

Facts About Charter Schools in Arizona



Providing Educational Choices for
Arizona Students and Parents

Arizona Charter Schools Association

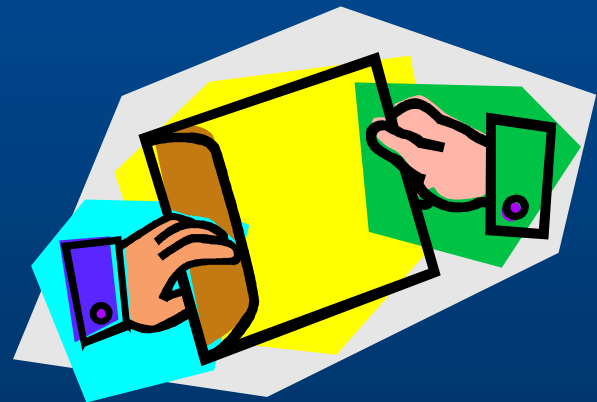
Basic Facts About Charter Schools

- ✓ Charter schools are tuition free
- ✓ Charter schools are publicly funded
- ✓ Charter schools are independent
- ✓ Charter schools provide students and parents with educational choices



Charter School Operation

- ✓ Charter schools operate on three basic principles:
 - ✓ Accountability
 - ✓ Choice
 - ✓ Autonomy



Charter School Accountability

- ✓ Charter schools are regulated by two entities:
 - ✓ The Arizona State Board for Charter Schools
 - ✓ The Arizona Board of Education
- ✓ Must meet goals established by each individual charter:
 - ✓ Curriculum emphasis
 - ✓ Operational
 - ✓ Financial

Charter School Accountability

- ✓ Charter schools in AZ must sign affidavits verifying their curriculums are aligned to state standards.
- ✓ Charter schools must be non-sectarian.
- ✓ Charters are required to file an annual compliance audit, financial report and budget with the state of AZ.
- ✓ Charters must comply with state and federal regulations regarding the education of students with special needs.

Charter School Accountability

- ✓ **Must teach the Arizona State Standards:**
 - ✓ Reading
 - ✓ English/Language Arts
 - ✓ Math
 - ✓ Science
 - ✓ Physical Education
- ✓ **Must administer high stakes tests:**
 - ✓ AIMS
 - ✓ Stanford 9

Charter School Choice & Design

- ✓ Charter schools are designed by:
 - ✓ Educators
 - ✓ Parents
 - ✓ Community leaders
 - ✓ Educational entrepreneurs, and others.
- ✓ Greater variety of alternatives provide quality education options for children in our communities.



Charter School Choice & Design

✓ **One size does
not fit all!**



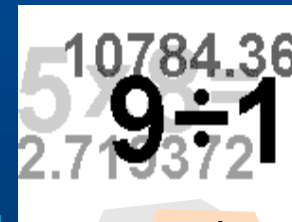
Charter School Curriculum

- ✓ Many have specialized curriculum:
 - ✓ Science - Technology
 - ✓ Fine Arts
 - ✓ Agriculture
 - ✓ Vocational
 - ✓ College Prep



Charter School Curriculum

- ✓ Additional areas of focus:
 - ✓ Special Student Populations
 - ✓ Individualized Instruction
 - ✓ Back to Basics
 - ✓ At-Risk
 - ✓ Fine Arts
 - ✓ Montessori



Charter School Autonomy Inspires Change

- ✓ Charter schools are driving change in schools statewide.
- ✓ Competition among Charter, District and Private schools leads to overall increased academic achievement.
- ✓ Parents are welcomed to get involved with the education process.



Charter Schools & Parents

- ✓ **Emphasis on parental involvement.**
- ✓ **Parent surveys conducted by independent researchers show charter school parents are more satisfied with their child's school than parents of traditional public school students. (Goldwater Institute)**

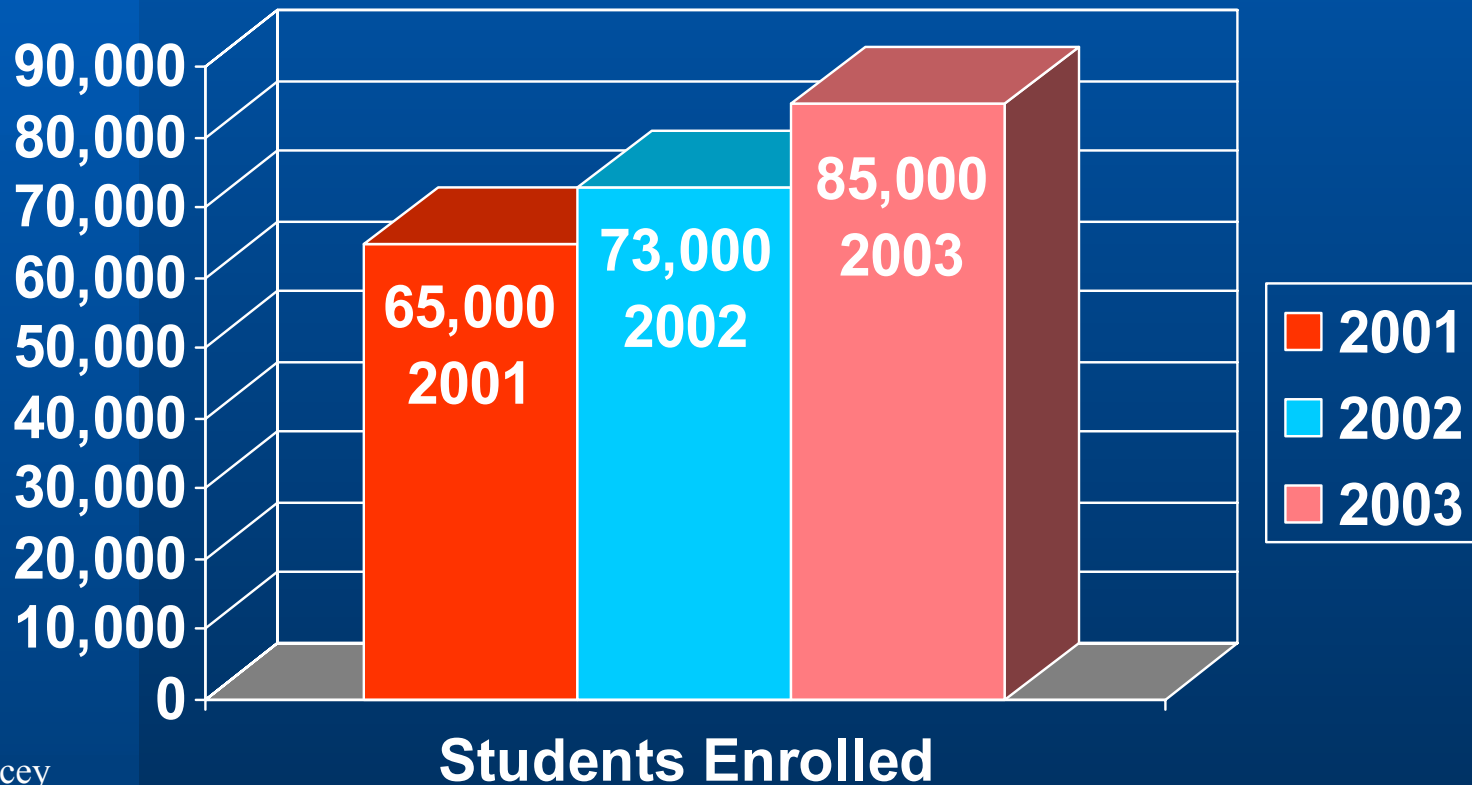
Charter School Enrollment

- ✓ There are approximately 950,000 students enrolled in Arizona public schools (both District and Charter) in 2003.
- ✓ Presently there are 494 charter sites in Arizona serving 85,000 students.
 - ✓ This figure represents approximately 9% of the total student population in the state.
- ✓ This is a 16% increase in enrollment over 2002.



Charter School Enrollment

16% Enrollment Increase in 2003



Charter School Test Scores

- ✓ Recent Stanford 9 Math scores show Charter school scores are equal or better than District school scores (Top ten)

School	Grade	Score	Type
Bench mark School	4	97	Charter
Montessori Academy	3	97	Charter
Kachina Academy	2	96	Charter
Self Development Charter	3	96	Charter
University High	9	96	District
Agua Caliente	4	95	District
CASY	4	95	Charter
Mesa Arts	8	95	Charter
Sunridge Learning Center	6	95	District
BASIS	6	94	Charter

Charter School Test Scores

✓ Top 11 through 22 scores Stanford 9 Math

School	Grade	Score	Type
BASIS	7	94	Charter
Benchmark School	2	94	Charter
Khalsa Montessori Elem.	7	94	Charter
Villa Montessori	7	94	Charter
Ventanna Vista Elem.	5	94	District
Winifred Harelson	6	93	District
Espero Canyon MS	6	93	District
Hermosa Montessori	7	92	Charter
Franklin Northeast	6	92	District
Ronald Reagan Fund.	6	92	District
BASIS	9	92	Charter
Tempe Prep	9	90	Charter

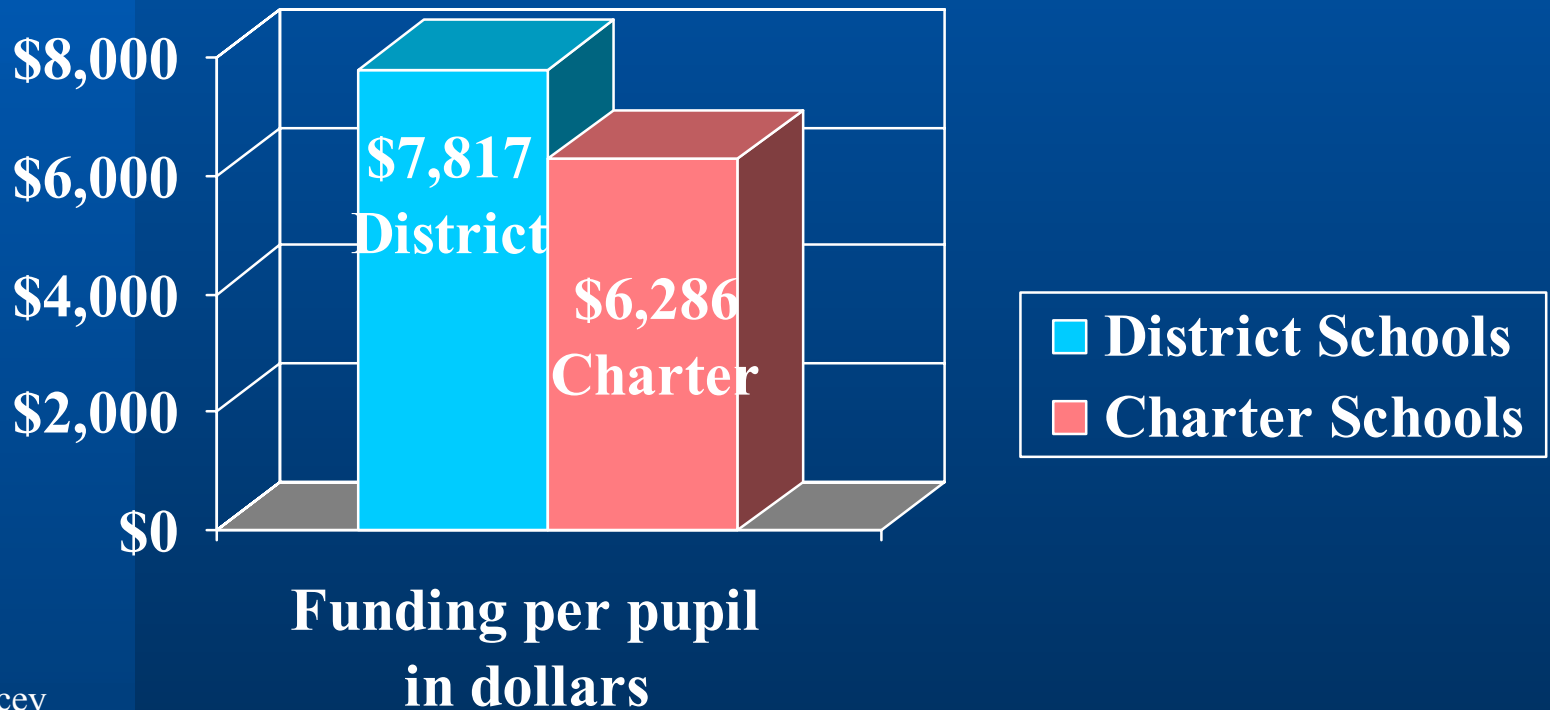
Charter School Funding

- ✓ Funding comparisons in Arizona show Charter schools receive about 20% less funding than District schools overall.
- ✓ Includes funds from all sources, including Local, State and Federal (Joint Legislative Budget Committee 2002)



Charter School Funding

Joint Legislative Budget Committee
Numbers from FY 2003



Top 10 Reasons to Support Charter Schools

1. More educational choices
2. Charter schools provide a better education for less money.
3. Promote greater parent involvement
4. Smaller class sizes equate to more individual attention
5. One size does not fit all, tailored programs lead to continued enrollment in Charter schools
6. Greater administrative flexibility facilitates prompt decision making
7. Charter school test scores are equal to or better than District school scores
8. High academic standards
9. Independent operations by local groups
10. Local, State & Federal accountability





Thank you!