

**REPORT ON CHARTER SCHOOL WAITLISTS**

***July 2013***

Commonwealth charter schools are open to all residents of Massachusetts, with preference given to siblings of current students and residents of the district where the school is located or, for a regional charter school, students who reside in any of the districts in the school’s region. If the number of students applying to a school exceeds the number of spaces available, the school must select students by lottery. Students who have applied but are not admitted through a lottery are placed on a waitlist maintained by the school. If additional spaces for admission occur prior to or during the school year, either because an admitted student chooses not to attend or because a student leaves the school, students are admitted from the waitlist. Students who apply for admission after the initial lottery are added to the end of the waitlist, with their position determined using supplemental lotteries. Each spring, every charter school reports to the Department the number of students admitted for the following school year and the number of students on the school’s waitlist.

Some students apply for admission to more than one charter school. Amendments to the charter school statute in 2010 included a new provision requiring charter schools to submit their waitlists to the Department. The Department would use the waitlists submitted by schools to create a consolidated list of students seeking admission to charter schools by city or town. See G.L. c.71, § 89(n) (as amended by St. 2010, c.12, § 7). Students appear only once on the consolidated waitlist.

The Department requested the submission of waitlist data in May 2013.[[1]](#endnote-1) Because waitlist data is generally maintained separately from schools’ student information management systems, the Department collected the data through the upload of spreadsheet files using a security portal. Seventy-two of the 81 Commonwealth charter schools submitted data.[[2]](#endnote-2) Of the nine schools that did not submit data, seven did not have a sufficient number of applicants to require a waitlist. The remaining two schools, Community Charter School of Cambridge and Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter School, were not able to provide the data in the format requested.[[3]](#endnote-3) Both schools have provided assurances that they will be able to report in the next reporting cycle.

The Department’s Education Data Services office conducted the matching process, using students’ names (first, middle, last), dates of birth, towns of residence, and grades. Partial matches were manually reviewed to identify obvious data entry errors, such as transposition of digits in dates of birth.[[4]](#endnote-4)

The 72 waitlists contained 52,583 entries, distributed by grade as shown in this table:



The matching process identified 40,376 students within the 52,583 entries. Of these 40,376 students 6,916 students (17%) appeared on more than one waitlist:



The appendix to this report contains the total and unduplicated numbers of students on waitlists for charter schools by city and town.

It is important to note that not every student on a charter school waitlist would accept an offer of admission if it were proffered. Some students may have been admitted to other schools that meet their needs, while others may be reluctant to switch schools after the beginning of the school year. This is particularly true for those charter schools that carry their waitlists from one year to the next, so that students can remain on the waitlist for several years.[[5]](#endnote-5) It is impossible to quantify this factor without making speculative and arbitrary assumptions, which we have chosen not to do.[[6]](#endnote-6) As a result, the unduplicated waitlist counts should be taken as rough approximations of demand rather than exact numbers.

Our current plan is to update this report in the fall, after enrollment for the new school year has stabilized. We are exploring options for automating the collection of this information because the current collection process requires significant resources of both schools and the Department. We also recommend that the charter school statute be amended to change the reporting requirement from monthly to semiannually, as it does not appear that the extra value of monthly reports is commensurate with the extra effort required.

For further information regarding this report, please contact Robert Curtin, ESE Director of Education Data Services.

Published: July 30, 2013

Appendix

Consolidated Waitlists by City/Town

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| City/Town Name | City/Town Code | Total Number of Students Reported on Charter School Waitlist(s) | Number of Unique (Unduplicated) Students on Charter School Waitlist(s) |
| Boston | 035 | 26,390 | 16,864 |
| Springfield | 281 | 4,069 | 3,808 |
| Lawrence | 149 | 2,899 | 1,942 |
| Malden | 165 | 1,475 | 1,356 |
| Worcester | 348 | 962 | 910 |
| Brockton | 044 | 874 | 757 |
| Lynn | 163 | 753 | 677 |
| New Bedford | 201 | 674 | 662 |
| Everett | 093 | 609 | 544 |
| Chelsea | 057 | 553 | 395 |
| Medford | 176 | 487 | 430 |
| No Town Code | XXX | 485 | 484 |
| Randolph | 244 | 463 | 339 |
| Haverhill | 128 | 455 | 440 |
| Newburyport | 204 | 448 | 444 |
| Attleboro | 016 | 439 | 438 |
| Fall River | 095 | 412 | 389 |
| Holyoke | 137 | 391 | 386 |
| Lowell | 160 | 342 | 336 |
| Revere | 248 | 337 | 246 |
| Mansfield | 167 | 302 | 298 |
| Melrose | 178 | 301 | 295 |
| Plymouth | 239 | 294 | 290 |
| Salem | 258 | 272 | 252 |
| Franklin | 101 | 209 | 205 |
| North Attleborough | 212 | 207 | 201 |
| Barnstable | 020 | 205 | 204 |
| Marlborough | 170 | 194 | 185 |
| Norton | 218 | 183 | 183 |
| Cambridge | 049 | 181 | 156 |
| Northampton | 210 | 178 | 173 |
| Somerville | 274 | 178 | 164 |
| Stoughton | 285 | 167 | 157 |
| Stoneham | 284 | 162 | 150 |
| Foxborough | 099 | 161 | 161 |
| Weymouth | 336 | 154 | 126 |
| Amesbury | 007 | 152 | 152 |
| Norwood | 220 | 141 | 119 |
| Sandwich | 261 | 129 | 125 |
| Billerica | 031 | 122 | 121 |
| Saugus | 262 | 121 | 115 |
| Framingham | 100 | 117 | 107 |
| Quincy | 243 | 115 | 83 |
| Wakefield | 305 | 114 | 110 |
| Dracut | 079 | 110 | 108 |
| Chicopee | 061 | 105 | 101 |
| Methuen | 181 | 93 | 71 |
| Yarmouth | 351 | 92 | 92 |
| Shrewsbury | 271 | 89 | 87 |
| Chelmsford | 056 | 88 | 85 |
| Bourne | 036 | 85 | 82 |
| Winthrop | 346 | 80 | 50 |
| Newbury | 203 | 72 | 72 |
| Wareham | 310 | 71 | 69 |
| Walpole | 307 | 69 | 63 |
| Tewksbury | 295 | 68 | 67 |
| Falmouth | 096 | 66 | 66 |
| Tyngsborough | 301 | 66 | 65 |
| Amherst | 008 | 64 | 59 |
| Middleborough | 182 | 62 | 61 |
| Rockland | 251 | 62 | 59 |
| Canton | 050 | 60 | 47 |
| Kingston | 145 | 60 | 58 |
| Taunton | 293 | 59 | 59 |
| Bellingham | 025 | 57 | 51 |
| Marblehead | 168 | 57 | 55 |
| Easthampton | 086 | 55 | 51 |
| Grafton | 110 | 55 | 54 |
| Sharon | 266 | 55 | 54 |
| Littleton | 158 | 51 | 49 |
| Ashland | 014 | 49 | 45 |
| Carver | 052 | 49 | 48 |
| Pepperell | 232 | 48 | 41 |
| West Newbury | 329 | 48 | 47 |
| Brewster | 041 | 47 | 47 |
| Peabody | 229 | 47 | 43 |
| Waltham | 308 | 46 | 37 |
| South Hadley | 278 | 44 | 42 |
| Abington | 001 | 43 | 43 |
| Easton | 088 | 43 | 43 |
| West Tisbury | 334 | 43 | 42 |
| Dennis | 075 | 41 | 40 |
| Wrentham | 350 | 41 | 37 |
| Marshfield | 171 | 40 | 38 |
| Mashpee | 172 | 40 | 40 |
| Salisbury | 259 | 39 | 39 |
| Harwich | 126 | 37 | 37 |
| Milford | 185 | 37 | 31 |
| Westford | 326 | 37 | 36 |
| Scituate | 264 | 35 | 32 |
| Acton | 002 | 35 | 34 |
| Bridgewater | 042 | 34 | 34 |
| Groton | 115 | 34 | 31 |
| Swampscott | 291 | 34 | 34 |
| Braintree | 040 | 31 | 30 |
| Plainville | 238 | 31 | 31 |
| Avon | 018 | 30 | 30 |
| Dedham | 073 | 30 | 23 |
| Edgartown | 089 | 30 | 21 |
| Medway | 177 | 30 | 27 |
| Newton | 207 | 30 | 20 |
| West Springfield | 332 | 30 | 30 |
| Milton | 189 | 29 | 18 |
| Natick | 198 | 29 | 27 |
| Northborough | 213 | 29 | 27 |
| Woburn | 347 | 29 | 21 |
| Ayer | 019 | 28 | 28 |
| Chatham | 055 | 27 | 27 |
| Clinton | 064 | 27 | 27 |
| Norfolk | 208 | 27 | 27 |
| Upton | 303 | 26 | 22 |
| Belchertown | 024 | 25 | 25 |
| Bolton | 034 | 25 | 18 |
| Raynham | 245 | 25 | 18 |
| Tisbury | 296 | 25 | 25 |
| Williamsburg | 340 | 25 | 23 |
| Hudson | 141 | 24 | 24 |
| Watertown | 314 | 24 | 22 |
| Greenfield | 114 | 22 | 22 |
| Harvard | 125 | 22 | 22 |
| Holbrook | 133 | 22 | 22 |
| Hanover | 122 | 21 | 21 |
| Leominster | 153 | 21 | 21 |
| Orleans | 224 | 21 | 21 |
| West Boylston | 322 | 21 | 21 |
| Hopkinton | 139 | 20 | 18 |
| Hanson | 123 | 19 | 19 |
| Westborough | 321 | 19 | 19 |
| Hadley | 117 | 17 | 16 |
| Maynard | 174 | 17 | 16 |
| Oak Bluffs | 221 | 17 | 17 |
| Concord | 067 | 16 | 15 |
| Holden | 134 | 16 | 16 |
| Hull | 142 | 16 | 16 |
| Lexington | 155 | 16 | 14 |
| Nahant | 196 | 16 | 11 |
| North Andover | 211 | 16 | 13 |
| Pembroke | 231 | 16 | 16 |
| Groveland | 116 | 15 | 13 |
| Townsend | 299 | 15 | 15 |
| Eastham | 085 | 14 | 14 |
| Shirley | 270 | 14 | 14 |
| Arlington | 010 | 13 | 11 |
| Beverly | 030 | 13 | 12 |
| Holliston | 136 | 13 | 11 |
| Lancaster | 147 | 13 | 13 |
| Ludlow | 161 | 13 | 13 |
| Medfield | 175 | 13 | 13 |
| Montague | 192 | 13 | 10 |
| Boxborough | 037 | 12 | 12 |
| Lakeville | 146 | 12 | 12 |
| Merrimac | 180 | 12 | 12 |
| Norwell | 219 | 12 | 11 |
| Oxford | 226 | 12 | 12 |
| Webster | 316 | 12 | 11 |
| Whitman | 338 | 12 | 12 |
| Andover | 009 | 11 | 10 |
| Danvers | 071 | 11 | 11 |
| Hingham | 131 | 11 | 11 |
| Millis | 187 | 11 | 7 |
| Seekonk | 265 | 11 | 9 |
| Duxbury | 082 | 10 | 8 |
| Hatfield | 127 | 10 | 9 |
| Lunenburg | 162 | 10 | 9 |
| Needham | 199 | 10 | 8 |
| Southborough | 276 | 10 | 10 |
| Sterling | 282 | 10 | 10 |
| Wellfleet | 318 | 10 | 10 |
| Deerfield | 074 | 9 | 8 |
| East Longmeadow | 087 | 9 | 9 |
| Plympton | 240 | 9 | 9 |
| Shutesbury | 272 | 9 | 7 |
| Stow | 286 | 9 | 8 |
| West Bridgewater | 323 | 9 | 8 |
| Westport | 331 | 9 | 9 |
| Plainfield | 237 | 8 | 7 |
| Reading | 246 | 8 | 5 |
| Agawam | 005 | 8 | 8 |
| Burlington | 048 | 8 | 8 |
| Fitchburg | 097 | 8 | 7 |
| Georgetown | 105 | 8 | 8 |
| Northbridge | 214 | 8 | 7 |
| Brookline | 046 | 7 | 6 |
| Freetown | 102 | 7 | 7 |
| Halifax | 118 | 7 | 7 |
| Hubbardston | 140 | 7 | 7 |
| Mendon | 179 | 7 | 6 |
| Monson | 191 | 7 | 7 |
| Spencer | 280 | 7 | 7 |
| Westfield | 325 | 7 | 7 |
| Wilmington | 342 | 7 | 7 |
| Belmont | 026 | 6 | 5 |
| Dunstable | 081 | 6 | 5 |
| Gill | 106 | 6 | 6 |
| Granby | 111 | 6 | 6 |
| Leicester | 151 | 6 | 6 |
| Palmer | 227 | 6 | 6 |
| Princeton | 241 | 6 | 6 |
| Rowley | 254 | 6 | 5 |
| Southampton | 275 | 6 | 6 |
| Uxbridge | 304 | 6 | 5 |
| Worthington | 349 | 6 | 6 |
| Boylston | 039 | 5 | 5 |
| Buckland | 047 | 5 | 5 |
| Carlisle | 051 | 5 | 5 |
| Chilmark | 062 | 5 | 5 |
| Conway | 068 | 5 | 4 |
| Leverett | 154 | 5 | 4 |
| Shelburne | 268 | 5 | 4 |
| Somerset | 273 | 5 | 5 |
| Sudbury | 288 | 5 | 5 |
| Sunderland | 289 | 5 | 5 |
| Swansea | 292 | 5 | 5 |
| Wellesley | 317 | 5 | 4 |
| Out of State | 888 | 5 | 4 |
| Ashby | 012 | 4 | 4 |
| Auburn | 017 | 4 | 4 |
| Berlin | 028 | 4 | 4 |
| Chesterfield | 060 | 4 | 4 |
| Cummington | 069 | 4 | 3 |
| East Bridgewater | 083 | 4 | 4 |
| Fairhaven | 094 | 4 | 4 |
| Aquinnah | 104 | 4 | 4 |
| Gloucester | 107 | 4 | 4 |
| Goshen | 108 | 4 | 4 |
| Lincoln | 157 | 4 | 4 |
| Longmeadow | 159 | 4 | 4 |
| Marion | 169 | 4 | 4 |
| Millbury | 186 | 4 | 4 |
| Northfield | 216 | 4 | 4 |
| Rutland | 257 | 4 | 4 |
| Ware | 309 | 4 | 3 |
| Westhampton | 327 | 4 | 3 |
| Athol | 015 | 3 | 2 |
| Boxford | 038 | 3 | 3 |
| Charlemont | 053 | 3 | 3 |
| Cohasset | 065 | 3 | 3 |
| Hampden | 120 | 3 | 3 |
| Huntington | 143 | 3 | 3 |
| Lynnfield | 164 | 3 | 1 |
| Paxton | 228 | 3 | 3 |
| Sturbridge | 287 | 3 | 3 |
| Truro | 300 | 3 | 3 |
| Wilbraham | 339 | 3 | 3 |
| Ashburnham | 011 | 2 | 2 |
| Ashfield | 013 | 2 | 2 |
| Berkley | 027 | 2 | 2 |
| Blackstone | 032 | 2 | 2 |
| Douglas | 077 | 2 | 2 |
| Heath | 130 | 2 | 2 |
| Ipswich | 144 | 2 | 2 |
| Orange | 223 | 2 | 2 |
| Provincetown | 242 | 2 | 2 |
| Rehoboth | 247 | 2 | 2 |
| Rochester | 250 | 2 | 2 |
| Rockport | 252 | 2 | 2 |
| Southwick | 279 | 2 | 2 |
| Westwood | 335 | 2 | 2 |
| Whately | 337 | 2 | 2 |
| Winchester | 344 | 2 | 1 |
| Rowe | 253 | 1 | 1 |
| Royalston | 255 | 1 | 1 |
| Southbridge | 277 | 1 | 1 |
| Sutton | 290 | 1 | 1 |
| Templeton | 294 | 1 | 1 |
| Topsfield | 298 | 1 | 1 |
| Warren | 311 | 1 | 1 |
| Wayland | 315 | 1 | 1 |
| Windsor | 345 | 1 | 1 |
| Devens | 352 | 1 | 1 |
| Bernardston | 029 | 1 | 1 |
| Blandford | 033 | 1 | 1 |
| Colrain | 066 | 1 | 1 |
| Erving | 091 | 1 | 1 |
| Gardner | 103 | 1 | 1 |
| Hopedale | 138 | 1 | 1 |
| Nantucket | 197 | 1 | 1 |
| New Braintree | 202 | 1 | 1 |
| Oakham | 222 | 1 | 1 |
| Pelham | 230 | 1 | 1 |
| **Totals** | **NA** | **52,583** | **40,376** |

1. Amendments to the charter school statute in 2010 contained significant number of new administrative requirements relating to charter schools. Implementation of the various provisions was prioritized and phased in over a multi-year period.  
    [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. This includes new schools opening in September 2013.  
    [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Schools were not notified of the new reporting requirement until after they conducted their initial enrollment lotteries.  
    [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. It is likely that at least some matches were not identified due to less obvious transcription or data entry errors.  
    [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Charter schools have the option of using a waitlist for the current year only, in which case all students not admitted must reapply for the following year and go through another lottery, or carrying students on their waitlist from one year to the next.  
    [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. For example, parents may choose to keep their child on a waitlist even after securing a spot at another charter school. They may prefer one charter school over another due to a variety of factors including performance, mission, and geographic location. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)