

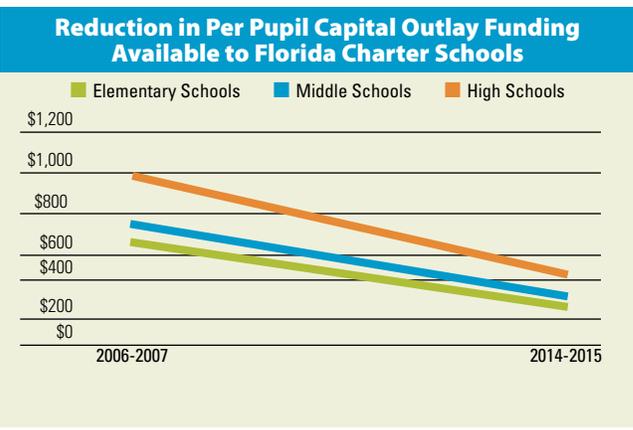


2015 FACT SHEET

Charter Schools See Steep Drop in Capital Outlay Funding

- During the last eight years, capital outlay funding available to Florida's charter schools has plummeted.
- The decrease has had a major impact on charter schools' ability to add new facilities, renovate old ones, pay for student transportation and pay for insurance premiums.
- In the 2006-07 school year, charter schools were eligible to receive an average of between \$998 per pupil for high schools and \$681 for elementary schools.
- This school year, charter schools are eligible for an average of between \$495 for high schools and \$330 for elementary schools.

The costs of facilities have risen steadily while the funds available to pay for them have diminished substantially:



Why Capital Outlay funding is so critical?

Capital outlay funding is critical to Florida's public charter schools because unlike district schools that have access to Capital Millage funding for facilities costs, charter schools must cover the costs of their initial facilities out of their per pupil operating funds.

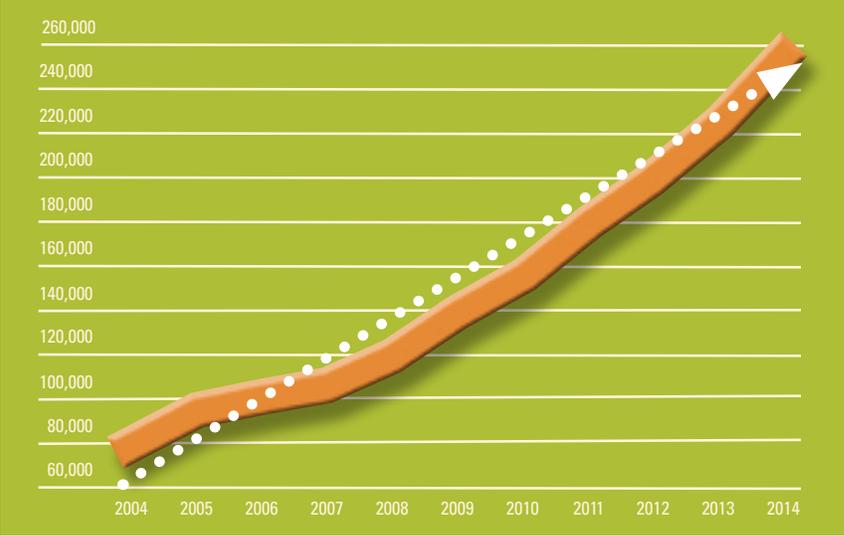
The 250,430 students who attend public charter schools deserve equal access to good school facilities, instructional resources and bus transportation just as any other student attending a public school. They are integral part of Florida's public school student population and their academic achievement help to boost the state's overall academic record (see story on page 2).

Who Receives Capital Outlay Funds?

Capital outlay funds are only available to charter schools that meet the following criteria:

- Have been in operation for three or more years or are part of an expanded feeder chain of schools;
- Have been accredited by the Commission on Schools of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS-CASI) or AdvancED;
- Are financially stable;
- Have met student achievement benchmarks.

10 years of Growth: Florida Charter School Student Enrollment



Enrollment in Florida Charters Exceeds 250,000 Students

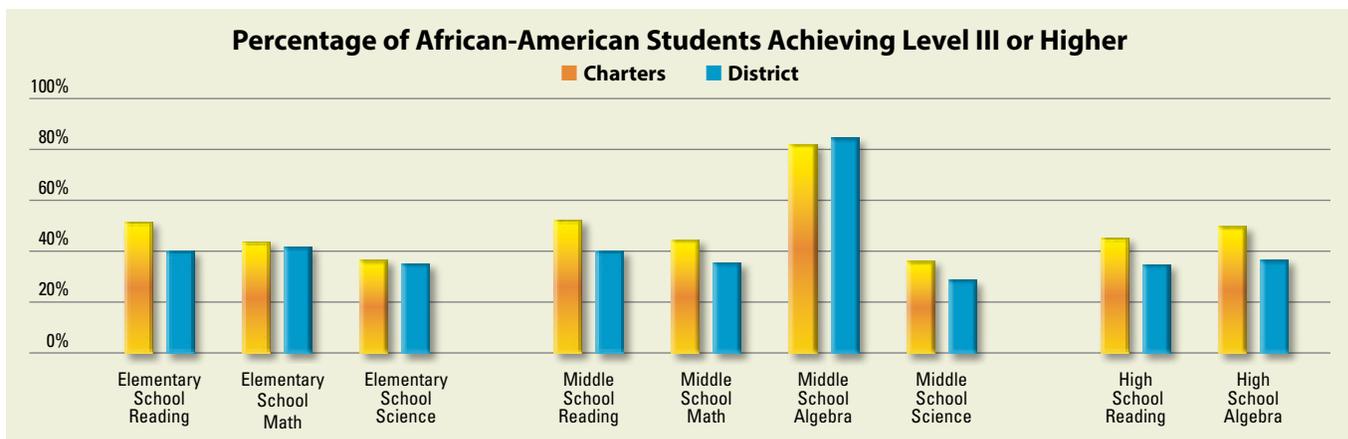
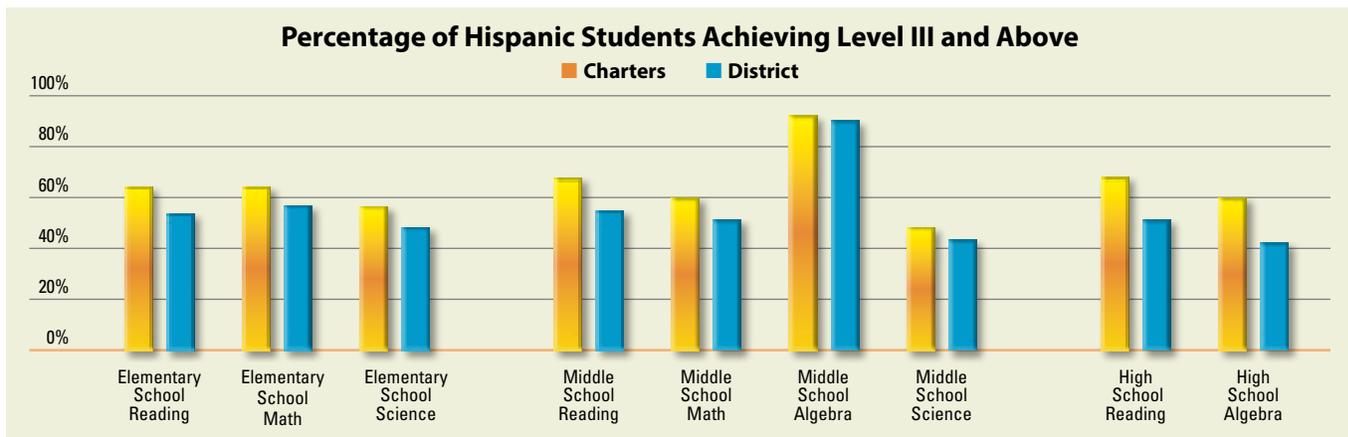
- Florida families continue to flock to charter schools to enroll their children. An additional 22,000 students enrolled in the state's 651 charter schools in the 2014-15 school year.
- Charter school students represent 9.1% of Florida's total public school population.
- Miami-Dade and Broward continue to be among the top ten schools districts in the country in terms of the number of students enrolled in charter schools. Duval and Palm Beach Counties are among the top three districts in the nation for the rate of charter school growth.¹

State Report: Most Students Do Better in Florida Charter Schools!

- Florida’s charter schools posted their most impressive student achievement results to date in the 2013-14 school year, according to the Florida Department of Education’s annual report on charter schools.²
- **The average charter school student’s performance on state tests exceeded that of the average district school student in nearly every grade level and subject.**
- Most striking is how charter schools are benefiting

a higher percentage of students most at risk for underachievement, including Hispanic and Black students, students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program, and students with disabilities. This is most evident at the middle and high school level.

The report also demonstrates that charter schools were also more successful in closing the achievement gap between White and minority students.



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.



FLORIDA CONSORTIUM
of PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

“Florida’s Charter Support Organization Since 1999”

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¹ A Growing Movement: America’s Largest Charter School Communities. National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. December 2014.

² Student Achievement in Florida’s Charter Schools: A Comparison of Performance of Charter School Students with Traditional Public School Students. Florida Department of Education, Bureau of Accountability Reporting. April 2014.