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Christie's Charter Legacy: A Clear Record Of Growth

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In Case You Missed It

Christie's Charter Legacy: A Clear Record Of Growth

In the eight years the governor has headed up state government, charter school enrollment has more than doubled

John Mooney

NJ Spotlight

When Gov. Chris Christie leaves office in six months, one of his clear legacies will be the growth of charter schools in New Jersey, with school enrollment more than doubling in his eight years in office.

Yesterday, his administration finished the job, announcing the final approval of five more schools to open this fall. That brings to 89 the number of charters that will be open when Christie steps down in January.

That number isn't that big an increase from the 70 in place in 2010 at the start of Christie's tenure, a number that jumped to over 90 in his first year. But his administration ultimately closed nearly 20 charter schools as well.

Nevertheless, there will be close to 56,000 students enrolled in charters this fall, up from less than 25,000 when he took office.

"By expanding public school options for families, we are ensuring that more New Jersey children have access to the high-quality education they deserve," said Education Commissioner Kimberley Harrington in announcing the five new schools yesterday.

Technically, Christie's administration is not done just yet in terms of the application process going forward. It is currently reviewing more than a dozen applications from March for opening in 2018, and another round of fresh applications is due in October.

But even if all pass, those approvals will be preliminary until next summer, and any that get the go-ahead — or rejection — will be under the next administration's watch.

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[Full Article HERE.](#)

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2 new charter schools bring total to 19 in Newark

Karen Yi

Star-Ledger

Two new charter schools are coming to the city this fall -- boosting the number of independently-managed public schools in Newark to 19.

Achieve Community Charter School and LEAD Charter School will welcome their first class of students in September after winning final approval from the state to open their doors.

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Achieve Community Charter will eventually grow into a K-8 school, said Perpich. Perpich worked as a Newark public school teacher, an administrator at Brick Avon Academy and a chief academic officer for Brick Academy before deciding to start a charter school.

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"We firmly believe that schools are rooted in the community," Perpich said.

The state also gave final approval to College Achieve Greater Asbury Park Charter School, College Achieve Paterson Charter School and Ocean Academy Charter in Lakewood.

With five new charter schools, New Jersey will have a total of 89 such schools and more than 56,000 seats for students. In Newark, 19 charter schools will be open to students, the state said. Earlier this year, the state decided to close three charter schools in the city.

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