

## ***State report cards:***

### ***Brick and mortar charters outperform Big 8 district schools in overall value-added***

According to an analysis of 2016-2017 report cards by Buckeye Charter School Boards, Inc. (BCSB), brick and mortar charter schools out-paced Big 8 urban district schools in overall value-added.

Overall, 44 percent of public charter schools earned A, B or C grades for overall value-added (a portion of the Progress Component), compared to 33 percent of their Big 8 district counterparts. E-schools, dropout recovery schools and special needs schools were excluded from the analysis for both charter and district schools.

Public charter school performance was considerably stronger than traditional public schools in the Cleveland, Columbus and Youngstown areas.

In Cleveland, 44 percent of charter schools earned A, B or C grades in overall value-added compared to 27 percent of Cleveland Metropolitan School District schools.

In Columbus, 56 percent of charter schools earned grades of C or better compared to just 23 percent of schools in the Columbus City Schools district.

In Youngstown – with fewer public schools -- 40 percent of the five charters earned A, B or C grades compared to only nine percent of the 11 schools in the Youngstown City School District.

In Canton, with just 15 public schools, 66 percent of charters earned A, B or C grades in overall value-added compared to just 33 percent of schools Canton City School District.

Charters in Dayton slightly outperformed their district counterparts, while results were comparable in Cincinnati. District schools slightly out-performed charters in Akron and Toledo.

“From a big-picture perspective, all urban schools serving large numbers of economically disadvantaged students struggle to overcome the many barriers to learning associated with poverty,” BCSB said in its press release. “That comes as no surprise given the clear link between poverty and poor academic outcomes.”

Results of the analysis contrast sharply with harsh anti-charter rhetoric by candidates running in the upcoming election who suggest that the lowest-performing charter schools are representative of all charters and fail to acknowledge that there is a need for significant improvement in all of the Big 8 districts, six of which received F grades – and two of which received D grades -- for overall school performance.

“It’s easy to agree with the Ohio Department of Education’s statement that ‘report cards are only one part of the story,’” BCSB said. “But it’s also important to understand and acknowledge that the statement is as true for charter schools as it is for traditional public schools, particularly in light of the fact that charters literally live or die by report card results in that they are subject to Ohio’s tough automatic closure laws which are based on performance as measured by state report cards.”

“As the department states, ‘a lot of great things are happening every day in Ohio’s schools!’” BCSB’s statement read. “That is equally true for charter schools, as many charter school board members can attest.”

