



The Research Bureau

Worcester by the Numbers: Public and Charter Schools

Report 14-01
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Leading Indicators of Worcester Public and Charter Schools:

FY10-FY14

- Between FY10 and FY14, student enrollment has increased by 1021 students, or 4.25% for a total of 25,022.
- 44% of students in the WPS speak a first language other than English compared to 17% in the State as a whole.
- Almost 82% of students in the WPS are categorized as “high needs” – low-income, English language learners (ELL) or students with disabilities.
- In FY12, the average WPS teacher salary was \$89,065, which is 9% higher than Boston’s and among the highest in the Commonwealth.
- Between FY10 and FY14, the budget of the WPS increased by 11.27%.
- Worcester’s two charter schools have similar demographics and high needs populations to those in the WPS.

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Introduction

The Worcester Public Schools (WPS) are managed by a seven-member School Committee composed of six elected members and the elected Mayor, who chairs the School Committee. The Committee sets policy, approves the budget, and hires and fires the School Superintendent. It is also responsible for negotiating contracts with all employees of the WPS. This power stands in stark contrast with that of the City Council which has no authority to negotiate contracts. Contracts are negotiated by the City Manager and approved by the City Council. The Superintendent is the chief executive officer for the school system and oversees the day-to-day operations of the WPS.

Most children in the WPS attend the school in the neighborhood where they live. The WPS, however, still operates under a voluntary desegregation (minority de-isolation) plan which requires that the schools be racially/ethnically balanced; some students may attend schools outside their neighborhood to achieve this balance. There are also some city-wide programs, at both the elementary and secondary level, which admitted students can participate in regardless of the location of the host school.¹

In addition to the 44 schools that comprise the WPS, the City has two charter schools: the Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School (AKFCPS), founded in 1998, with students in grades K- 12; and the Seven Hills Charter School (SHCS), founded in 1997, with students in grades K-8. A third charter school, the Spirit of Knowledge Charter School closed on October 30, 2013. The establishment of charter schools was authorized by the Massachusetts Education Reform Act (MERA) of 1993. A charter school is a public school that operates independently of the WPS under a renewable five-year charter granted by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Students are chosen to attend by lottery.

This report provides an overview of the WPS and Charter Schools from FY10 to FY14, indicating the size and scope of the systems and charting the leading performance measures of each.

The Economics of Worcester Public Schools

Between FY10 and FY14, the WPS budget increased by 11.27%, or \$35 million. The State's annual Chapter 70 aid increased by almost 14%, from \$192 million in FY10 to \$219 million in FY14. During that same period, the City's annual funding contribution to the WPS rose by 11.4%, from \$92.7 million to \$103.3 million.

Teacher staffing levels in WPS have increased by 5.4% from FY10 to FY14.

The budget allocation for all employee salaries grew between FY10 and FY14 by almost \$24 million, or about 13.9%. Health insurance costs decreased by .65% mainly as a result of an increase in the teachers' contributions to their health insurance premiums from 10% to 25%. The proportion of the WPS budget allocated to health insurance costs decreased from 12.51% in FY10 to 11.32% in FY14.

Table 1: Budget and Staffing numbers for the WPS						
	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14 (Projected)	% Change
Student Enrollment						
WPS October 1 Enrollment	24,001	24,191	24,360	24,769	25,022	4.25%
Budget						
WPS Budget (Approved - All Funding Sources)	312,930,096	333,846,412	334,243,656	337,941,850	348,213,326	11.27%
Chapter 70 State Aid	192,784,395	193,424,620	201,135,279	210,364,137	219,658,550	13.90%
City Contribution	92,738,479	93,159,710	94,626,633	99,166,368	103,335,045	11.40%
Staffing						
School and District Administrators	104	104	104	104	103	-0.96%
Teachers	2,011	2,013	2,038	2,079	2,120	5.40%
Instructional Assistants	501	519	524	537	550	9.70%
Other	1132	1103	1089	987	1072	-5.30%
Total Staff	3,748	3739	3755	3811	3845	2.58%
Salaries*						
Salaries	171,777,238	167,442,585	175,063,361	186,934,528	195,608,506	13.90%
Salaries as a % of Budget	54.80%	50.15%	52.37%	55.31%	56.17%	2.50%
Teacher Salaries	129,265,433	128,289,156	127,880,584	141,506,777	147,205,400	13.87%
Health Insurance						
Health Insurance Costs (Current and Retired)	39,167,805	41,899,162	47,517,748	37,130,978	39,421,840	0.65%
Health Insurance as a % of Budget	12.51%	12.55%	14.21%	10.98%	11.32%	-9.50%
Retirement						
Retirement (Pensions)	12,273,048	11,729,674	12,343,474	13,176,162	13,919,356	13.40%
Salaries and Benefits*						
Total Salaries and Benefits (All Employees)	221,717,762	220,419,236	225,067,097	274,994,689	284,423,536	28.30%
Total Salaries and Benefits as a % of budget	70.85%	66.02%	67.33%	81.37%	81.68%	15.28%

Source: Worcester Public Schools Annual Budgets

*Salary data do not include grant-funded positions.

Worcester by the Numbers: Public and Charter Schools

Table 2 lists the average teacher salaries for the 2011-2012 school year for Worcester, its surrounding towns, and selected urban districts in the Commonwealth. To calculate the average teacher salary, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) divides the total amount spent on salaries in a district by the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching positions (1,584 in FY12). According to the Department's calculations, the average Worcester teacher salary is \$89,065, higher than the State average, Boston and the towns contiguous to Worcester. (According to the WPS, Worcester's average teacher salary is calculated by dividing teacher salaries by headcount, that is all teaching positions, full-time or part-time; 2038 positions for FY12 for an average teacher salary of \$69,219).

District	Number of FTE Teachers	Salary Totals	Average Teacher Salary
Auburn	166	\$10,579,358	\$63,846
Boston	4,261	\$349,277,260	\$81,963
Boylston	27	\$1,970,107	\$72,165
Grafton	204	\$13,510,553	\$66,131
Lawrence	946	\$65,618,988	\$69,394
Leicester	112	\$7,940,828	\$71,218
Lowell	972	\$74,047,779	\$76,197
Millbury	129	\$9,386,321	\$72,819
Shrewsbury	378	\$27,199,684	\$71,957
Springfield	2,078	\$118,710,825	\$57,127
Wachusett Regional ³	473	\$30,356,025	\$64,218
West Boylston	75	\$5,093,410	\$68,185
Worcester	1,584	\$141,069,458	\$89,065
State	67,187	\$4,767,693,316	\$70,962

Student Enrollment and Demographics

The WPS schools are projecting that there will be 25,022 students in K-12 in the 2013-2014 school year, an increase of 1021 students, or 4.5%, since FY10. Although Worcester is the second-largest city in Massachusetts, in 2013, it ranked third for number of students enrolled in traditional public schools.

10 Most Populous Cities in MA	Population	Enrolled Students
Boston	617,594	55,114
Worcester	181,045	24,740
Springfield	153,060	25,283
Lowell	106,519	13,879
Cambridge	105,162	6,222
New Bedford	95,072	12,616
Brockton	93,810	16,595
Quincy	92,271	9,266
Lynn	90,329	14,139
Fall River	86,475	10,138

As in other urban districts, students in the WPS are demographically diverse. As shown in Table 4, over one-third, or 38.1% of the students enrolled in 2012-13 were Hispanic, 35.8% were Caucasian, 14.2% were African-American, 8.1% were Asian, and 3.5% were multi-race.

	% of District	% of State
African-American	14.2	8.6
Asian	8.1	5.9
Hispanic	38.1	16.4
Native American	0.3	0.2
White	35.8	66
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0	0.1
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	3.5	2.7

More than 40% of students speak a first language other than English, and 34.3% of students are considered to be ELL or English-language learners (students who are learning English as their second language and who have not yet achieved proficiency on an English assessment test). Almost three-quarters of WPS students are from low-income families defined as families living below 200% of the national poverty line and are eligible for free or reduced lunches. Many of these families receive Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP). Almost 21% of the students have a disability, qualifying them for special-education services. More than three quarters of WPS students are classified as “high needs,” defined as low income, ELL, former ELL students (within the last two years) or students with disabilities.

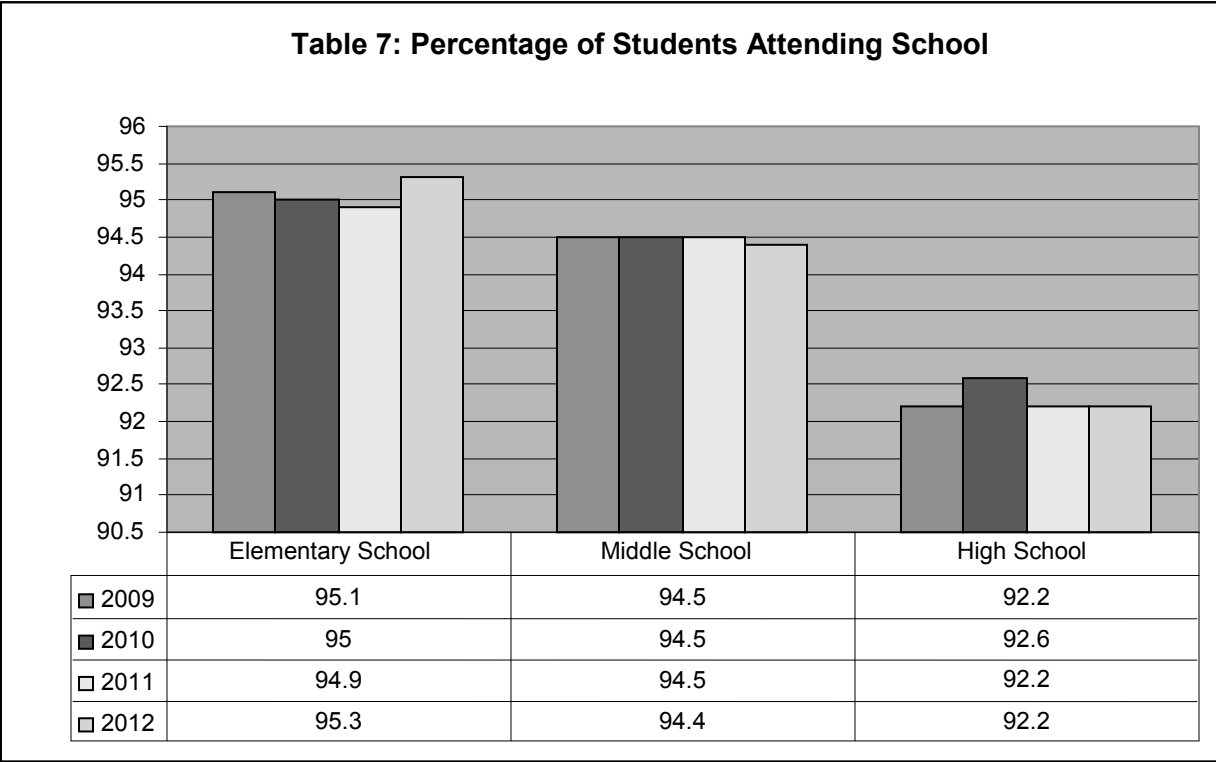
	% of Worcester	% of State
First Language not English	44.0	17.3
English-Language Learner	34.3	7.7
Low-Income	73.1	37.0
Students with Disabilities	20.7	17.0
Free Lunch	66.8	32.1
Reduced Lunch	6.3	4.9
High Needs	81.7	47.9

Attendance Rates

A recent article in the *Telegram & Gazette* reported that more than one in 10 students in the WPS is chronically absent, defined as having missed eighteen or more days of school. ⁶ Students who are frequently absent from school are at a higher risk of poor academic performance, having to repeat a grade, or dropping out of school. A student’s chronic absences can also have an adverse effect on his classmates, as teachers have to spend time helping the absentee student catch up on school work missed.

	District	State
Attendance Rate	94.4	94.9
Average # of days Absent	9.4	8.7
In-School Suspension Rate	6.8	3.4
Out-of-School Suspension Rate	12.1	5.4
Unexcused Absences > 9	29.2	5.0

As Table 7 shows, the attendance rate for Worcester’s elementary, middle, and high schools has remained consistent over the last five years with high schools posting the greatest percentage of absences.



Student Mobility and Stability Rates

Student mobility (also referred to as student turnover or transience) refers to the practice of students changing schools during the school year or between school years. Also called the churn rate, mobility percentages track the rate of movement in and out of a school. Stability rates describe the percentage of students who remain in a classroom from the beginning to the end of a school year. The intake rate measures the number of students that enroll in the State, a district or a school after the school year has started.

High student mobility can have significant adverse effects on student achievement among both the mobile students and their non-mobile peers. A student who transfers from one school to another during the academic year must play catch-up while his non-mobile peers lose instruction time as the teacher helps the new student adjust to the curriculum and the school culture. In addition, schools facing high turnover may experience lower teacher morale, a slower instructional pace, and added administrative burdens.

As calculated by the WPS, a school’s churn rate reflects the number of student transfers into or out of (entries and exits) the school or district during a 12-month period (October 1 of the initial year to October 1 of the following year), expressed as a percentage of total school enrollment on October 1 of the initial year. District-level churn data represents students who are reported

not to have remained at one school for an entire year, including students who transferred in or out of a school at any given time. Each student is only counted once in the data, regardless of his number of transfers.

Table 8 shows average stability and churn rates for all WPS elementary, middle, and high schools, as well as for selected student populations for the 2011-2012 school year. Although students who arrive at a school after October 1 are required to participate in MCAS testing, their scores are not included in most school-level MCAS and accountability reports. However, their performance is included in district-level adequate yearly progress (AYP) determinations and performance summaries.

As shown in Table 8, from October 1, 2011 to October 1, 2012, the district-wide churn rate (the number of incoming or outgoing students after the start of the year, divided by the total number of students enrolled at any point during the year) was 16.8%. Nearly ninety percent (89.6%) enrolled at one school in the district remained in that same school through the end of the year.

Table 8: Churn and Stability Rates in Worcester Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, 2012⁸

Student Group	Churn/Intake Enroll	% Churn	% Intake	% Stability	Stability Enroll
All Students	26,212	16.8%	10.8%	89.6%	24,747
ELL	8,365	21.0%	14.3%	87.3%	7,755
Low Income	19,432	19.0%	12.5%	88.0%	18,240
Students with Disabilities	5,566	17.3%	11.4%	90.6%	5,217
African American/Black	3,688	21.2%	14.6%	87.7%	3,377
American Indian or Alaskan Native	77	10.4%	6.5%	97.2%	72
Asian	2,092	10.8%	7.0%	94.3%	1,995
Hispanic/Latino	10,137	18.2%	10.9%	89.0%	9,524
Multi-race, Non-Hisp/Lat.	863	14.3%	8.0%	93.0%	810
White	9,350	15.1%	10.4%	89.6%	8,955

Worcester Technical High School had the lowest churn rate and the highest stability rate. North Community High School had the highest churn rate and the lowest stability rate.

Table 9: Churn, Intake, and Stability for Worcester High Schools 2012⁹

	Churn/Intake Enroll	% Churn	% Intake	% Stability	Stability Enroll
Burncoat	1,113	18.7%	11.5%	87.7%	1,032
Claremont Academy	434	18.7%	9.7%	85.7%	412
Doherty	1,441	16.3%	9.5%	88.9%	1,356
North Community	1,349	25.5%	15.8%	83.5%	1,204
South Community	1,450	21.2%	9.7%	83.9%	1,361
University Park	248	4.4%	1.2%	96.7%	245
Worcester Tech	1,378	3.1%	1.5%	97.6%	1,368

Dropout Rates

The dropout rate reflects the percentage of students in grades 9-12 who dropped out of school between July 1 and June 30 prior to the listed year and did not return to school or transfer to another school by the following October 1. The WPS four-year drop-out rate from FY09 to FY12 was 12.9%, higher than the State's four year drop-out rate of 6.9%. The WPS annual drop-out rate for FY12 was 4.1% while the State's rate was 2.5%.

In 2011-12, as shown in Table 10, Worcester Technical High School had the lowest dropout rate among Worcester high schools at 0.4% (5 students) for the 2011-2012 school year. University Park Campus School had just 1 dropout in 2011-2012. North High had the highest dropout rate in the district in 2011-2012. The district dropout rate was higher in 2011-12 than in each of the previous two school years.

Table10 : Yearly Dropout Rates						
	2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012	
	Number of Students	Percentage of Students	Number of Students	Percentage of Students	Number of Students	Percentage of Students
Worcester Technical High School	5	0.4	7	0.5	5	0.4
University Park Campus School	2	1.4	1	0.6	1	0.6
Doherty Memorial High School	35	2.5	30	2.3	50	3.8
Claremont Academy	7	2.7	9	3.6	7	2.8
South High Community School	66	5	62	4.8	78	5.8
North High School	80	7.1	86	7.5	79	6.6
Burncoat Senior High School	53	4.8	52	4.9	45	4.4
District Total	248	3.8	247	3.7	310	4.1

Graduation Rates

High school graduation rates are a significant indicator of overall school performance. As required by the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), schools, districts, and the state must now report their graduation rates, or the percentage of students who earn a high school diploma in four years (the standard time for completion). Students are not counted as "on-time" graduates if they have either dropped out, have not passed the MCAS exam, are still enrolled in school after four years, have been expelled, or obtained a GED instead of a regular diploma. High schools are held accountable for their students' graduation on time as part of the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determination.

Statewide, 84.7% of students in the class of 2012 who entered ninth grade in the fall of 2008 graduated from high school in four years. Table 11 shows four-year graduation rates for Worcester's 2012 senior high school class. The largest percentage of drop-outs are students with disabilities and Hispanic/Latino students.

Student Group	# in Cohort	% Graduate	% Still in School	% GED	% Dropped Out
All Students	1780	72.3	9.8	3.3	12.9
Male	892	67.8	12.3	2.9	14.8
Female	888	76.8	7.2	3.7	11.0
ELL	372	60.5	18.0	0.8	18.3
Students with Disabilities	468	56.6	16.9	2.1	22.4
Low Income*	1486	69.6	10.9	3.4	14.4
High Needs*	1539	69.6	10.9	3.2	14.5
African American/Black	241	75.1	13.7	0.8	9.5
Asian	160	86.9	6.3	0.6	5.6
Hispanic/Latino	652	62.7	11.7	3.5	19.6
American Indian or Alaskan Native	8	75.0	0.0	0.0	12.5
White	697	77.2	7.7	4.6	9.0
Multi-race, non-hispanic/latino	21	66.7	0	4.8	28.6

Table 12 compares several measures of mobility and graduation rates among Worcester and other Massachusetts districts. Of the six districts surveyed, Worcester has the fourth highest graduation rate and the third highest churn rate.

	Worcester	Boston	Brockton	Chelsea	Lowell	Lynn	Springfield
4-Year Graduation Rate	72.3	65.9	74.5	58.3	73.3	73.7	55.6
Dropout Rate	12.9	15.9	12.2	20.3	11.8	13.2	27
Churn %	16.8	22.8	11.6	16.9	14.7	14.2	23.3

MCAS Scores

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, MCAS, was implemented following the passage of the MERA to measure student performance based on the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and learning standards. MCAS is a standards-based test, which measures how well students are mastering specific skills and knowledge. All students are required to pass the grade 10 MCAS tests in English language arts, mathematics, and science (biology, chemistry, introductory physics or technology/engineering) in order to graduate.

The tests are also used by teachers, principals, and superintendents to identify programs and schools in need of improvement, to diagnose students' strengths and weaknesses, and to identify students in need of tutoring. DESE also uses the results to determine high-performing schools and to identify those that require DESE oversight.

However, since Massachusetts has adopted the national Common Core Standards, MCAS will likely be replaced in the 2014-2015 school year by PARCC (Partnership for Assessment for Readiness of College and Careers), a new assessment tool for grades 3-11.

As Table 13 shows, Worcester's MCAS scores are lower than the State's for the number of students who score proficient or higher in grades 4, 8, and 10.

Table 13: Percent of students scoring Proficient or higher on MCAS scores 2009-2013 in grades 4, 8, and 10¹³

	2009 Proficient or Higher		2010 Proficient or Higher		2011 Proficient or Higher		2012 Proficient or Higher		2013 Proficient or Higher	
	State	Worcester	State	Worcester	State	Worcester	State	Worcester	State	Worcester
Grade 4										
English	53	31	54	37	53	34	57	40	53	35
Math	48	31	48	33	47	29	51	33	52	31
Grade 8						61				
English	78	59	78	78	79	61	81	61	78	59
Math	48	28	51	51	52	34	52	34	55	33
Grade 10										
English	81	67	78	63	84	68	88	76	91	80
Math	75	57	75	57	77	59	78	62	80	62

School Ranking

Massachusetts Framework for District Accountability and Assistance¹¹ classifies schools and districts on a five point scale. Schools that are raising their goals for student growth, lowering drop-out rates, and improving the performance of high-needs subgroups, are ranked level 1. The lowest performing schools are ranked level 5.

According to DESE, a level 1 school must have a cumulative Progress and Performance Index¹² (PPI) of 75 or higher for both the “all students” group and “high needs student” groups. Level 2 schools have a PPI under 75 and may be classified Level 2 if any group has a low MCAS participation rate defined as between 90 and 94%. A school is classified as Level 3 if it has any of the following characteristics: it is among the lowest 20% relative to other schools in the same school type category statewide; if one or more of the subgroups in the school are among the lowest performing 20% of subgroups relative to all subgroups statewide; if the school has persistently low graduation rates; or if they have very low MCAS participation rates for any group (less than 90%). Level 3 schools that continue to be the lowest achieving and performing will be classified as Level 4 and Level 5 schools. Level 4 schools, called “turnaround schools,” must demonstrate rapid and sustainable improvement within three years or they will be placed in the Level 5 category. Schools in the Level 5 category are placed in receivership. The Commissioner of education creates a turnaround plan for the school and may have the current superintendent implement the plan or select a new leader, called a receiver, to operate the school and implement the turnaround plan.

Worcester had three elementary schools in the level 4 category: Union Hill, Chandler Elementary, and Burncoat Street. This year, Union Hill exceeded its target goals and was taken off the Level 4 list. Chandler Elementary made progress but still has to meet some goals before the State takes it off the list.¹³ The table below lists all Worcester schools and how they are ranked using the Massachusetts Framework for District Accountability and Assistance.

Table 14: WPS Accountability and Assistance Levels¹⁷

School	School Type	Accountability and Assistance Level
Belmont Street Community	Elementary School	Level 1
Wawecus Road School	Elementary School	Level 2
Woodland Academy	Elementary School	Level 3
Burncoat Street	Elementary School	Level 4
Canterbury	Elementary School	Level 3
Chandler Elementary Community	Elementary School	Level 4
Chandler Magnet	Elementary School	Level 3
City View	Elementary School	Level 3
Clark St Community	Elementary School	Level 2
Columbus Park	Elementary School	Level 1
Flagg Street	Elementary School	Level 1
Elm Park Community	Elementary School	Level 3
Goddard School/Science Technical	Elementary School	Level 3
Gates Lane	Elementary School	Level 1
Grafton Street	Elementary School	Level 3
Heard Street	Elementary School	Level 2
Jacob Hiatt Magnet	Elementary School	Level 2
Lake View	Elementary School	Level 1
Lincoln Street	Elementary School	Level 3
May Street	Elementary School	Level 2
Francis J McGrath Elementary	Elementary School	Level 3
Midland Street	Elementary School	Level 2
Nelson Place	Elementary School	Level 2
Norrback Avenue	Elementary School	Level 3
Quinsigamond	Elementary School	Level 3
Rice Square	Elementary School	Level 3
Roosevelt	Elementary School	Level 3
Worcester Arts Magnet School	Elementary School	Level 1
Tatnuck	Elementary School	Level 3
Thorndyke Road	Elementary School	Level 2
Union Hill School	Elementary School	Level 3*
West Tatnuck	Elementary School	Level 1
Vernon Hill School	Elementary School	Level 3
Burncoat Middle School	Middle School	Level 3
Forest Grove Middle	Middle School	Level 2
Worcester East Middle	Middle School	Level 3
Sullivan Middle	Middle School	Level 3
Burncoat Senior High	High School	Level 3
Doherty Memorial High	High School	Level 3
North High	High School	Level 3
South High Community	High School	Level 3
Worcester Technical High	High School	Level 1
Head Start	Early Elementary School	Insufficient data
University Park Campus School	Middle-High School or K-12	Level 2
Claremont Academy	Middle-High School or K-12	Level 3

Worcester's Charter Schools

Worcester's three charter schools enrolled 2,259 students in 2012-2013 an increase of 7.6% from FY10. This increase in enrollment can partially be attributed to the opening of Spirit of Knowledge Charter School in the fall of 2010. Although the Spirit of Knowledge Charter School was closed this fall due to financial difficulties, the present report includes some data for this school.

Payments made by the State to charter schools enrolling students whose home district is the WPS increased by more than 13% between FY10 and FY13. The WPS district is initially reimbursed by the State for students attending charter schools instead of district schools. The State formula fully reimburses the WPS for the first-year tuition of a Worcester student enrolling in a charter school and then pays WPS 25% of the per-pupil tuition for the next five years.

The average teacher salary for SHPCS is \$50,223.09: 50 FTE teaching positions divided by the total of teacher salaries \$2,511,154.63. The average teacher salary for AKFPCS is \$55,407: 122 FTE teaching positions divided by the total teacher salaries of \$6,759,722.

Charter Schools	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	% Change FY10-FY13
AKFCS Enrollment	1,426	1,426	1,426	1,426	0
Seven Hills Enrollment	673	664	664	660	-1.9
Spirit of Knowledge Enrollment, Oct 1*	N/A	135	158	173	N/A
Total Charter Enrollment (Worcester), Oct 1	2,099	2,225	2,248	2,259	7.6
Teachers					
AKFCS	101	111	111	116	4.5
Seven Hills	41	48	50	51	2.4
Spirit of Knowledge	N/A	9	14	14	N/A
Charter School Payments (Actual)	23,660,337	25,083,545	26,297,661	24,902,997	13.16%
Charter School Payments (Inflation Adjusted)	25,316,560	26,086,886	26,823,614	24,902,997	5.76%

Source: DESE website

*Spirit of Knowledge Charter School opened for the first time in fall 2010. The school closed on October, 2013.

As Table 16 indicates, the three charter schools are racially and ethnically diverse. Half of the students enrolled at the Seven Hills Public Charter School (SHPCS) in 2012-13 were Hispanic, 37% were African-American, and 8.5% were White. At Abby Kelley Foster Charter School (AKFPCS), the student body was 45.6% African-American, 26% Hispanic, and 30% White. At the Spirit of Knowledge Charter School 36.4% were African-American, 39.9 were Hispanic, and 17.9 were White.

Race	AKFPCS	SHPCS	Spirit of Knowledge Charter School	State
African American	35.6	37.1	36.4	8.6
Asian	4.6	1.4	2.9	5.9
Hispanic	25.8	48.9	39.9	16.4
Native American	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.2
White	30.2	8.5	17.9	66
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0.1	0	0	0.1
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	3.6	3.6	2.3	2.7

Table 17 shows that Worcester’s charter schools enroll a large number of high needs students.

	AKFPCS	Seven Hills Charter School	Spirit of Knowledge Charter School	State
First Language not English	3	32.7	10.4	17.3
English-Language Learner	3	23.5	0	7.7
Low-income	62.9	78.3	76.3	37
Students With Disabilities	11.4	10	17.3	17
Free Lunch	50.1	66.4	68.8	32.1
Reduced Lunch	12.8	12	7.5	4.9
High Needs	68.1	85.8	82.7	47.9

Attendance

For the 2011-2012 school year, all three charter schools had attendance rates better or equal to the State and all three charter schools had a lower number of days absent than the State. AKFPCS had a lower in-school suspension than the State but all three charter schools had a higher out-of-school suspension rate than the State.

	AKFPCS	SHPCS	Spirit of Knowledge
Grade 9-12 Drop-out Rate	0.3	n/a	6.8
Attendance Rate	97.3	96.5	94.9
Average # of days absent	4.9	6.4	8.3
In-School Suspension Rate	0.3	10.1	20.3
Out-of-School Suspension Rate	7.7	8.5	22.8
Retention Rate	0.7	1.7	1.9
Unexcused Absences > 9	13.5	23.7	20.5

	AKFPCS	SHPCS	Spirit of Knowledge	State
Attendance Rate	97.3	96.5	94.9	94.9
Average # of days absent	4.9	6.4	8.3	8.7
In-School Suspension Rate	0.3	10.1	20.3	3.4
Out-of-school Suspension Rate	7.7	8.5	22.8	5.4
Unexcused Absences Greater Than 9	13.5	23.7	20.5	5

Of the three charter schools, AKFPCS had the lowest churn rate and the highest stability rate. The Spirit of Knowledge Charter School had the highest churn rate and the lowest stability rate.

	AKFPCS	SHPCS	Spirit of Knowledge
Churn/Intake Enroll	1442	709	176
% Churn	5	16.4	27.3
% Intake	3.7	9.4	14.2
Stability Enroll	1426	695	169
% Stability	96.1	85.3	75.7

Dropout and Graduation Rates

The Abby Kelley Foster Regional Charter School is the only charter school in the City with students in grades 9-12. In 2012, AKFCS drop-out rate was .3%, lower than the State rate of 2.5%. AKFCS four-year graduation rate for students who entered the school in the fall of 2008 was 93.5%, higher than the state four-year graduation rate of 84.7%.

MCAS

Tables 19 and 20 compare the City's two running charter schools' proficiency MCAS rate with the State's rate. The Seven Hills Charter School which only enrolls students in grades K-8, scored lower than the State for the past five years in grades 4 and 8. AKFCS, which enrolls students in grades K-12, scored higher than the State in some years and lower than the State in other years.

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	Seven Hills	State	Seven Hills	State	Seven Hills	State	Seven Hills	State	Seven Hills	State
Grade 4										
Math	14	48	15	48	17	47	38	51	39	52
English	19	53	13	54	12	53	44	57	41	53
Grade 8										
Math	37	48	29	51	18	52	23	52	28	55
English	75	78	73	78	46	79	76	81	48	78

	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	AKFPCS	State	AKFPCS	State	AKFPCS	State	AKFPCS	State	AKFPCS	State
Grade 4										
Math	38	48	42	48	37	47	24	51	39	52
English	40	53	47	54	37	53	41	57	44	53
Grade 8										
Math	47	48	48	51	50	52	33	52	50	55
English	80	78	86	78	88	79	83	81	84	78
Grade 10										
Math	70	75	72	75	77	77	86	78	88	80
English	89	81	74	78	85	84	98	88	100	91

School Ranking

Under the Massachusetts Framework for District Accountability and Assistance, the AKFPCS district, which is comprised of an elementary, middle and high school, is a level one district.

The Seven Hills Charter School District, which is a K-8 school, is also ranked a Level 1 school. In February 2011, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education renewed the charter of Seven Hills Charter School with probationary conditions that included improvements in academic performance, school leadership and school board oversight. In 2011 and 2012, the school met the measures in its accountability plan.

Endnotes

¹ Examples of these programs are the Goddard Scholars Program at Sullivan Middle School, the Engineering and Technology Academy at Doherty High School, the Jacob Hiatt Magnet School and the Worcester Arts Magnet School.

² Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/state_report/teachersalaries.aspx?mode=&orderBy=ORG_NAME

³ The Wachusett Regional School District consists of 10 elementary schools located in the district's member towns, one district-wide middle school, and one district-wide high school serving the five member towns: Holden, Rutland, Princeton, Sterling, and Paxton.

⁴ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=03480000&orgtypecode=5&leftNavId=305&>.

⁵ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=03480000&orgtypecode=5&leftNavId=300&>.

⁶ Linda Bock, "Worcester schools aim to reduce chronic absenteeism," *Telegram and Gazette*, August 28, 2013, <http://www.telegram.com/article/20130827/NEWS/308279613/116>.

⁷ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=03480000&orgtypecode=5&leftNavId=303&>.

⁸ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/mobility/default.aspx?orgcode=03480000&fycode=2012&orgtypecode=5&>.

⁹ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual school pages, <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.

¹⁰ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual school pages, <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.

¹¹ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/grad/grad_report.aspx?orgcode=03480000&orgtypecode=5&

¹² Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual school district pages, <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.

¹³ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/mcas/achievement_level.aspx?linkid=32&orgcode=03480000&orgtypecode=5&

¹⁴ The Progress and Performance Index (PPI), replaced Average Yearly Progress as the measurement for school performance. The PPI measures how schools are meeting their stated goals in increasing student growth, lowering drop-out rates and raising performance of students in high risk sub-groups such as low-income and English language learners.

¹⁵ Jaqueline Reis, "Union Hill School off underperforming list; Chandler improves, but remains on list", September 19, 2013, <http://www.telegram.com/article/20130919/NEWS/309199883/1116>

¹⁶ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual school pages, <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.

¹⁷ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/accountability/report/district.aspx?orgtypecode=5&linkid=30&fycode=2013&orgcode=03480000>

¹⁸ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual school pages, <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.

¹⁹ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual school pages, <http://www.doe.mass.edu>.

²⁰ Massachusetts Department of elementary and Secondary Education: http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/mcas/achievement_level.aspx?linkid=32&orgcode=04860000&orgtypecode=5&

²¹ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual school pages, <http://www.doe.mass.edu>

²² Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, individual school pages, <http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

²³ Massachusetts Department of elementary and Secondary Education: http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/mcas/achievement_level.aspx?linkid=32&orgcode=04860000&orgtypecode=5&

²⁴ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/mcas/achievement_level.aspx?linkid=32&orgcode=04450000&orgtypecode=5&

Appendix: A sample of colleges where Worcester Public and Charter school seniors were accepted and where they matriculated in 2013

Doherty Memorial High School - Class of 2013		
<u>Where Our Students Were Accepted & Where They're Attending</u>		
	Goucher College	
Adventist U. of Health Sciences	Hamilton College	Southern Adventist University
Alfred University	Hofstra University	Southern Connecticut State University
AMDA College of the Performing Arts	Houston Baptist University	Southern New Hampshire University
American International College	Husson College	Springfield College
Anna Maria College	Iona College	St. Anselm College
Assumption College	Johnson & Wales University	St. John's University
Atlanta Sports Academy	Keene State College	St. Mary's College
Babson University	Kennesaw State College	Stevens Institute of Technology
Bard College	Lasalle University	Stonehill College
Bay Path College	Lasell College	Suffolk University
Bay State College	Lesley College	Syracuse University
Beacon College	Livingstone College	Temple University
Becker College	Long Island University	Texas Southern University
Bennington College	Loyola University Maryland	Towson University
Bentley University	MA College of Liberal Arts	Tufts University
Bloomberg University	MA College of Pharmacy	UCLA
Boston College	Macomb C.C.	UMass Amherst
Boston University	Manhattan College	UMass Boston
Brandeis University	MASS Bay Community College	UMass Dartmouth
Bridgewater State University	Mass Maritime Academy	UMass Lowell
Brigham Young University	Merrimack College	Union College
Bryant University	Milford Academy	United States Navy
Bryn Mawr College	Mt. Ida College	University of Bridgeport
Bucknell University	Mt. Wachusett C.C.	University of Connecticut
Bunker Hill C.C.	New England College	University of Delaware
California State University	New England Institute of Technology	University of Florida
Capital University	Newbury College	University of Hartford
Carroll University	Nichols College	University of Maine
Catholic University	North Carolina State University	University of New England
Champlain College	Northeastern University	University of New Hampshire
Clark University	Northern Arizona University	University of Notre Dame
College of St. Rose	Norwich University	University of Pennsylvania
College of the Holy Cross	Pace University	University of Rhode Island
College of William & Mary	Plymouth State University	University of San Diego
Connecticut College	Porter & Chester Institute	University of South Florida
Curry College	Pratt Institute	U. Southern California
Daniel Webster College	Providence College	University of Southern Maine
Davis & Elkins College	Quinnipiac University	University of Tampa
Dean College	Quinsigamond C.C.	University of Vermont
Drexel University	Regis College	University of Wisconsin
East Stroudsburg University	Rhode Island College	Utah State University
Elms College	Rob Roy Academy	Vassar College
Emerson College	Rochester Institute of Technology	Viginia State University
Emmanuel College	Roger Williams University	Villanova University
Endicott College	Rutgers University	Washington Adventist University
Fairfield University	Saint Augustine 's University	Washington College
Ferris State University	Salem State University	Wentworth Instititue of Technology
Fisher College	Salve Regina University	Wesleyan University
Fitchburg State University	San Diego State University	West Virginia University
Florida Institute of Technology	Santa Monica C.C.	Western Connecticut State University
Florida Southern College	Seton Hall University	Western New England University
Fordham University	Shaw University	Westfield State University
Framingham State U	Siena College	Wheelock College
Franklin Pierce University	Simmons College	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
George Mason University	Sinclair C.C.	Worcester State University
George Washington University	Smith College	Wright State University

North High College Acceptances 2013	
American International College	Nichols College
Amherst College	Northern Kentucky University
Anna Maria College	Norwich University
Assumption College	Providence College
Bay State College	Quinsigamond Community College
Becker College	Regis College
Bergen Community College N.J.	Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute
Bridgewater State University	Rhode Island College
Bunkerhill Community College	Salem State University
California State/Northridge	Salter College
Clark University	Simmons College
College of the Holy Cross	Smith College
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Suffolk University
Emmanuel College	Universal Technical Institute
Fitchburg State University	University of Harford
Framingham State University	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Ithaca College	University of Massachusetts Boston
ITT TECH	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Ivy Tech, Indiana	University of Massachusetts Lowell
Lincoln Tech	University of New Hampshire
Mass Bay Community College	University of New Haven
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	University of Rhode Island
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Western Virginia University
Mount Wachusett Community College	Western New England College
New England College	Westfield State University
New Mexico State	Wheelock College
New York Institute of Tech	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Newbury College	Worcester State University

Source: North High School Guidance Office

Worcester by the Numbers: Public and Charter Schools

Colleges where AKFPCS 2013 Seniors Matriculated	
Assumption College	New England Institute of Technology
Borough of Manhattan Community College of the CUNY	New York University
Boston University	Newbury College
Brandeis University	Nichols College
Bridgewater State University	Quinsigamond Community College
Brown University	Rhode Island College
Clark University	Southern Adventist university
College of the Holy Cross	Southern Connecticut State University
Fitchburg State University	Southern New Hampshire University
Framingham State University	Suffolk University
Gordon College	Syracuse University
Gwinnett Technical Institute	The New England Institute of Art
Johnson and Wales (Providence)	University of Hartford
Keene State	University of Hawaii at Hilo
Kingsborough Community College of CUNY	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Lasell College	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
Lesley University	University of Massachusetts Lowell
LIU Brooklyn	University of New Hampshire
Massachusetts College of Art and Design	Wentworth Institute of Technology
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Westfield State University
Mitchell College	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Montserrat College of Art	Worcester State University
Mount Wachusett Community College	

Source: AKFPCS Guidance Office

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The Research Bureau

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