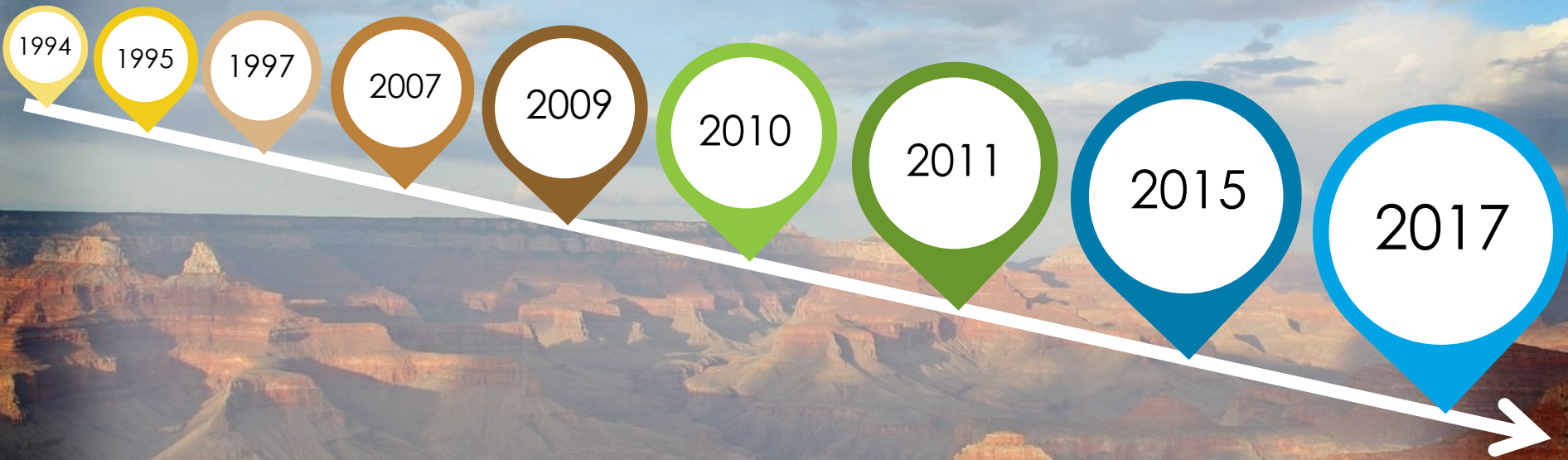


Charter Schools in Arizona

A look back and a look ahead



October 4, 2017 | Phoenix, Ariz.



June 17, 1994

Gov. Fife Symington signed House Bill 2002 into law, ushering in a wave of educational choices now fundamental to Arizona families.

Arizona becomes 11th state to offer charter school options to families

“Charter schools may be established pursuant to this article to **provide a learning environment** that will **improve pupil achievement**. Charter schools **provide additional academic choices for parents and pupils**. Charter schools may consist of new schools or all or any portion of an existing school. **Charter schools are public schools** that serve as alternatives to traditional public schools and charter schools are not subject to the requirements of article XI, section 1, Constitution of Arizona, or chapter 16 of this title.”

A.R.S 15-181

1995

Arizona Charter Movement

- On May 22, 1995, charter leaders founded the Arizona Charter Schools Association
- In the fall of 1995, 67 charter schools opened across the state



ARTICLE III

“This corporation is organized and shall be operated... specifically to support the charter school movement... in creating and improving the education of the children they serve.”

- May 22, 1995

Articles of Incorporation

Arizona Charter Schools Association

Arizona Charter Schools Association

Foundational Years 1995-2007

- Started organically – Paperwork filed with three signing Directors, growing to 23 members in its first year
- The group of charter operators met in an apartment complex laundry room and charter leader homes
- The group shared best practices during their meetings including Open Meeting Law, grant applications, etc.
- Eventually, the group formed into a membership organization

Arizona Charter Movement

Foundational Years

- 1999 – The Association was successful in removing the charter school cap to fuel growth
- 2001 – Prop 301 passes increasing funding and creating accountability for all public schools
- Charter schools experienced the greatest percent increases in charter enrollment occurring in the late 1990s
- From 1995-2006, charter enrollment increased from nearly 8,000 students to over 90,000 students
- Number of schools grew from 67 (1995) to 501 (2006)

Arizona Charter Movement: Growing

2007-2010

- 2007 – The AZ Charter Association received a grant to develop a strategic plan, leading to hiring a President/CEO (Eileen Sigmund)
- U.S. Department of Education awards the Association a Charter Starter Grant to open new charter schools
- Developed public relations and advocacy plan for charter movement and would lay the foundation for the student equity lawsuit



ARE SOME STUDENTS
WORTHLESS?

Arizona Charter Movement: Quality Focus

Public Student Growth Data

Demonstrating that Arizona charters meeting their statutory mandate of improving pupil achievement

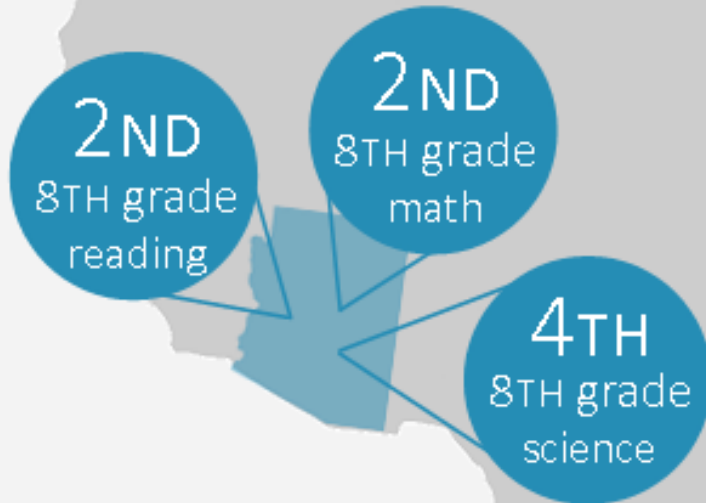
Arizona Growth Model:

- Association invested in the development of the Arizona Growth Model (Colorado model)
- 2008-2009: Worked with ADE & State Board for Charter Schools
- Developed a ground swell of support from districts and charters for the use of the growth model
- Advocated for the Arizona Department of Education to include the growth model in the A-F letter grades
- 2010: Growth model is distributed by the ADE and credited Arizona Charter Schools Association

2017

Today: Arizona Charter School Quality

ARIZONA CHARTERS ARE TOP ACADEMIC PERFORMERS



If Arizona charters were a state, their students would outperform nearly every other state on the Nation's Report Card.

2017

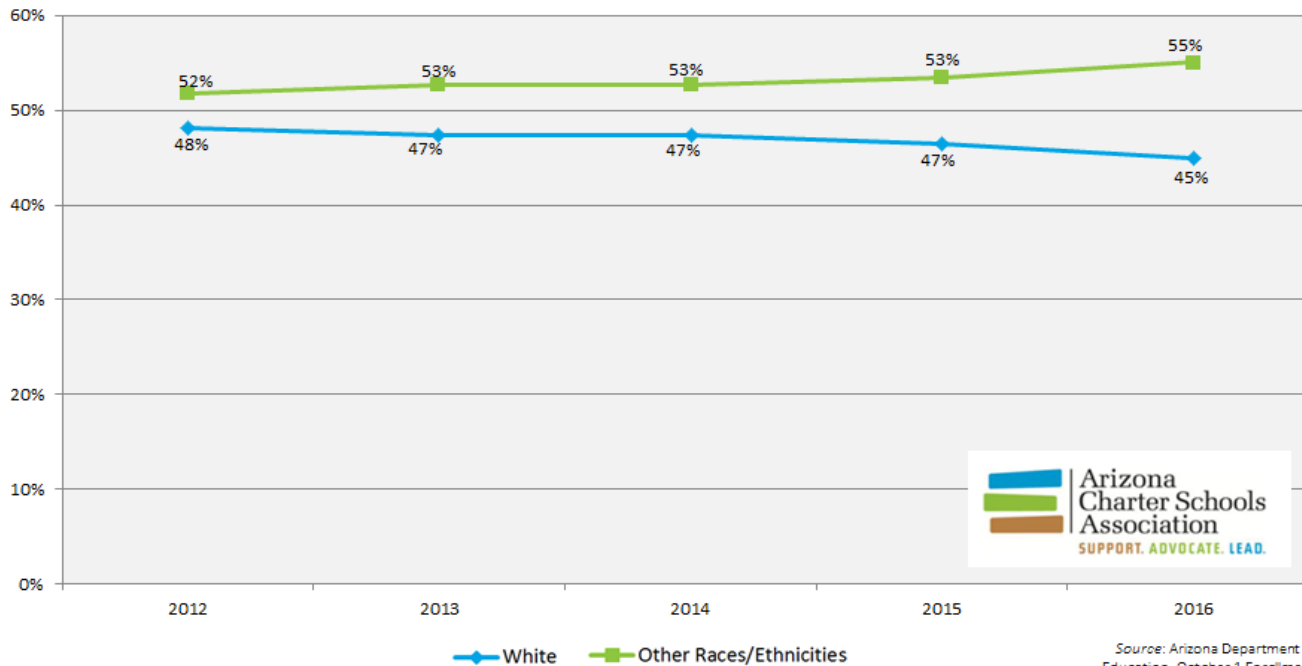
Families Continue to Choose Charters

Arizona Public School Enrollment

| School Year | | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|-------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Charter | Enrollment | 145,273 | 155,545 | 163,673 | 175,535 | 185,900 |
| | Percent Growth | | 7.1% | 5.2% | 7.2% | 5.9% |
| District | Enrollment | 950,747 | 946,323 | 952,217 | 948,970 | 941,686 |
| | Percent Growth | | -0.5% | 0.6% | -0.3% | -0.8% |

Source: Arizona Department of Education, October 1 Enrollment

Increasing Diversity in Arizona Charter Schools Over Time



Source: Arizona Department of Education, October 1 Enrollment

23 Years Later

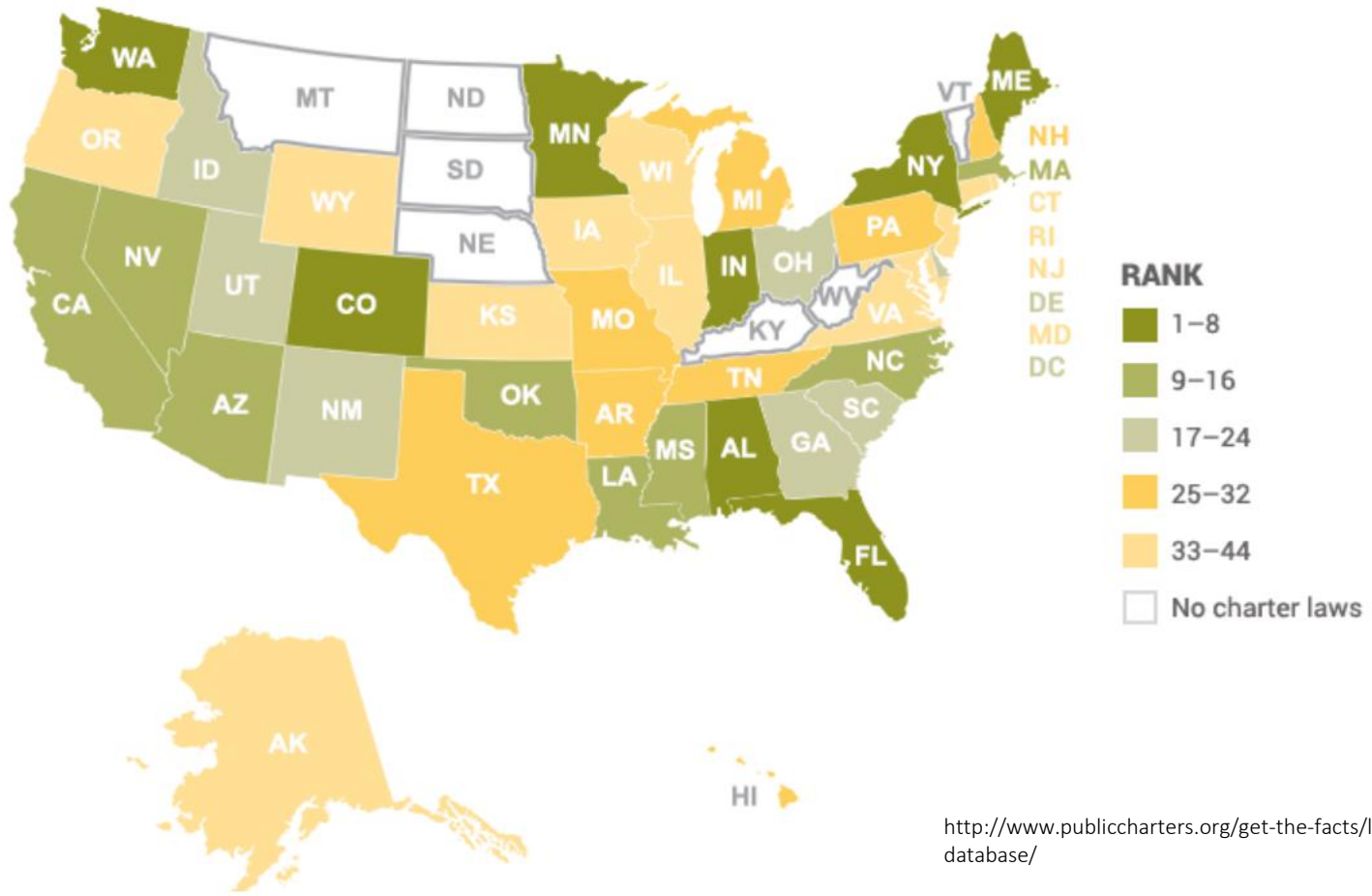
How well do AZ charters stack up nationally?

- 44 states now provide a charter school option; 2017 Arizona laws rank 11th
- Top Academic Performers in NAEP rankings
- Arizona has the largest percentage of students attending a charter school

*Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools,
2015 NAEP data*

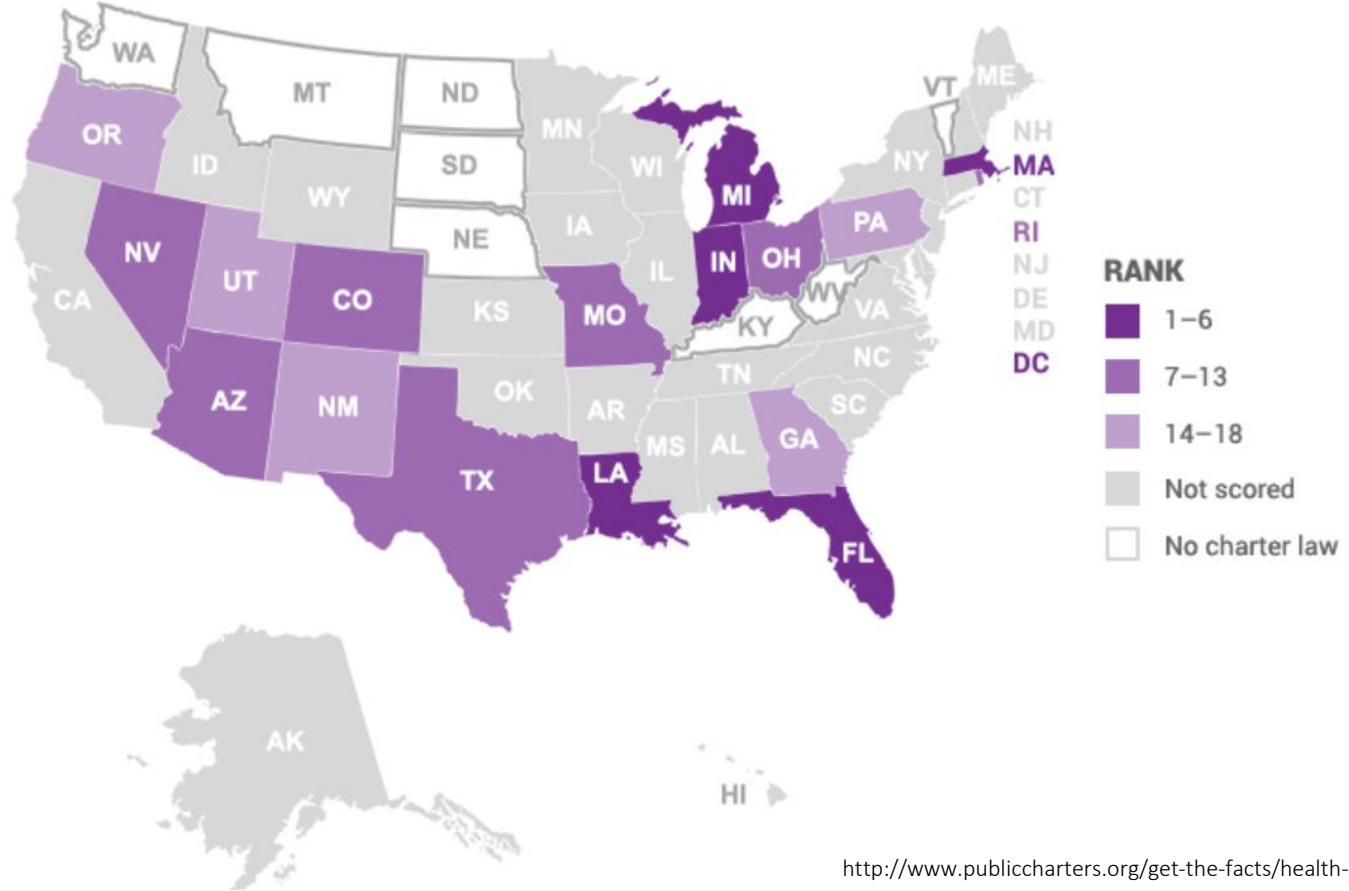
2017

Strength of Charter Laws



2017

Health of the Movement



<http://www.publiccharters.org/get-the-facts/health-of-movement/>

What is ahead for charters in Arizona?

- Quality schools
- Innovation
- Support for start up and growth