

## Arkansas Fact Sheet

### I. Enrollment and Growth since 2000:

*In Arkansas, charter school enrollment increased from 708 students in 2000-01 to 4,988 in 2007-08 (a 605% increase from 2000-2007). In 2007-08, 1% of the students were enrolled in state charter schools.*

- Table 1: Charter School Enrollment and Growth, 2000-01 and 2007-08
- Table 2: Charter School Enrollment as Percentage Public School Enrollment
- Enrollment

*Arkansas' charter schools increased from 3 in 2000-01 to 20 in 2007-08. One metropolitan area, Little Rock-North Little Rock, Arkansas, reported ten charter schools enrolling 2,144 students. These charter students accounted for 2% of all public school students in the metropolitan area.*

- Number of Charter Schools by State, 2000-01 and 2007-08 [Appendix]
- Charter School Enrollment and Percentage of Total Enrollment by MSA [Appendix]

### II. Racial/Ethnic Composition of Charter Schools:

*Of the 4,988 students in Arkansas' charter schools, 64% were White, 30% Black, 3% Latino, and 3% Asian. In traditional public schools, 67% were White, 22% Black, 8% Latino, 2% Asian, and 1% American Indian.*

- Enrollment and Racial Composition of Charter Schools by State with less than 5,000 Charter Schools Students, 2007-08 [Appendix]

*In the Little Rock-North Little Rock metropolitan area, Whites and Blacks comprised most of the enrollments of both charter and public schools, although white students made up a slightly higher percentage of traditional public schools. Latinos made up no more than 5% in each school type.*

Metropolitan Area	Charter			Traditional Public		
	Latino %	Black %	White %	Latino %	Black %	White %
Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR	4%	39%	52%	5%	34%	60%

- Racial Composition of Charter and Regular Public Schools in Selected MSAs, 2007-08 [Appendix]

### III. Segregation of Schools

#### Segregated Minority Schools

*There were higher rates of charter school students enrolling in 90-100% minority schools for Black, Latino, and White students. Black charter school students enrolled in these intensely segregated schools at the highest percentage, 38%.*

State	White Share of School Enrollment	90-100% Minority Charter School Enrollment Rate	90-100% Minority Public School Enrollment Rate

	Charter-Public Difference			White			Black			Latino		
	Charter	Public	Difference	White	Black	Latino	White	Black	Latino	White	Black	Latino
AR	64	67	-3	1	38	5	0	25	3			

- Percentage of Charter and Public School students in Intensively Segregated Minority Schools, by Race/Ethnicity and by State, 2007-08 [Appendix]

*In the Little Rock-North Little Rock district, 11% of charter school students and 12% of public school students were in intensely segregated minority schools.*

- Selected MSAs, Minority Segregation in Charter and Regular Public Schools, 2007-08 [Appendix]

### **Segregated White Schools**

*In Arkansas, white charter school students were more likely to be in segregated white schools than segregated white regular public schools (68% in 90-100% white charter schools and 45% in 90-100% white traditional public schools). Latinos attending Arkansas charter schools were also enrolled in segregated white schools at a much higher rate: 35% of Latino charter school students and 8% of Latino traditional public school students were in segregated white schools. Blacks, regardless of school sector, were enrolled in such schools at very low rates.*

State	White Share of School Enrollment			90-100% White Charter School Enrollment Rate			90-100% White Public School Enrollment Rate		
	Charter	Public	Charter-Public Difference	White	Black	Latino	White	Black	Latino
AR	64	67	-3	68	2	35	45	2	8

- Percentage of Charter and Public School students in Intensely Segregated White Schools, by Race/Ethnicity and by State, 2007-08 [Appendix]

*In 2007-08, a slightly lower percentage of charter school students in the Little Rock metropolitan area were in segregated white schools as compared to students in traditional public schools. However, much higher percentages of charter and traditional public school students in the Little Rock metro attended segregated white schools than segregated minority schools.*

CSA	White Difference (Charter-Public)	Charter Students in 90-100% White schools	Public Students in 90-100% White schools
Little Rock-North Little Rock, AR	-8%	24%	26%

- Selected MSAs, White Segregation in Charter and Regular Public Schools, 2007-08 [Appendix]

#### **IV. Interracial Exposure:**

*During 2007-08, White students in Arkansas had higher isolation in charter schools than in public schools, even though white student comprised a lower percentage of the charter school enrollment. Further, white exposure to black and Latino students was lower in charter schools than in traditional public schools.*

- White Exposure in Public and Charter Schools, by State, 2007-08 [Appendix]

State	Percent White		White Isolation		White Exposure to Blacks		White Exposure to Latinos	
	Charter	Public	Charter	Public	Charter	Public	Charter	Public
AR	64	67	84	79	11	12	3	7

*In Arkansas during 2007-08, Black isolation was higher in charter schools (71%) than in public schools (58%); Latino isolation was higher in public schools (27% to 5%).*

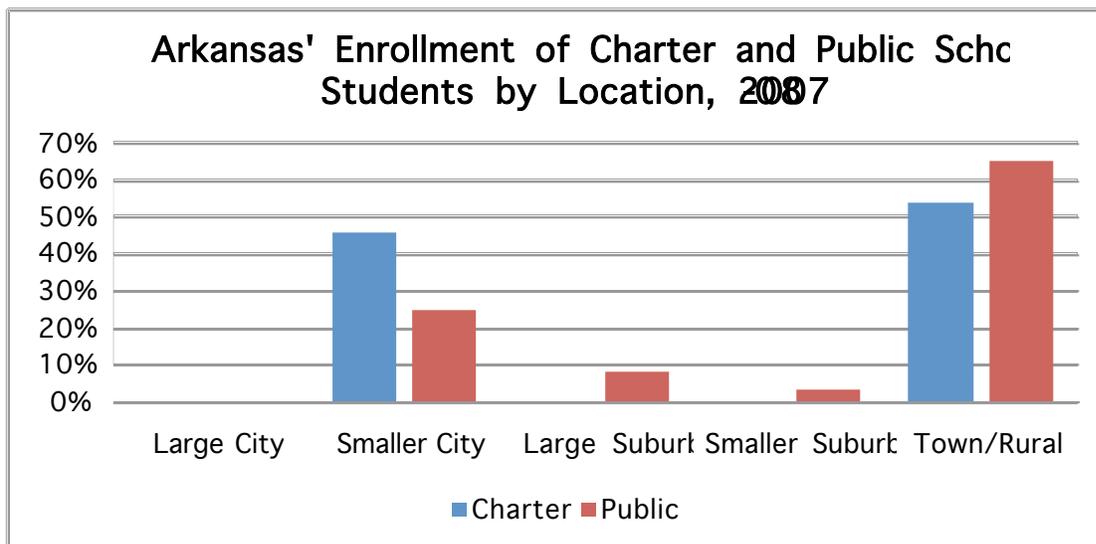
- Minority Isolation in Public and Charter Schools, by Race/Ethnicity and by State, 2007-08 [Appendix]

*In 2007-08, Black students had higher exposure to white students in traditional public schools (35%) than in charter schools (23%), while Latino students' exposure to whites was higher in charter schools. Compared to black students, Latinos had relatively high exposure in both charter schools (61%) and traditional public schools (55%) in Arkansas.*

- Minority Student Exposure To White Students in Public and Charter Schools, by Race/Ethnicity and State, 2007-08 [Appendix]

## V. Geographic Location of Charter Schools:

*During 2007-08, approximately 54% of Arkansas' enrollment of charter school students was in rural or town areas, and the other 46% attended charter schools in the city. In comparison, approximately 65% of Arkansas' enrollment of traditional public school students attended schools in rural or town areas, approximately 10% in the suburbs, and 25% in the city.*



- Charter School Students by Location and State (Less than 5,000 Charter Students) [Appendix]
- Percentage of Non-Charter Public School Students by Location and State, 2007-08 [Appendix]

## **VI. State Legislation about Diversity:**

- County board of education will deny a charter petition if the board finds that the petition does not reasonably specify means by which a school's student body will reflect racial and ethnic balance of the general population living in the school district granting the charter. [Appendix of Policy Brief, p. 21] <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> CRP Policy Brief, Nov. 2009, <http://www.civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/deseg/equity-overlooked-report-2009.pdf>