

Charter Schools No Silver Bullet for Students

Charter schools on average have little to no impact on student outcomes and tend to increase segregation. Virginia should focus time and energy on investing in what's proven to work: high-quality instruction and creating positive learning environments where all students have the support they need to focus on learning.

Charters Remain Largely Unproven

- Large-scale [aggregate reviews of charter schools](#) have found on average no measurable improvements in student achievement for students that switch from traditional schools to charters.
- Charter schools are [more segregated](#) than traditional public schools and the share of minority charter students has declined over time. In North Carolina, a state with a charter authorization process similar to what was [proposed](#) in Virginia in 2022, [multiple studies have found](#) the expansion of these schools contributed to significant racial segregation. White parents were more likely to select charter schools with less student diversity, even if further away and offering less services.
- Studies of specific charters or using aggregate student data often cherry pick information and have a [poor track record of accounting for actual impacts](#). High quality compilations of peer reviewed and longitudinal studies that track students who switch or fail to get into a charter via lottery tend to show [no measurable impact](#) on student outcomes.

Unintended Consequences of Unmitigated Charter Growth

- Virginia's existing 7 charters were created to fill a demonstrated need, were thoroughly vetted by local Boards of Education, and had significant community support. The rapid expansion of charters that was proposed during the 2022 legislative session would have disrupted the existing process, likely leading to lower quality and unnecessary schools that divert resources from existing public schools.
- Students with relatively more family privilege and from higher income households are [more likely](#) to apply to and leave for charters - in turn, concentrating disadvantage in the schools they depart.
- When a student leaves their neighborhood school for a charter, the [fixed cost](#) of running the neighborhood school remains the same, but the funding has been lost. Districts must [cover this loss](#) in some way (raising property taxes, eliminating staff positions, closing schools).
- VA public school enrollment is [projected](#) to decline for the next decade, due to declining birth rates. A period of declining enrollment is not the time to create new schools competing for the dwindling population; doing so will cause division of increasingly scarce resources.