

Executive Summary

On December 1, 2015, the Red Bank Charter School submitted a proposal for an amendment to its current charter. The proposal requests approval to double in size over a three year period starting with the 2016-2017 school year and culminating with the 2018-2019 academic year. The Red Bank Borough Board of Education strongly opposes the amendment request and the expansion beyond the current population of 200 students, and has adopted a formal resolution affirming our opposition. Moreover, the Red Bank Borough Board of Education is not only opposed to the amendment request as written, but also to any modified version that results in an expanded Charter School enrollment.

Under the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), the Red Bank Borough Public Schools have been significantly under-funded for several years. It is important to note, *that regardless of any change to our funding status*, we are resolute in our opposition to any expansion of the Red Bank Charter School.

The Red Bank Charter School was formed in 1997 on the basis of three tenets:

1. Students repeatedly performed poorly on state assessments.
2. Students were disengaged or “disenfranchised” from their community.
3. The schools were segregated, failing to reflect the diverse school age population of the children of Red Bank Borough.

While some of these statements may have been relevant in 1997, they do not reflect the current landscape of education in Red Bank. Unfortunately, the Red Bank Charter School has chosen to justify their existence, and this expansion, on an outdated storyline. The proposal is riddled with inaccuracies and unjustified comparisons. Furthermore, it demonstrates a complete disconnect with our community and the realities of the educational achievements in the Red Bank Borough Public Schools.

First, the Red Bank Charter School’s depiction of our students as “disengaged” and “disenfranchised” is completely inaccurate. Their failure to acknowledge our deep-rooted and wide variety of community partnerships is baffling. Recently, the Red Bank Charter School has back-pedaled on this claim in a presentation to a Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by the mayor of Red Bank Borough.

Second, in their application the Red Bank Charter School fails to acknowledge our very different populations when presenting standardized test scores. In addition, they completely disregard the element of student growth. Although the Red Bank Charter School outperforms Red Bank Borough Schools from a school-wide perspective, closer analyses demonstrate the following:

1. Red Bank Borough Schools have reduced the performance assessment gap by 55% in ELA and 37% in Mathematics from 2010-2014.
2. The performance assessment gap gets smaller each year students spend in the Red Bank Borough Schools. This can be attributed to our high number of ELLs whose performance improves as their language acquisition skills grow.
3. Red Bank Borough Schools out-perform the Red Bank Charter School in the disaggregated Economically Disadvantaged subgroup, with our Grade 3 students consistently exceeding their target goals.
4. The Red Bank Charter School proposal exhibits a decline in overall standardized assessment performance from 2010-2014.

Finally, the Red Bank Charter School application contends that our schools were and are segregated, while claiming responsibility for improving diversity in the schools of Red Bank. It is clear that the Charter School has contributed to the segregation of our schools and also fails to reflect the school age population of Red Bank.

Furthermore, as the demographics of Red Bank have changed, so have the demographics of the Red Bank Borough Schools; however, the demographics of the Red Bank Charter School have remained constant. Once again, this indicates a disconnect with our community as well as a failure to promote the diversity within their school reflective of our community. (see charts, page 3)

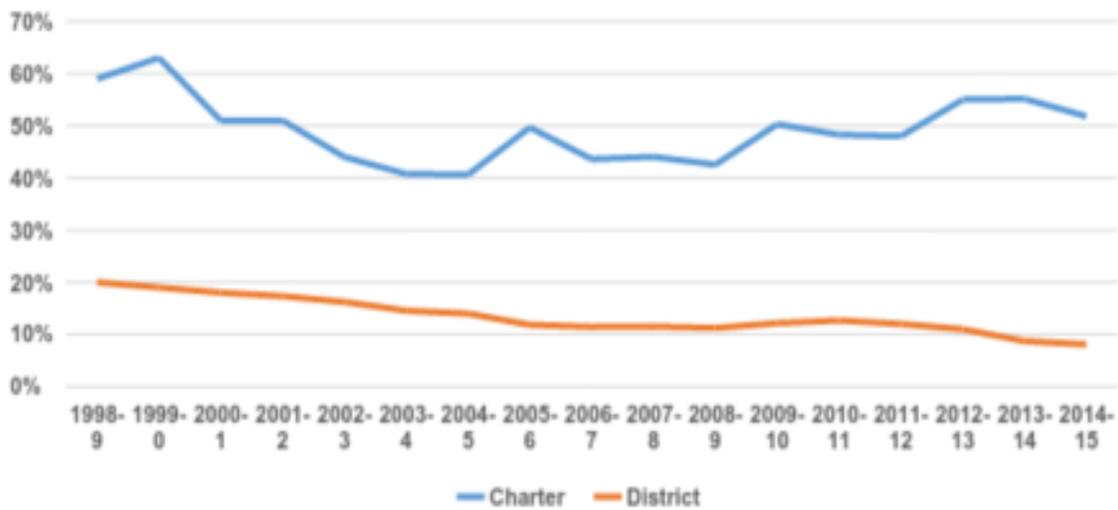
The Red Bank Charter School's application indicates they will implement a weighted lottery during the three-year expansion. If improving diversity was a priority, the Charter School would make a weighted lottery a permanent protocol. History shows that the Charter School has failed to appropriately market the application and lottery process throughout our community, and in particular within the Latino community of Red Bank. This represents one of many failures of the Red Bank Charter School to meet the provisions delineated in the 2007 Order of Consent.

The landscape of education in Red Bank is far from status quo as the Red Bank Charter School's application would lead you to believe. Due to the work of the Red Bank Borough Public Schools, our high-quality educators, and our resilient students, we are raising the bar for public education in Red Bank. We have more than 1,600 signatures from people who believe in us and oppose this expansion.

Formal Presentation and Supporting Documentation can be found at: <http://rbb.k12.nj.us/Page/893>

	Borough	Charter
Total Enrollment	1407	200
White	7%	52%
Hispanic	80%	34%
Black	10%	12%
Special Education*	11%	9%
Limited English Proficient (LEP)	44%	4%
Economically Disadvantaged (ED)	88%	40%

Percentage of White Students
Red Bank Charter vs. District



Percentage of Hispanic Students
Red Bank Charter vs. District

