



FLORIDA PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS 2013 FACT SHEET

About the Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools

FCPCS is the voice of the Florida charter school movement, with more than 400 charter school members. It is one of the oldest and largest charter school membership associations in the nation. Founded in 1999 by a grassroots group of charter school operators, it provides advocacy, support, resources, and networking opportunities to new and existing charter schools, parents and students. FCPCS also promotes the establishment and operation of high quality public charter schools throughout the state.

More than 4,200 Florida Parents Join Together in Support of Charter Schools

More than 4,200 parents and guardians have already joined **Parents for Charter Schools**, an organization representing the voice of parents and guardians with children attending charter schools throughout the state.

Parents are the real force behind the growth of the Florida charter school movement. Parents "vote" for charter schools by choosing to send their children to public charter schools every day. A charter school cannot exist without parental interest and support.

Learn more at www.parentsforcharterschools.org

The Results Are In: STUDENTS DO BETTER IN FLORIDA CHARTER SCHOOLS

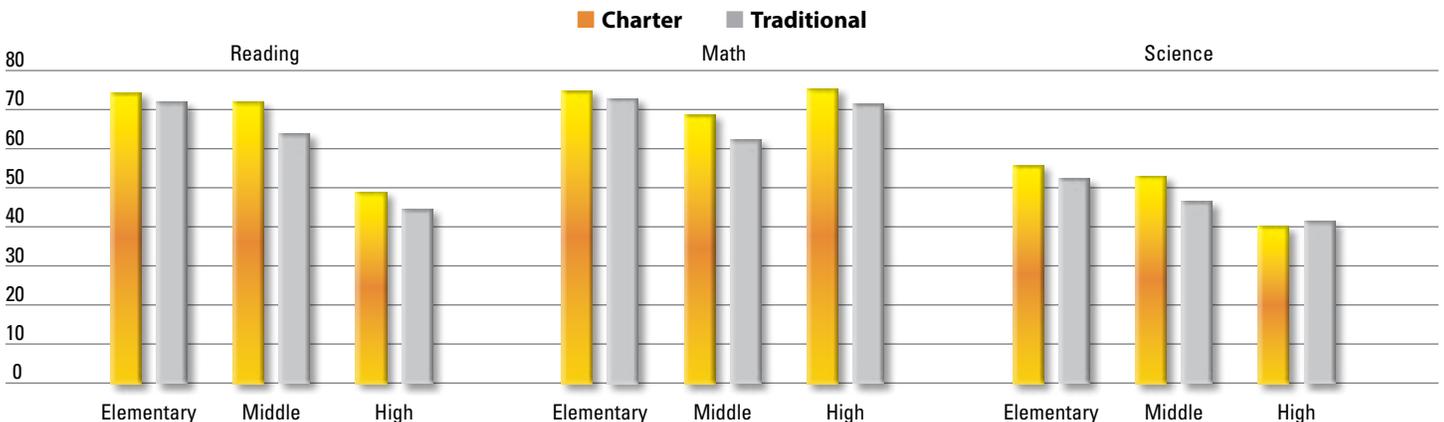
Florida charter schools are now producing consistently higher student achievement rates than the state's district public schools.

A 2012 study by the Florida Department of Education compared charter school student achievement data from 2010-11 with that of district public schools. The results are enlightening: **charter schools clearly outperformed district public schools in all measures in nearly every**

student subgroup and grade level.¹

The study compared public charter school and district public school student achievement among all grade levels and student subgroups. Subgroups included race/ethnicity, free and reduced lunch status, and Exceptional Education. Public charter schools outperformed district public schools in 145 out of the 168 comparisons of data, sometimes by significant percentages

FCAT Proficiency Data – 2010-2011 Total % of Students with FCAT Results



Charter Schools Facilities Funding: A CRITICAL ISSUE IMPACTING STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Florida's charter schools struggle to cover the cost of their capital needs, including technology for students and building improvements. This is because the pool of funds allocated by the legislature for charter schools' capital needs has remained constant over the years even though the number of charter schools has grown dramatically. As a result, each charter school receives a smaller share of funding every year.



a Charter School Facilities Assistance Fund to address the inequity in facilities funding.

The Facilities Assistance Fund would use a combination of PECO (Public Education Capital Outlay), Capital Millage and/or General Fund revenues to ensure that each charter school has adequate funds to build,

renovate and equip their facilities.

Charter Schools Save the State Millions in New Student Station Costs

Why should the state invest more in public charter schools facilities? Public charter school facilities actually save the state and local communities millions of dollars in new student station costs. Charter schools can build new facilities much more economically than school districts.

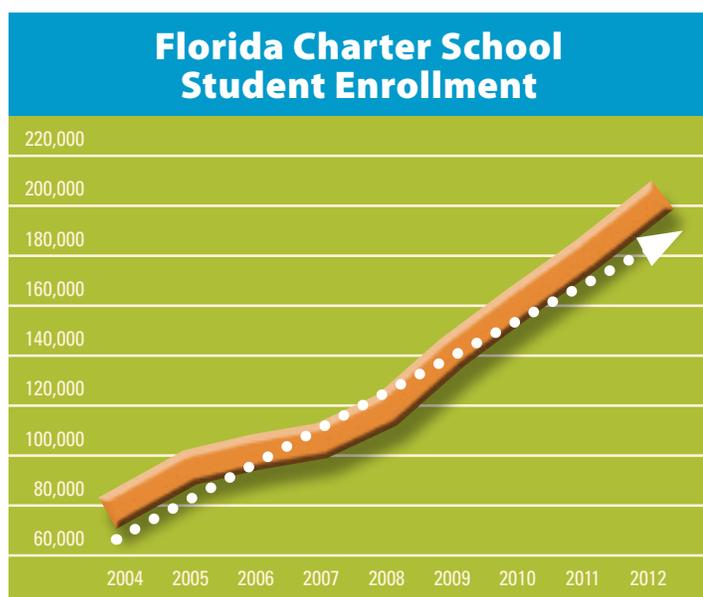
For example, a typical new high school built by a Florida school district costs \$27,927 per student station to build. A public charter school can build a high school that meets all applicable codes and specifications for only \$11,000 per student station – a 40% savings for taxpayers.

Public charter school parents do not understand why their tax dollars for public education facilities do not follow their children.

District public schools are built with local capital improvement funds generated from capital millage tax levies, bond referendums and penny sales tax initiatives. Florida's charter schools do not have the same access to these millage funds for their facilities.²

A Logical Solution: A Charter School Facilities Assistance Fund

The Florida Consortium of Public Charter Schools recommends that the Florida Legislature consider creating



FLORIDA CHARTER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO GROW

In the fall of 2012, 55 new charter schools opened in Florida. The state now has 574 charter schools offering an educational alternative to Florida families. More than 200,000 students attend public charter schools in 44 of Florida's 67 counties.

For more information contact:



FLORIDA CONSORTIUM
of PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

"Florida's Charter Support Organization Since 1999"

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¹ Florida Department of Education, Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice. March 2012. Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools: A Comparison with Achievement in Traditional Public Schools.

² The state of Florida has given school districts the opportunity to share local capital improvement fund dollars with their charter schools in order to meet start up and ongoing facility and technology needs (F.S. 1011.71). Only two districts have exercised that option, with significant limitations.