



Schools of Choice

The end of public education
or
the path to a better way?

Proposal stirs charter school debate: choice vs. quality?

Detroit Free Press, Oct. 11 --A legislative package to lift Michigan's cap on charter schools would provide sweeping options for K-12 education. But critics say it could litter the state with ineffective, profit-minded operators. The bills would make Michigan among the least restrictive states on charter schools and allow them to open in high-achieving districts, where they are now banned. Opponents point to Michigan charters' mixed record, calling it irresponsible to allow an unlimited number without more oversight. 'What I fear is that ... increasing the number of charters will slowly bleed traditional public schools

AASA Journal of Scholarship and Practice (2011)

- The editor suggests that the choices provided by charter schools may result in a dual, semi-private education system dividing children along socio-economic, cultural, racial and ethnic lines. There is, he says, “something amiss with the large-scale charter movement.”

The Telegraph

Education News

- Richard Dawkins: “faith schools should not be allowed to opt out of religious education”.
- Richard Dawkins, the outspoken atheist, has called on Ofsted to force faith schools to bring religious education in line with the national curriculum.
- [http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/7951358/Richard-Dawkins-faith-schools-should-not-be-allowed-to-opt-out-of-religious-](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationnews/7951358/Richard-Dawkins-faith-schools-should-not-be-allowed-to-opt-out-of-religious-education/)

Alberta Premier, Alison Redford

- Oct 13, *The Edmonton Journal*:

Thursday's speech also mentioned Redford's belief in allowing choice in the school system, indicating she would be open to allowing more alternative schools from the public system.

“All Alberta parents should enjoy the opportunity to enroll their children in the system that teaches their values.”

Inspiring Education: a dialogue with Albertans



Values

- Opportunity
- Fairness
- Citizenship
- Choice
- Diversity
- Excellence

“We need to prepare kids for their future, not our past.”

Schools of choice

	Alberta		British Columbia		Ontario	
Total Students	590,000		649,366		2,304,588	
Public	413,000	69%	579,000	88.4%	1,419,616	62%
Roman Catholic/ Separate	136,000	23%			667,972	29%
Independent/Private	23,600	4%	70,272	11%	126,000	6%
French/Francophone	7,670	1.3%	4,500	0.6%	91,000	4%

What research says...

Visible learning: A synthesis of over 800 meta-analyses relating to achievement by J. Hattie

Rank	Domain	Influence	d=
1	Student	Self-reporting grades	1.44
3	Teaching	Providing formative evaluation	0.90
6	School	Classroom behavioural	0.80
21	Teacher	Not labeling students	0.61
45	Home	Parental involvement	0.51
48	School	Small Group Learning	0.49
101	School	Religious schools	0.23
106	School	Class size	0.21
107	School	Charter schools	0.20
136	School	Retention	- 0.16

What research says...

OECD Today, 2010 ~ Directorate for Education

“Choice may stimulate quality but with risks for equity: there may be an argument made in favour of creating a degree of choice as a vehicle for stimulating improvement.”

“When choice exists, schools must look beyond their own walls at what others are doing... without some room for exit being exercised, parents and students have no threat to back up their voice ”

OECD policy recommendations

- Manage choice so as to contain the risks to equity – schools of choice should be an alternative to all students (parents) so as to emphasize equity within choice.
- Respond to diversity and provide successful inclusion of migrants and minorities within mainstream education.