THE CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Missouri’s kids deserve to be treated fairly
To improve student achievement by increasing access to high quality charter public education options throughout Missouri.
Three points to make…

01 What are charter public schools?

02 Why don’t charter students receive a fair share of funding?

03 How can we fix this funding glitch?
What are charter public schools?

- Charter schools are public schools—free and open to all students. They are funded by taxpayers.
  - *In other words, they don’t charge tuition, they aren’t selective, and they are not-for-profit.*

- Charter public schools provide parents options.
  - *There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all education. Charter public schools give parents the freedom to find a school that fits their child’s needs, regardless of income or zip code.*

How do they perform?

**RAISING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**
Charter schools serving low-income families and students of color are eliminating the achievement gap.

**PROVIDING ADDITIONAL DAYS OF LEARNING**
According to a report from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO), charter schools add 14 days of reading and 22 days of math.

**HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION**
There are many proof-points indicating that charter schools provide quality education. If not…they close.

**HOLDING THE HIGHEST PERFORMANCE IN BOTH KC & STL**
In 2018, 22 charter schools had the highest Annual Performance Rating in their city.

**EXPERIENCING FEWER TRANSFERS**
Students in Missouri charter schools are 4.5 TIMES less likely to transfer during the school year.

**IN HIGH DEMAND BY FAMILIES**
Because of their popularity, almost all Missouri charter schools have enrollment waiting lists.
Missouri Charter Public Schools 2018–2019

AT A GLANCE

Charter School Student Enrollment

12,897
Students in KC

11,907
Students in STL

24,804 TOTAL

2018–19 Student Demographics

70%

19%

5%

6%

Public School Student Market Share

Charter  Traditional

KC  ST. L

46%  36%

Chart

Traditional

Public Charter School Market Share

African American  White  Latino  Other

10  20  30  40  50  60  70

1. Missouri Charter Public Schools are the TOP PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN KC & STL

60% of the top 10 KC & STL schools are charters.

90% of the top Language Arts public schools in KC

90% of the top Language Arts public schools in STL

70% of the top Mathematics public schools in KC & STL

Charter school students are 4.5 TIMES less likely to transfer during the school year.

MCPSA’S MISSION:
To improve student achievement by increasing access to high quality charter public education options throughout Missouri.

In Missouri there are

65 Charter Schools

Public charter schools are:

- Tuition-FREE
- Public, open to all students
- Innovative
- Held legally accountable for performance
- Require no admission testing

#MOChartersWork

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MISSOURI FUNDS ITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN A WAY THAT IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE AND FAIR FUNDING FOR EACH CHILD’S EDUCATION.

For charter public school students, it’s not working.
THIS IS NOT BECAUSE OF ANY EFFORT TO MAKE MISSOURI’S SCHOOL FUNDING UNFAIR; INEQUITABLE FUNDING IS THE RESULT OF A GLITCH IN THE WAY SCHOOLS ARE FUNDED.

But we can #fixtheglitch
Despite the state’s goal of equitable funding for all students...

- Charter public students each receive at least $1,100 less than other public students due to the growth since 2005 in local property taxes and other local funding streams that are not included in their funding.

- The success of Kansas City charter public schools means that students in those schools face an even bigger hurdle, since the percentage of charter school students became larger than the percentage of funding the state puts into education.
Why don’t charter students receive a fair share of funding?

For charter schools, a portion of local effort (property taxes) is set at 2004-05 rates. As a result, charter schools don’t fully benefit from an increase in property values.

This outcome for charters was not intentional. The local tax component is calculated based on 2005 tax revenue, additional revenue above that stays with the traditional local districts.

There are streams of local revenue not included in the formula which stay with the local districts and therefore don’t get distributed equitably.

- Such as debt services funds, capital project funds, payments in lieu of taxes, merchants taxes.
- Again, the negative impact on public charter schools was not intentional.

Because Local Effort < $3.43 is fixed at 2004-05 rates for charter schools, as public school enrollment grows, each charter school student gets a smaller portion of funding.

FIXED 2004-05 LOCAL EFFORT PIE < $3.43

MORE PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

= SMALLER SLICES PER CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT
$1,100 per student \times 100 \text{ students} = $110,000

What does $110,000 buy?

2 teachers

2 social workers

2 bus routes
How did the success of public charters push us to the “Funding Cliff”?

45% of MO education dollars come from the state

55% of MO education dollars come from localities

When charter school enrollment comes close to 50% of all children within a school district (as it just did in KC), the state funds are depleted and the state is unable to fulfill its funding obligation to charters.
Again, despite the state’s goal of equitable funding for all students...

- Charter public students each receive at least $1,100 less than other public students due to the growth since 2005 in local property taxes and other local funding streams that are not included in their funding.
How can we fix this funding glitch?

The glitch needs to be fixed by the MO State Legislature.

*Why hasn’t this already happened?*

1. It’s complicated (as you now know).
2. No one intended to create unfair funding.
3. Your legislators haven’t heard from you.

What **you** and your families can do to #FixtheGlitch

- Text FIXTHEGLITCH to 52886 to be notified when it’s time to call your legislators
- Share your story on social media with #FixtheGlitch and your representative’s name
  - Like MCPSA on Facebook @MOCharterSchools
  - Follow us on Twitter @MOCharterSchool
  - Follow us on Instagram @MOCharterSchools
What you can do to #FixtheGlitch

- Inform others and get them involved
  - Share information at a Parent-Teacher Association meeting
  - Share information at Faculty meetings
  - Include information in school newsletters
  - Place information on the school website
  - Help us with Charter School Day at the Capitol (January 22, 2020)
  - Other ways?

Gaining attention to #FixtheGlitch

- Op/Ed Article to the Local Press
- Letters to the Editor
- Letters and phone calls to your elected officials (Closer to Legislative Session)
- Elected officials school tours
Charter schools are public schools—free and open to all students. They are funded by taxpayers. They provide parents in St. Louis and Kansas City the option to find a school that fits their child’s needs, regardless of income or zip code.

- There are 33 charter school buildings in Kansas City, serving 12,897 children and 33 charter school buildings in St. Louis serving 11,907 kids.

Missouri schools are funded based on a complicated per-student formula that takes many factors into account in order to ensure equity.

- For example, the formula provides more money per student to districts with higher proportions of low income, special needs, and limited English proficiency students.

In practice, this funding is not equitable for charter public schools. This year, charter school students are each receiving about $1,100 less than their peers in traditional school districts. Students in Kansas City are being shortchanged an additional $250 per student due to the fact that the percentage of charter school students now exceeds the percentage that the state contributes to public education. (See page 2 for additional details.)

This problem is not the result of any targeted effort to shortchange charter public school kids. It is simply a glitch in the way schools are funded and can be addressed by the state legislature.

Children are the most important people in our public schools.

We have public schools to teach our children the skills, knowledge, and civic values they need to be good citizens and pursue their dreams and ambitions.

We are preparing them for life.

Are some of the children who go to public schools less important than others? The obvious answer is no.

All children deserve the best public education possible.

Public policy in Missouri treats some children worse than others.

Public schools in Missouri are funded nearly entirely by the taxpayers—federal, state and local.

Everyone—regardless of their family income—should have access to a good education. A child in a district school is no less important than a child in a charter public school, and vice versa.

A loophole in the law treats children differently when it comes to local tax dollars.

This loophole is the unintended consequence of the drafting of statute and NOT due to any actions of the local school district.

Some public school students receive less local government funding for their education than others quite a bit less in some cases.
Missouri’s public school students deserve to be treated fairly.