

Public Charter Schools kept their promise – but Ohio did not!

In 1997, the Ohio General Assembly introduced charter schools into Ohio's system of public schools. State legislation confined them to Ohio's 'Big 8' urban districts plus a few perennially failing ones.

These new schools were equipped to provide educational choice opportunities for thousands of inner-city students...children with special needs...and scores of urban students who failed and dropped out of their traditional district schools – but found success in charter dropout recovery schools. Charters became wildly popular with Ohio families growing to over 350 schools educating more than 100,000 students. Charter schools rapidly became the first choice of urban at-risk students and parents seeking a **safe** education setting.

Today, with verifiable levels of success - public charter schools operate at higher levels of accountability and yet they are drowning in state regulations – and are woefully underfunded. Evidence of Ohio's broken promises.

- **Charter schools are over regulated:** The 'promise' to charters, when created by legislators in 1997 was that, "slightly less funding would be needed because they would have fewer regulations than traditional district schools." Today, charter schools are facing an unprecedented level of new laws, many with unfunded mandates, averaging one new piece of legislation every 6 months for over the last two decades. http://media.wix.com/ugd/f7067d_1529e4867d074c079f4787a53c0490df.pdf
- **ODE's excessive and overly burdensome rules and regulations:** The Ohio Department of Education has ignored the lawmakers JCARR committee and is continually creating new punitive rules. Without any verifiable source of authority or legislative oversight – these rules are singularly directed to charter schools applying unrealistic burdens – forcing many to close because of these radical rule changes.
- **Charter schools are shamefully underfunded:** Over the last decade the inequity of charter funding versus traditional district schools has grown dramatically. Many charters are receiving less than half the funding of their district counterparts and charter schools are increasingly in danger of having to close because of lack of funding.

Per Pupil Revenue: Comparing Big 8 Districts to Charter Schools in FY2007 & FY2017

Big 8 District	District Revenue 2007*	Charter Revenue 2007*	Difference in 2007*	District Revenue 2017	Charter Revenue 2017**	Difference in 2017
Akron	\$11,956	\$9,113	\$2,843	\$17,786	\$10,916	\$6,870
Canton	\$11,081	\$9,272	\$1,809	\$16,439	\$10,960	\$5,479
Cincinnati	\$13,477	\$8,512	\$4,965	\$18,039	\$10,225	\$7,814
Cleveland	\$13,670	\$9,427	\$4,243	\$21,917	\$10,703	\$11,214
Columbus	\$12,981	\$8,780	\$4,201	\$19,136	\$9,967	\$9,169
Dayton	\$13,208	\$7,948	\$5,260	\$22,284	\$10,826	\$11,458
Toledo	\$12,096	\$8,515	\$3,581	\$19,156	\$9,957	\$9,199
Youngstown	\$14,342	\$7,216	\$7,126	\$26,695	\$11,581	\$15,114

* Data from Buckeye Institute Policy Brief, *Public Charter Schools: A Great Value for Ohio's Public Education System*, Friday, November 14, 2008 by Matthew Carr and Beth Lear

** Data from Ohio Auditor community school financial audits of brick and mortar community schools in those districts

Your help is needed now! Members of the Ohio General Assembly have the opportunity to, once again, become the champions of Ohio's poor, minority, medically fragile and at-risk students. You alone can defend Ohio families' right of school choice – by supporting and protecting *public charter schools*.

The Ohio Coalition for Quality Education is ready to work with you!