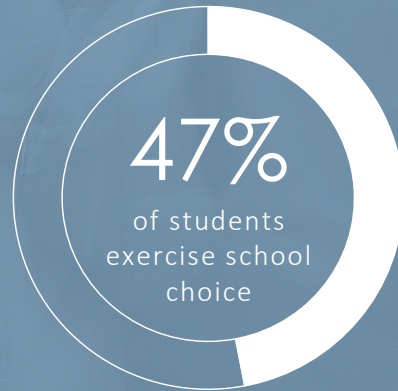


# IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

An analysis of student enrollment patterns in Maricopa County

## THE FINDINGS

Nearly 1 in 2 Maricopa County students – 47 percent – exercise school choice because they do not attend their assigned district school. The new finding is thanks to a first-of-its-kind analysis that sampled student enrollment patterns in Maricopa County. An independent study<sup>1</sup> sampled district attendance in select areas of Maricopa County, and found that 37 percent of district students do not attend their assigned district school. The Center for Student Achievement<sup>2</sup> built upon this finding by including area students who've chosen to attend a public charter school.



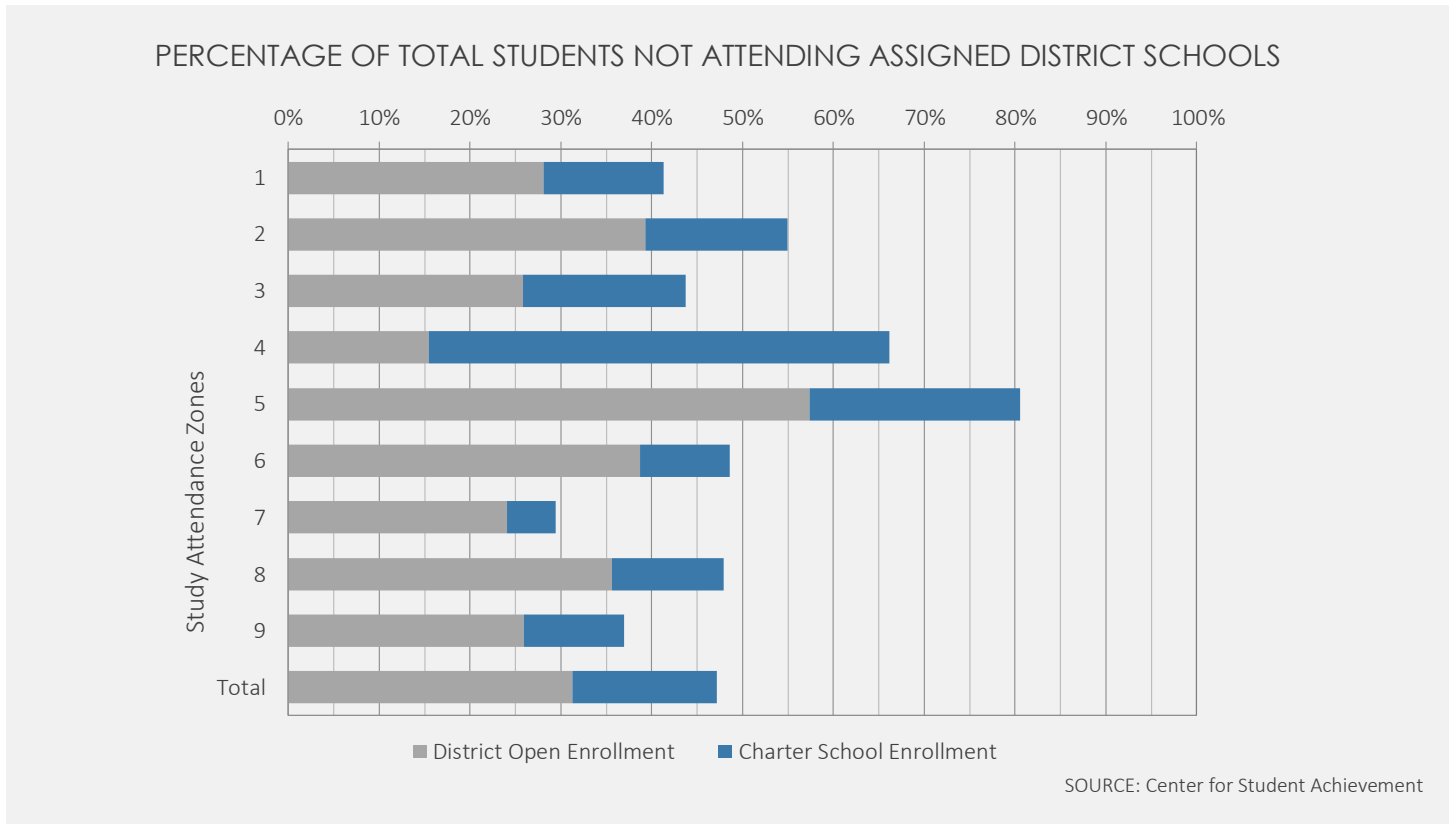
## DEFINITIONS

**OPEN ENROLLED** – “Open enrolled” students do not attend their assigned district school and instead attend another school within that district or in another school district.

**CHARTER SCHOOLS** – Charter schools are public schools that do not have enrollment boundaries and instead must enroll all students, as outlined in state law.

## THE DATA

The chart below illustrates the percentage of students in the studied attendance zones whose families have chosen a school other than the one to which they are assigned, delineated according to district and charter attendance.



## THE NEW NORM

Arizona is a leader in the education freedom movement. This analysis points to the extent to which school choice has become engrained in the state's education landscape – even among families that select a district school option. Simply put, Arizona parents like having the power to decide what school is best for their child. Rather than bowing to special interests that seek to roll back or limit access to educational choice, Arizona policymakers should support policies that create more quality public school options.

*A special thank you to the Center for Student Achievement for collaborating on this important topic.*

<sup>1</sup> "The State of Open Enrollment in Maricopa County" manuscript by Matthew Hom and Patrick Cizek, October 26, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> "Are School District Attendance Zones Obsolete?" blog post by Kelly Powell and Ildi Laczko-Kerr, Center for Student Achievement, November 1, 2017.