
Focus Education

Rotunda's Education News
September 12, 2007

Ten Years and Still Failing: An Analysis of Ohio Charter Schools - August 2007

Barbara Shaner, Chairperson of the Coalition for Public Education (CPE), and Andy Jewell, staffer for the Ohio Education Association, presented Ohio school report card data to the State Board of Education that pointed out the failures of Ohio's charter schools. Speaking at the September board meeting, Shaner said the 10th annual review of performance data proves Ohio's charter school experience is a failure. Ohio's traditional public schools continue to provide the best opportunity for children to learn and succeed, according to Ohio Department of Education data, she explained.

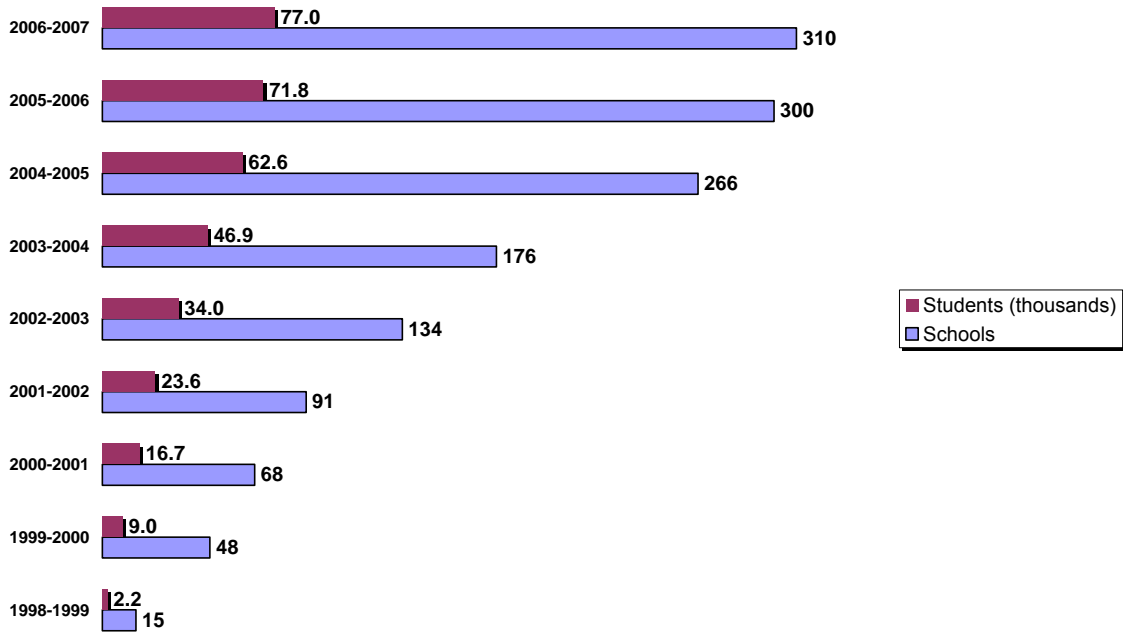
The following is a list of summary statements, graphs and charts that focus on specific information concerning charter schools and provides comparison data of traditional public schools to charter schools.

- For the 2006-2007 school year, 310 charter schools operated in Ohio, enrolling nearly 77,000 students.
- Charter schools enroll students from 607 of 612 traditional school districts.
- Over 45,000 charter school students come from the Big 8 urban districts, accounting for 58.5 percent of the total charter school student population. For the 2003-2004 school year, 65.6 percent of charter school students came from Big 8 schools.
- Big 8 schools enroll a smaller portion of African American students than do competing charter schools (60.6% to 71.4%), but more economically disadvantaged students (80.2% to 57.8%), more disabled students (17.3% to 13.0%) and more students of a limited English proficiency (4.5% to 1.2%). The average number of students enrolled in Big 8 buildings is more than twice that of competing charter schools (433 to 210).
- This past year, charter school enrollment grew by 7.1 percent over 2005-2006 levels, down from a 14.8 percent enrollment growth from the 2004-2005 to the 2005-2006 school years.
- Charter schools opened prior to the 2003-2004 school year, saw enrollment drop by 2.7 percent for the 2006-2007 school year.
- Charter schools received \$532 million in state funding for fiscal year 2007.
- Academically excellent and effective charter schools received \$37 million in state aid payments.
- Charter schools under academic watch and emergency received \$161 million from the state.
- \$110 million in state aid was redirected from excellent and effective traditional schools to charter schools.
- Fiscal year 2008 inclusive, Ohio charter schools will have received more than \$2.7 billion in state funding since the program's inception.
- The majority, 57 percent, of charter schools remain in academic watch or academic emergency.

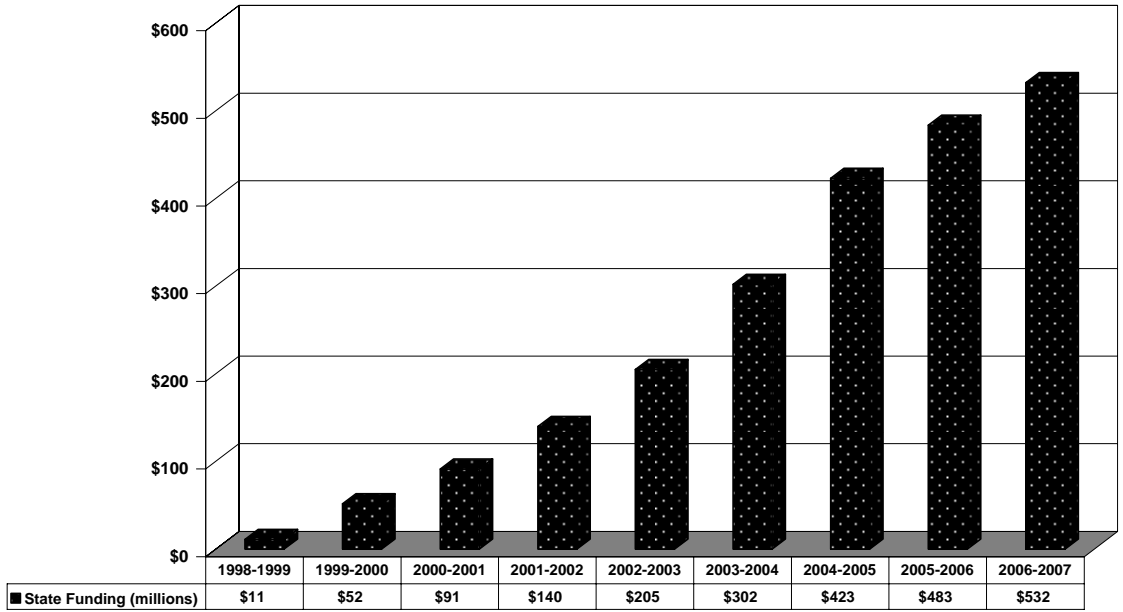
- Charter schools met only 21 percent of Local Report Card standards.
- Big 8 traditional schools outperformed competing charter schools on 27 of 28 state achievement tests.
- Among economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities, those attending traditional schools performed better than those enrolled in charter school students on all 28 of the state tests.
- While 55 charter schools experienced a rating increase over their 2005-2006 Report Card, 68 received a lower rating for the 2006-2007 school year.
- After subtracting charter school payments, over the past five years state funding to traditional school districts has grown at only 57 percent of the rate of inflation.
- Between the 2002-2003 and 2006-2007 school years, student enrollment at traditional school districts dropped 2.6 percent. However, nine percent of teaching positions were eliminated.

Ten Years and Still Failing: Supplemental Analysis - August 2007
- For the 2006-2007 school year, White Hat Management charter schools experienced a 17 percent decrease in enrollment.
- Twenty-seven of 32 White Hat charter schools received an academic emergency or academic watch designation on their 2006-2007 Local Report Card. None was rated as excellent or effective.
- No for-profit charter school received an excellent rating and only one was rated effective.
- Eighteen percent of charter schools sponsored by traditional school districts were rated excellent or effective. Only eight percent of charter schools operated by other entities were so rated.
- While 19 percent of school buildings among the Big 8 urban districts remain in academic emergency, 38 percent of charter schools operating within those districts received an emergency rating.
- Among charter schools where less than half of the student population is economically disadvantaged, only 29 percent of total Report Card standards were met. Among traditional schools where the majority of students are not economically disadvantaged, 81 percent of standards were met.
- Charter schools spend over 2.5 times more per pupil on administrative costs than do traditional public schools. For fiscal year 2006 (the most recent year for which data is available), charter schools spent \$2,820 per pupil on administrative costs compared to \$1,089 for traditional school districts.
- Overall, charter schools spent an average of \$9,879 per pupil while traditional school districts had per-pupil expenses of \$9,338.
- Only 30 percent of charter school teachers have a Masters' degree compared to 59 percent of traditional school teachers.
- Charter schools lose nearly half, 49 percent, of their teachers each year. Traditional public schools have a teacher turnover rate of 11 percent.

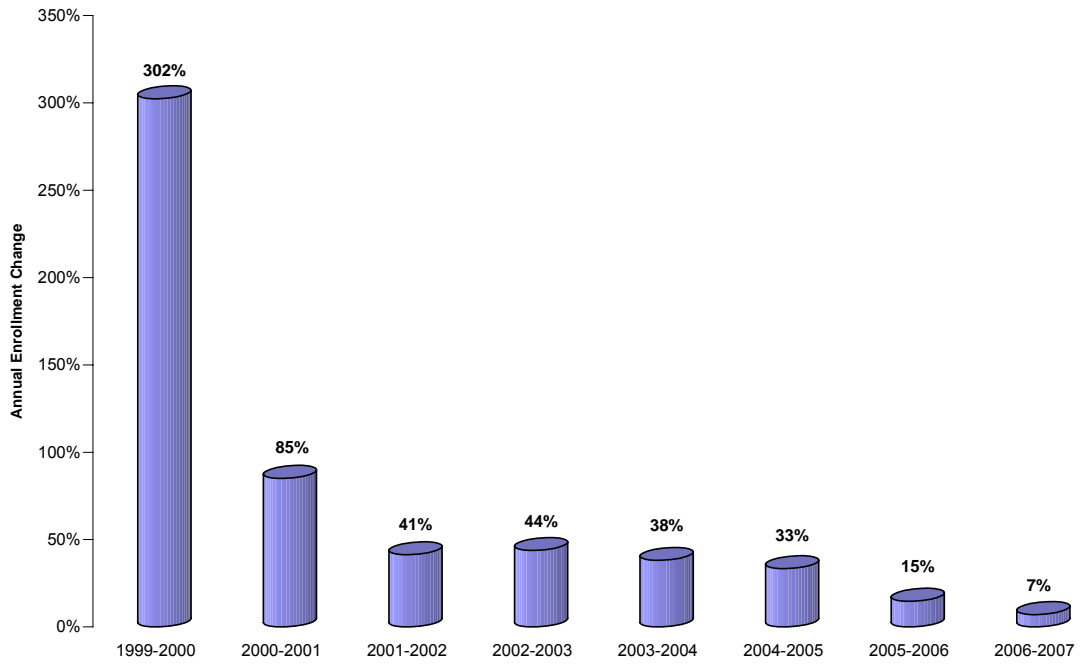
From a small pilot program, more than 300 charter schools have emerged now enrolling nearly 77,000 students.



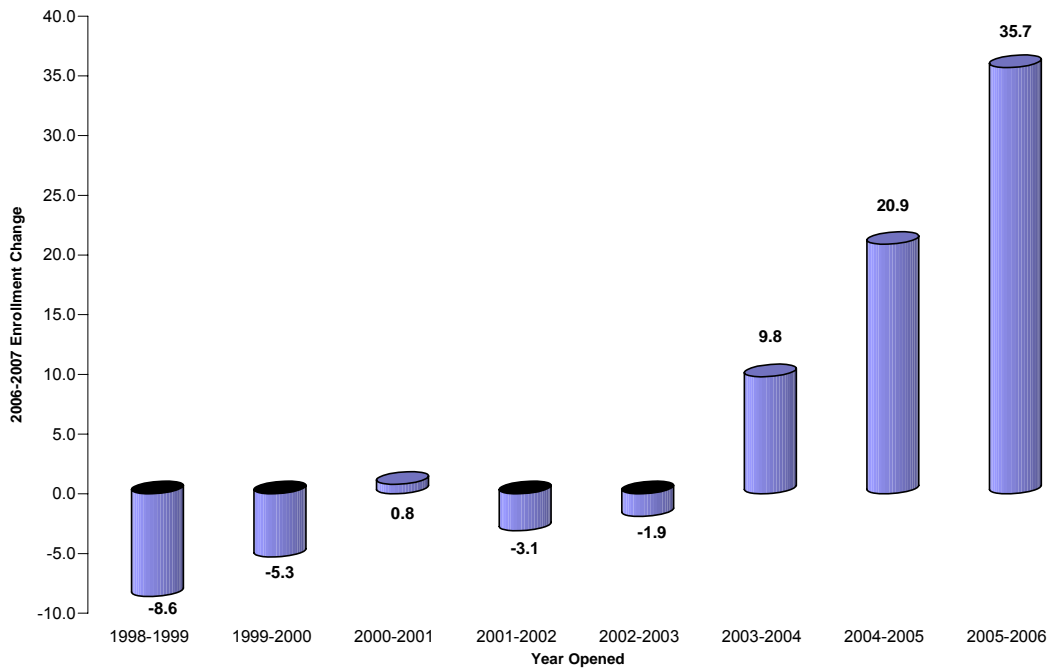
Charter schools received more than one-half billion dollars in state aid for the 2006-2007 school year and over \$2.7 billion (2007-2008 included) since the program's inception.



Charter school enrollment continues to grow, but at a slowing rate.



"Older" charter schools experience declining enrollment.



Traditional school districts outperformed charter schools on each of the 28 state achievement tests, with an average difference in proficiency levels of nearly 26 percentage points.

	<i>Percent Proficient</i>		<i>Difference</i>
	<i>Traditional Schools</i>	<i>Charter Schools</i>	
<i>3rd Grade</i>			
Reading	79.9	59.1	20.8
Math	85.0	62.2	22.8
<i>4th Grade</i>			
Reading	80.0	55.3	24.7
Math	76.4	43.9	32.5
Writing	82.6	62.1	20.5
<i>5th Grade</i>			
Reading	79.5	56.6	22.9
Math	60.5	30.6	29.9
Social Studies	56.3	26.3	30.0
Science	66.7	35.0	31.7
<i>6th Grade</i>			
Reading	76.7	56.5	20.2
Math	72.8	46.0	26.8
<i>7th Grade</i>			
Reading	75.9	54.9	21.0
Math	69.8	43.1	26.7
Writing	80.1	61.4	18.7
<i>8th Grade</i>			
Reading	79.5	59.4	20.1
Math	70.7	41.4	29.3
Social Studies	46.8	20.6	26.2
Science	60.9	29.6	31.3
<i>10th Grade-OGT</i>			
Reading	88.4	65.3	23.1
Math	83.2	48.5	34.7
Writing	90.5	70.2	20.3
Social Studies	77.9	43.9	34.0
Science	74.3	38.1	36.2
<i>11th Grade</i>			
Reading	93.9	78.9	15.0
Math	90.4	60.6	29.8
Writing	94.4	78.3	16.1
Social Studies	89.1	62.0	27.2
Science	85.7	51.3	34.3
<i>Average</i>	77.4	51.5	25.9

Results based on unweighted averages at the building level

Big 8 urban districts outperformed competing charter schools on all but one test, with an average difference in proficiency levels of nearly 10 percentage points.

	<i>Percent Proficient</i>		<i>Difference</i>
	<i>Traditional Schools</i>	<i>Charter Schools</i>	
<i>3rd Grade</i>			
Reading	61.9	58.7	3.2
Math	67.7	62.6	5.1
<i>4th Grade</i>			
Reading	60.9	53.7	7.2
Math	56.5	42.5	14.0
Writing	70.3	62.4	7.9
<i>5th Grade</i>			
Reading	61.5	54.8	6.6
Math	38.1	29.3	8.9
Social Studies	30.6	24.0	6.6
Science	38.8	31.4	7.4
<i>6th Grade</i>			
Reading	53.9	55.0	-1.2
Math	46.5	44.6	1.9
<i>7th Grade</i>			
Reading	53.5	52.5	1.0
Math	46.9	42.3	4.6
Writing	63.4	59.4	4.0
<i>8th Grade</i>			
Reading	62.2	58.7	3.5
Math	48.4	42.2	6.3
Social Studies	20.3	19.8	0.5
Science	29.5	26.4	3.1
<i>10th Grade-OGT</i>			
Reading	79.5	61.5	18.1
Math	65.7	43.7	21.9
Writing	84.0	68.1	15.8
Social Studies	59.9	40.4	19.4
Science	51.2	33.3	17.9
<i>11th Grade</i>			
Reading	87.1	75.8	11.3
Math	77.8	54.0	23.8
Writing	88.7	73.7	15.0
Social Studies	76.4	56.2	20.2
Science	65.6	44.4	21.2
<i>Average</i>	58.8	49.0	9.8

Results based on unweighted averages at the building level

Among economically disadvantaged students, traditional public school students outperformed charter school students on each of the 28 tests, with an average difference in proficiency levels of 15 percentage points.

	<i>Percent Proficient</i>		<i>Difference</i>
	<i>Traditional Schools</i>	<i>Charter Schools</i>	
<i>3rd Grade</i>			
Reading	66.8	56.4	10.4
*Math	72.4	59.4	13.0
<i>4th Grade</i>			
Reading	66.0	52.9	13.1
Math	61.7	41.4	20.3
Writing	73.5	60.9	12.6
<i>5th Grade</i>			
Reading	66.1	54.3	11.7
Math	43.3	29.7	13.6
Social Studies	36.7	25.5	11.2
Science	45.3	31.8	13.5
<i>6th Grade</i>			
Reading	61.2	55.5	5.7
Math	55.3	45.5	9.8
<i>7th Grade</i>			
Reading	60.8	53.9	7.0
Math	54.4	43.7	10.7
Writing	68.9	61.2	7.7
<i>8th Grade</i>			
Reading	68.0	60.3	7.8
Math	55.9	43.0	12.8
Social Studies	29.5	22.6	6.9
Science	39.7	27.3	12.4
<i>10th Grade-OGT</i>			
Reading	83.7	65.9	17.8
Math	74.1	48.6	25.5
Writing	87.2	70.0	17.2
Social Studies	69.1	43.6	25.5
Science	62.4	36.4	26.1
<i>11th Grade</i>			
Reading	91.0	78.6	12.4
Math	84.7	57.3	27.5
Writing	92.1	77.5	14.7
Social Studies	84.1	61.1	23.0
Science	76.8	49.5	27.3
<i>Average</i>	65.4	50.5	14.9

Among students with disabilities, traditional public school students outperformed charter school students on each of the 28 tests, with an average difference in proficiency levels of 19 percentage points.

	<i>Percent Proficient</i>		<i>Difference</i>
	<i>Traditional Schools</i>	<i>Charter Schools</i>	
<i>3rd Grade</i>			
Reading	59.3	38.0	21.3
*Math	67.2	38.9	28.3
<i>4th Grade</i>			
Reading	59.6	39.3	20.3
Math	55.6	30.0	25.6
Writing	63.2	39.4	23.8
<i>5th Grade</i>			
Reading	54.7	34.4	20.3
Math	37.4	18.2	19.2
Social Studies	37.0	16.8	20.2
Science	49.1	25.8	23.3
<i>6th Grade</i>			
Reading	51.8	38.0	13.8
Math	44.8	29.6	15.2
<i>7th Grade</i>			
Reading	47.0	34.9	12.1
Math	40.5	27.0	13.5
Writing	51.7	38.0	13.7
<i>8th Grade</i>			
Reading	48.2	37.4	10.8
Math	38.6	24.7	13.9
Social Studies	24.5	13.5	11.0
Science	35.9	21.9	14.0
<i>10th Grade-OGT</i>			
Reading	56.0	41.4	14.6
Math	48.9	27.0	21.9
Writing	60.7	40.8	19.9
Social Studies	45.8	27.5	18.3
Science	41.2	26.2	15.0
<i>11th Grade</i>			
Reading	69.1	49.2	19.9
Math	60.5	29.5	31.0
Writing	70.9	47.1	23.8
Social Studies	60.2	36.5	23.7
Science	54.2	29.2	25.0
<i>Average</i>	51.2	32.2	19.1

Among economically disadvantaged and disabled students, traditional public school students outperformed charter school students on each of the 28 tests, with an average difference in proficiency levels of more than 15 percentage points.

	<i>Percent Proficient</i>		<i>Difference</i>
	<i>Traditional Schools</i>	<i>Charter Schools</i>	
<i>3rd Grade</i>			
Reading	51.3	33.6	17.7
*Math	59.7	36.1	23.6
<i>4th Grade</i>			
Reading	52.3	33.9	18.4
Math	48.7	25.7	23.0
Writing	56.8	36.6	20.2
<i>5th Grade</i>			
Reading	46.8	28.7	18.1
Math	31.1	12.7	18.4
Social Studies	30.3	11.3	19.0
Science	41.5	19.7	21.8
<i>6th Grade</i>			
Reading	43.4	32.3	11.1
Math	36.7	24.8	11.9
<i>7th Grade</i>			
Reading	37.9	29.7	8.2
Math	32.7	24.6	8.1
Writing	42.9	33.6	9.3
<i>8th Grade</i>			
Reading	39.8	33.8	6.0
Math	30.9	21.5	9.4
Social Studies	19.5	10.1	9.4
Science	28.2	16.6	11.6
<i>10th Grade-OGT</i>			
Reading	45.7	35.0	10.7
Math	39.3	19.2	20.1
Writing	51.2	34.8	16.4
Social Studies	36.4	23.0	13.4
Science	32.2	20.9	11.3
<i>11th Grade</i>			
Reading	59.4	46.2	13.2
Math	50.4	26.3	24.1
Writing	61.1	44.1	17.0
Social Studies	49.9	30.8	19.1
Science	43.6	23.9	19.7
<i>Average</i>	42.8	27.5	15.4

Charter schools operated by traditional school districts outperformed charter schools operated by management companies or other entities on 27 of the 28 state achievement tests, with an average difference in proficiency levels of 12 percentage points.

	<i>Percent Proficient</i>		<i>Difference</i>
	<i>District Sponsored</i>	<i>Non-District Sponsored</i>	
<i>3rd Grade</i>			
Reading	78.2	58.0	20.3
Math	69.1	61.8	7.3
<i>4th Grade</i>			
Reading	61.5	55.0	6.5
Math	46.0	43.8	2.2
Writing	57.8	62.4	-4.5
<i>5th Grade</i>			
Reading	74.7	55.8	18.9
Math	47.3	29.9	17.4
Social Studies	42.1	25.6	16.4
Science	60.2	34.0	26.3
<i>6th Grade</i>			
Reading	77.4	54.8	22.6
Math	63.1	44.7	18.5
<i>7th Grade</i>			
Reading	70.9	53.4	17.4
Math	49.1	42.5	6.6
Writing	69.4	60.6	8.8
<i>8th Grade</i>			
Reading	66.1	58.4	7.7
Math	45.3	40.9	4.4
Social Studies	25.4	19.9	5.5
Science	37.4	28.4	9.0
<i>10th Grade-OGT</i>			
Reading	72.5	62.4	10.1
Math	54.6	46.3	8.3
Writing	76.6	67.9	8.6
Social Studies	49.0	42.0	7.0
Science	45.3	35.5	9.8
<i>11th Grade</i>			
Reading	88.0	74.8	13.2
Math	72.5	55.6	17.0
Writing	87.8	74.2	13.6
Social Studies	72.5	57.4	15.2
Science	66.0	45.0	21.0
<i>Average</i>	61.6	49.7	12.0

Results based on unweighted averages at the building level

Academic ratings for charter schools that received a rating for both 2005-2006 and 2006-2007

2006-2007	LRC Rating	2005-2006				Total									
		Emergency	Watch	Improvement	Effective		Excellent								
	Emergency	37	12	22	0	3	74								
	Watch	19	10	17	3	2	51								
	Improvement	14	17	30	5	1	67								
	Effective	0	0	4	6	3	13								
	Excellent	0	0	0	1	7	8								
	Total	70	39	73	15	16	213								
<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Summary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Improved</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Worsened</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Unchanged</td> <td>90</td> </tr> </table>								Summary		Rating Improved	55	Rating Worsened	68	Rating Unchanged	90
Summary															
Rating Improved	55														
Rating Worsened	68														
Rating Unchanged	90														

Academic ratings for Big 8 charter schools that received a rating for both 2005-2006 and 2006-2007

2006-2007	LRC Rating	2005-2006				Total									
		Emergency	Watch	Improvement	Effective		Excellent								
	Emergency	28	11	16	0	2	57								
	Watch	16	7	9	2	1	35								
	Improvement	9	12	20	4	0	45								
	Effective	0	0	1	5	2	8								
	Excellent	0	0	0	1	4	5								
	Total	53	30	46	12	9	150								
<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Summary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Improved</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Worsened</td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Unchanged</td> <td>64</td> </tr> </table>								Summary		Rating Improved	39	Rating Worsened	47	Rating Unchanged	64
Summary															
Rating Improved	39														
Rating Worsened	47														
Rating Unchanged	64														

Academic ratings for Big 8 traditional schools that received a rating for both 2005-2006 and 2006-2007

2006-2007	LRC Rating	2005-2006				Total									
		Emergency	Watch	Improvement	Effective		Excellent								
	Emergency	62	16	9	0	0	87								
	Watch	14	53	42	0	0	109								
	Improvement	36	43	96	27	0	202								
	Effective	0	1	4	42	4	51								
	Excellent	0	0	0	4	14	18								
	Total	112	113	151	73	18	467								
<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Summary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Improved</td> <td>102</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Worsened</td> <td>98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rating Unchanged</td> <td>267</td> </tr> </table>								Summary		Rating Improved	102	Rating Worsened	98	Rating Unchanged	267
Summary															
Rating Improved	102														
Rating Worsened	98														
Rating Unchanged	267														

Per-pupil state funding paid to traditional schools is less than half the amount that is paid to charter schools

Fiscal Year	Traditional Schools	Charter Schools
2002	3,016	5,881
2003	3,114	5,996
2004	3,205	6,417
2005	3,268	6,737
2006	3,335	6,683
2007	3,394	6,902

Source: ODE SF3 State Funding Reports

After deducting charter school transfer payments, between fiscal years 2003-2007, total state aid to traditional school districts grew by only 57 percent of the total rate of inflation. When adjusted to a per-pupil basis, state aid growth was still only 79 percent of the total rate of inflation.

Fiscal Year	Total State Aid	State Aid per Pupil	Inflation Rate
2003	3.3%	3.2%	2.1%
2004	2.7%	2.9%	3.3%
2005	0.8%	1.9%	2.5%
2006	1.4%	2.1%	4.3%
2007	0.6%	1.8%	2.7%
Total	9.0%	12.5%	15.8%

Sources: ODE SF3 State Funding Reports and Bureau of Labor Statistics (CPI-U for 12 month period June to June)

While traditional public school enrollment is down, inadequate funding and the diversion of scarce financial resources to charter schools has resulted in a disproportionate reduction in teaching positions among traditional school districts.

School Year	Teachers	Change	Students	Change
2002-2003	114,736		1,728,063	
2003-2004	109,925	-4.2%	1,733,069	0.3%
2004-2005	105,543	-4.0%	1,720,206	-0.7%
2005-2006	105,408	-0.1%	1,704,218	-0.9%
2006-2007	104,366	-1.0%	1,683,195	-1.2%
Total Decrease	10,370	9.0%	44,868	2.6%

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