

TEA data shows Neighborhood Public Schools Perform Better than Charter Schools

Every year the Texas Education Agency releases the “snapshot” of the prior school year’s academic and financial performance for ISDs and charter schools. These are the facts from the 2014-15 school year (the most recently released report – released last week).

Check them for yourself here:

<https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/perfreport/snapshot/2015/index.html>.

I offer the following key comparisons between ISDs and charter schools:

Dropout and Graduation Rates:

Dropout Rate

- ISDs: **1.0%**
- Charter Districts: **3.3%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 1.8%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 6.8%

4-Year Graduation Rate

- ISDs: **94.2%**
- Charter Districts: **77.3%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 89.6%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 56.9%

5-Year Graduation Rate

- ISDs: **95.5%**
- Charter Districts: **81.0%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 91.3%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 66.3%

Academic Performance:

Reading

- ISDs: **79%**
- Charter Districts: **73%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 76%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 58%

Math

- ISDs: **83%**
- Charter Districts: **76%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 83%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 57%

Science

- ISDs: **76%**
- Charter Districts: **69%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 69%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 66%

Social Studies

- **ISDs:** **75%**
- **Charter Districts:** **70%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 69%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 73%

Writing

- **ISDs:** **71%**
- **Charter Districts:** **70%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 71%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 53%

Tested for College Admissions

- **ISDs:** **61%**
- **Charter Districts:** **38%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 51%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 19%

SAT Average Score

- **ISDs:** **1409**
- **Charter Districts:** **1353**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 1378
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 1270

ACT Average Score

- **ISDs:** **20.1**
- **Charter Districts:** **19.5**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 20.0
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 16.3

Staff expenditures & allocation:

Instructional Expenses

- **ISDs:** **54.6%**
- **Charter Districts:** **51.8%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 52.3%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 49.4%

Central Administrative Expenses

- **ISDs:** **8.9%**
- **Charter Districts:** **13.3%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 13.1%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 14.2%

Central or Campus Administrative Roles

- **ISDs:** **5.1%**
- **Charter Districts:** **8.2%**
 - Non-AEA Charter Districts:* 7.8%
 - AEA Charter Districts:* 9.8%

Teacher salary/experience/turnover and class size

Average Teacher Salary

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| ○ ISDs: | \$50,961 | |
| ○ Charter Districts: | \$44,668 | |
| | <i>Non-AEA Charter Districts:</i> | \$44,760 |
| | <i>AEA Charter Districts:</i> | \$43,859 |

Student Teacher Ratio

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------|
| ○ ISDs: | 12.7 | |
| ○ Charter Districts: | 15.6 | |
| | <i>Non-AEA Charter Districts:</i> | 15.8 |
| | <i>AEA Charter Districts:</i> | 14.7 |

Teachers With Less Than Five (5) Years' Experience

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| ○ ISDs: | 30.7% | |
| ○ Charter Districts: | 66.3% | |
| | <i>Non-AEA Charter Districts:</i> | 68.3% |
| | <i>AEA Charter Districts:</i> | 58.3% |

Teacher Turnover Rate

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| ○ ISDs: | 19.6% | |
| ○ Charter Districts: | 35.8% | |
| | <i>Non-AEA Charter Districts:</i> | 35.5% |
| | <i>AEA Charter Districts:</i> | 36.8% |

Conclusions

This is statewide data, and we recognize that there are good and bad public schools and good and bad charter schools. But the legislature makes decisions about 5.2 million students statewide, and here are the conclusions indicated by this data.

- 1) On average, ISDs outperformed charter schools on dropout rates, state tests, graduation rates, and college entrance exams.
- 2) Charter schools spend more on central administrative expenses and less in the classroom, which leads to larger classes being taught by less experienced teachers.
- 3) Charter schools pay their teachers less per year than ISDs. Many refer to competition from charter schools as a key factor in improving education, but this "competition" is not helping teachers. The fact is charters hire teachers with less experience to save money, and that results in a higher teacher turnover rate.

Some say we live in a "post-fact" era, but the rhetoric we hear about "failing schools" and "competition" from privatization supporters is not supported by the facts, and these facts impact our children's lives. Our neighborhood public schools aren't perfect, but they graduate more kids, have lower dropout rates and prepare more kids for college and careers.