

# How school type influences overall performance and enrollment

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## Introduction

Throughout the world, there are many different types of schools for students to attend. While one may have more students than another, it remains unclear about which type of school performs best when compared with another. The United States of America is an example of a country with a large variety in the types of schools available to choose from and has readily available information about said schools. By comparing different types of schooling, it is possible to take the positives from all and try to make up for the negatives.

## Research Question

Between public schools, private schools, charter schools, and home education, which performs best on a national scale and why? How can schools in general improve their overall performance based off of these findings? Why do students choose to attend one school over another?

## Background and Literature Review

Marlow (2010) writes about the influence of student choice and enrollment on the performance of schools. In areas with relatively low private and charter school enrollment, public schools are shown to have a higher performance rate (Marlow 2010). Yet, public schools have the largest enrollment of any type of school and have the largest number of schools in the country.

On the other hand, Zimmer (2003) describes charter schools as being less constrained than public schools, as it too influences public school performance with its enrollment rate.

Flexibility is the most appealing factor about charter schools, as it is not government run. Yet, it is difficult to properly indicate performance levels since charter schools differ so much from one another, even in a single state like California (Zimmer 2003). Dissatisfaction with public schools appears yet again, as that is one of the main reasons people go to charter schools (Gawlik 2016).

## Methods

This is mainly a research project, therefore, most of the answers will be found in scholarly articles, books, and journals that have already been published. If the only research gathered was SAT scores, then the answer would seem clear based off of a logic standpoint. Yet, it is important to examine attendance, as well as how many students end up leaving a certain school. Figuring out why a certain school succeeds where another fails also helps to explain the findings and what the difference between the two is. Based on the research, the answer to this question could end up being clear in both performance and the reasoning behind it. Yet, it is important to look at all of the data and see what each school does as well as looking at what each school does poorly. A survey of the general public as to what type of school they attended will be conducted, noting which individuals stayed in the same type of school through high school and which individuals switched to a different school. The types of school for the switch will be recorded as well.

## Expected Conclusions

Public schools may be rated as having the highest scores as well as having the highest students currently attend public schools. While the average could differ, overall, public schools are expected to stand out above the other types of schools based off of not only how many

students attend public schools nationally per year, but by how little information is available about private schools, charter schools, and home education.

## Significance

The education field fluctuates almost yearly with various changes, yet none of them ever last long enough to make a difference. Therefore, I hope to start a meaningful discussion not only about the current state of schools, but about the future as well. This study can also inform parents or those curious about the four types of school that are featured about the pros and cons each school provides, as well as about the discussion about the current state of education.

## References

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