

**North Star Academy Charter School of Newark  
North Star Academy School District  
Newark, New Jersey**



North Star Academy Charter School of Newark (North Star) was founded in 1997 to improve outcomes for youth in Newark, NJ, where graduation from a four-year college remains relatively rare. Today, 100% of North Star graduates are accepted to four-year colleges and 72% of North Star alumni have graduated or are on track to graduate from college.

Principal James Verrilli, a co-founder of North Star Academy Charter School, credits the school's intentional, college-bound culture, and tightly designed instructional systems for the school's success. Every North Star student is expected to go to college, an expectation that permeates the school culture, from the ritual morning meetings that affirm the school's core values of responsibility, caring courage, and respect, to individual classrooms, each of which takes the name of a college or university. North Star creates its own curriculum (lesson plans, activities, and tests, ) based on New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and college readiness standards—and stays in touch with alumni to ensure they are on track for college graduation and to inspire current North Star students.

A carefully designed professional development system provides teachers with ongoing classroom observations from peer instructional leaders. This intense and ongoing coaching of teachers toward excellence helps ensure that students, many of whom enter North Star well behind their grade-level peers, recover lost academic ground and steadily climb the mountain to college.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS**

909 students, K – 12

Black or African American	83%
Hispanic or Latino	16%
Asian	1%
Student mobility rate during the past year	8%
Limited English proficient students	0%
Students eligible for subsidized meals	80%
Students receiving special education services	7%

