, Charters and California

	Percent that Met or Exceeded Standards							
	All Grades	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
English Language Arts								
California	44	38	40	44	43	44	45	56
Charters	39	36	39	41	30	33	38	57
LAUSD	33	29	30	35	31	32	33	48
Mathematics								
California	33	40	35	30	33	34	33	29
Charters	28	40	35	26	21	24	25	29
LAUSD	25	32	27	22	24	24	23	20

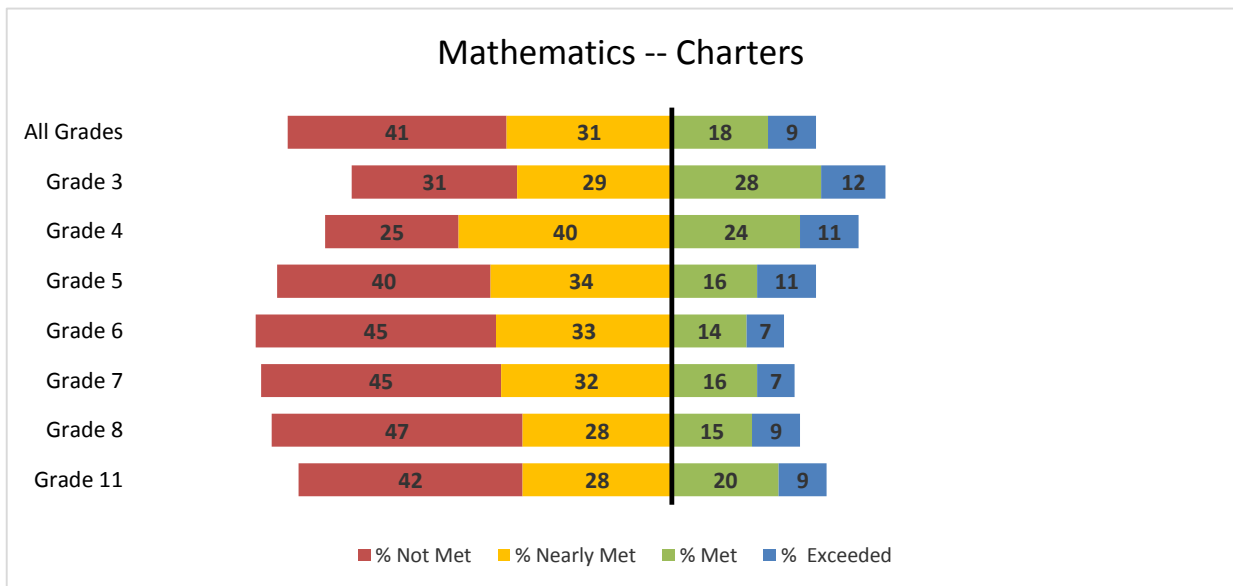
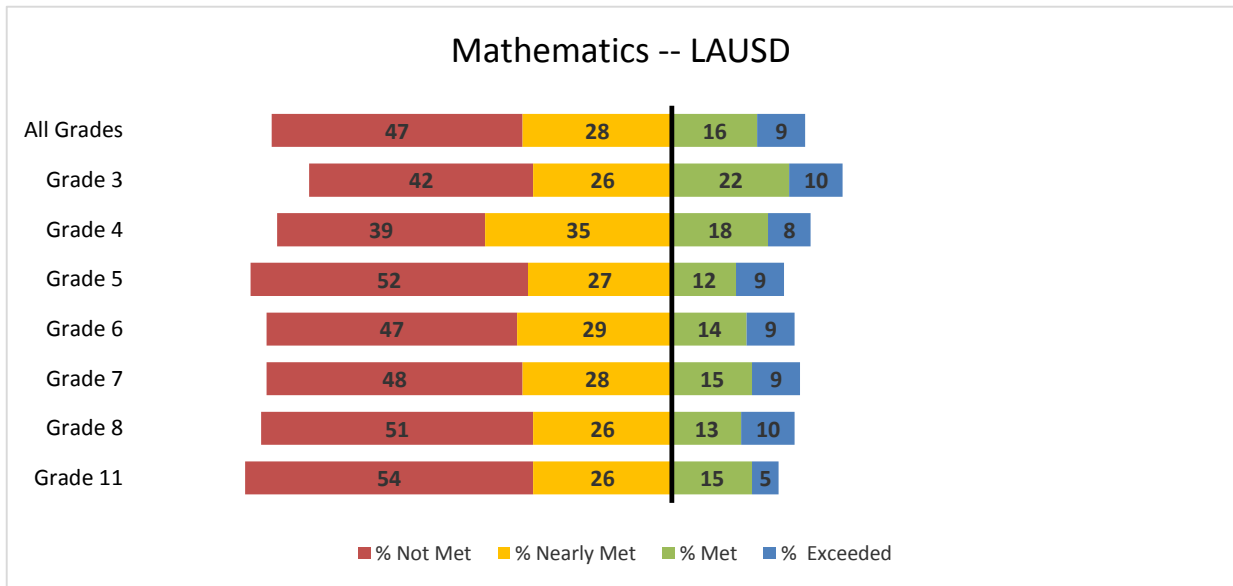
When examined by each performance band, charters had fewer students not meeting standards, however, the achievement pattern by grade level was similar to LAUSD. In English Language Arts, there were slightly more students meeting or exceeding standards in grade 5 at both LAUSD and charters and grade 11 had the highest percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards.

Figure 3. Percentage of Students by Performance Band in English Language Arts, LAUSD and Charters



In Mathematics, there were fewer students at charters that had not met standards and more students in the “nearly met” category compared to LAUSD. Similar to LAUSD scores, the highest percentage of students meeting or exceeding standards was in grade 3.

Figure 4. Percentage of Students by Performance Band, Mathematics, LAUSD and Charters



Performance by Subgroup

When English Language Arts data was examined by subgroup, there were similar trends in charter data as was seen in LAUSD. A higher percentage of females in charter schools (45%) met or exceeded standards compared to males (34%), similar to LAUSD and the statewide trend. More females in charters met or exceeded standards at each grade level compared to LAUSD, with the exception of grade 6 where an equal number met or exceeded (36%).

By ethnicity, the same trends were found in charter schools as in LAUSD and statewide. Asian and white students had higher scores than African-American and Latino students overall and across all grade levels. African-American students in charter schools scored lower than LAUSD in grades 6 and 8. In grade 6, 19% of African-American students met or exceeded standards, compared to 22% in LAUSD. In grade 8, 21% of African-American students in charters met or

exceeded standards compared to 24% in LAUSD. Asian students in charter schools also scored lower than LAUSD in grade 6. Among white students, an equal percentage of students in grade 3 met or exceeded standards in charters and LAUSD (60%).

Economically disadvantaged students scored lower than non-economically disadvantaged students in charter schools, similar to LAUSD and statewide. In charter schools, economically disadvantaged students scored higher than LAUSD at all grade levels. For non-economically disadvantaged students LAUSD students in grade 3 scored higher than charters (54% versus 53%, respectively) and in grade 6 (54% versus 51%, respectively)

Across charter schools, the lowest achieving subgroups were students with disabilities and English learners, which was also noted in LAUSD and statewide results. For students with disabilities, charter students scored higher than LAUSD with the exception of grade 6 where an equal percentage of students (5%) met or exceeded standards. Scores for English Learners were higher at charter schools than LAUSD although at upper grades (6-8, 11), scores were in single digits. (English Learners that demonstrate mastery of basic skills are eligible for reclassification once language proficiency is met.) A higher percentage of Reclassified English Learners met or exceeded standards compared to LAUSD.

Table 5. Percentage of LAUSD Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards in English Language Arts by Subgroup

English-Language Arts		Met or Exceeded Standards							
		All Grades	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
All Students	LAUSD	33	29	30	35	31	32	33	48
	Charter	39	36	39	41	30	33	38	57
Females	LAUSD	38	33	34	41	36	36	39	52
	Charter	45	39	43	46	36	39	44	61
Males	LAUSD	28	25	26	29	26	27	28	43
	Charter	34	33	35	36	25	28	31	53
African American	LAUSD	24	22	20	24	22	22	24	35
	Charter	28	33	35	30	19	23	21	41
Asian	LAUSD	67	61	65	70	68	70	69	73
	Charter	77	73	94	76	64	77	72	82
Latino	LAUSD	27	22	23	29	24	25	28	45
	Charter	37	33	34	39	29	31	37	54
White	LAUSD	61	60	63	65	59	60	59	59
	Charter	68	60	69	69	65	69	75	73
Economically Disadvantaged	LAUSD	28	22	23	28	25	26	29	47
	Charter	36	32	33	38	27	31	35	53
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	LAUSD	54	54	55	59	54	53	50	49
	Charter	59	53	63	64	51	57	56	69

English-Language Arts		Met or Exceeded Standards							
		All Grades	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
Students w/Disabilities	LAUSD	8	7	8	8	5	6	7	14
	Charter	11	14	15	13	5	8	9	17
English Learner	LAUSD	3	5	3	3	1	1	2	4
	Charter	11	22	13	11	5	4	6	9
Reclassified English Learner	LAUSD	37	43	38	41	29	30	33	48
	Charter	45	50	51	54	34	38	43	59

In Mathematics, there were no differences by gender at charters, similar to what was observed for LAUSD. In grades 6 and 7, both genders had lower percentages that met or exceeded standards in charter school versus LAUSD.

Among ethnicity groups in charter schools, Asian and white students had the highest percentages meeting or exceeding standards compared to African-American and Latino students. African-American students in charters scored lower than LAUSD in grades 6, 7, and 8. For grade 6, 12% of African-American students met or exceeded standards at charter versus 15% at LAUSD. In grade 7, 12% met or exceeded standards at charters versus 14% in LAUSD. In grade 8, 9% in charters met or exceeded standards compared to 14% in LAUSD. All other ethnic groups in charter schools scored higher than LAUSD.

The gap between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students was 21 percentage points at charter schools. In LAUSD, the gap was 24 percentage points. Among economically disadvantaged students, an equal percentage of students met or exceeded standards in grade 6 in charters and LAUSD. Charters had higher percentages in all other grade levels. Among non-economically disadvantaged students, LAUSD had a higher percentage in grade 6 compared to charters (45% versus 42%) and an equal percentage in grade 7 (44%).

For students with disabilities, an equal percentage of students met or exceeded standards in grades 6 and 11 among charters and LAUSD. English Learners scored higher at charter schools compared to LAUSD but were in the single digits starting at grade 5. Reclassified English Learners at charters out-performed LAUSD at all grade levels.

Table 6. Percentage of LAUSD Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards in Mathematics by Subgroup

Mathematics		Met or Exceeded Standards							
		All Grades	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
All Students	LAUSD	25	32	27	22	24	24	23	20
	Charter	28	40	35	26	21	24	25	29
Females	LAUSD	25	32	26	22	25	25	24	20
	Charter	27	38	33	25	23	24	25	30
Males	LAUSD	25	32	27	22	23	24	23	20
	Charter	28	42	37	28	20	23	24	29

Mathematics		Met or Exceeded Standards							
		All Grades	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 11
African American	LAUSD	15	22	17	12	15	14	14	11
	Charter	16	37	25	14	12	12	9	13
Asian	LAUSD	66	71	67	62	66	67	64	59
	Charter	70	100	78	68	68	77	65	72
Latino	LAUSD	19	25	20	16	17	19	18	17
	Charter	25	37	32	24	19	22	24	24
White	LAUSD	52	63	57	48	51	51	48	34
	Charter	55	67	64	49	59	58	57	48
Economically Disadvantaged	LAUSD	20	26	21	17	19	19	19	19
	Charter	24	36	30	23	19	21	22	25
Non-Economically Disadvantaged	LAUSD	44	56	50	42	45	44	39	23
	Charter	45	59	57	47	42	44	41	45
Students w/Disabilities	LAUSD	6	11	8	5	4	4	5	5
	Charter	8	14	14	9	4	6	6	5
English Learner	LAUSD	4	10	4	2	1	2	2	2
	Charter	10	27	14	6	3	3	4	4
Reclassified English Learner	LAUSD	26	48	36	24	22	23	22	19
	Charter	30	56	45	32	24	28	29	27

Performance by Economic Status and Ethnicity

Data was disaggregated by economic status and ethnicity for all grade levels combined as the numbers of students in each subgroup was too small to break down by individual grade levels.

When examined by economic status and ethnicity, all ethnicity groups that were non-economically disadvantaged scored higher than economically disadvantaged students in both LAUSD and charter schools. In comparing economically disadvantaged students in LAUSD and charter schools, African-American students scored five percentage points higher than African-American students in LAUSD, charter Latino students scored 10 percentage points higher and white students at charters scored 15 percentage points higher.

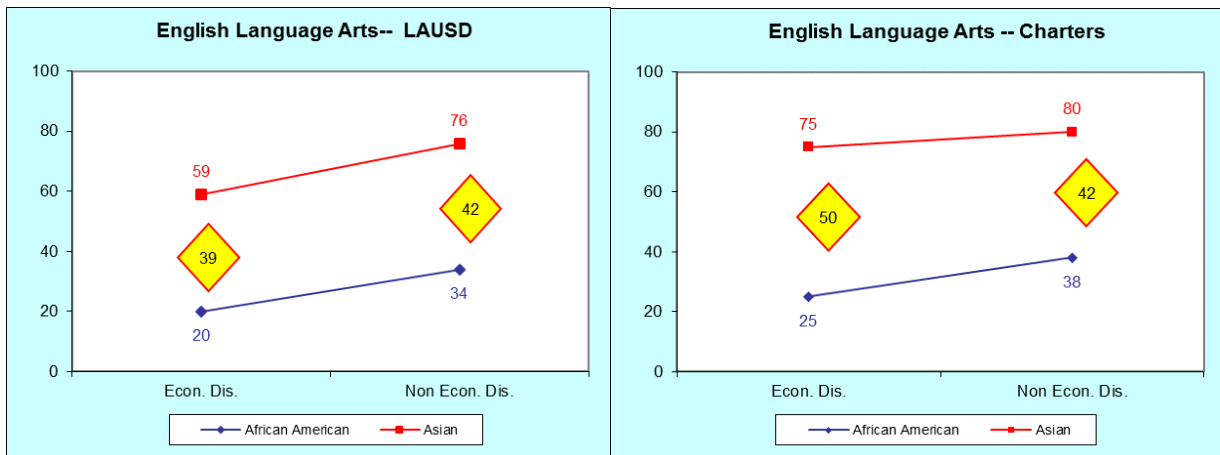
Among non-economically disadvantaged students, 38% of African-American students in charter schools met or exceeded standards, compared to 34% in LAUSD. Among white students, charter students were two percentage points higher, compared to LAUSD.

Table 7. Percentage of LAUSD Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards in English Language Arts by Economic Status and Ethnicity

English-Language Arts		Met or Exceeded Standards		
	# of Students with Scores		All Grades	
	LAUSD	Charter	LAUSD	Charter
Economically Disadvantaged				
African American	15,850	3,890	20	25
Asian	5,595	355	59	75
Latino	175,270	32,704	26	36
White	8,775	780	43	58
Non-Economically Disadvantaged				
African American	5,570	863	34	38
Asian	5,499	418	76	80
Latino	22,074	2,558	37	49
White	17,776	2,617	70	72

In the informative released on September 9, 2015, the achievement gap between the highest achieving ethnicity group in LAUSD (Asian) was compared to the lowest achieving group (African-American). Figure 8 displays the same data for charter schools compared to LAUSD. The achievement gap between economically disadvantaged Asians and African-Americans is higher at charter schools than LAUSD in English Language Arts (50 percentage points at charters versus 39 percentage points for LAUSD). For non-economically disadvantaged students, the achievement gap between Asians and African-Americans is 42 percentage points at both LAUSD and charters.

Figure 8: Achievement Gap between Highest and Lowest Ethnicity Group, English Language Arts



In Mathematics, when the data was disaggregated by economic status and ethnicity, the same trend was observed in charter schools: all ethnicity groups that were non-economically disadvantaged scored higher than economically disadvantaged students.

Economically disadvantaged students in charter schools performed higher than their counterparts in LAUSD schools. Among African-American students, charter students scored two percentage points higher than LAUSD students. Among Latino students, charter students scored 14 percentage points higher and white students at charters scored 10 percentage points higher than LAUSD.

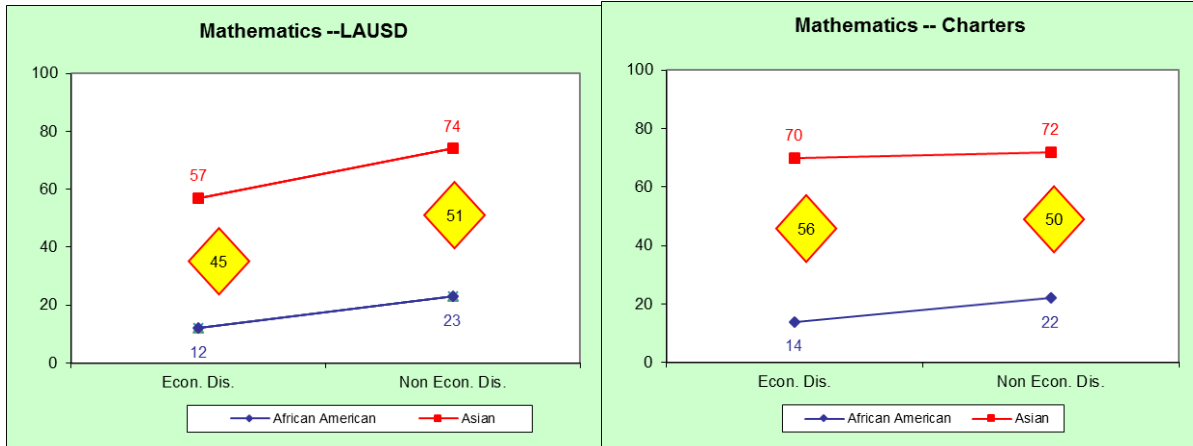
For non-economically disadvantaged students, LAUSD African-American, Asian and White students scored higher than charter students. African-American students in LAUSD scored one percentage point higher than charter school students, Asian students in LAUSD scored two percentage points higher and white students in LAUSD scored three percentage points higher.

Table 9. Percentage of LAUSD Students Meeting or Exceeding Standards in Mathematics by Economic Status and Ethnicity

Mathematics		Met or Exceeded Standards		
	# of Students with Scores		All Grades	
	LAUSD	Charter	LAUSD	Charter
Economically Disadvantaged				
African American	15,849	3,866	12	14
Asian	5,668	352	57	70
Latino	175,924	32,822	10	24
White	8,851	764	33	44
Non-Economically Disadvantaged				
African American	5,590	860	23	22
Asian	5,572	417	74	72
Latino	22,448	2,554	26	34
White	17,714	2,594	61	58

The achievement gap between economically disadvantaged Asians and African-Americans was 45 percentage points for LAUSD and 56 percentage points for charter schools. For non-economically disadvantaged students, the gap between Asians and African-Americans was 51 percentage points in LAUSD and 50 percentage points at charters.

Figure 10: Achievement Gap between Asian and African-American Students, Mathematics



Attachment A provides a list of charter schools and the percentage of students in each performance band for all tested grades at the school. Reports at the state, county, district and school level will be available on the CDE website at <http://caaspp.cde.ca.gov>.

If there are additional questions, feel free to contact me at (213) 241-2460.

- c: Michelle King
- Ruth Perez
- Jose Cole-Gutierrez
- Local District Superintendents
- Executive Cabinet