



CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION

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THE PROBLEM: Demand for charter schools in Missouri is at an all-time high. Unfortunately, charter schools are functionally limited to the Kansas City and Saint Louis School Districts. Tens of thousands of students are denied the opportunity for a better education.

THE SOLUTION: *Expand charter schools statewide.*

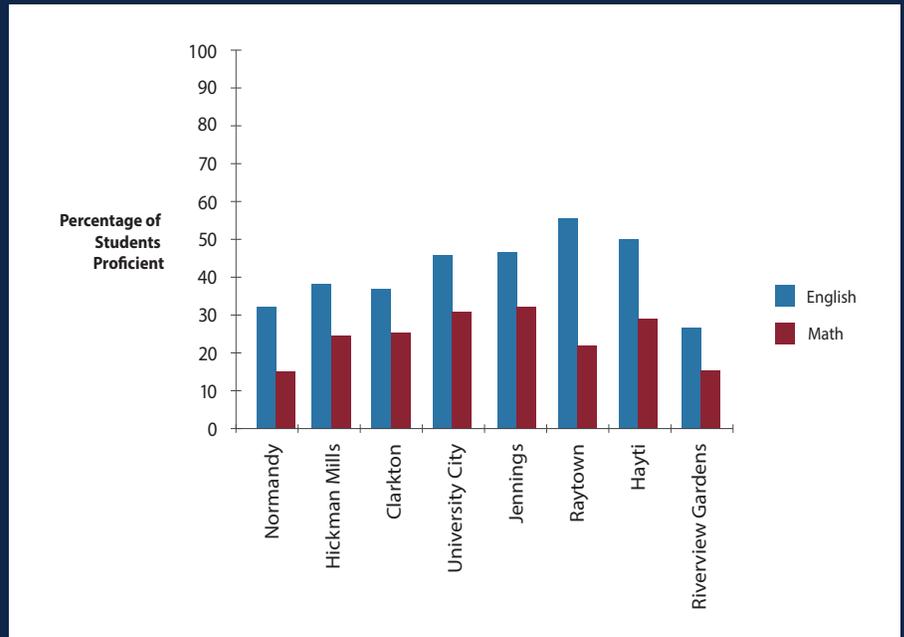
Missouri can allow charter school expansion by removing districts' accreditation status as a qualifier, eliminating the cap of 35% of students per accredited district, leveling per-student funding, and allowing charter schools to expand wherever they are needed. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Annual Performance Review scores should not determine if districts are allowed to have charter schools.

WHO ELSE DOES IT? Over 6,700 charter schools operate in 42 states and the District of Columbia and serve more than 2.9 million students. States like Indiana place no caps on the number of charter schools, allow them to operate anywhere in the state, have multiple authorizers, and provide equitable funding. Missouri is an outlier in the way that it limits charters geographically; almost all other states allow them to operate anywhere.

THE OPPORTUNITY: Charter schools are growing. Over 23,000 students enrolled in Missouri charter schools for the 2016–2017 school year—an 11% increase from the previous year. University Academy, one of the top-performing charter schools in the state, has a waiting list of 700 students. Obviously, the demand is there. Simply by getting government out of the way, we can offer students a way out of underperforming schools, and into the schools they want to attend.

DISTRICT-WIDE 2016 MAP SCORES

In many Missouri school districts, the proportion of students achieving proficiency in English and Math is well below 50 percent.



KEY POINTS

- Thousands of Missouri students are trapped in poor schools because of arbitrary limitations on school choice.
- Allowing charter school expansion will meet demand from students and families, not bureaucrats.
- Families need an alternative to underperforming traditional public schools.
- School choice has a proven track record elsewhere in the country.

SHOW-ME INSTITUTE RESOURCES

Blog post: [“Come Together, Right Now, On Charter Schools”](#)

Blog post: [“No, Charter Schools Don’t Push Out Kids Who Are Too Hard to Educate”](#)

Blog post: [“The Charter School Discipline Problem That Isn’t”](#)

Blog post: [“#drophesuit, Explained”](#)

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