

Diane Ravitch's blog

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Ohio Charter Schools: A bad deal for kids and taxpayers

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When Ohio first opened charter schools, advocates claimed they could “save poor kids from failing schools,” while costing less. They would be so effective that at-risk students would learn more, even close the achievement gap. And they would be so efficient that the state would pay less for education.

Of course, it hasn’t worked out this way. [A new analysis](#) by a public policy think tank in Ohio reveals that charters cost more than public schools, and with rare exceptions, get worse results.

Meanwhile, the charters siphon money away from more effective public schools.

[Innovation Ohio reports:](#)

“Innovation Ohio has analyzed data from the Ohio Department of Education that demonstrates that the way charter schools are funded in this state has a profoundly negative impact on the resources that remain for the 1.6 million kids in Ohio’s traditional public schools.

“In the vast majority of cases — even in many urban school districts — the state is transferring money to charter schools that perform substantially worse than the public schools from which the students supposedly “escaped.”

Key Findings:

“Because of the \$774 million deducted from traditional public schools in FY 2012 to fund charters, children in traditional public schools received, on average, \$235 (or 6.5%) less state aid than the state itself said they needed.

“More than 90% of the money sent to rated charter schools in the 2011-2012 school year went to charters that on average score significantly lower on the Performance Index Score than the public schools students had left.

“Over 40% of state funding for charters in 2011-2012 (\$326 million) was transferred from traditional public districts that performed better on both the State Report Card and Performance Index.

Original post: <http://dianeravitch.net/2013/03/22/ohio-charter-schools-a-bad-deal-for-kids-and-taxpayers/>