Detroit's Public Education System

About Excellent Schools Detroit

- Coalition of education, civic, community, and philanthropic organizations founded in 2010.
- Shared Goal: an excellent education for every Detroit child, cradle to career, by 2020.
- “Excellent Education” is defined by 90/90/90/90 criteria.
- Governance neutral--for quality, whatever the school governance model.

Public Education Matters

"The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people and be willing to bear the expenses of it....There should not be a district of one mile square, without a school in it, not founded by a charitable individual, but maintained at the public expense of the people themselves."

John Adams, 1785 letter to John Jebb

Public Education Matters

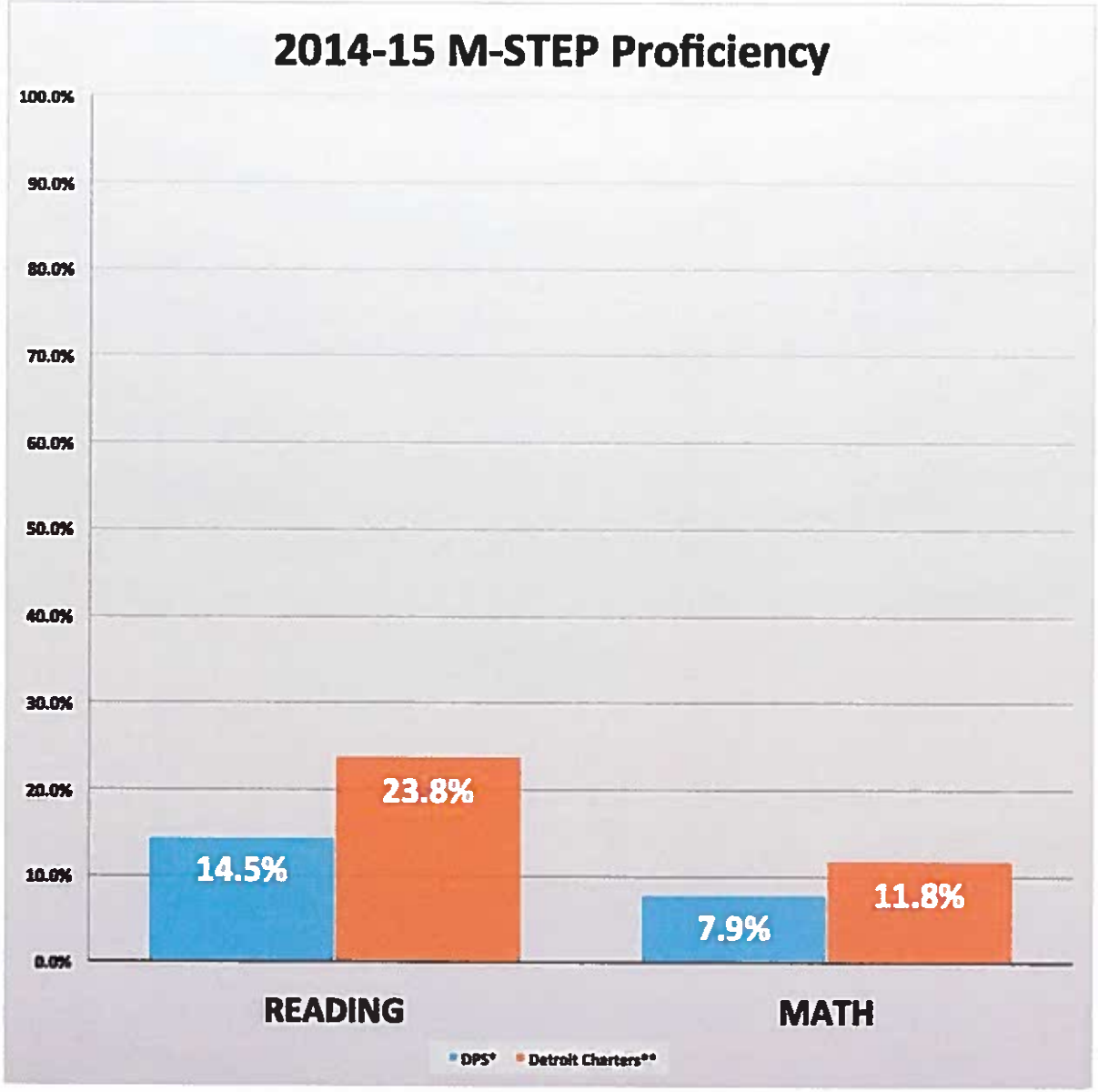
"[T]he tax which will be paid for this purpose [education] is not more than the thousandth part of what will be paid to kings, priests and nobles who will rise up among us if we leave the people in ignorance."

Thomas Jefferson, 1786 letter to George Wythe

Our Collective Goal

Fulfilling our responsibility, as citizens of this great state and country, to ensure that our children--every one of them--receives an education that enables them to pursue a life even better than the ones they imagine.

Failing Our State and Citizens



Spring 2015 M-Step results, district and school aggregate data file. As reported by the Michigan Department of Education.

*weighted by test-takers, does not include DPS charters, excludes specialty schools (if included, ELA drops to 14.5%)

**weighted by test takers, schools located within physical boundaries of the city of Detroit excluding specialty schools, including DPS and EAA charters

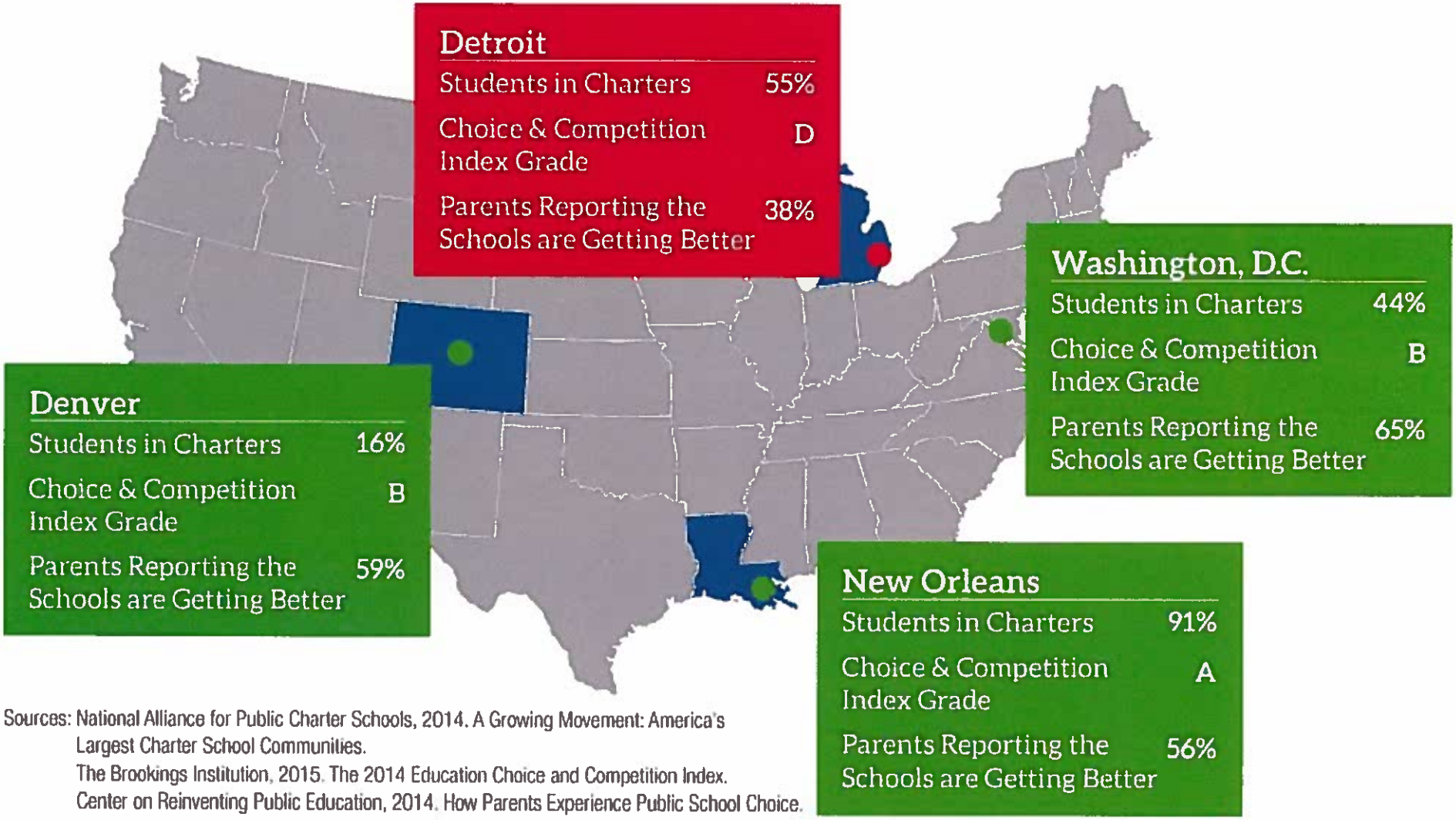
Failing Our State and Citizens

91 out of 100 DPS students were not proficient.

85 out of 100 Detroit charter students were not proficient.

"2014-15 MStep Proficiency for All Detroit Schools," as calculated and distributed by the Great Lakes Education Project

It Doesn't Have to Be This Way



Sources: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2014. A Growing Movement: America's Largest Charter School Communities.
The Brookings Institution, 2015. The 2014 Education Choice and Competition Index.
Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2014. How Parents Experience Public School Choice.

Ideological Reasons to Support

- Eliminates massive waste and streamlines failed bureaucracies
- Ensures safety
- Protects taxpayer rights

Logistical Reasons to Support

- Who Makes Decisions
  - Trust Democracy
  - Fair Fight

- What Decisions are Made
  - Participation in Choice Enablers
  - Opening and Closing Must Go Together

Built Locally & Promising

Detroit Achievement Academy, 2013

- 2014-2015 school year - NWEA MAP growth in the 99th percentile nationally
- 100% parent satisfaction for all three years
- 2015 MI PSA Teacher of the Year

Boggs School, 2013

- Ranked "very strong" for supportive environment in a citywide survey of students & teachers
- 20% increase in kids making their target gains in reading, and 15% in math
- Place-Based Education

Celebrate & Replicate Proven Models

Glazer Elementary, started turnaround in 2011

- Homework completion increased from 30% to 70% school-wide
- Started in bottom 5%, Glazer registered the 3rd best Math M-Step scores among all charters
- Ranked "very strong" for ambitious instruction in a citywide survey of students & teachers

Davison, founded a long-time ago

- Consistently top 10 performer across state data, including a top math score on M-Step
- MicroSociety School- all students participate in student-run & operated businesses
- A top performer across all categories in a citywide survey of students & teachers

Necessary, Regardless of SSRO

- Keeps Local Decisions Away from State-Level Bureaucrats
- Separates Accountability from Turnaround Work
- Ensures Higher Performance Standards

What's Possible

- More of the same....acceptance of failures, massive waste, and inequitable processes

  or

- Introduce an imperfect bill,... trust the democratic process to resolve the imperfections,...and **create the possibility of excellent schools for every Detroit child**

EXCELLENT
SCHOOLS
DETROIT