



Twin Rivers Charter Programs

Report to the Board

April 20, 2010



Charter School Law

- The Charter Schools Act - (Education Code 47600 - 47616.5)
- Provided for 100 public charter schools in 1992
- Purpose to create opportunities for teachers, parents, and students to establish and maintain public schools independently from the existing school district structure



Purpose

- Improve student learning
- Increase learning for all students, with a special emphasis on expanded learning opportunities
- Encourage the use of different and innovative methods
- Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including increased opportunity to be responsible for the learning programs at a site



Why?

- Provides parents and students with expanded choices within the public school system
- Holds schools accountable for meeting measurable student outcomes, with an opportunity to move from rule-based to accountability-based programs
- Provides vigorous competition within the public school system to stimulate continual improvement in all schools



Legal Elements Petitions

1. Mission and Educational Program
2. Outcomes & Standards
3. Assessment Methods
4. Governance & Legal
5. Staffing
6. Health & Safety
7. Racial & Ethnic Balance
8. Admissions



Elements – cont.

9. Fiscal Audit
10. Student Suspension & Expulsion
11. Retirement Systems
12. Student Attendance Alternatives
13. Staff Return Rights
14. Dispute Resolution Process
15. Collective Bargaining
16. School Closure Procedures



Like Traditional Schools

- Are open to the public (over subscribed must hold a lottery)
- Are tuition-free
- Participate in state tests
- Serve a variety of students
- Employ credentialed teachers in core subjects



Charter Effects

- Can make quick and effective changes to make individual student academic progress
- Empower teachers to make important decisions in their classrooms
- Engage parents to work together with teachers and student to accelerate academic progress



Our Dependent Programs

Smythe Academy (K-6 and 7-8)	962
Creative Connections Arts Academy	353
Westside Preparatory	420
Total Student Population:	1,735



Our Dependent Programs

- Teachers, classified, and administrators are Twin Rivers employees
- District oversight and personnel evaluations
- Some independence and flexibility in scheduling, academic offerings
- Face the same cuts as all schools in Twin Rivers



Our Dependent Programs

- Application process requests:
 - Letters/essays (can be submitted in another language)
 - Grades/report card
- Marked complete, not evaluated prior to lottery
- Open lottery for all students submitting complete application



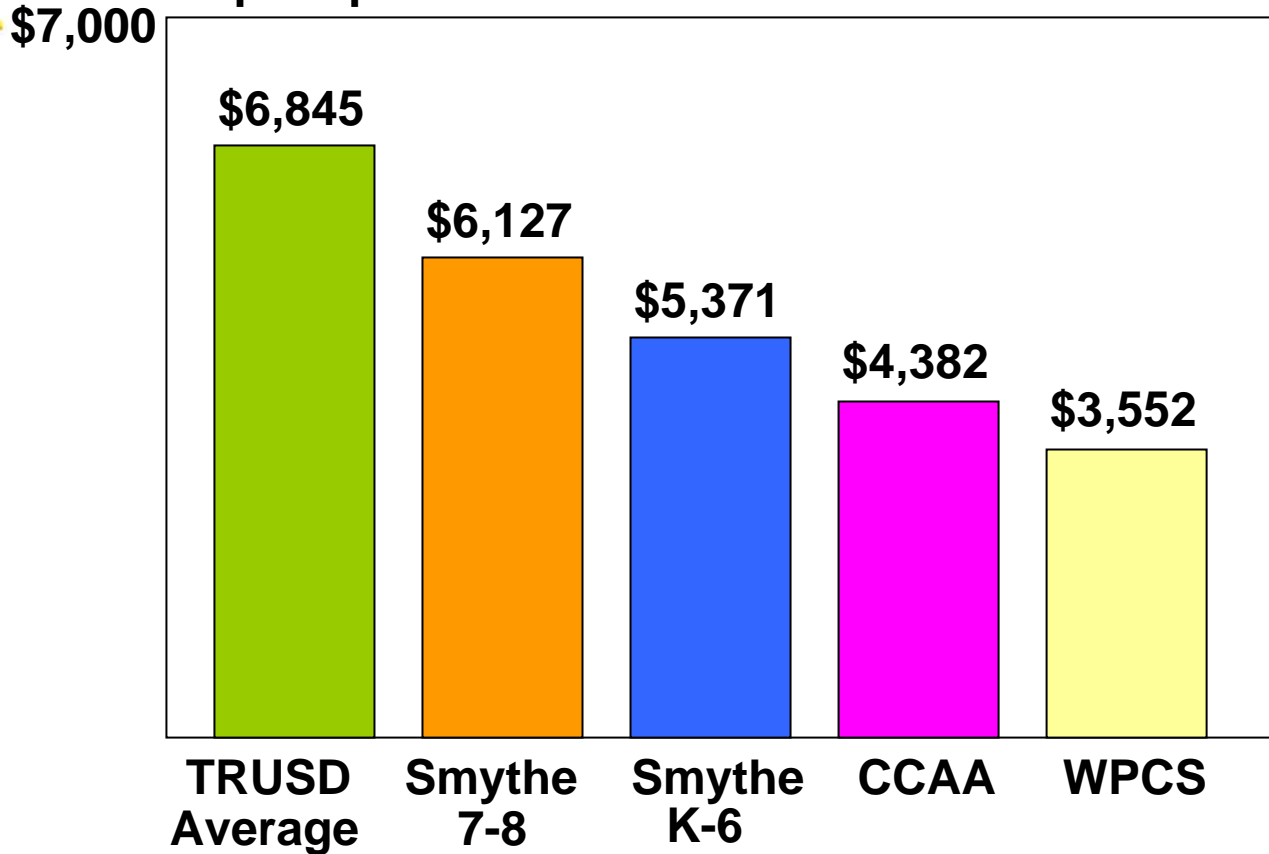
Charter Revenue

**Based on Governor's proposal for the 2009-2010
State budget and K-12 education.**

	K-3	4-6	7-8	9-12
General purpose block grant	\$5,360	\$5,440	\$5,596	\$6,493
Categorical block grant	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Total	\$5,860	\$5,940	\$6,096	\$6,993

Operational Costs

Spent per student 2008-2009





Reducing Costs

- Programs utilize what would be unused district property or extra classrooms at existing sites
- Some share administrators with existing sites
- District charter director position (oversees all dependent and independent programs) on hold until budget improves




Independent Charter Schools

Community Outreach Academy	1,033
Community Collaborative Charter	934
Futures High School	272
Sacramento Academic & Voc. Academy	942
California Aerospace Academy	134
Higher Learning Academy	147
Heritage Peak	800
Total Student Population:	4,262



Responsibility for Independent Charter Programs

- Approve/deny charter when it comes up for approval
- Approval/denial must be based on set criteria
- Must provide district space if available (State law)
- District offers contracted services to independent schools

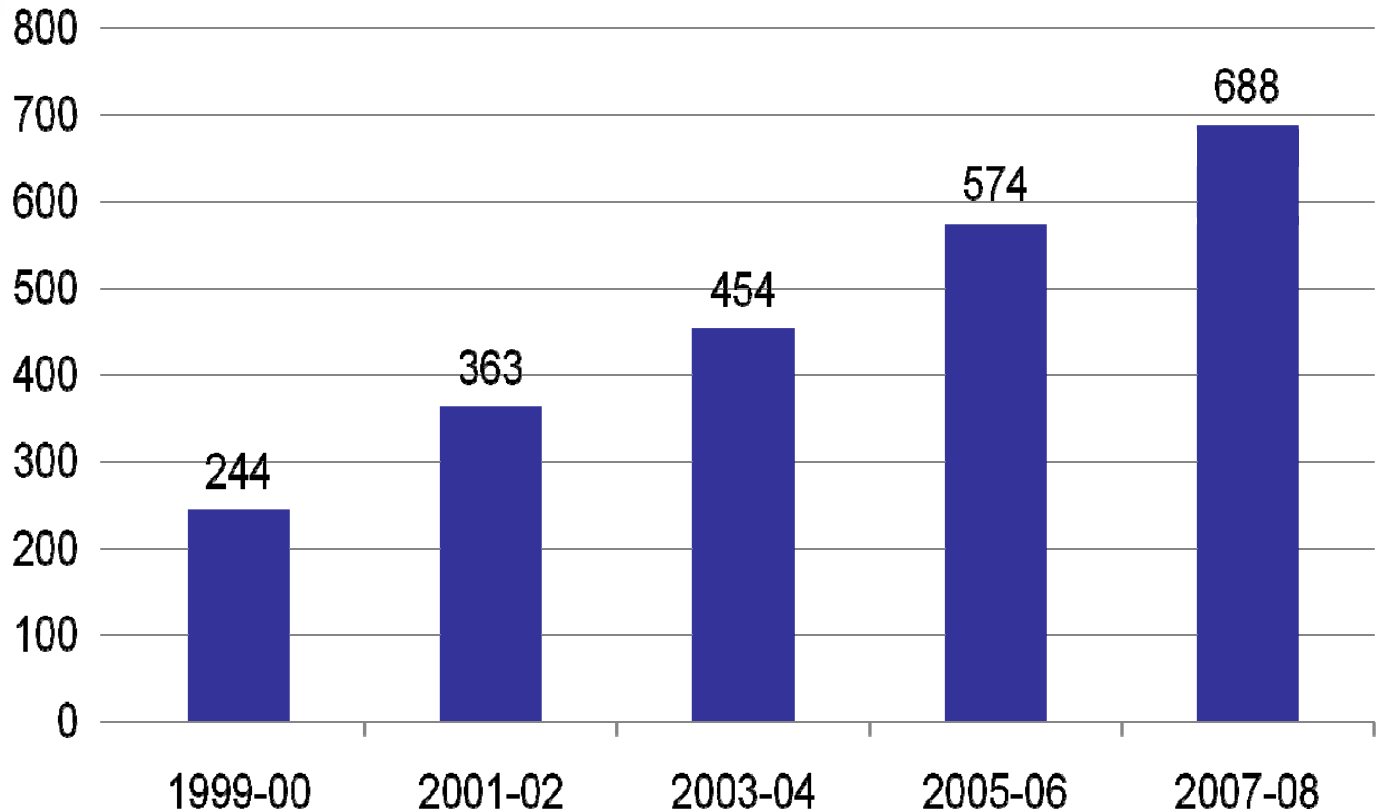


“We have to experiment with ways to provide a better education experience for our kids, and some charters are doing outstanding jobs. So the bottom line is to try to create innovation within the public school system that can potentially be scaled up, but also to make sure that we are maintaining very high standards for any charter school that’s created.”

President Barack Obama
March 12, 2009

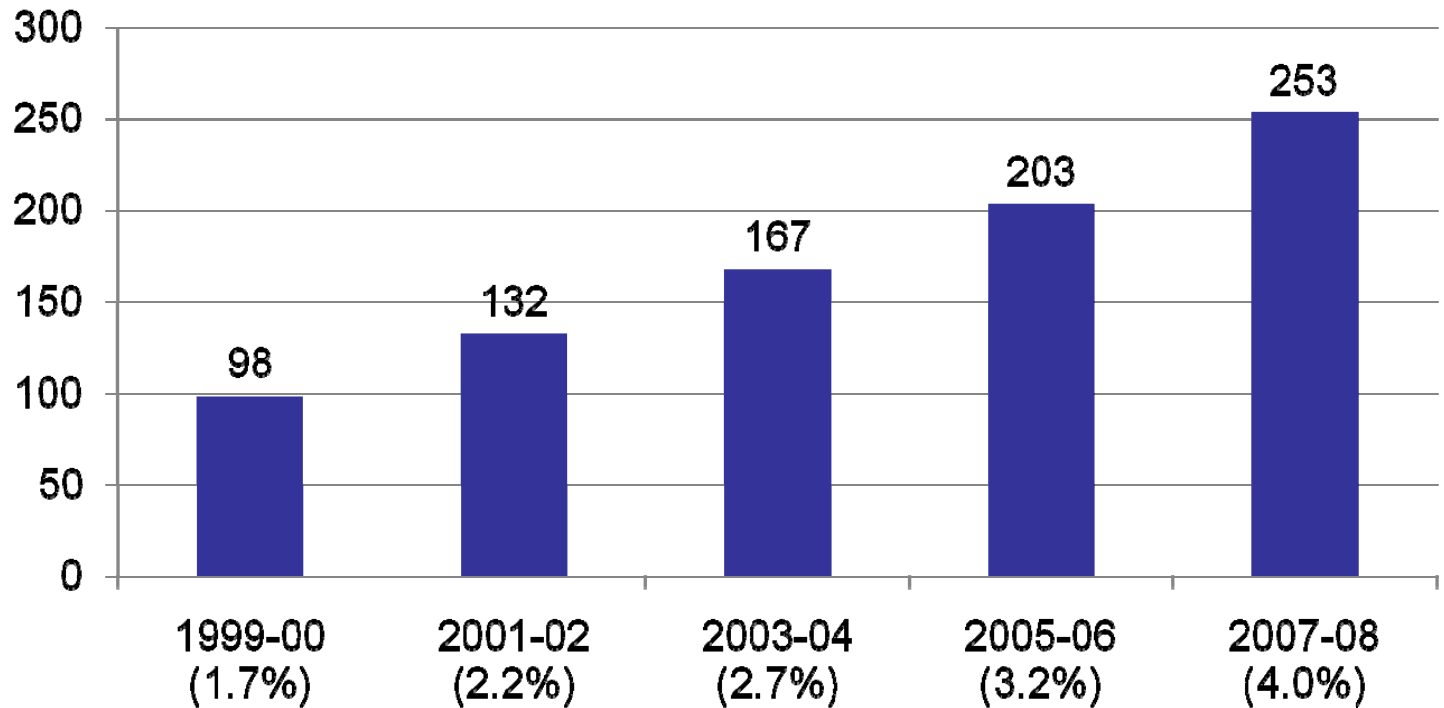
State Growth Trends

California Charter Schools



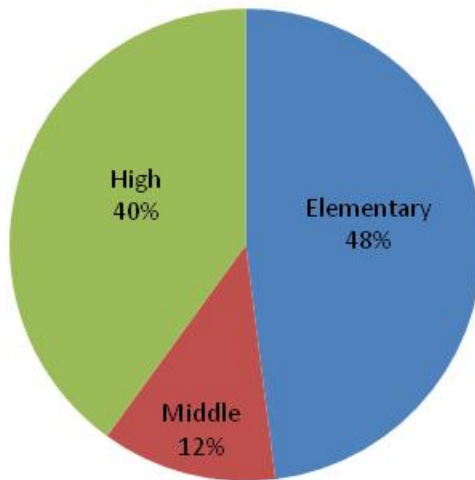
State Charter School Enrollment

Student Enrollment (in 1000's)

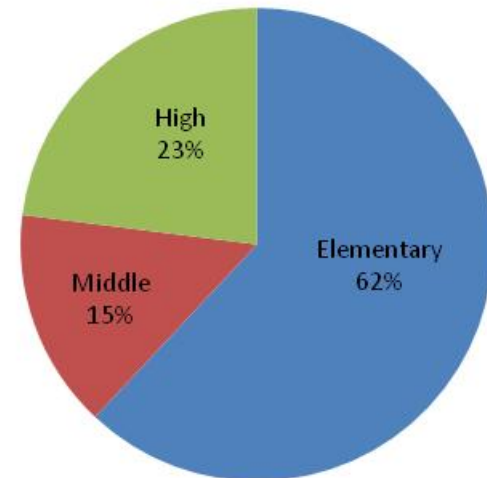


Charters by Grade Level (2007-08)

**Charters
(688 Schools)**



**Non-Charter
(9,194 Schools)**





Summary of Trends

- Families are becoming more interested in charter programs
- Enrollment in charter schools is growing
- Number of charter programs is growing
- TRUSD dependent charter programs provide options, help maintain district enrollment and resources