AUTHORIZING FOR INNOVATION
AGENDA

- Introductions
- Report from The Mind Trust and Public Impact
  - “Raising the Bar: Why Public Charter Schools Must Become Even More Innovative”
- Why Innovation Matters
- Interactive Discussion with Authorizers
- Table Work with Peers
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Raising the BAR

Why Public Charter Schools Must Become EVEN MORE INNOVATIVE

Prepared with Public Impact

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IMPRESSIVE GROWTH, ENCOURAGING SUCCESS

Since 1999, a 600%-plus increase in public charter school enrollment

2,513,634
2013-14

349,714
1999-2000

CREDO: In many urban areas, public charter students outperform students in traditional schools

Now in 43 states and DC*

+28
additional days of learning in READING

+40
additional days of learning in MATH

*At the time this report was written, the Washington state supreme court had ruled the state’s charter law unconstitutional. Public charter schools in Washington remain open pending motions to the court to reconsider its decision.
SLIGHTLY “BETTER” IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH

The United States lags other economically developed countries in math and reading

17th 27th

of 34 OECD countries (PISA 2012)

And even in cities where charters outperform traditional schools, overall performance is low

% proficient, 8th-grade math, 2013, NAEP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>% Proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National (public)</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large city (public)</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>3%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
MANY STUDENTS UNDER-SERVED

The most “disconnected” youth

6 million-plus students with disabilities

4.4 million English language learners

1 in 3 students in rural areas and small towns

1 million+ teens not in school and no diploma

400,000+ teenage moms each year

150,000+ children in foster care

60,000+ youth in prison
Too few students are reached

About 1 million students are on public charter school wait lists nationally.

**Southern CA, including Los Angeles**
Public school students: 652,420
- 140,000 in public charter schools
- 68,200 waiting to attend a public charter school

**Miami Dade, FL**
Public school students: 359,240
- 52,050 in public charter schools
- 24,500 waiting to attend a public charter school

**Washington, DC**
Public school students: 82,960
- 36,750 in public charter schools
- 18,500 waiting to attend a public charter school

11.4 million students in poverty

800,000 9th graders don’t graduate in four years

Charter schools can help.
“Public charter schools will not meet these challenges by doing more of the same. Instead, the sector needs a new wave of innovation to capitalize on the enormous potential that charter schools have to improve public education substantially for U.S. students. Simply put, the sector needs to be better, broader, and bigger.”
The public charter sector faces three daunting challenges that it must meet to achieve its potential — and cannot meet without more innovation.

Even though charters generally exceed average U.S. achievement in reading and math, the U.S. is not very good: middle of pack or worse.

While the charter sector has helped low-income, urban young people (most of them children of color) close the gap, many students remain significantly under-served.

Although the charter sector has grown, waiting lists are long...and getting longer.
MOST CHARTERS USE STANDARD MODEL

**TRADITIONAL**
- Personnel
- Use of space
- Use of time
- Use of technology

**PUBLIC CHARTERS**
- Personnel
- Use of space
- Use of time
- Use of technology
KEY ACTORS IN CHARTER SECTOR INNOVATION

- Policymakers
- City-based Education Organizations
- School Operators: New Entrants & Current Schools
- Funders
WHAT CAN AUTHORIZERS DO?

- Deliberately authorize for innovation
- Special purpose authorizers for innovation
- Innovation divisions of existing authorizers
- A degree of “tolerance of failure”
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Michelle McKeown, Indiana Charter School Board

Brandon Brown, The Mind Trust and formerly the Indianapolis Mayor’s Office of Education Innovation
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What kinds of innovation do you want to foster?

What are 2-4 steps you can take to pursue those kinds of innovation?
Raising the BAR

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