

# NEW OHIO REPORT CARD, SAME RESULTS

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PERFORM WORSE THAN DISTRICTS  
AT A STEEP COST TO OHIO TAXPAYERS  
AND STUDENTS

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# KNOW YOUR CHARTER

*How Ohio Charter Schools Are Performing*



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VAST MAJORITY OF OHIO CHARTER SCHOOLS PERFORM WORSE THAN DISTRICTS  
AT A STEEP COST TO OHIO TAXPAYERS AND STUDENTS

Ohio's latest report cards were released last week. When coupled with the Ohio Charter School Accountability Project's (OCSAP) financial data received from the Ohio Department of Education, one thing remains clear: Ohio charter schools continue to receive hundreds of millions of tax dollars originally meant for children in local public schools that overall perform far better on state performance measures than the charter schools.

Here are some highlights:

- Of the \$935 million transferred last school year from Ohio's public school districts to Ohio's charter schools, **\$553 million came from districts that performed the same or better overall<sup>i</sup>** on the state report card than the charter that received the money.
- **\$370 million** (or \$4 out of every \$10) **went to charter schools that received all their money from the same or better performing districts**
- **\$167 million** (nearly \$1 out of every \$5) **was transferred to charters that received all their money from better performing districts**
- Meanwhile, **only \$12 million of the \$935 million spent on charters last year** (1.2 percent) **went to charter schools that outperformed all the districts from which the schools received money and students.**
- **Only \$22 million** (or 2.3 percent) **went to charters that did no worse than the districts that sent them money and students.**
- Of the 370 charter schools that received students and funding last school year, **1/3 took all their money from districts that did better overall on the report card**, with nearly 1/2 taking all their money from districts that did no worse.
- Of those same 370 charter schools, **only 7** (2 percent) **took all their money from worse performing districts**, and 13 (about 4 percent) took all their money from districts that did no better.
- **Local school districts had to subsidize state funding losses to Ohio charter schools by \$222.1 million last school year**

These results mirror previous examinations by OCSAP.

<sup>i</sup> OCSAP compared district and charter school grades on the new state report card with a district to charter school transfer spreadsheet provided by the Ohio Department of Education. OCSAP counted whether each grade was higher in each comparably graded category on the report card. Then it added up which setting – district or charter – outperformed the competitor in more categories. If the grades were the same, OCSAP looked at the underlying data in several categories that determined the letter grade. This way, for example, if a district receives an F grade for a 60% graduation rate, that district would still be deemed to outperform a charter with an F grade that has a 35% graduation rate. In addition, OCSAP assigned any dropout recovery school, which receives a much more lenient report card, an F grade if the school failed to meet the minimum state graduation standard of 8%. They were also given an F if they failed to meet state standards on closing achievement gaps because districts are judged on the same category. If they met or exceeded state standards, the dropout school was not compared because their passing grades are so much lower than general education schools that to grant a dropout school an A for a 35% graduation rate would be meaningless.

# FUNDING AND PERFORMANCE

Last year, Ohio sent about 60 percent of its charter school funding to charters that did no better or worse overall on the state report card than the district from which the funding was transferred.

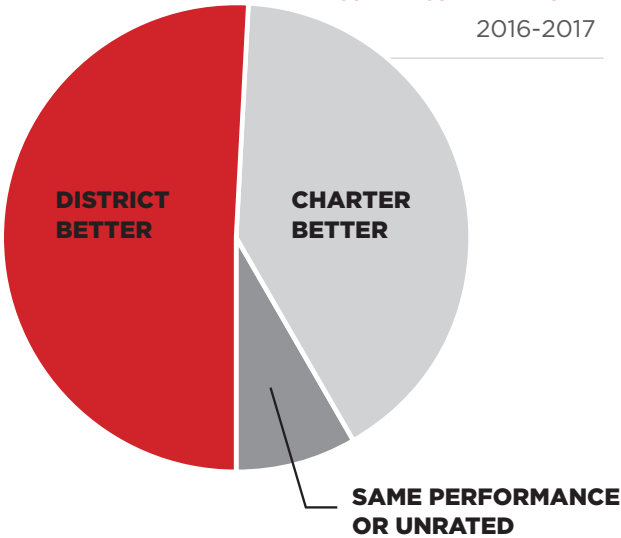
Ohio charter schools receive state funding by having the state transfer money meant for children in a school district instead to the charter school. This often leads local school districts with far fewer state resources with which to educate their kids, forcing many to utilize additional local tax dollars to make up the difference.

Last school year, OCSAP calculates that because the state transfers so much more funding to a charter school than the same student would have received in the mostly better performing school district from which they transferred, local taxpayers have to come up with more than \$222 million in local revenue to make up for the loss.

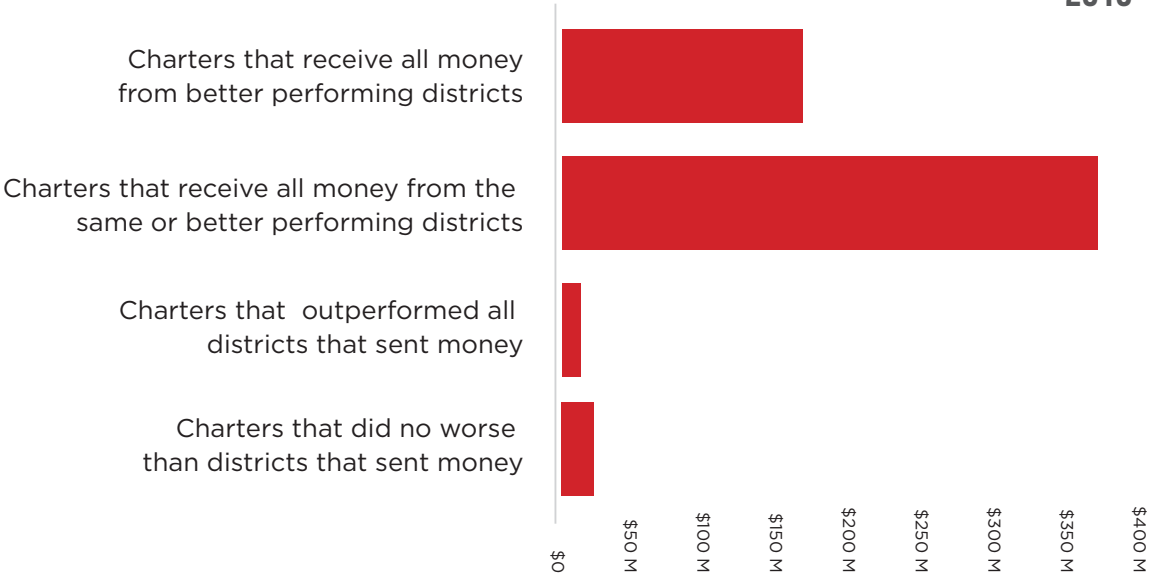
This problem has been acknowledged by state legislative leaders on both sides of the aisle.

Exacerbating the local subsidy issue is the fact that overall, most charter schools simply do not perform well academically.

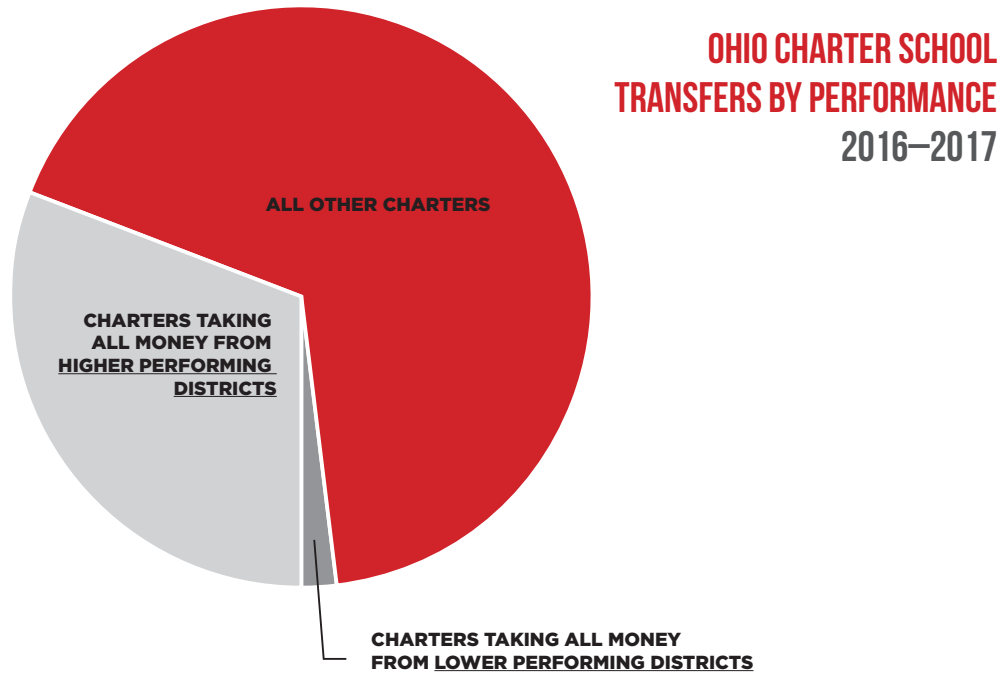
**DISTRICT TO CHARTER PERFORMANCE COMPARISON BY TRANSFER**  
2016-2017



**STATE FUNDING TRANSFERRED**  
2016-2017



And in terms of numbers of schools, nearly ½ of all 370 Ohio charter schools receive all their money from districts that perform the same or better than they do. And about 1/3 of charters take all their money from districts that do better.



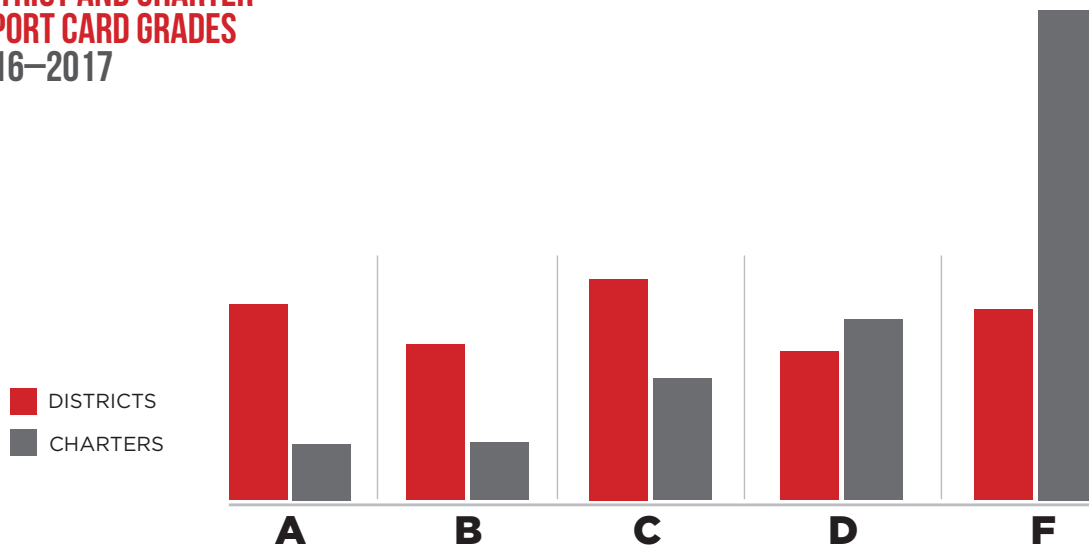
The opposite is not true. Only a handful of charters take all their money from districts that they outperform or do no worse than.

Here is a list of the seven Ohio charter schools that take all their state revenue from districts that perform worse on the state report card than the charter.

Charter Outperforming All Districts Sending it Money	State Funding 2016-2017
Village Preparatory School: Woodland Hills Campus	\$ 3,451,869
Cleveland Arts and Social Sciences Academy	\$ 2,525,623
Entrepreneurship Preparatory School: Woodland Hills Campus	\$ 2,450,995
STEAM Academy of Akron	\$ 1,351,512
Greater Summit County Early Learning Center	\$ 939,349
HBCU Preparatory School 1	\$ 932,776
Bridge Gate Community School	\$ 326,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 11,978,863</b>

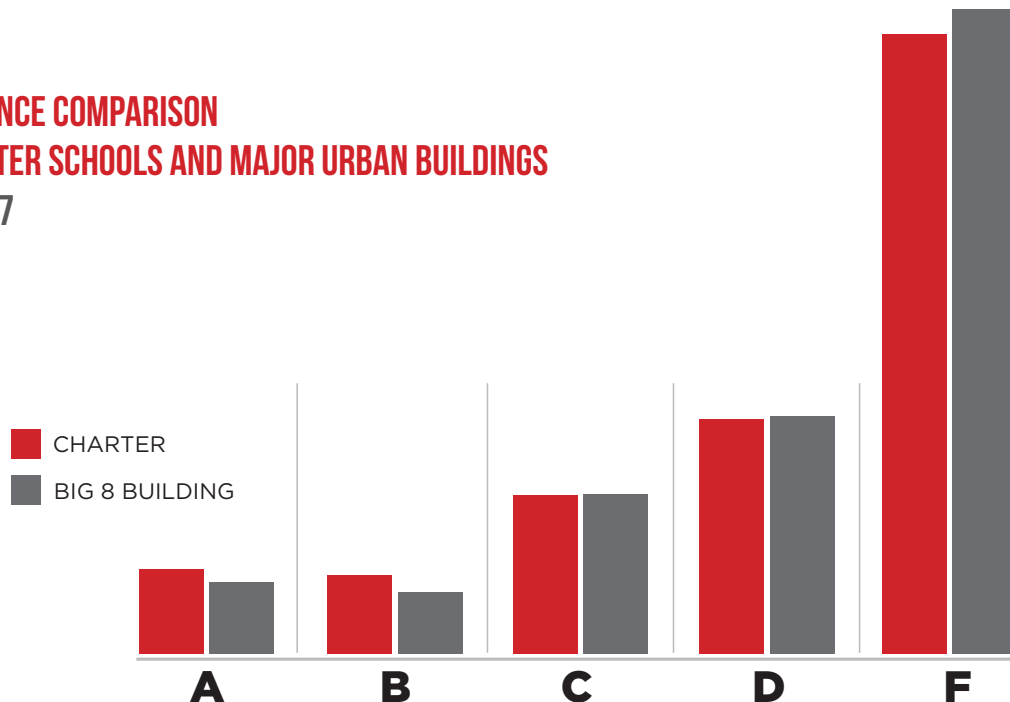
In terms of straight report card performance, Ohio's school districts (all but a handful lost funding and students to charter schools in the 2016-2017 school year) clearly outperform their charter school counterparts.

### DISTRICT AND CHARTER REPORT CARD GRADES 2016-2017



And while charter school proponents insist that their schools' performance only be compared with schools in Ohio's 8 major urban districts (when about 1/2 of all charter students do not come from those districts), the comparisons don't put charters in a good light there either. For while Ohio's urban schools have nearly 25 percent greater rates of disabled and minority students, as well as nearly 50% more schools with 95 percent or greater economically disadvantaged populations, the urban schools perform nearly identically to charters.

### PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OHIO CHARTER SCHOOLS AND MAJOR URBAN BUILDINGS 2016-2017



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