

Black Students Are Least Likely to Attend In-Boundary DCPS Schools in Most Wards

Approximately half of white and Asian students attend their in-boundary DCPS school compared to 21% of Black students. Public charter enrollment increased for most racial/ethnic categories, except for Hispanic students.

In Washington, DC, kindergarten through 12th grade students can enroll by right in their DCPS in-boundary school or their DCPS feeder school, or participate in the My School DC Common Lottery to gain access to another public school. This includes DCPS schools located in another boundary (“out of boundary”), DCPS citywide or non-boundary schools, DCPS application high schools, or a public charter school. Students first access noncompulsory PK3 or PK4 grades via the lottery for both DCPS and charter schools; these students can exercise an in-boundary preference to their DCPS school when applicable.

55% of PK-12th grade students enrolled in a DCPS school in SY20-21 and 45% enrolled in a public charter school. 29% enrolled at their in-boundary DCPS school (including PK) and 27% enrolled out of boundary or at a citywide DCPS school.

In this Edsight, we analyze PK-12th grade enrollment by race/ethnicity using three enrollment categories: those who are enrolled as an in boundary student (including PK in-boundary preferences), those who enrolled out of boundary or at citywide DCPS schools, and those who enrolled in public charter schools.

Enrollment Type by Race/Ethnicity

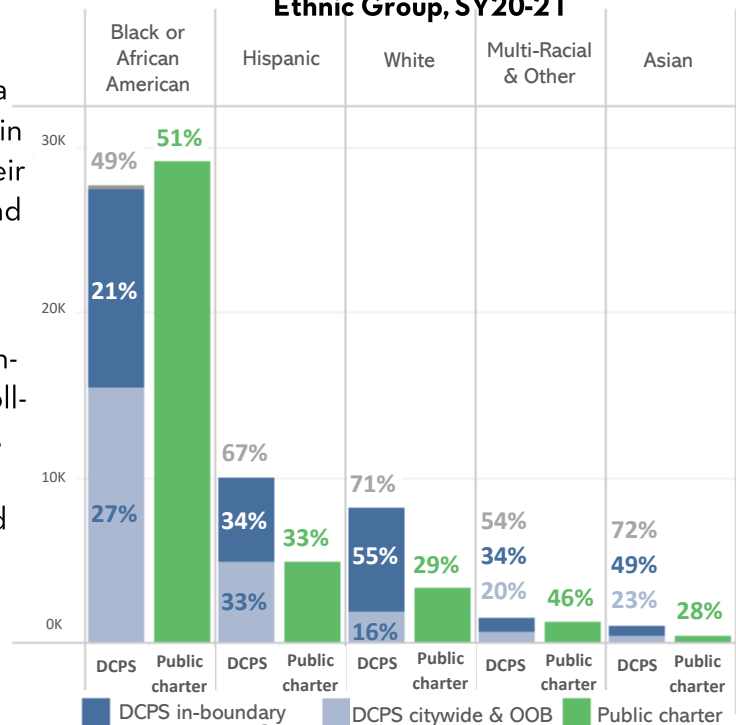
Looking at students’ enrollment type by racial/ethnic categories for SY20-21, a greater

share of Black students enrolled in a public charter school than other enrollment categories: 51% of all Black students (~29,000 students). This compares to 33% of Hispanic/Latino students (4,876), 29% of white students (3,296), and 28% of Asian students who did the same.

Conversely, 55% of white and 49% of Asian students enrolled at their DCPS in-boundary school, larger shares compared to the other racial/ethnic categories. About one-third (34%) of Hispanic/Latino stu-

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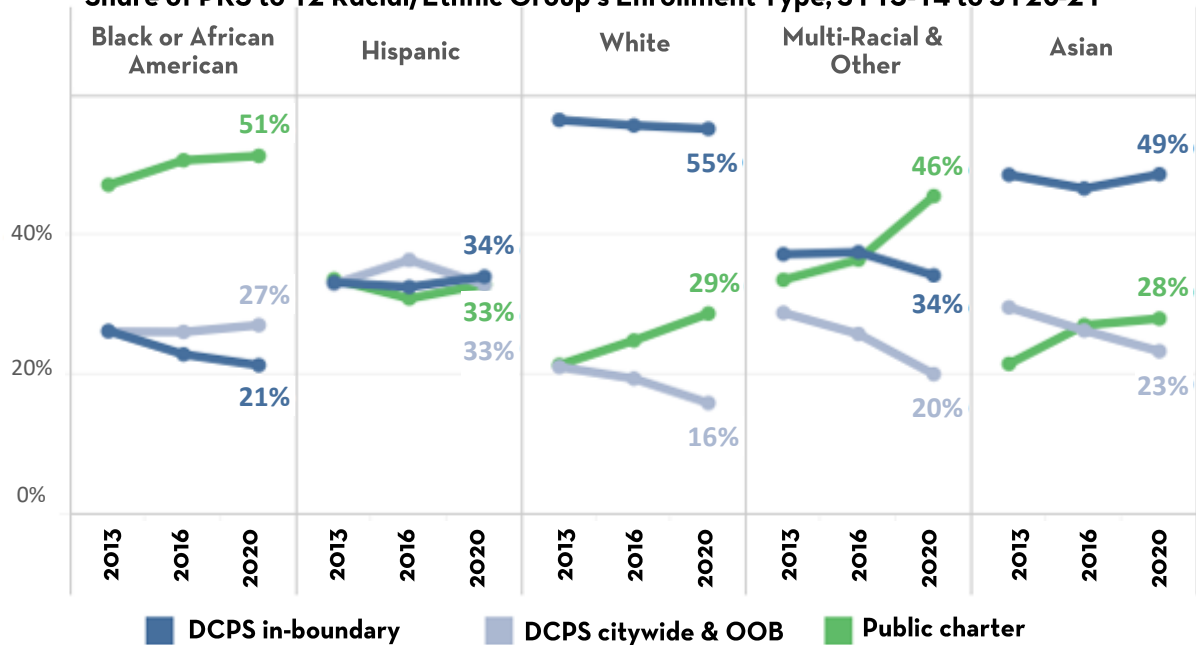
PK3-12 Enrollment Type by Racial/Ethnic Group, SY20-21



Source: OSSE Audited Enrollment, SY20-21

Notes: Subcategory percentages may not equal the total percentage due to non geocoded students. Out of boundary (OOB) students include those exercising their school feeder right after attending the terminal grade of the preceding elementary or middle school through the lottery.

Share of PK3 to 12 Racial/Ethnic Group's Enrollment Type, SY13-14 to SY20-21



Source: OSSE Audited Enrollment, SY13-14 and SY20-21. Note: race/ethnicity categories are displayed from largest to smallest absolute number.

dents enrolled in their specific by-right in-boundary DCPS school. Fewer than a quarter (21%) of Black students attended their in-boundary school, although Black students still represent in absolute number twice as many in-boundary students as any other racial group.

Hispanic/Latino students enroll in DCPS out of boundary and at DCPS citywide schools at almost the same share as their in-boundary Hispanic peers (33% or 4,866). Black students have the next highest share of students enrolling at a citywide DCPS school or out of boundary (27% or 15,377). Nearly a quarter of Asian students enroll at a DCPS citywide school or out of boundary (23%). White students have the lowest share of students enrolling at a DCPS citywide school or out of boundary (16%).

In-Boundary Enrollment by Ward

DCPS in-boundary enrollment ranges from a low of 16% in Ward 5 to 84% in Ward 3. This pattern holds true by race/ethnicity as well: shares of Black in-boundary students

ranged from a low of 17% in Ward 5 to a high of 72% in Ward 3. In Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, Black students had the lowest in-boundary shares compared to their peers. In Wards 5, 7, and 8, Black students had the highest shares of in-boundary enrollment but they were far below the city average at 17%, 18%, and 19%, respectively.

Enrollment Type Changes Over Time

The enrollment types of all groups except Hispanic/Latino have changed since SY13-14. Black student enrollment in public charter schools increased by four percentage points (+2,838 students) while DCPS in-boundary enrollment declined five percentage points. White students at public charter schools jumped from 21% to 29%, and the share accessing DCPS schools via the lottery dropped five percentage points.

For more on citywide enrollment by racial/ethnic category refer to the [Citywide Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity Edsight](#) as well as DME's [EdScape](#).

Feedback: Email Edsight.DME@dc.gov