



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**BCSB Research Project: 2016-2017 school report card analysis released**  
*Brick and mortar charters out-perform Big 8 counterparts in student growth measure*

An analysis of 2016-2017 state report cards for brick and mortar charter schools and their Big 8 district school counterparts reveals that, overall, charters continue to out-pace urban schools in student growth (value-added).

Statewide, 26 percent of charter schools earned an “A” or “B” grade in overall value-added (a portion of the Progress component) from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), compared to 17 percent of districts; and, only 56% of charters earned “D” or “F” grades, compared to 72 percent of district schools.

“Student growth is the best metric to use in assessing the performance of schools that serve highly challenged student populations,” said Catherine West, spokesperson for Buckeye Charter School Boards (BCSB). “Many students enroll in charter schools two to three years behind in terms of their levels of proficiency. Schools with strong value-added performance demonstrate effectiveness in bringing them up to speed.”

Charter schools out-performed their district counterparts in six of the Big 8 districts: Akron; Canton; Cincinnati; Cleveland; Columbus; and, Youngstown.

The difference between charter and district performance was most significant in three urban areas — Cleveland, Columbus and Youngstown — with charters earning considerably more “A” and “B” grades, and considerably fewer “D” and “F” grades.

Charters in Akron also outperformed the district at both the top and bottom of the grades scale.

In Cincinnati, the district earned a slightly greater percentage of “A” and “B” grades than charters (8 percent compared to 6), but also had a greater percentage of schools receiving “D” and “F” grades (86 percent vs. 73).

In Toledo and Dayton, the districts out-performed charter schools in terms of both strong and weak performance.

Traditional Big 8 district schools also generally outperformed charter schools in the “Performance Index” letter grade on state report cards.

“The data indicates, that while charter schools are helping to accelerate learning for many students in Ohio’s biggest cities, a tremendous amount of work still needs to be done across the state to ensure our children become proficient and achieve more,” West said. “Ohio’s focus shouldn’t be a debate on school structure, charter vs. traditional public schools, but rather on how all schools can overcome the clear barriers to learning, like poverty, that far too many of our students face. That’s a much more constructive conversation that could lead to better educational outcomes for all economically disadvantaged kids.”

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*The BCSB Research Project is spearheaded by Buckeye Charter School Board, Inc., a not-for-profit organization dedicated to increasing the knowledge, skills and effectiveness of Ohio’s charter school boards. Learn more about BCSB at: <https://www.buckeyecharterboards.org>*