BelovED Community Charter School: A Proven Success

Students of ALL Ethnicities and Economic Backgrounds Do Better at BelovED

To measure the year-to-year learning gains of our younger students, we have historically administered *Terra Nova* assessments at the end of the school year. The *Terra Nova* is a nationally-normed assessment administered by schools throughout America.

A *Terra Nova* "Grade Mean Equivalent" (GME) score measures a student's mastery of academic learning objectives in comparison to their peers throughout the country. A Reading GME of 1.0 means that a student has mastered Reading skills to the level of the average American student just entering First Grade. A GME in Reading of 1.9 would mean that the student has mastered reading skills to the level of the average American student in the ninth month (typically May) of their First Grade year.

A school year is typically 10 months long. Thus, a GME gain of 1.0 over the course of a year in a particular subject would mean that a student made a learning gain in that subject area that is equal to the national average over the course of a ten-month school year.

In SY19, our kindergarten to grade three students made reading and math GME gains over the course of one school year that averaged 1.7 and 1.3.   This means they achieved learning gains that were 70% above the national average in Reading and 30% above the national average in Math in the course of the school year.

Beginning with Grade Three, the State of New Jersey has its public schools administer state learning assessments, called *NJSLA* assessments, to measure these older students' year-to-year learning gains and compare them to that of their peers throughout the state.

The New Jersey Department of Education calculates the "Median Student Growth Rate" of students at a school and compares it with the Median Student Growth Rate of students statewide, but as a whole and broken down into demographic sub-groups.

SY18-19 is the most recent year for which NJSLA assessment data is available. The following data highlights that in demographic subgroup after demographic subgroup, BelovED students made greater learning gains than their demographically similar peers statewide, as shown by the following State-calculated data for student growth in the area of English Language Arts/Reading skills.

ELA		
Sub-Group	BelovED Median Student Growth Rate in SY19	Statewide Median Student Growth Rate in SY19
African-American	50.5	45
Economically Disadvantaged	50	48
English Language Learners	54	52
Hispanic	61	49
Students With Disabilities	63	43

Charter public schools in New Jersey are NOT funded at the same level as traditional public schools. BelovED's per student funding level in SY18-19 was less than half that of the Jersey City Public Schools ("JCPS") district and only 75% of the statewide average level.   Meanwhile, BelovED serves a student population which mirrors that of the JCPS district in its demographic diversity – but is MORE economically disadvantaged than the JCPS district, and FAR MORE economically disadvantaged than New Jersey's statewide student population.

<p align="center">SY2018-19 Demographic Comparisons</p>

	BelovED Community Charter School	Jersey City Public Schools District	New Jersey Statewide
SY17-18 Budgeted Costs Per Pupil $[a]	$11,977	$26,028	$15,955
Total Enrollment	1,068	28,933	1,404,287
% White (Non-Hispanic)	16	14	42
% Black (Non-Hispanic)	29	27	15
% Hispanic	29	39	30
% Asian (Non-Hispanic)	23	18	10
% Other	5	2	3
% Economically Disadvantaged	66	54	37

[a] *Taxpayer's Guide to Education Spending;* New Jersey Department of Education. (SY18-19 data not yet available.)
[b] Special needs are only identified over time, so the *% Special Needs* in a school or district serving lower grade levels is typically below that in a school or district serving grade levels K-12.

While receiving but a fraction of the funding that traditional public schools receive, how well does BelovED do serving its students?

Historical statewide achievement gaps[1] associated with economic disadvantage would predict BelovED schoolwide and demographic sub-group performance levels being slightly below the level of the Jersey City Public Schools District, and far below the Statewide level for demographic sub-groups, since BelovED's overall student population, and every demographic subgroup of its students, includes a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students.

BUT, IN FACT, as shown in the tables that follow, BelovED's students outperform their Jersey City and statewide peers in almost all demographic sub-groups. *Moreover, if ethnic sub-groups of students are further divided by economic background, BelovED's students outperform their peers NOT IN ALMOST ALL, BUT RATHER IN EVERY SINGLE sub-group.* Economically disadvantaged Asian students do better at BelovED. Non-economically disadvantaged Asian students do better at BelovED. Economically as well as non-economically disadvantaged African-American students do better. Economically as well as non-

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[1] An achievement gap is the difference between the "All Groups" achievement level for a given population of students and any demographic subgroup achievement level which is lower.

economically disadvantaged Hispanic students do better. And economically as well as non-economically disadvantaged White students do better.

Students of <u>ALL</u> ethnicities and economic backgrounds do better at BelovED.

SY2018-19 % of Students Demonstrating Proficiency in English Language Arts

	BCCS	JCPS	STATE
All Groups	62.1	49.7	57.9
White	63.4	55.9	66.9
Hispanic	55.8	46.4	43.9
Af-Am	53.2	34.3	38.5
Asian	82.6	77.0	82.9
Females	66.4	55.2	64.8
Males	57.6	44.5	51.3
Ec Disadvantaged	55.4	45.3	40.0
Non-Ec Disadvantaged	78.0	56.3	67.9

SY2018-19 % of Students Demonstrating Academic Proficiency in Math

	BCCS	JCPS	STATE
All Groups	43.7	34.1	44.5
White	58.1	45.2	54.1
Hispanic	35.0	28.5	28.8
Af-Am	27.3	17.8	23.0
Asian	70.8	64.9	76.5
Females	41.2	35.7	44.9
Males	46.3	32.7	44.2
Ec Disadvantaged	36.4	29.3	26.3
Non-Ec Disadvantaged	61.3	39.8	54.9

BEST OF ALL, BelovED's schoolwide and demographic sub-group performance levels on NJSLA assessments have been rising year, after year, after year.

The Percentage of BelovED Scholars
Demonstrating Proficiency on State Assessments

SY	ELA	Math
2015-16	49.0	36.0
2016-17	55.8	41.1
2017-18	58.7	41.8
2018-19	62.1	43.7

BelovED provides ALL of its students a superior education, and does so in spite of receiving less funding than traditional public schools. Meanwhile, we are continually working to FURTHER accelerate scholar learning and BETTER meet the needs of scholars from every background.

If you want to enroll your child in a free public school that is open to all and seeks to serve all, you can't do better than BelovED.