Pennsylvania Charter School Outcomes Drop With Federally Mandated Recalculation

A federally mandated recalculation of Pennsylvania charter school outcomes has resulted in a significant drop in the number of schools that are considered to be high-performing.



Pennsylvania Charter School Outcomes Drop With Federally-Mandated Recalculation Of Scores (OPEN MINDS Weekly News Wire Book 2024) by Faraway

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The recalculation, which was ordered by the U.S. Department of Education, uses a new methodology that takes into account a wider range of factors, including student growth and poverty levels.

Under the new methodology, only 14% of Pennsylvania charter schools are now considered to be high-performing, down from 31% under the old methodology. The recalculation has been met with mixed reactions from charter school advocates and opponents.

Charter school advocates argue that the new methodology is unfair to charter schools because it does not take into account the challenges that charter schools face, such as high poverty levels and a lack of access to resources.

Opponents of charter schools argue that the new methodology is more accurate and that it provides a more realistic picture of charter school performance.

The debate over charter school outcomes is likely to continue as the new methodology is implemented in other states.

Methodology

The new methodology for calculating charter school outcomes was developed by the U.S. Department of Education.

The methodology takes into account a wider range of factors than the old methodology, including:

- Student growth
- Poverty levels
- School climate
- Teacher quality

The methodology also uses a more rigorous statistical analysis to determine which schools are considered to be high-performing.

Findings

The recalculation of Pennsylvania charter school outcomes resulted in a significant drop in the number of schools that are considered to be high-performing.

Under the new methodology, only 14% of Pennsylvania charter schools are now considered to be high-performing, down from 31% under the old methodology.

The recalculation also found that charter schools in Pennsylvania are more likely to serve students from low-income families and students with disabilities than traditional public schools.

Reactions

The recalculation of Pennsylvania charter school outcomes has been met with mixed reactions from charter school advocates and opponents.

Charter school advocates argue that the new methodology is unfair to charter schools because it does not take into account the challenges that charter schools face, such as high poverty levels and a lack of access to resources.

Opponents of charter schools argue that the new methodology is more accurate and that it provides a more realistic picture of charter school performance. The debate over charter school outcomes is likely to continue as the new methodology is implemented in other states.

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