

INDIANA CHARTER SCHOOLS

FACT VS FICTION



Claim #1

Charter Schools are tuition free public schools.

There is no charge to attend a charter school. They are as public as your local district school.

Claim #2

Anyone can attend a Charter School.

You do not have to live in a certain area to attend a given charter school. There are no geographic boundaries, no education qualifications and no entrance exams. Anyone can attend!



Claim #3

Charter Schools are offering a quality educational option to parents throughout Indiana.

Nearly 10,000 students attend charter schools in Indiana and 1 million nationally. Parents take advantage of their right to choose. Many parents choose a specific charter school because they feel the educational model suites their student's learning style.



Claim #4

Charter Schools screen students and cherry-pick based on who will increase their test scores.

The numbers don't lie. See Chart below. All students are accepted into charter schools regardless of academic status, their race, religion, or disability status. Take a look at any charter school's enrollment form. The only information requested is basic contact information.

	Gary Charter Schools	Gary Public Schools	Indianapolis Charter Schools	Indianapolis Public Schools	State of Indiana
Minority	98.3%	99.0%	70.3%	75.0%	23.2%
Free Lunch	65.1%	63.0%	51.3%	73.0%	* 38.0%
Reduced Lunch	6.5%	2.0%	12.0%	10.0%	n/a
Paid Lunch	28.5%	35.0%	36.7%	17.0%	n/a
Special Education**	8.5%	16.3%	10.7%	18.7%	17.9%

Except where noted, data was collected from each school's profile provided by the Indiana Department of Education which reflects school reports for the 2006-2007 school year submitted to the Indiana Department of Education.

* State averages for free lunch are based on 2005-2006 data. Stats have remained fairly constant over the last three years, with a small variation over the past three years totaling a 3% increase. Reduced and Paid Lunch figures were not available.

** Special education data was pulled from the Indiana Department of Education School Data Extraction Database: Special Education Report, December 1 Count submitted by schools for the 2006-2007 school year.

FICTION

Claim #5

Charter Schools or their Management Organizations make money off of students.

This claim is completely unfounded. In fact, charter schools receive less per pupil funding than traditional public schools. Charter schools currently receive no transportation or capital funding as do traditional public schools, leaving them to operate on nearly half the funding as a traditional public school.

Claim #6

Charter Schools aren't held accountable.

FICTION

Quite the contrary- charter schools are held accountable to the same state standards as traditional public schools (see below), and are also held accountable to their authorizer or sponsor. Schools MUST meet these requirements in order to stay in operation.

Equity in Indiana Public Education?

	Indianapolis Public Schools		Indiana Charter Schools	
Must they follow Indiana State Standards?	YES	✓	YES	✓
Are they accountable for ISTEP (+) testing?	YES	✓	YES	✓
Must they adhere to Special Education laws?	YES	✓	YES	✓
Transportation Funds in 2007	\$27 Million*	✓	NADA	✗
Capital (Facility) Funds in 2007	\$65 Million*	✓	ZILCH	✗
Bonding Authority?	YEP	✓	NOPE	✗
Debt Forgiveness?	OF COURSE	✓	FORGET IT	✗
*Source: Indianapolis Star				



Greater Educational Opportunities Foundation
2540 N. Capital Avenue, Suite 101
Indianapolis, IN 46208
www.geofoundation.org
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