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POVERTY MATTERS:

The Correlation of Poverty to Test Outcomes in
Buffalo, Amherst, and Cheektowaga Schools

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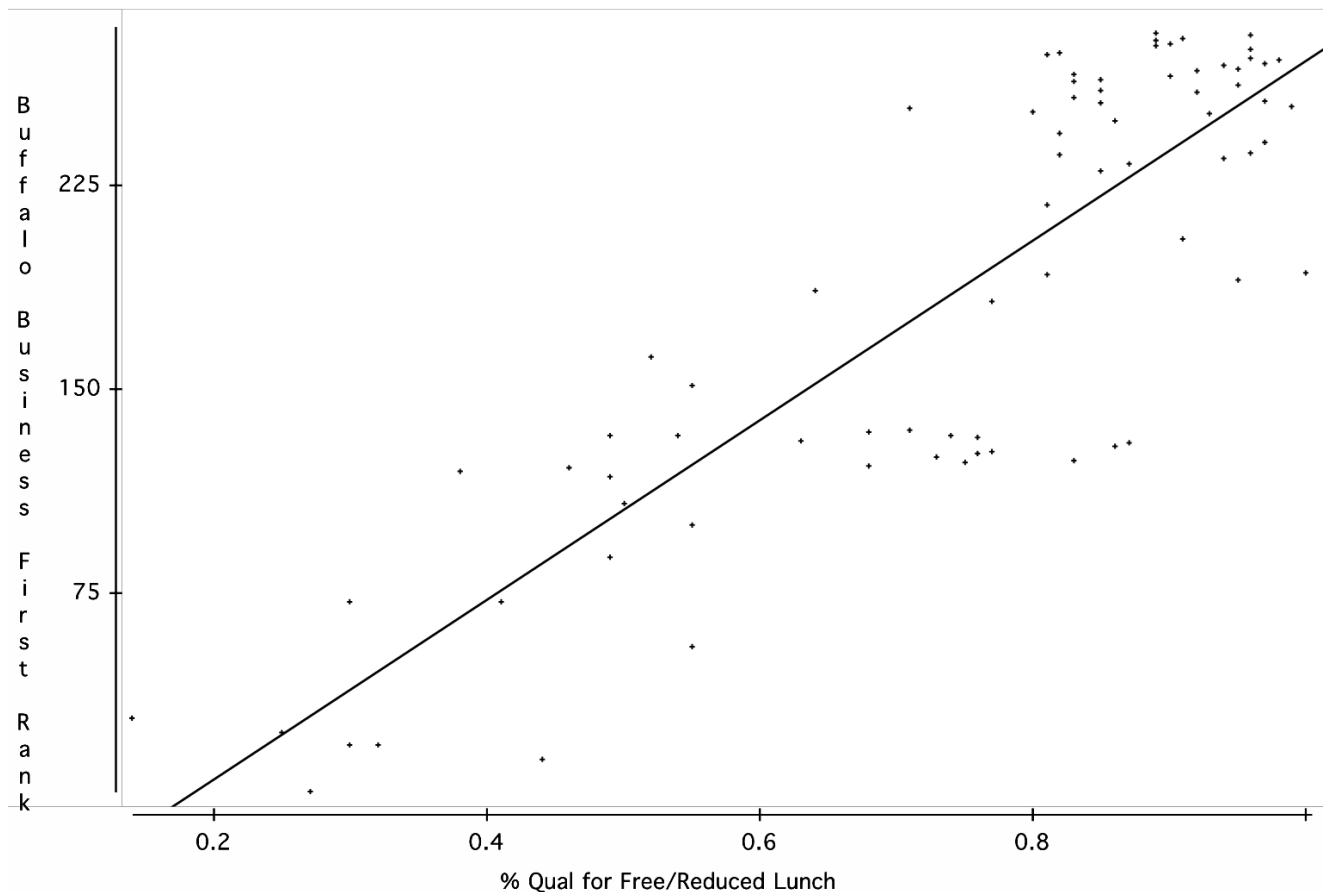
An Open Buffalo Report

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Correlation of Poverty to Test Outcomes in Buffalo, Amherst and Cheektowaga Schools



This graph compares the Buffalo Business First rankings¹ of each public school in Buffalo, Amherst, and Cheektowaga with the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch. As seen in the regression line, there is a clear relationship between school rank and poverty. The R^2 value for the regression is 73.9%, suggesting that almost three fourths of the variation in rank is accounted for by the regression and can be attributed to the percentage of students qualifying for free/reduced lunch – in short, poverty.

¹ Business First's rankings are based on 2009-2012 data on test scores and graduation rates from the New York State Education Dept. High schools are ranked based on graduation rates and Regents exam scores in ten subjects. Middle and elementary schools are ranked based on state English and math test results for seventh and eighth graders. For a full explanation, see www.bizjournals.com/buffalo/feature/schools/2013-wnyschools/2013/06/how-business-first-does-the-school.html. All data other than Business First rankings is drawn from New York State Department of Education 2011-2012 Report Cards for schools and districts, available at <https://reportcards.nysed.gov/>.

District Wide Statistics, NYS Report Cards 2011-2012

District	Amherst Central	Buffalo	Cheektowaga Central	Cheektowaga -Maryvale Union	Cheektowaga -Sloan Union
Average Attendance	96%	86%	94%	95%	94%
2007 Four-Year Graduation Rate-Total Cohort	91%	56%	82%	88%	75%
Percent of Students Suspended Annually	4%	18%	4%	4%	3%
Racial/Ethnic Composition	AA (16%) HS/L (2%) White (75%) Other (7%)	AA (53%) HS/L (16%) White (22%) Other (9%)	AA (32%) HS/L (4%) White (56%) Other (8%)	AA (8%) HS/L (2%) White (85%) Other (5%)	AA (4%) HS/L (1%) White (93%) Other (2%)
Percent of Students who receive Free/Reduced Lunch	Free: 20% Reduced: 8%	Free: 72% Reduced: 5%	Free: 44% Reduced: 13%	Free: 28% Reduced: 12%	Free: 36% Reduced: 15%

Ten Schools with the Highest Business First Rank Relative to Poverty Population

Buffalo Business First Ranking	School	Number of Students	Average Attendance	2007 Four-Year Grad. Rate— Total Cohort	Percent of Students Suspended Annually	Racial/Ethnic Composition	Percent of Students who Receive Free/Reduced Lunch
130	Int. Prep School at Grover Cleveland	495	84%	47%	18%	AA (53%) HS/L (22%) White (7%) Other (18%)	Free: 82% Reduced: 5%
129	Bennett High School	729	74%	39%	25%	AA (84%) HS/L (8%) White (5%) Other (3%)	Free: 82% Reduced: 4%
124	Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School	399	93%	87%	14%	AA (82%) HS/L (4%) White (12%) Other (2%)	Free: 71% Reduced: 12%
193	South Buffalo Charter School	671	93%	n/a	36%	AA (22%) HS/L (16%) White (60%) Other (2%)	Free: 84% Reduced: 16%
14	Elmwood Village Charter School	248	93%	n/a	2%	AA (21%) HS/L (19%) White (48%) Other (11%)	Free: 31% Reduced: 13%
127	Oracle Charter School	330	87%	63%	33%	AA (78%) HS/L (9%) White (10%) Other (3%)	Free: 61% Reduced: 16%

Ten Schools with the Highest Business First Rank Relative to Poverty Population, cont.

Buffalo Business First Ranking	School	Number of Students	Average Attendance	2007 Four-Year Grad. Rate—Total Cohort	Percent of Students Suspended Annually	Racial/Ethnic Composition	Percent of Students who Receive Free/Reduced Lunch
55	Frederick Olmsted #156	562	94%	n/a	15%	AA (56%) HS/L (9%) White (28%) Other (7%)	Free: 46% Reduced: 9%
126	Math Science Technology Prep. School at Seneca	408	88%	65%	35%	AA (81%) HS/L (7%) White (8%) Other (4%)	Free: 72% Reduced: 4%
123	Western New York Maritime Charter School	313	87%	78%	52%	AA (62%) HS/L (18%) White (16%) Other (4%)	Free: 61% Reduced: 14%
190	Grabiarz-Campus School #79	595	90%	n/a	47%	AA (50%) HS/L (19%) White (25%) Other (6%)	Free: 89% Reduced: 6%

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

Buffalo Business First Ranking *	School	District	Number of Students	Average Attendance	2007 Four-Year Graduation Rate- Total Cohort	Percent of Students Suspended Annually	Racial/Ethnic Composition	Students who receive a free or reduced lunch
	Alternative High School	Buffalo	158	0% (?)	32%	0%	AA (74%)	Free: 0%
							HS/L (15%)	Reduced: 0%
							White (8%)	
							Other (3%)	
129	Bennett High School	Buffalo	729	74%	39%	25%	AA (84%)	Free: 82%
							HS/L (8%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (5%)	
							Other (3%)	
253	Bennett Park Montessori School	Buffalo	624	92%	n/a	8%	AA (69%)	Free: 65%
							HS/L (4%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (23%)	
							Other (4%)	
264	Bilingual Center	Buffalo	460	89%	n/a	13%	AA (9%)	Free: 80%
							HS/L (65%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (23%)	
							Other (3%)	
122	Buffalo Academy for the Visual & Performing Arts	Buffalo	830	90%	72%	27%	AA (65%)	Free: 59%
							HS/L (13%)	Reduced: 9%
							White (19%)	
							Other (3%)	
281	Buffalo Elementary School of Technology	Buffalo	516	90%	n/a	20%	AA (57%)	Free: 87%
							HS/L (7%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (12%)	
							Other (24%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

270	Build Academy	Buffalo	505	91%	n/a	30%	AA (93%)	Free: 92%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (2%)	
							Other (3%)	
135	Burgard Vocational High School	Buffalo	590	77%	33%	45%	AA (78%)	Free: 69%
							HS/L (7%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (7%)	
							Other (8%)	
	Campus West School	Buffalo	736	90%	n/a	18%	AA (46%)	Free: 85%
							HS/L (19%)	Reduced: 7%
							White (24%)	
							Other (11%)	
2	City Honors	Buffalo	881	96%	96%	3%	AA (21%)	Free: 18%
							HS/L (6%)	Reduced: 9%
							White (66%)	
							Other (7%)	
278	Community School #53 at #4	Buffalo	379	90%	n/a	30%	AA (92%)	Free: 87%
							HS/L (3%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (3%)	
							Other (2%)	
263	D'Youville-Porter Campus	Buffalo	620	91%	n/a	3%	AA (19%)	Free: 79%
							HS/L (67%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (7%)	
							Other (7%)	
120	Discovery School	Buffalo	516	95%	n/a	5%	AA (6%)	Free: 29%
							HS/L (9%)	Reduced: 9%
							White (82%)	
							Other (3%)	
252	Dr. Antonia Pantoja Community School of Academic Excellence at #77	Buffalo	479	91%	n/a	17%	AA (31%)	Free: 79%
							HS/L (31%)	Reduced: 1%
							White (8%)	
							Other (30%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

269	Dr. Charles R Drew Science Magnet	Buffalo	282	89%	n/a	7%	AA (69%)	Free: 90%
							HS/L (8%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (15%)	
							Other (8%)	
260	Dr. George Blackman ECC	Buffalo	397	91%	n/a	11%	AA (78%)	Free: 77%
							HS/L (5%)	Reduced: 8%
							White (13%)	
							Other (4%)	
266	Dr. Lydia T Wright School of Excellence	Buffalo	736	91%	n/a	15%	AA (92%)	Free: 77%
							HS/L (4%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (3%)	
							Other (1%)	
277	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Multicultural Institute	Buffalo	679	90%	n/a	24%	AA (93%)	Free: 86%
							HS/L (4%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (2%)	
							Other (1%)	
132	East High School	Buffalo	524	77%	42%	37%	AA (88%)	Free: 74%
							HS/L (6%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (2%)	
							Other (4%)	
125	Emerson School of Hospitality	Buffalo	442	86%	66%	16%	AA (60%)	Free: 65%
							HS/L (16%)	Reduced: 8%
							White (20%)	
							Other (4%)	
255	Frank A. Sedita School #30	Buffalo	685	90%	n/a	26%	AA (17%)	Free: 83%
							HS/L (69%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (5%)	
							Other (9%)	
	Frank A. Sedita Community School	Buffalo	383	89%	n/a	37%	AA (36%)	Free: 92%
							HS/L (53%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (1%)	
							Other (10%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

55	Frederick Olmsted #156	Buffalo	562	94%	n/a	15%	AA (56%)	Free: 46%
							HS/L (9%)	Reduced: 9%
							White (28%)	
							Other (7%)	
19	Frederick Olmsted #64 at #78	Buffalo	462	95%	n/a	0%	AA (22%)	Free: 26%
							HS/L (16%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (56%)	
							Other (6%)	
190	Grabiarz-Campus School #79	Buffalo	595	90%	n/a	47%	AA (50%)	Free: 89%
							HS/L (19%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (25%)	
							Other (6%)	
279	Harriet Ross Tubman Academy	Buffalo	480	90%	n/a	42%	AA (84%)	Free: 88%
							HS/L (6%)	Reduced: 3%
							White (7%)	
							Other (3%)	
267	Harvey Austin School #97	Buffalo	364	88%	n/a	24%	AA (88%)	Free: 90%
							HS/L (4%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (5%)	
							Other (3%)	
273	Herman Badillo Community School	Buffalo	607	87%	n/a	24%	AA (10%)	Free: 79%
							HS/L (83%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (5%)	
							Other (2%)	
265	Highgate Heights	Buffalo	508	93%	n/a	23%	AA (92%)	Free: 84%
							HS/L (3%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (3%)	
							Other (2%)	
	Hutchinson Central Tech High School	Buffalo	105 2	90%	83%	2%	AA (39%)	Free: 49%
							HS/L (12%)	Reduced: 11%
							White (41%)	
							Other (8%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

130	International Preparatory School at Grover Cleveland at #187	Buffalo	495	84%	47%	18%	AA (53%)	Free: 82%
							HS/L (22%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (7%)	
							Other (18%)	
259	International School	Buffalo	690	93%	n/a	15%	AA (34%)	Free: 90%
							HS/L (8%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (17%)	
							Other (41%)	
134	Lafayette High School	Buffalo	738	77%	31%	9%	AA (32%)	Free: 67%
							HS/L (28%)	Reduced: 1%
							White (9%)	
							Other (31%)	
100	Leonardo Da Vinci High School	Buffalo	388	92%	91%	5%	AA (38%)	Free: 50%
							HS/L (19%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (40%)	
							Other (3%)	
218	Lorraine Elementary School	Buffalo	563	91%	n/a	8%	AA (23%)	Free: 70%
							HS/L (10%)	Reduced: 11%
							White (62%)	
							Other (5%)	
236	Lovejoy Discovery School #43	Buffalo	524	91%	n/a	18%	AA (24%)	Free: 75%
							HS/L (9%)	Reduced: 7%
							White (61%)	
							Other (6%)	
126	Math Science Technology Preparatory School at Seneca	Buffalo	408	88%	65%	35%	AA (81%)	Free: 72%
							HS/L (7%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (8%)	
							Other (4%)	
	McKinley Vocational High School	Buffalo	108	79%	67%	20%	AA (60%)	Free: 71%
							HS/L (17%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (17%)	
							Other (6%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

	Montessori at #78	Buffalo	200	91%	n/a	15%	AA (83%)	Free: 78%
							HS/L (5%)	Reduced: 9%
							White (12%)	
							Other (0%)	
237	Native American Magnet	Buffalo	474	92%	n/a	17%	AA (36%)	Free: 94%
							HS/L (18%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (8%)	
							Other (38%)	
	PS 11 Poplar Street Academy	Buffalo	328	87%	n/a	11%	AA (91%)	Free: 93%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (6%)	
							Other (1%)	
276	PS 17	Buffalo	338	88%	n/a	17%	AA (72%)	Free: 86%
							HS/L (15%)	Reduced: 3%
							White (7%)	
							Other (6%)	
244	PS 27 Hillery Park Academy	Buffalo	533	92%	n/a	19%	AA (22%)	Free: 73%
							HS/L (10%)	Reduced: 9%
							White (62%)	
							Other (6%)	
280	PS 37 Futures Academy	Buffalo	491	89%	n/a	32%	AA (85%)	Free: 92%
							HS/L (7%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (4%)	
							Other (4%)	
	PS 42 Occupational Training Center	Buffalo	372	92%	68%	15%	AA (67%)	Free: 53%
							HS/L (9%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (22%)	
							Other (2%)	
198	PS 59 Dr. Charles Drew Science Magnet	Buffalo	484	91%	n/a	34%	AA (84%)	Free: 23%
							HS/L (6%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (9%)	
							Other (1%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

271	PS 61	Buffalo	241	89%	n/a	20%	AA (94%)	Free: 96%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced: 2%
							White (2%)	
							Other (2%)	
257	PS 65 Roosevelt Academy	Buffalo	319	89%	n/a	6%	AA (24%)	Free: 76%
							HS/L (26%)	Reduced: 7%
							White (37%)	
							Other (13%)	
192	PS 66 North Park Academy	Buffalo	386	91%	n/a	42%	AA (77%)	Free: 75%
							HS/L (5%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (15%)	
							Other (3%)	
230	PS 69 Houghton Academy	Buffalo	477	90%	n/a	18%	AA (32%)	Free: 79%
							HS/L (6%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (55%)	
							Other (7%)	
274	PS 74 Hamlin Park Elementary School	Buffalo	490	90%	n/a	12%	AA (91%)	Free: 79%
							HS/L (4%)	Reduced: 3%
							White (3%)	
							Other (2%)	
	PS 77	Buffalo	450	92%	n/a	4%	AA (27%)	Free: 90%
							HS/L (59%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (9%)	
							Other (5%)	
182	PS 81	Buffalo	595	93%	n/a	8%	AA (41%)	Free: 64%
							HS/L (14%)	Reduced: 13%
							White (36%)	
							Other (9%)	
268	PS 82	Buffalo	391	89%	n/a	2%	AA (85%)	Free: 91%
							HS/L (5%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (6%)	
							Other (4%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

	PS 84	Buffalo	87	87%	n/a	0%	AA (32%)	Free: 43%
							HS/L (14%)	Reduced: 0%
							White (51%)	
							Other (3%)	
133	Riverside Institute of Technology	Buffalo	760	75%	34%	33%	AA (45%)	Free: 73%
							HS/L (21%)	Reduced: 1%
							White (13%)	
							Other (21%)	
131	South Park High School	Buffalo	773	80%	59%	23%	AA (23%)	Free: 57%
							HS/L (18%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (55%)	
							Other (4%)	
249	Southside Elementary School	Buffalo	951	90%	n/a	16%	AA (20%)	Free: 77%
							HS/L (13%)	Reduced: 9%
							White (60%)	
							Other (7%)	
275	Stanley Makowski Early Childhood Center	Buffalo	690	91%	n/a	7%	AA (78%)	Free: 92%
							HS/L (5%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (6%)	
							Other (11%)	
272	Waterfront School	Buffalo	839	91%	n/a	28%	AA (50%)	Free: 90%
							HS/L (19%)	Reduced: 6%
							White (13%)	
							Other (18%)	
262	West Hertel Elementary School	Buffalo	592	89%	n/a	16%	AA (40%)	Free: 92%
							HS/L (24%)	Reduced: 3%
							White (17%)	
							Other (19%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

24	Amherst Central High School	Amherst	828	95%	92%	8%	AA (16%)	Free: 17%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced: 8%
							White (79%)	
							Other (3%)	
19	Amherst Middle School	Amherst	661	96%	n/a	6%	AA (16%)	Free: 21%
							HS/L (4%)	Reduced: 9%
							White (73%)	
							Other (7%)	
29	Smallwood Drive School	Amherst	746	96%	n/a	0%	AA (6%)	Free: 9%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (85%)	
							Other (7%)	
121	Windermere Boulevard School	Amherst	654	96%	n/a	1%	AA (24%)	Free: 36%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced: 10%
							White (60%)	
							Other (14%)	
108	Cheek-towaga High School	Cheek-towaga Central	659	91%	84%	7%	AA (29%)	Free: 37%
							HS/L (3%)	Reduced: 13%
							White (62%)	
							Other (6%)	
151	Cheek-towaga Middle School	Cheek-towaga Central	665	95%	n/a	5%	AA (33%)	Free: 42%
							HS/L (3%)	Reduced: 13%
							White (57%)	
							Other (7%)	
	Pine Hill Education Center	Cheek-towaga Central	95	0%	n/a	n/a	AA (52%)	Free: 57%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced: 7%
							White (44%)	
							Other (2%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

186	Union East Elementary School	Cheek-towaga Central	764	95%	n/a	3%	AA (32%)	Free: 50%
							HS/L (5%)	Reduced:14%
							White (51%)	
							Other (12%)	
72	Maryvale High School	Cheek-towaga/Maryvale Union	711	93%	89%	7%	AA (8%)	Free: 20%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced:10%
							White (87%)	
							Other (3%)	
133	Maryvale Intermediate School	Cheek-towaga/Maryvale Union	457	96%	n/a	2%	AA (6%)	Free: 35%
							HS/L (3%)	Reduced:14%
							White (85%)	
							Other (6%)	
72	Maryvale Middle School	Cheek-towaga/Maryvale Union	504	97%	n/a	4%	AA (8%)	Free: 28%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced:13%
							White (85%)	
							Other (5%)	
	Maryvale Primary School	Cheek-towaga/Maryvale Union	462	96%	n/a	1%	AA (9%)	Free: 34%
							HS/L (3%)	Reduced:11%
							White (81%)	
							Other (7%)	
133	John F Kennedy Middle School	Cheek-towaga/Sloan Union	341	95%	n/a	6%	AA (4%)	Free: 38%
							HS/L (1%)	Reduced:16%
							White (93%)	
							Other (2%)	
88	John F Kennedy Senior High School	Cheek-towaga/Sloan Union	496	93%	82%	4%	AA (4%)	Free: 31%
							HS/L (1%)	Reduced:18%
							White (93%)	
							Other (2%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

	Theodore Roosevelt School	Cheek-towaga/Sloan Union	281	96%	n/a	0%	AA (6%)	Free: 40%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced:12%
							White (89%)	
							Other (3%)	
162	Woodrow Wilson Elementary School	Cheek-towaga/Sloan Union	304	95%	n/a	0%	AA (2%)	Free: 39%
							HS/L (1%)	Reduced:13%
							White (96%)	
							Other (1%)	
54/118	Tapestry Charter School	Buffalo	682	94%	91%	7%	AA (52%)	Free: 35%
							HS/L (6%)	Reduced: 14%
							White (38%)	
							Other (4%)	
123	Western New York Maritime Charter School	Buffalo	313	87%	78%	52%	AA (62%)	Free: 61%
							HS/L (18%)	Reduced:14%
							White (16%)	
							Other (4%)	
124	Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School	Buffalo	399	93%	87%	14%	AA (82%)	Free: 71%
							HS/L (4%)	Reduced:12%
							White (12%)	
							Other (2%)	
127	Oracle Charter School	Buffalo	330	87%	63%	33%	AA (78%)	Free: 61%
							HS/L (9%)	Reduced:16%
							White (10%)	
							Other (3%)	
14	Elmwood Village Charter School	Buffalo	248	93%	n/a	2%	AA (21%)	Free: 31%
							HS/L (19%)	Reduced:13%
							White (48%)	
							Other (11%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

193	South Buffalo Charter School	Buffalo	671	93%	n/a	36%	AA (22%)	Free: 84%
							HS/L 16%	Reduced: 16%
							White (60%)	
							Other (2%)	
205	Buffalo United Charter School	Buffalo	659	92%	n/a	27%	AA (93%)	Free: 83%
							HS/L (6%)	Reduced: 8%
							White (1%)	
							Other (0%)	
233	Westminster Community Charter School	Buffalo	547	93%	n/a	4%	AA (96%)	Free: 69%
							HS/L (2%)	Reduced: 18%
							White (0%)	
							Other (2%)	
235	King Center Charter School	Buffalo	240	94%	n/a	0%	AA (93%)	Free: 89%
							HS/L (1%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (3%)	
							Other (3%)	
241	Aloma D. Johnson Fruit Belt Community Charter School	Buffalo	306	85%	n/a	22%	AA (92%)	Free: 93%
							HS/L (6%)	Reduced: 4%
							White (0%)	
							Other (2%)	
251	Pinnacle Charter School	Buffalo	531	94%	n/a	30%	AA (91%)	Free: 85%
							HS/L (7%)	Reduced: 8%
							White (1%)	
							Other (1%)	
254	Community Charter School	Buffalo	302	92%	n/a	13%	AA (91%)	Free: 94%
							HS/L (4%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (1%)	
							Other (4%)	

Business First Rank and Other Data for Buffalo, Amherst & Cheektowaga Schools

256	Enterprise Charter School	Buffalo	403	92%	n/a	34%	AA (57%)	Free: 92%
							HS/L (37%)	Reduced: 5%
							White (2%)	
							Other (4%)	

*Rankings based on four years of test data from the New York State Education Dept.