



COLORADO
OCTOBER 19 - 22
2015





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

 **The Mind Trust**



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IMPRESSIVE GROWTH, ENCOURAGING SUCCESS

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



Now in 43 states and DC*



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

+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

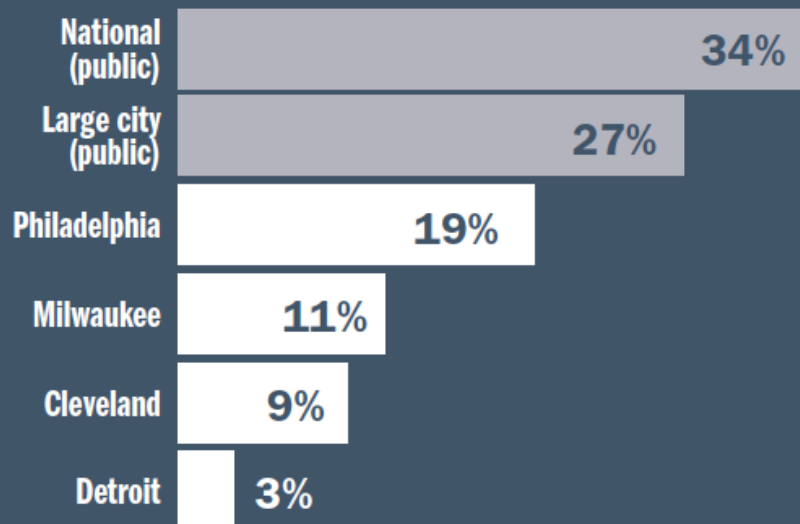
The United States lags other economically developed countries in math and reading

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



MANY STUDENTS UNDER-SERVED

The most “disconnected” youth



1 million+
teens not in school
and no diploma



400,000+
teenage moms
each year



6 million-plus
students
with disabilities



4.4 million
English language
learners



150,000+
children in
foster care



60,000+
youth in prison



1 in 3 students in
rural areas and
small towns

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

Washington, DC
PUBLIC SCHOOL
STUDENTS: 82,960

36,750 in public
charter schools

18,500 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

11.4 million
students in poverty

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

Charter schools can help.

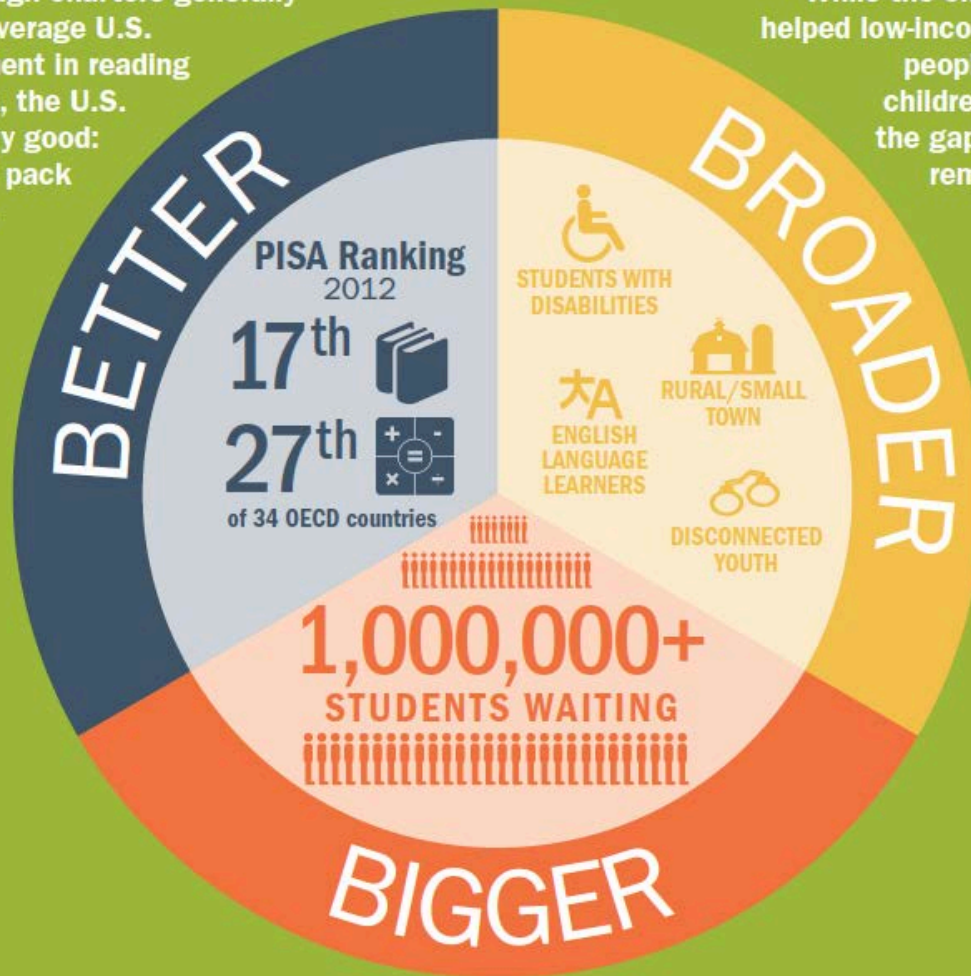
“Public charter schools will not meet these challenges by doing more of the same. Instead, the sector needs a new wave of innovation to capitalize on the enormous potential that charter schools have to improve public education substantially for U.S. students. **Simply put, the sector needs to be better, broader, and bigger.**”

BETTER...BROADER...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

PUBLIC CHARTERS



Use of space



Use of time



Use of technology



KEY ACTORS IN CHARTER SECTOR INNOVATION



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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TABLE WORK

What kinds of innovation do you want to foster?

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

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