

Setting the Record Straight on Charter Performance

U of Minnesota Claim	Truth																					
<p>“Graduation rates are lower in charters, all else equal, than in traditional neighborhood schools” (pg.1)</p>	<p>Charters have had higher graduation rates than other open-enrollment (non-selective) schools for the past 6 years.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5-Year High School Graduation Rate</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="761 464 1406 953"> <thead> <tr> <th>School Year</th> <th>Charter</th> <th>Non-Selective</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2008-09</td> <td>73%</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009-10</td> <td>75%</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2010-11</td> <td>76%</td> <td>55%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-12</td> <td>75%</td> <td>59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2012-13</td> <td>74%</td> <td>63%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-14</td> <td>76%</td> <td>68%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	School Year	Charter	Non-Selective	2008-09	73%	53%	2009-10	75%	53%	2010-11	76%	55%	2011-12	75%	59%	2012-13	74%	63%	2013-14	76%	68%
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<p>“...charters consistently underperform traditionals in reading and math pass rates...” (pg. 18)</p>	<p>In 2013, 84% of Chicago charter school campuses outperformed their neighborhood comparison schools according to the ISAT (elementary) or PSAE (high school) composite. The match-pair comparisons used in this analysis were developed by Chicago Public Schools (CPS).</p>																					
<p>“..and in reading and math growth rates” (pg. 18)</p>	<p>The author is unclear on how growth rates were calculated. However, the CPS data on charter growth from the 9th grade Explore test to 11th grade ACT is strong: charters schools make up 19 of the top 20 open enrollment high schools in terms of growth from SY 2011 9th graders to SY 2013 11th graders.</p>																					
<p>The authors say it themselves: “Charters tend to show slightly lower than average student performance when compared to all non-charters and slightly higher indicators when compared to neighborhood schools alone (removing selective, gifted and magnets from non-charter averages” (p. 16).</p>	<p>Charters serve a greater percentage of low-income and minority students than selective/gifted/magnet schools; charter demographics are more similar to other non-selective (or “Neighborhood”) schools. Charter schools are open to all students, unlike the selective gifted & magnet schools which screen admissions based on academic achievement. Therefore, other non-selective, open-enrollment schools are a better comparison group.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Demographics for SY 2013-2014</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="766 1705 1401 1894"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Charter</th> <th>Non-Selective</th> <th>Selective</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Low Income</td> <td>91%</td> <td>86%</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black/Hispanic</td> <td>94%</td> <td>85%</td> <td>72%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Charter	Non-Selective	Selective	Low Income	91%	86%	67%	Black/Hispanic	94%	85%	72%									
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What the authors fails to mention about charter schools:

College Enrollment

- Charters led CPS open-enrollment schools in college enrollment by 20 percentage points in 2012-2013.

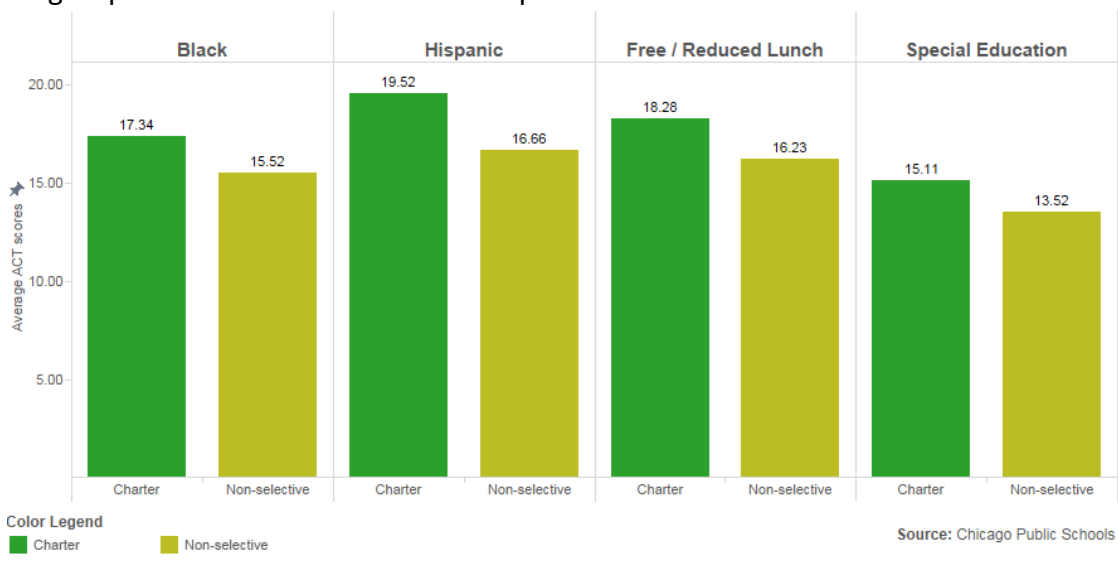
College Enrollment

School Year	Charter	Non-Selective
2009-10	69%	49%
2010-11	69%	53%
2011-12	69%	51%
2012-13	70%	50%

- In 2012-2013, 17 of the top 20 open enrollment high schools in terms college enrollment rates were charters.

ACT Scores

- On the most recent ACT (SY 2013-2014), 70% of charter schools outperformed the city average for other open-enrollment schools.
- 12 of the top 12 open enrollment schools in Chicago in terms of composite ACT scores are charters.
- Charters have raised the bar for underserved groups. In terms of composite ACT attainment, charters are 9 of the top 10 schools for Black students, 9 of the top 10 for Hispanic students, 10 of the top 10 for low-income students, and 9 of the top 10 for Special Education students. Below are averages for these groups in charter schools vs. other open-enrollment schools.



All data reported here and on our [website](http://www.incschools.org) – [incschools.org](http://www.incschools.org) – is publicly available [CPS data](#). Visit our [School Performance](#) and [Get the Facts](#) pages to learn more.