

 **Accountability of Charter Schools**  
**Legislative Issue Brief**

## **Hold Charter Schools Accountable**

**The Issue:** Ohio takes more than \$640 million as of April 2009 and over \$3 billion in the last decade in base funding from successful and improving public school districts and gives it to privately operated charter school districts. After over a decade of experience, charter schools continue to lag far behind public schools in academic achievement and there is little to no accountability for this academic failure.

In 2008, 66 percent, or two out of three, charter schools earned a failed Academic Emergency or Academic Watch compared to just 9 percent of public school districts. Some 39 percent of traditional public schools earned excellent or excellent with distinction ratings compared to just 0.3 percent of charter schools (Not even 1 in a hundred).

Academic failure and/or financial improprieties by the charter schools bring little or no consequences. The diversion of funds to charter schools add significantly to the fiscal crisis among Ohio school districts, forcing school boards to cut instructional and extra-curricular programs, reduce student services and seek additional property tax levies.

**Action Needed:** Support charter school accountability as Governor Strickland proposes in HB1. These provisions would hold charter schools accountable to the same standards as traditional public schools, including requiring charters to adhere to the Highly Qualified Teacher standard.

The Ohio Department of Education would have authority over charter schools and their sponsors to correct the lack of much needed oversight. The Governor will require that performance report cards be created for all charters. And, for-profit management services that pocket taxpayer dollars while their schools produce failed academic results - 66 percent of charters last year were rated failing, traditional public schools by far outperform charters statewide.