



CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION

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THE PROBLEM: Demand for charter schools far outstrips supply. A 2014 survey of Missourians found that while 2 percent of children are enrolled in charter schools, 11 percent of parents said they would like to enroll their children in a charter school. Unfortunately, charter schools in Missouri are functionally limited to the Kansas City and Saint Louis school districts. Establishing a charter school is seen as nearly impossible in any district that meets minimum state accreditation requirements. Charter schools are only allowed under strict conditions, meaning many families who want to attend one will not be able to do so.

THE SOLUTION: *Expand charter schools statewide.*

Charter schools should be allowed to have non-district sponsors, regardless of whether a district meets minimum state accreditation standards. Per-student funding should be the same for both charter school and traditional public-school students. Charter school authorizers, such as the state Charter School Commission and universities, are already willing to authorize charter schools. Demand among families should determine where and when charter schools open in Missouri.

WHO ELSE DOES IT?

Over 7,000 charter schools operate in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam, serving more than 3.2 million students. Twenty-three states place no caps on the number of charter schools, and many fund charters and traditional public schools at equal or nearly equal levels. Unlike Missouri, almost all other states allow charter schools to operate any-

where. In fact, there are over 3,000 charter schools in suburban, small town, and rural communities across the country.

THE OPPORTUNITY: Charter schools are growing. Nearly 23,000 students were enrolled in 71 charter schools in Missouri for the 2017–18 school year. University Academy, one of the top-performing charter schools in the state, has a waiting list of 700 students. The demand is there. Simply by getting government out of the way, we can offer students a way out of underperforming schools and into schools they want to attend.

KEY POINTS

- Thousands of Missouri students are trapped in poor schools due to needless restrictions on school choice.
- Allowing charter school expansion will meet demand from families.
- School choice has a proven track record elsewhere in the country.

SHOW-ME INSTITUTE RESOURCES

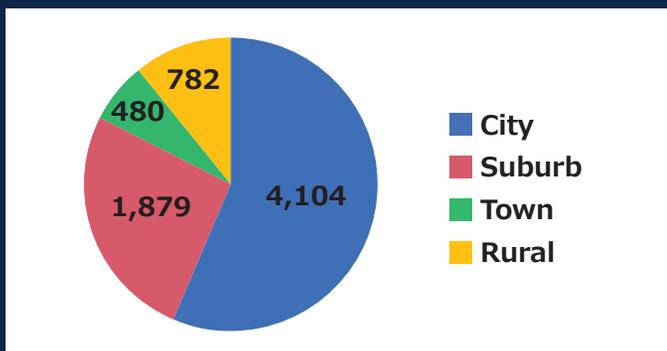
Essay: “Expanding Charter Schooling in Missouri”

Blog Post: “Charter Schools: The Education Opportunity Hidden in Plain Sight”

Blog Post: “Charter Schools 101: What is a Charter School?”

Blog Post: “Charter Schools Boost College Completion”

CHARTER SCHOOLS BY LOCALE, NATIONWIDE



CHARTER SCHOOLS BY AUTHORIZER TYPE, NATIONWIDE

