



N.J. approves 23 new charter schools

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By **The Star-Ledger Continuous News Desk**

TRENTON — New Jersey's Department of Education has approved 23 new charter schools, Gov. Chris Christie announced today.

Charter schools, which are public schools operated independently of a local school district, have been increasing in number across the state and the nation, although experts differ on whether children in charter schools perform better than kids in "regular" public schools.

Last year the state approved just six charter schools, but this past fall the Department of Education received 50 applications. The batch of 23 announced today is the largest approved in a single year, increasing the state's total by about one third.

Christie is visiting the Robert Treat Academy in Newark today, one of the state's top-performing charter schools. The governor has long been a supporter of the schools, making them a key facet of his education reform agenda.

On Monday, a *Star-Ledger* survey of educational data **found well over half of the state's charter school classes outperformed their local school district counterparts on standardized tests.**

There are about 73 charter schools operating in New Jersey now, most in urban areas, serving varying grade levels.



Enlarge

John O'Boyle / The Star-Ledger

Gov. Chris Christie speaks at the Robert Treat Academy in Newark to announce the 23 new charter schools approved by the Department of Education. (John O'Boyle/The Star-Ledger)

N.J. approves 23 new charter schools gallery (4 photos)

Christie touts them as a way to provide an innovative learning environment for children struck in chronically failing schools and said his office will work to open more.

"Last year New Jersey opened six charter schools," Christie said at a town hall in Paramus last week. "It's going to change significantly. Hopefully that movement will continue to grow."

Latest Christie Administration Charter School Approvals: View complete descriptions for each school here

Atlantic County

- Atlantic City Community Charter School: K-8 (950) Atlantic City
- Atlantic Preparatory Charter School: 9-12 (552) Atlantic City
- Global Visions: K-4 (165) Egg Harbor City, Galloway Township, Mullica Township

Bergen County

- Shalom: K-8 (240) Englewood, Teaneck

Burlington County

- Willingboro: K-5, 9-12 (410) Willingboro

Camden County

- Camden Community Charter School: K-8 (950) Camden
- New Jersey Virtual: 10-12 (300) Camden, Perth Amboy, Neptune Township, Paterson

Cumberland County

- Millville: K-5 (216)

Essex County

- Arete: K-4 (300) East Orange, Orange
- Forest Hill Charter School: K-8 (80) Newark
- Great Oaks: 6-10 (331) Newark
- Martha Palmer Chaneyfield Charter School: K-4 (400) Newark
- New Day Charter High School: 9-12 (100) Newark
- New Jersey Virtual Academy: K-12 (1200) Newark
- People's Prep: 9-12 (380) Newark

- Roseville Community: K-4 (330) Newark
- Spirit Prep: 9-12 (600) East Orange, Irvington, Newark
- Vailsburg Prep: 9-12 (600) Newark

Gloucester County

- Kingdom: K-6 (210) Gloucester Township

Hudson County

- Dr. Lena Edwards: K-8 (396) Jersey City
- M.E.T.S.: K-6 (210) Jersey City

Salem County

- Bright Horizon Charter School: K-8 (306) Penns Grove-Carneys Point

Union County

- Dr. Therman Evans Charter School for Excellence: 6-8 (225) Linden, Elizabeth, Roselle

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