

Apr 12th, 2:30 PM

An Examination and Survey of the Current State of Charter Schools in the United States

Raymond Keener III

Marshall University, keener19@marshall.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/business_faculty_research_day



Part of the [Business Commons](#)

Keener, Raymond III, "An Examination and Survey of the Current State of Charter Schools in the United States" (2019). *Faculty Research Day*. 8.

https://mds.marshall.edu/business_faculty_research_day/2019/Spring/8

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by the Lewis College of Business at Marshall Digital Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Research Day by an authorized administrator of Marshall Digital Scholar. For more information, please contact zhangj@marshall.edu, beachgr@marshall.edu.

Apr 12th, 12:00 AM

An Examination and Survey of the Current State of Charter Schools in the United States

Raymond Keener III

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/business_faculty_research_day

 Part of the [Business Commons](#)

An Examination and Survey of the Current State of Charter Schools in the U.S.

Raymond Keener, III, JD, CPA, LLM

What are Charter Schools?

- Publicly funded schools offering another option in public education system.
- Not private schools and do not charge participants tuition.
- Not restricted by cumbersome rules and regulations passed by state and federal legislatures, including “Common Core.”
- Free to create own curriculum and grading systems.
- Teachers not required to possess a master’s degree or state teaching certification.

What are Charter Schools?

- Expected to achieve specific educational outcomes or goals within defined period of time.
- Failure to meet goals results in charters being revoked by applicable state jurisdiction.

What are Magnet Schools?

- Single largest form of public school “choice”
- Open to all students
- Focus on individually themed curricula
 - STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
 - Fine and Performing Arts
 - International Baccalaureate, International Studies
 - CTE (Career and Technical Education)
 - World Languages, including immersion and non-immersion

Charter Schools vs. Magnet Schools

- Both are part of the public school system
- Both are free
- Charter schools can be for-profit entities; Magnet schools cannot
- Magnet schools must adhere to state requirements; Charter schools are often exempt from state requirements
- Operation and oversight vary
 - Charter schools may be overseen by state or local schools boards, local universities and/or private entities
 - Magnet schools are under the same district administration and school board as public schools

The Appeal of Charter Schools

- Admission open to all students in the community school serves, including special needs students.
- Tend to be smaller with average of 200 students vs. 500 in traditional public schools.
- Foster sense of “community feel” with “less bureaucracy.”
- Tend to “create a community hub” with safe educational settings in violence- and poverty-stricken urban and rural neighborhoods.
- Some have specific academic focus, such as science and math or the arts.

Relative Advantages of Charter Schools

- Academic results can outdistance public school partners.
- Voluntary student participation leads to greater degree of parental involvement.
- Tend to supply or afford greater access or accountability to parents.
- Their own supervising authority regarding students works to maximize accountability.

Perceived Disadvantages of Charter Schools

- Lack of history to gauge results vs. public school system.
- Do not receive 100% of projected funding per student that public schools receive.
- May receive different treatment, face arbitrary rules, making operation and long-term viability somewhat questionable.
- Lack of state teaching credential restraints could lead to hiring of underqualified personnel.
- Lack of use of standardized testing creates difficulty measuring effectiveness of charter schools vs. public schools.

Funding

- Primarily public money, similar to model underlying traditional public schools.
- Combination of local and state taxation, with most local tax funds having been raised through assessment and collection of property taxes.
- Most funded based on student enrollment numbers.
- Amount of per-student funding can differ significantly within and across states.

Three Funding Mechanisms

- Funding based on per-pupil revenue based on districts in which transferring students reside.
 - Eight states
- Funding predicated on per-pupil revenue of authorizer.
 - Twenty-nine states
 - Most prevalent formula
- Funding formula utilizes statewide per-pupil allocation methodology.
 - Five states and District of Columbia