



Fact Sheet

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE DEMOCRATS

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The Hon. Bobby Scott • Ranking Member

Fast Facts:

Charter Schools in Michigan

- In the [2016 to 2017](#) school year, Michigan had an estimated 301 charter schools.
- Approximately 146,100 students enrolled in charters in the 2016 to 2017 school year.
- In Michigan, eight in ten charter schools have academic achievement [below the state average](#).
- Michigan as a whole struggles academically as evidenced by the recent National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores, which [fell below national averages](#). Only approximately 31 percent of Michigan eight-graders were at or above proficient in math.
- Nearly [80 percent](#) of charters in Michigan are run by for-profit entities. In contrast, only [16 percent](#) of charters nationwide are run by for-profit entities.
- Michigan has nearly [20 percent](#) of the total number of students nationwide enrolled in charters run by for-profit entities
- In Detroit, problems are especially profound:
 - In seven years, [164 public and charter schools opened or closed](#), wreaking havoc on student learning.
 - Detroit ranks [last in the nation](#) in eighth grade math scores among African American students.
 - In the 2013 to 2014 school year, 70 percent of charter schools in Detroit ranked in the [bottom quartile of all Michigan schools](#).
- In 2016, Michigan's state legislature enacted a new law to address the proliferation of low-quality charter schools in Detroit. This was a small step but failed to address broader problems state wide.
- Michigan has minimal requirements for charter management organizations or educational management organizations.
- In Michigan, there are no caps on the number of charters or limits on for-profit charters with one of the most extreme charter laws in the country.
- The problems in Michigan are largely due to the advocacy and financial resources of [Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos](#):
 - Secretary DeVos and her family strongly advocated for unchecked, unregulated school choice.
 - By backing ballot measures, legislators, and lobbying organizations, the DeVos family helped change how public schools are funded in Michigan and turned education into a profit making scheme.
 - Despite being promoted as an alternative to failing public schools, charter schools are producing dismal results and are actually increasing inequality.