

*charters
changing lives*

UNDERSTANDING ARIZONA'S PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS

Eileen B. Sigmund, President and CEO
Arizona Charter Schools Association

WHAT IS A CHARTER SCHOOL?

- ✓ Publicly funded, independently operated
- ✓ Authorized by the legislature in 1994
- ✓ Vary in mission and model, serving a wide range of needs



ARIZONA'S CHARTER MOVEMENT

June 17, 1994

- ✓ Governor Fife Symington signed into law House Bill 2002 — bringing charter school education to Arizona.
- ✓ Arizona was the 11th state to allow charter schools
- ✓ In the fall of 1994, 67 charter schools opened across the state.

“The hottest new concept in the world of education reform.”

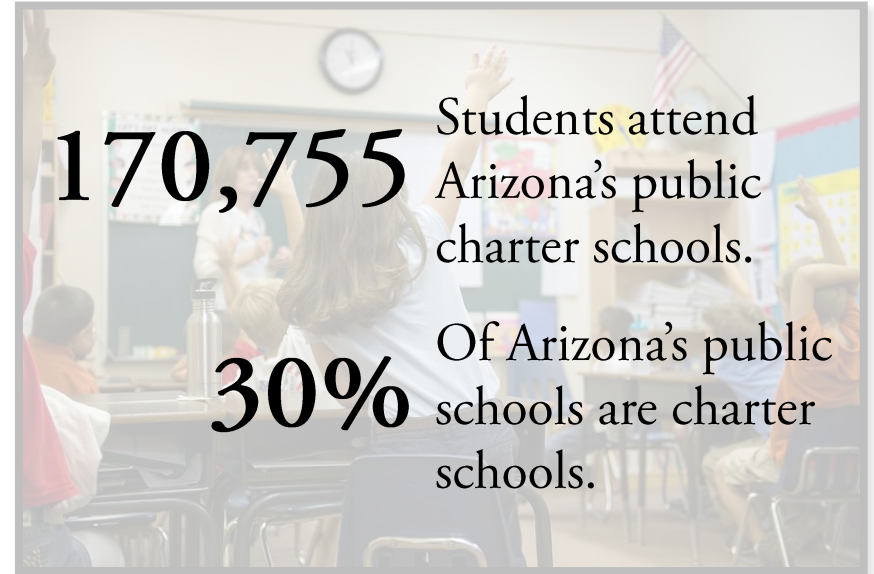
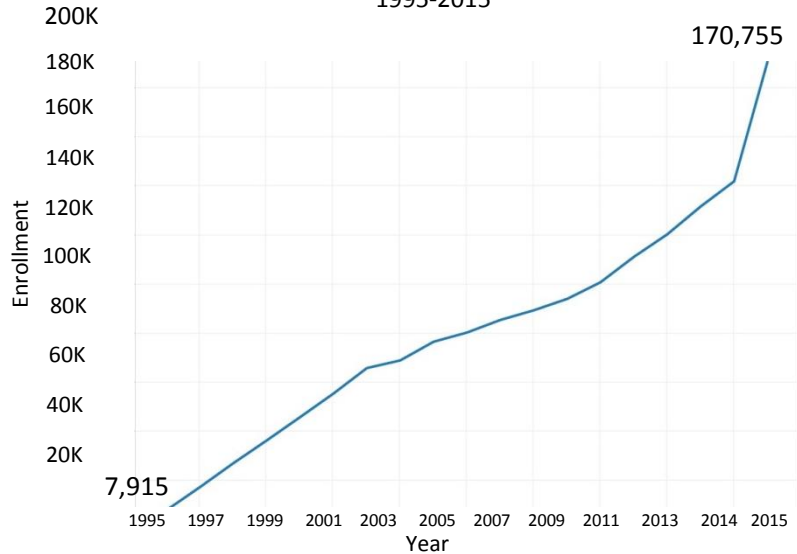
-Arizona Republic

ARIZONA'S CHARTER STUDENTS

QUICK FACTS

Arizona Charter School Enrollment

1995-2015

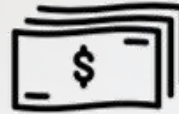


QUALITY OF THE MOVEMENT



Academically

- ⌚ Statewide tests, now called AzMERIT
- ⌚ A-F letter grades
- ⌚ Monitored annually, high stakes reviews every five-years



Financially

- ⌚ Independent financial audits and legal compliance reviews
- ⌚ Operations and finances reviewed by authorizer
- ⌚ Transparent frameworks, easily reviewable by public

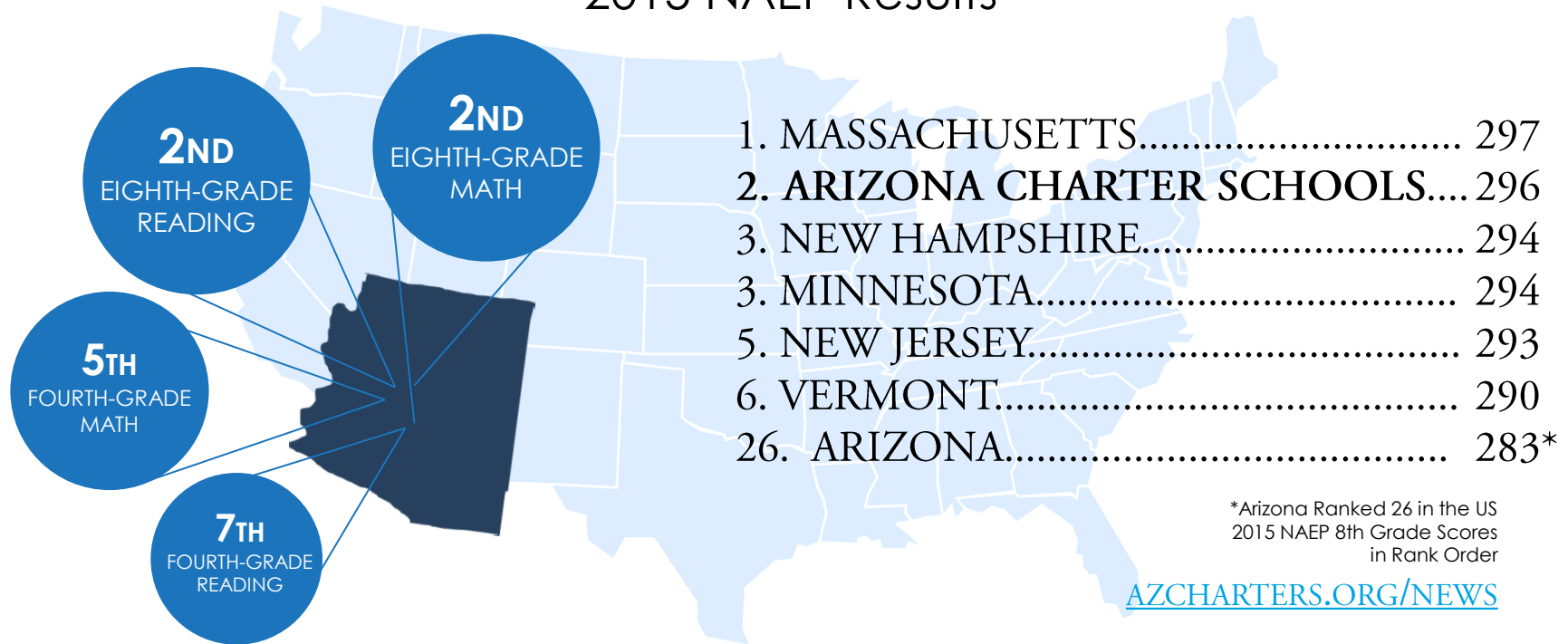
2015 NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

If Arizona's 170,000 public charter school students were measured as an individual state, that state would have ranked **2nd** nationally for both eighth-grade math and reading.

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ARIZONA CHARTER STUDENTS LEADING THE COUNTRY

2015 NAEP Results



DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

2015 NAEP Results

ARIZONA



MASSACHUSETTS



NEW HAMPSHIRE



MINNESOTA



WHITE



HISPANIC



BLACK



OTHER

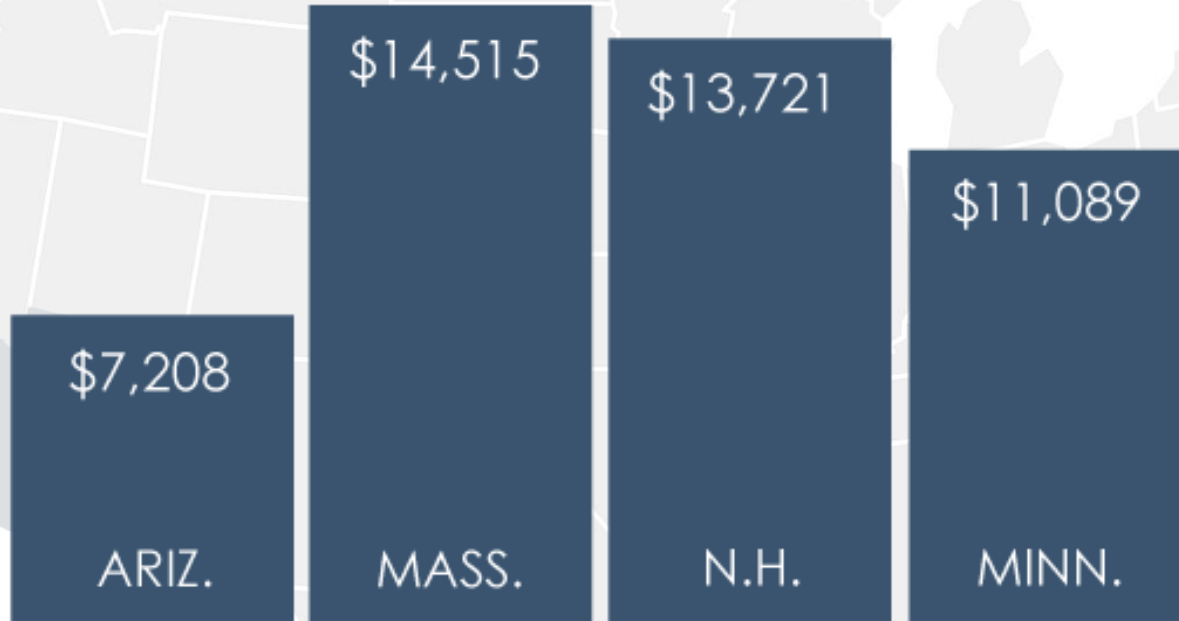
2015 NAEP
8th Grade
Math Demographics

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Demographic Snapshot

2015 NAEP Results

FY 2013
US Census Bureau
Per Pupil Funding



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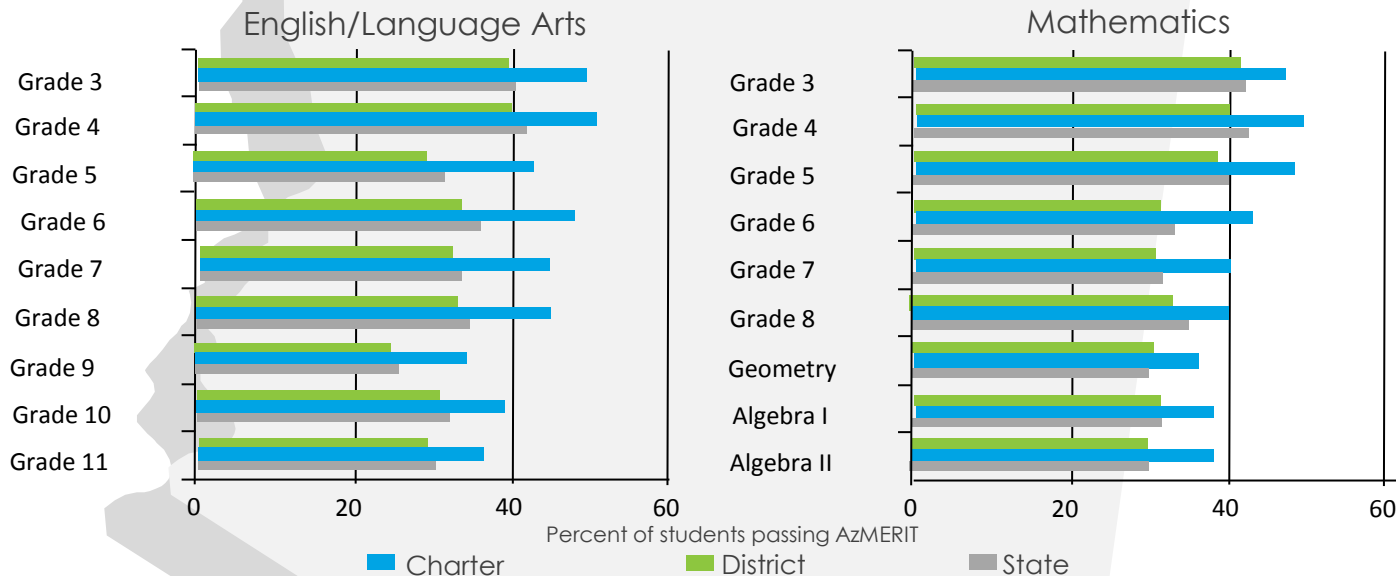
2015 AZMERIT

Charter students outperformed the state average of students passing the test in English Language Arts and Math by 5-12 percentage points in every grade level.

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2015 AzMERIT

Charter Student Results



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2015 AzMERIT

Charter Student Results

Khalsa Montessori

This K-6 charter serving 150 students in Phoenix was the top performing LEA, with **92%** of students passed the English/Language Arts exam.

49 Of the top 50 LEAs on the English/Language Arts exam are charters.

49 Of the top 50 LEAs on the Math exam are charters.

4th grade charter students had the highest percent of students passing the exam.

BASIS Schools

All 13 of BASIS Schools, Inc. were ranked among the top 50 performing LEAs in the state in both the English/Language Arts and Math exams.

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Our Charters Changing Lives campaign is a way to share the stories that are often overlooked: to recognize the efforts of our students, teachers, leaders and community members who dedicate their lives to ensuring student success.

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erik's story

ESPIRITU CHARTER SCHOOL

At 16, Erik Avila was alone. His parents left the country and his two younger brothers were struggling in unstable living situations. Find out how, with the support of his charter school family, Erik overcame adversity to graduate high school, attend college and become the legal guardian of his brothers.

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WHO WE ARE

Arizona Charter Schools Association is a nonprofit organization who believes that all Arizona students should have access to a high quality public school. We are focused on creating and sharing innovative programs designed to support leaders and teachers as they work to improve student achievement. The Association supports student achievement through high quality charter schools, advocates for student equity and charter school autonomy, and leads Arizona charter schools as a sustainable, strong, credible organization.

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