

# PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS For Albany Parents

	GRADES SERVED 2004-05	DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL <i>(see next page for test results)</i>	ENROLLMENT CONTACT
<b>CHARTER SCHOOLS</b>			
<b>Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys</b>	<b>K-3</b>	The companion all-boys and all-girls Brighter Choice Charter Schools (BCCS) offer a 9-to-5 school day, an extended school year, separate classes for boys and girls, computers in every classroom, expert teachers for each academic subject, an extensive art and music program, a new state-of-the-art school building, and school uniforms.	Ms. Susan Morales <b>(518) 694-4102</b>
<b>Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls</b>	<b>K-3</b>		
<b>New Covenant Charter School</b> <small>School Report Card: <a href="http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100860005.html">www.emsc.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100860005.html</a></small>	<b>K-6</b>	New Covenant's curriculum emphasizes student mastery of fundamentals in reading and math in the primary grades. Instruction is tailored to each student's needs, and assessments are used regularly to track student progress. Instruction in Spanish is started in Kindergarten.	Main Office <b>(518) 463-3912</b>

## MAGNET SCHOOLS

<b>Albany School of the Humanities (ASH)</b> <small>School Report Card: <a href="http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010023.html">http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010023.html</a></small>	<b>PK-6</b>	ASH's curriculum emphasizes multicultural awareness and the school teaches Spanish. ASH has special-education programs that include self-contained and integrated classes. The school offers an after-school program, and has a partnership with the Albany Institute for History and Art.	Ms. Fran Chets <b>(518) 462-7226</b>
<b>Montessori Magnet School</b> <small>School Report Card: <a href="http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010014.html">http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010014.html</a></small>	<b>PK-6</b>	Montessori uses a progressive educational philosophy, including multiage classrooms instead of grade-level classrooms and "child-centered" learning. The school also offers instruction in French and an after-school program.	Main Office <b>(518) 462-7140</b>
<b>Philip Livingston Magnet Academy</b> <small>School Report Card: <a href="http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010031.html">http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010031.html</a></small>	<b>6-8</b>	Livingston offers specialized instruction in the arts and humanities, as well as science and technology, a tutoring program, and an after-school program. The school uses a block schedule for classes to extend learning time. <i>Due to its low student test scores, Livingston has been officially labeled a failing school.</i>	Guidance Office <b>(518) 462-7156</b>
<b>Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science &amp; Technology</b> <small>School Report Card: <a href="http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010028.html">http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010028.html</a></small>	<b>PK-6</b>	TOAST's curriculum emphasizes science and technology, and the school offers Latin language instruction, special education programs, an after-school program at the YMCA. The school also has a partnership with the NYS Museum.	Ms. Fran Chets <b>(518) 462-7226</b>

## OTHER PUBLIC SCHOOLS – DISTRICT'S OPEN ENROLLMENT POLICY

Open enrollment is a process through which parents can enroll their children in a school other than their neighborhood school. Open enrollment applies to non-magnet schools only. Every spring, the school district determines the schools and grade levels where space is anticipated for the following year. Spaces are filled through an open enrollment lottery. Siblings of students currently enrolled in a particular school are given preference and may be admitted without going through the lottery process, provided space is available. Acceptance into a school by lottery is determined by availability of space and maintenance or improvement of racial balance. Occasionally, students are placed due to extenuating circumstances, after careful review by the superintendent of schools.

To apply for open enrollment, parents must complete the open enrollment application and return it to the District's Office of Pupil Personnel Services by **June 1st**. For more information, interested parents should contact the District's Office of Pupil Personnel Services at **426-7210**.

[SOURCE: Albany City School District Website, [www.albanyschools.org/Information/openenrollment.htm](http://www.albanyschools.org/Information/openenrollment.htm)]

<b>Non-Failing Schools</b>	<b>Failing Schools</b>
<b>Albany High School (9-12)</b> <b>Arbor Hill Elementary School (PK-6)</b> <b>Giffen Memorial Elementary School (PK-6)</b> <b>Philip Schuyler Elementary School (PK-6)</b> <b>School 16 (K-6)</b> <b>School 18 (K-5)</b> <b>School 19 (K-6)</b>	<i>In addition to Philip Livingston Magnet Academy (above), the following non-magnet school has been labeled as failing due to low test scores:</i>  <b>William S. Hackett Middle School (6-8)</b> <small>School Report Card: <a href="http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010030.html">http://emsc32.nysed.gov/reprcdfall2003/schools/010100010030.html</a></small>
<b>School 20 (PK-6)</b> <b>School 26 (PK-6)</b> <b>School 27 (K-6)</b>	

Parents of children interested in transferring to schools outside of the Albany School District should contact:

**Brighter Choice Public School Choice Project  
(518) 694-5010**

# STUDENT PERFORMANCE AT ALBANY'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(2003-04 School Year)

## ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS

	GRADES SERVED 2004-05	% STUDENTS PASSING STANDARDIZED EXAMS (2003-04 School Year)	
		MATH	ENGLISH
<b>CHARTER SCHOOLS</b>			
Brighter Choice Charter School for Boys	K-3	In the first two years of operation, the percent of students passing more than doubled, increasing from the 23rd percentile to the <b>59th percentile</b> .*	In the first two years of operation, the percent of students passing nearly doubled, increasing from the 32nd percentile to the <b>57th percentile</b> .*
Brighter Choice Charter School for Girls	K-3		
New Covenant Charter School	K-6	<b>48%</b>	<b>29%</b>
Achievement Academy Charter School	Achievement Academy is not scheduled to open until the 2005-06 school year; thus, no standardized test scores currently exist for this school.		
Albany Preparatory Charter School	Albany Prep is not scheduled to open until the 2005-06 school year; thus, no standardized test scores currently exist for this school.		
KIPP Tech Valley Charter School	KIPP Tech Valley is not scheduled to open until the 2005-06 school year; thus, no standardized test scores currently exist for this school.		
<b>MAGNET SCHOOLS</b>			
Albany School for the Humanities (ASH)	PK-6	<b>84%</b>	<b>57%</b>
Montessori Magnet School	PK-6	<b>63%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<i>Philip Livingston Magnet Academy</i>	6-8	<b>34%</b>	<b>19%</b>
Thomas O'Brien Academy of Science & Technology (TOAST)	PK-6	<b>85%</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>OTHER PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>			
Arbor Hill Elementary School	PK-6	<b>73%</b>	<b>27%</b>
Giffen Memorial School	PK-6	<b>62%</b>	<b>33%</b>
Philip Schuyler Elementary School	PK-6	<b>54%</b>	<b>32%</b>
School 16	K-6	<b>81%</b>	<b>61%</b>
School 18	K-5	<b>75%</b>	<b>23%</b>
School 19	K-6	<b>69%</b>	<b>53%</b>
School 20	PK-6	<b>69%</b>	<b>43%</b>
School 27	K-6	<b>60%</b>	<b>52%</b>
<i>William S. Hackett Middle School</i>	6-8	<b>38%</b>	<b>30%</b>

NOTE: Italicized schools are designated by the State Education Department as failing schools (sometimes called "schools in need of improvement"). For percent passing NYS exams, elementary school results are based on 4th grade exams and middle school results are based on 8th grade exams.

\*The Brighter Choice Charter Schools are not scheduled to offer a 4th grade until the 2005-06 school year; thus, no state test scores current exist for these schools. Scores included are for the *TerraNova CTBS* assessment developed by CTB/McGraw-Hill.