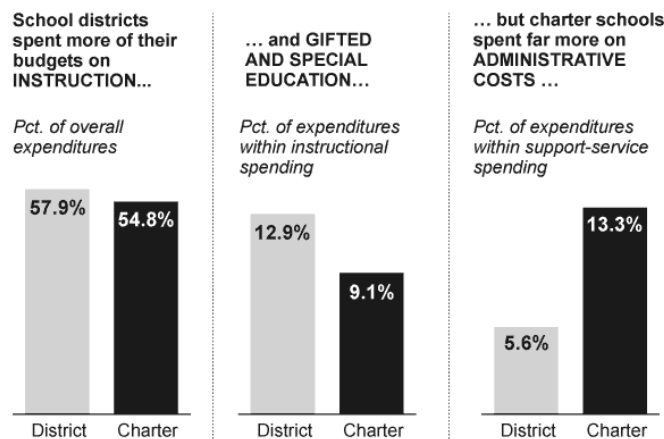




# Charter Schools Facts

Former Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale called the charter school law in Pennsylvania the “absolute worst” in the United States. Here are a few problems with unchecked charter school expansion:

1. **Charters drain money away from public schools.** Pittsburgh Public Schools has budgeted \$102.2 million in 2021 for charter school tuition. Special education tuition rates are nearly three times the regular education rates. Charter schools receive that rate regardless of a student’s disability, even though they don’t educate students with the most expensive disabilities. This leaves our public schools with less money to educate all students.
2. **No Transparency. No accountability.** Charter schools are publicly funded, but act like private entities. Charter school boards are not elected by the public.
3. **Charters are not held to the same standards.** Only 75% of the professional staff members of a charter school must hold appropriate state certification.
4. **Charters schools do not look like the communities they serve.** They have lower rates of students with disabilities and do not educate students with severe disabilities. Others do not look like the city as a whole in terms of race and income, which is contributing to greater economic and racial segregation.
5. **Most charters do not perform better than public schools.** Many perform worse. For example, none of the state’s cyber charters have reached a performance benchmark of 70% on the School Performance Profile— a statewide grading system for Pennsylvania’s public schools.
6. **About a third of charters that opened in 2000 closed by 2010.** This often happens unexpectedly and leaves students and parents struggling in the middle of a school year.
7. **Charter schools spend significantly more money on advertising and administrative costs:**



## What are the charter schools that already exist in Pittsburgh?\*

1. Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (226 students )
2. Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School (284 students)
3. Environmental Charter School at Frick Park (635 students and expanding to a third location)
4. Manchester Academy Charter School (342 students)
5. Propel Charter School Hazelwood (273 students)
6. Propel Charter School Northside (397 students)
7. Provident Charter School (66 students)
8. Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School (331 students)
9. City Charter High School (633 students)

\*\* 2019/2020 figures do not reflect enrollment increases due to COVID-19