



# **CHARTER SCHOOLS AND WASHINGTON STATE**

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# THE BASICS

- Charter schools are public schools
- Charters are valid for a specific number of years and must meet accountability measures to earn reauthorization
- Charter schools are open enrollment
- Charter schools can be unionized or non-unionized
- Currently, 5,000 charter schools operate in 39 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Charter schools are not permitted in Washington



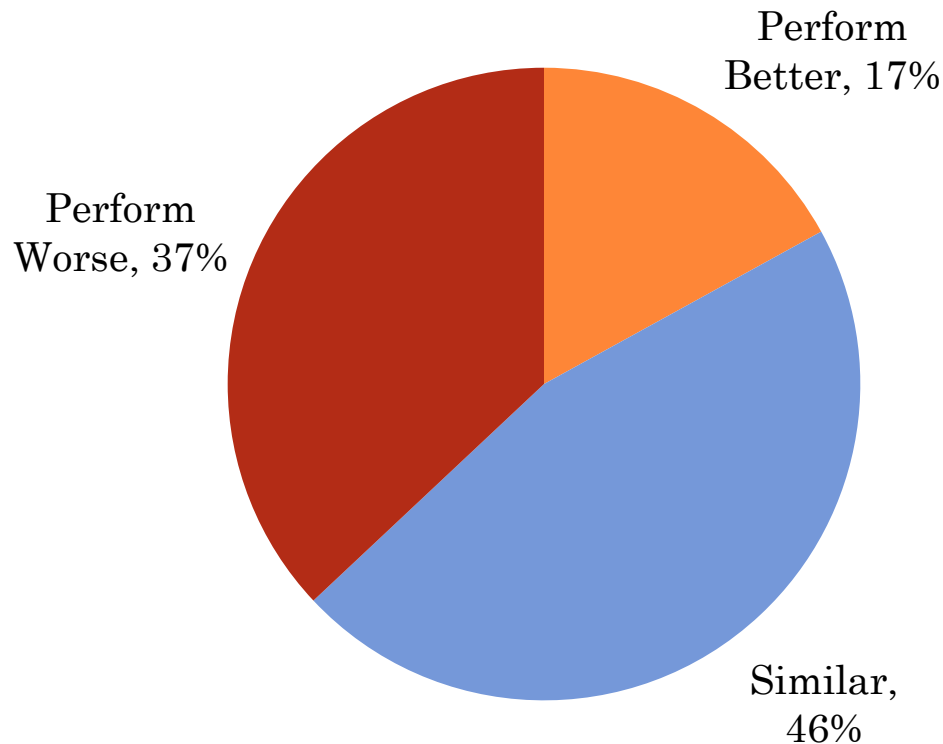
# AUTHORIZERS, CAPS AND TARGETS

- Charters are granted by authorizers, including
  - Local school boards
  - State boards of education
  - Charter-specific boards
  - Universities
- Most states cap the number of charters
  - Low: Idaho, Oklahoma – 6
  - High: California – 1,250
  - 18 states do not cap charters
- Most charters target certain student populations
  - Low-income
  - Academically struggling



# IMPACT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: OVERALL RESULTS MIXED

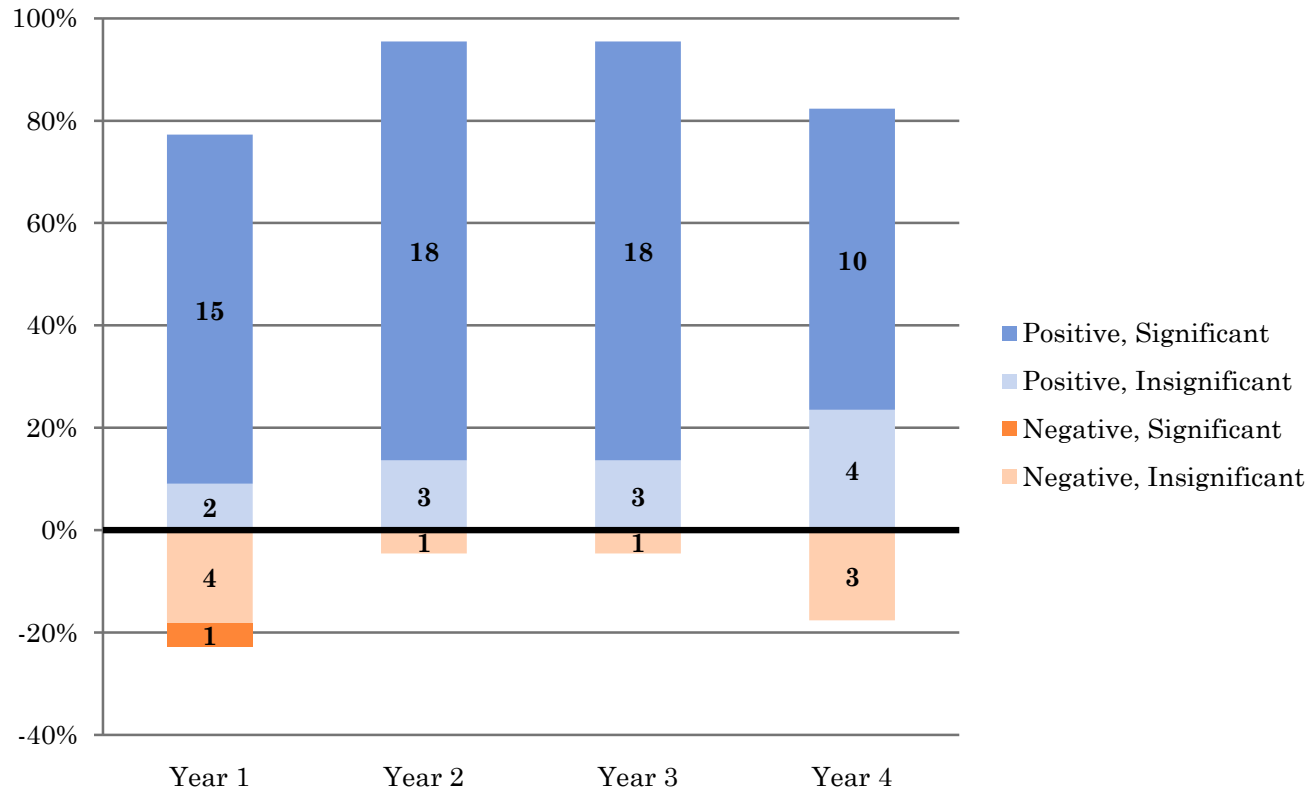
## Student Academic Gains: Charter Schools vs. Traditional Public Schools



Source: Center for Research on Education Outcomes. *Multiple Choice: Charter School Performance in 16 States*. June 2009.

# IMPACT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: HIGH-PERFORMING CHARTER NETWORK

Percentage of KIPP Schools with Significant Effects in Math, by Year



Source: C.C. Tuttle, B. Teh, et al. *Student Characteristics and Achievement in 22 KIPP Middle Schools*. June 2010.



# HISTORY IN WASHINGTON STATE

- 1996: Initiative to the Legislature– rejected
- 1997-99: Bills in the Legislature – Passed House, failed in Senate
- 2000: Initiative to the people – rejected
- 2003: Bills in the Legislature – Passed Senate, failed in House
- 2004
  - Bills in Legislature – Passed both chambers
  - Veto referendum – Law rejected by voters



# OPTIONS UNDER CURRENT LAW

- Federal intervention model – restart
- Allowed under federal law for persistently low-performing schools
- Schools may reopen under an educational management organization (EMO)
  - For-profit or non-profit organizations providing “whole-school operation” services to districts.
  - Typically not charter management organizations, although not prohibited
  - Schools operated by EMOs are not necessarily granted the same autonomies as charter schools. Ex, in Washington, EMOs would be subject to state collective bargaining laws and agreements.
  - Community members are not able to partner with EMOs to open their own schools.



# CHARTER LAW OPTIONS

- A charter law could be created one of three ways:
  1. Initiative to the Legislature
  2. Initiative to the people
  3. Bill through the Legislature





QUESTIONS?

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