

Is Administration Learner in Charter Schools?

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Resource Allocation in Charter and Traditional Public Schools**

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March, 2012

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Abstract

There is widespread concern that administration consumes too much of the educational dollar in traditional public schools, diverting needed resources from classroom instruction and hampering efforts to improve student outcomes. By contrast, charter schools are predicted to have leaner administration and allocate resources more intensively to instruction. This study analyzes resource allocation in charter and district schools in Michigan, where charter and traditional public schools receive approximately the same operational funding. Holding constant other determinants of school resource allocation, we find that compared to traditional public schools, charter schools on average spend nearly \$800 more per pupil per year on administration and \$1100 less on instruction.