








MYTHS VS. FACTS

SEPARATING THE TRUTH FROM FICTION: UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN FLORIDA

Myth: Charter schools are not public schools. **FACT:** Charter schools are public schools.

Public Charter Schools	District-run Public Schools
	
  	  
Tuition-free and open to all students Non-sectarian, does not discriminate on any basis Publicly funded based on student enrollment	

Florida's system of public education offers quality choice options to families and all types of learners. One size does not fit all.

Myth: Charter schools are hurting public education.
FACT: Charter schools have been providing high quality education options for families in Florida since 1997.



- Florida's fourth graders are 5th in the nation in reading achievement and 7th in math.
- Florida's high school graduation rate has improved over the last decade and is at an all-time high of 86 percent (2018)
- Florida is the top state in the nation for percentage of students taking Advanced Placement courses and 3rd in successful completion.
- In 2018-19, 68% of charter schools earned an A or B from the State.



In 2018-2019, more than 295,000 students attend public charter schools in Florida.

Myth: Charter schools do not perform academically.
FACT: Students attending charter schools are excelling academically.*



- In 93% of the comparisons, low-income students enrolled in charter schools performed better academically.
- In 63 of the 77 comparisons, students enrolled in charter schools demonstrated higher rates of grade level performance.
- The percentage of students making learning gains was higher in charter schools in 88 of the 96 comparisons.

* Student Achievement in Florida's Charter Schools, March 2019, Florida Department of Education

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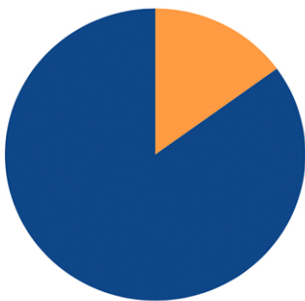
Myth: Charter schools taking funding away from district-run school.

FACT: Charter schools do not take funding away from district-run schools.

When a parent makes a choice for their child's public education, the funding follows the student whether that child attends their assigned home school, a magnet program, or charter school.

Charter school students in Florida get 71 cents on the dollar when compared to their peers attending a district-run school. – Tax Watch 2017

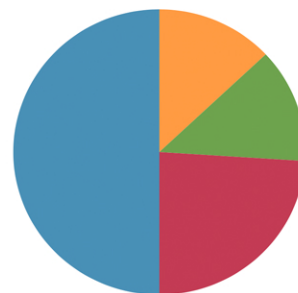
Average Charter School - Miami Dade



Federal 15% State & Local 85%

Per student funding \$7,400

Average District-run School - Miami Dade



Federal 13% Federal 13% State 24% Local 50%

Per student funding \$25,000

Myth: Districts have no power over charter schools.

FACT: As a charter school authorizer, a school district has the power to continually monitor a charter school's progress, and close a charter school for various reasons – including poor academic performance.

Charter schools are required to provide their authorizer with regular financial reports and operating updates.



Myth: Charter schools are for-profit corporations.

FACT: All charter schools are non-profit organizations that are overseen by a volunteer governing board and must abide by state laws and the authorizer contract. Families, voters support school choice.



Lynn Norman-Teck
Executive Director
Lynn@flcharteralliance.org
(305) 216-6208

Ralph Arza
Director of Governmental Affairs
ralph@flcharteralliance.org
(561) 899-2035