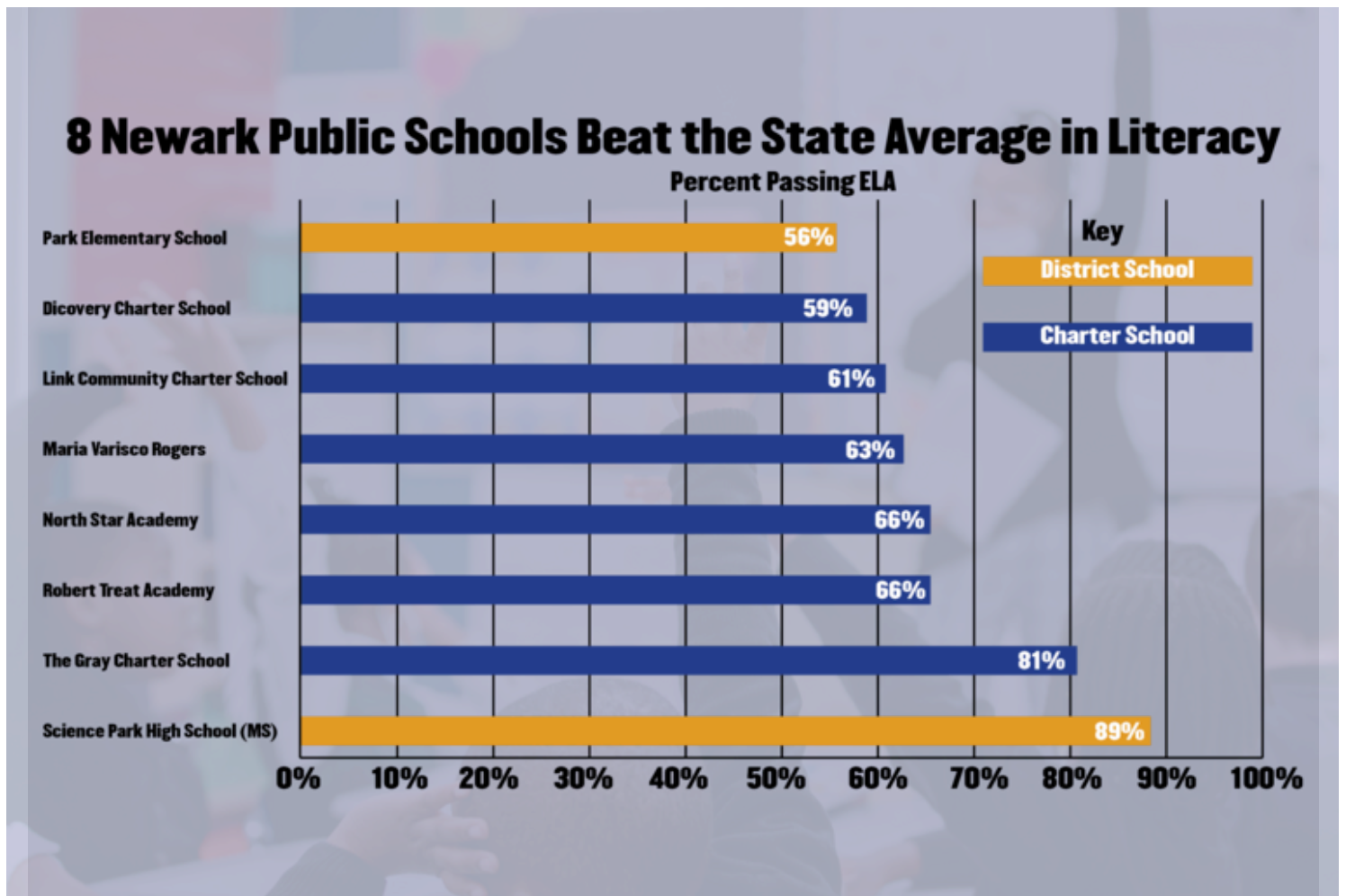


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## Education

# Eight Newark Schools Beat State Average on Literacy Test

Six Charters and Two District Schools Showed Strong Performance on NJSLA



## By TAPinto Newark

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Eight Newark public schools beat the state average in literacy in the most recent state exams, while five beat the state average in math – a significant feat given New Jersey ranks as one of the highest-performing states in the nation.

About 51% of all New Jersey students in grades three through eight last year passed the New Jersey Student Learning Assessments (NJSLA) in reading. In Newark two district schools and six charter schools beat that average.

Citywide, 39% of Newark students passed the literacy test.

Newark schools continue to lag in math with a 25% pass rate.

Park Elementary was particularly notable as the only non-magnet district school to beat the state average in literacy with 56% of its students passing the exam.

Newark's public charter schools, which are considered by many to be among the best in the country, again showed strong performance.

Students in Newark's public charter schools had a slightly higher pass rate on the literacy test than the overall state average, an impressive accomplishment, especially given that 80% of the students attending Newark charter schools qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

LINK Community Charter School in Newark outperformed the state in all grades in ELA and demonstrated strong growth that outpaced the rest of the state. Nearly 70% of LINK's students come from economically disadvantaged households.

"My children are receiving an education that will open doors for them long after they have left the classroom. I am overjoyed with the progress they are making and the immense challenges they are overcoming following the COVID pandemic," said Shirelle Bailey, a parent of two students currently attending LINK.

Among Newark's high schools, Marion P Thomas Charter School showed impressive improvement with a 17% point gain in students passing the literacy test, exceeding the overall city pass rate for high schools.

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