

# CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING

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# Why do we have Charter Schools?

**BIG PICTURE**

**2 Schools of Thought**

# Why do we have Charter Schools?

Thought #1: To provide CHOICE for parents and COMPETITION for public schools.

# Choice & Competition Model

- Same Rules
- Same Core Requirements
- Same Funding

The competition has to be FAIR!

Outcome:

**PARALLEL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC ED**

# Why do we have Charter Schools?

- Thought #2 – R & D labs for our public school system - tasked with finding new & better ways to teach children, and build & operate schools.

# R & D Labs Model

- Customized Rules
- Customized Core & Measurements
- Funding that Facilitates Focus on Mission

# R & D Labs Model

This approach requires that experiments are:

- 1. controlled and
- 2. closely measured and
- 3. successful results are shared and then implemented in neighborhood schools.

# R & D Labs Model

- Choice is a measurement
- Choice is a protection
- Competition can facilitate cross-pollination of best practices.

But Choice & Competition are not the primary reasons we have Charter Schools



# Who Benefits from Charter Schools?

- Thought #1 (Choice & Competition)

Primarily benefits those children who are fortunate enough to get selected in the lottery.

- Thought #2 (R &D Labs)

Benefits every child in Utah through ACTIVE cross pollination of best practices.

# Why should taxpayers care?

We have a hard time funding one public education system in Utah, taxpayers can hardly afford to pay for two (or pay twice for the same student!)

# Beware of Goose & Gander!

Policies that are founded on the premise that “What’s good for neighborhood schools should be good for charter schools” will ultimately be **BAD FOR TAXPAYERS.**

We are **NOT** creating a **parallel system** of education, we are exploring ways to make the system we have **BETTER!**

# Promote Cross Pollination

- Construction (\$/Sqft vs Sqft/student)
- Operation (Class size)
- Funding (Consolidate M&O/Debt. Svc)
- Curriculum (Formative Assessments)

Policies that hold schools harmless when children leave do not promote cross-pollination, and punish taxpayers.

# Charter School Funding (Summary)

## Taxpayer Priorities:

- Commit to R&D Lab Model (reject parallel system)
  - Flexibility/Control
  - Measure
- Actively promote Cross-Pollination
  - Empower individual neighborhood schools
  - Carrots (new funding)
  - Sticks (loss of funding)

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GOOSE VS GANDER?