

Public Charter Schools in Ohio: Key Facts

April 23, 2009



What are Public Charter Schools?

- Nonprofit, nonsectarian public schools of choice—funded by state and federal dollars
- Greater flexibility than traditional public schools in exchange for higher levels of accountability
- Operate independently of school districts, under the guidance of an appointed governing authority (similar to a school board)
- Must be authorized by an approved sponsor, which provides oversight, assistance and quality control



How Many Students are Enrolled in Charter Schools?

Nationwide: 1.2 million students in 40 states and D.C.

Ohio:

- 1999: 2,245 students in 15 schools
- 2009: 88,000+ students in 321 schools

In 2008, charter school students comprised roughly

- 5% of all Ohio public school students
- 17% of public school students in the Urban 8



Who are the Students Enrolled in Ohio Charter Schools?

Demographics in Ohio Public Schools - 2008			
	Charter Schools	Urban 8 Traditional School Districts	All Traditional School Districts
% Economically Disadvantaged	66%	74%	36%
% with Special Education Needs	17%	18%	14%
% with Limited English Proficiency	1%	4%	2%
% Minority	58%	72%	22%

Source: Ohio Department of Education; Columbus City Schools. Urban 8 calculations by KidsOhio.org.

Note: 78% of Ohio's charter schools are located in Urban 8 counties.



What Types of Charter Schools Serve Ohio Students?

In Ohio, in 2008, there were:

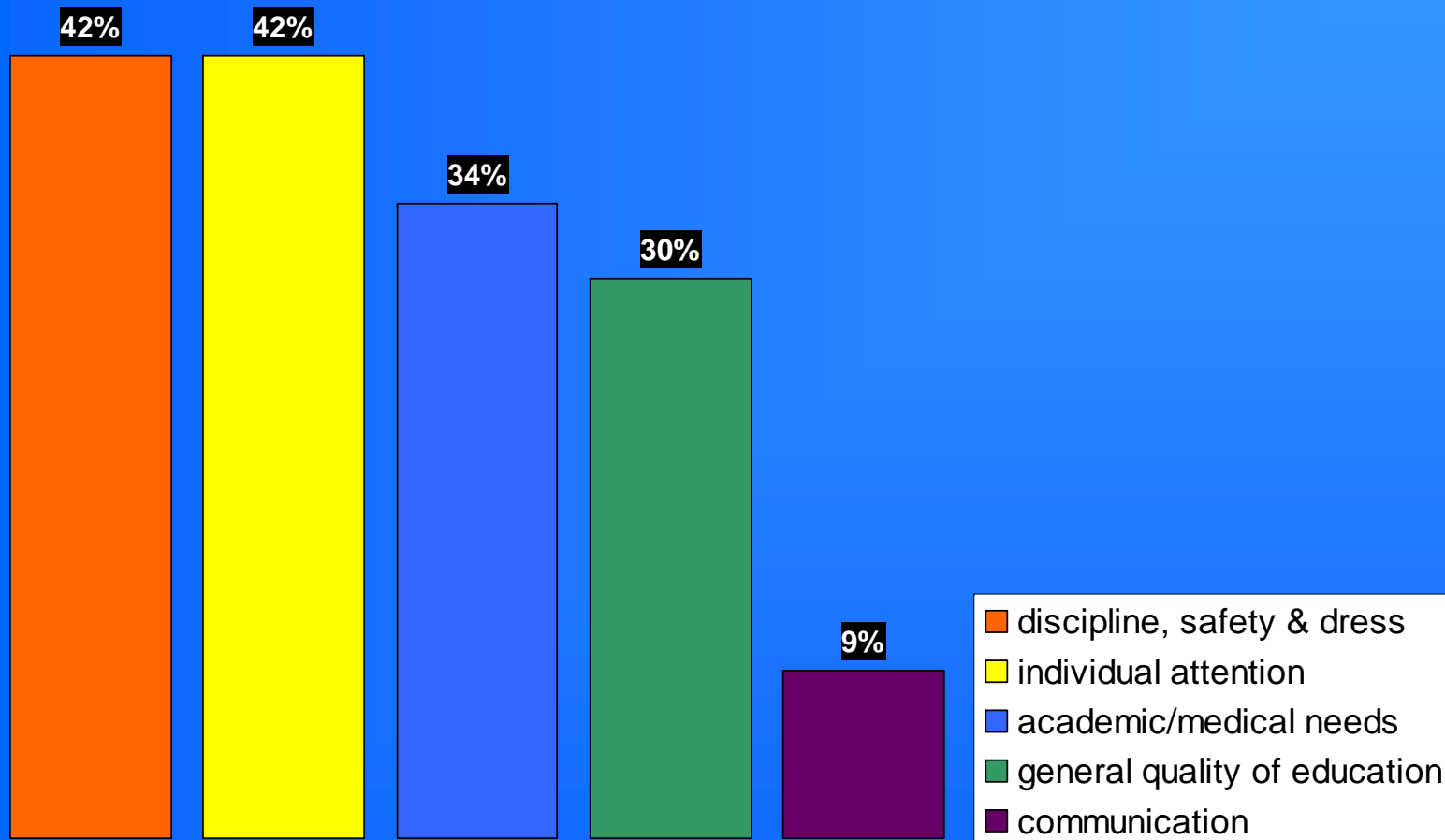
- 292 brick and mortar schools serving 58,876 students
- 34 e-schools serving 24,076 students

Among these 326, there were 51 dropout recovery schools serving 9,462 students:

- 46 brick and mortar schools serving 8,832 students
- 5 e-schools serving 630 students



Poll Results: Why did Columbus parents choose charter schools?



Source: *Why do parents in Columbus choose charter schools?* KidsOhio.org.



How are Charter Schools Held Accountable for Performance?

- Charter schools serving grades 4-8 must close if rated “F” three years in a row AND fail to meet academic growth expectations for two of those three years
- Charter schools serving grades K-3, 10-12 closed if rated “F” four years in a row
- Two Ohio charter schools will close before July 1, 2009 and 23 more could be closed before July 1, 2010
- 21 Ohio charter schools have been closed by their sponsors since 1998
- 46 have closed voluntarily



How does the State Monitor Charter Schools' Performance?

CHARTER SCHOOLS MUST...

- Administer the same state tests as traditional public schools
- Comply with No Child Left Behind, including Adequate Yearly Progress and highly qualified teacher requirements
- Adopt the Ohio Core curriculum—Ohio's new, more rigorous curriculum for high school students
- Maintain audit-ready financial records or face withdrawal of public funds



How did Ohio's Charter Schools Fare Academically in 2008?

Ohio Public School Academic Ratings - 2008*			
Rating	Charter Schools	Urban 8 Traditional Public Schools	All Public Schools
A	4%	6%	36%
B	7%	13%	33%
C	25%	31%	17%
D	23%	25%	7%
F	41%	25%	7%
Total:	100%	100%	100%
<i>% Rated:</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>93%</i>

Source: Ohio Department of Education.

*Includes only those schools receiving an academic rating in 2008.



How Much Progress did Ohio's Charter Schools Make Academically in 2008?

Ohio Public School Value-Added Ratings - 2008*				
	Reading		Math	
Value-Added Rating	Charter	All Public	Charter	All Public
Exceeded	25%	17%	30%	47%
Met	31%	25%	33%	22%
Below	44%	58%	37%	31%
Total:	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>% Rated:</i>	53%	72%	53%	72%

Source: Ohio Department of Education.

*Includes only those schools receiving a Value-Added rating in 2008.



What is an E-School?

E-schools are internet-based charter schools. They provide computers, internet access and a curriculum to all students at no cost and arrange face-to-face meetings between teachers and students.

In 2008:

- 29% of Ohio charter school students (24,000+) attended an e-school
- 79% of e-schools were district-sponsored, but enrolled only 24% of e-school students



How did Ohio's E-Schools Fare Academically in 2008?

Ohio Public School Academic Ratings - 2008*			
Rating	E-Schools	All Charter Schools	Urban 8 Traditional Public Schools
A	0%	4%	6%
B	8%	7%	13%
C	35%	25%	31%
D	42%	23%	25%
F	15%	41%	25%
Total:	100%	100%	100%
<i>% Rated:</i>	76%	75%	96%

Source: Ohio Department of Education.

*Includes only those schools receiving an academic rating in 2008.



How do E-Schools Compare to Other Ohio Schools?

- 19% of e-school students are in grades K-5, compared to 44% of all charter school students and 43% of all public school students (2008)
- 59% of e-school students are in high school, compared to 42% of all charter school students and 34% of all public school students (2008)

Demographics in E-Schools - 2008		
	E-Schools	All Charter Schools
% Economically Disadvantaged	55%	66%
% with Special Education Needs	17%	17%
% with Limited English Proficiency	0%	1%
% Minority	18%	58%

Source: Ohio Department of Education. Calculations by KidsOhio.org.



How Much Public Funding do Charter Schools Receive?

Unlike traditional public schools, charter schools receive no local tax revenue:

Public Funding Per Pupil for Ohio Schools - 2008		
	Charter Schools	Traditional School Districts
Local Revenue	\$0*	\$5,072
State Revenue	\$6,867	\$4,413
Federal Revenue	\$946	\$815
TOTAL:	\$7,813	\$10,300

Source: Ohio Department of Education.

*Charter schools in Ohio do not receive local tax revenues, though they may raise private funds locally.



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