

Mobility of Students in Detroit's Charter Schools

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Student Mobility in Detroit

Introduction

In 1994, the state of Michigan passed legislation allowing parents to choose a school for their child outside of their resident district or to choose a charter school for the first time. This new legislation created public school academies, i.e. charter schools, and permitted districts to accept students from neighboring districts under a new “schools of choice” option. This report looks at the current status of mobility by students who live in Detroit and attend school in a Detroit Public School (DPS), a charter school in or outside of Detroit (PSA), or a traditional public school (TPS) outside the city under the schools of choice option.

The impact of student mobility both on students and schools has been well documented. Students who move more frequently perform less well on the state achievement tests (Rumberger & et al., 1999). Multiple studies using data from the National Educational Longitudinal Study (NELS) show many students have difficulties adjusting to new schools psychologically, socially, and academically (Jason & et al., 1992). Students who have to be driven to school are more likely to have poor attendance. The NELS surveys report that mobile students are less likely to be involved in extracurricular activities than stable students; extracurricular activities are an important means for students to make friends and feel as though they are part of the school community. Students who do not feel engaged in a school community are more likely to have behavior issues in school (Engec, 2006). Mobility during high school diminishes the prospects for graduation: students who changed high schools even once are less than half as likely as stable students to graduate from high school, even controlling for other factors that influence high school completion (Rumberger & Larson, 1998).

Summary

The last twenty years have seen dramatic changes in Detroit’s educational picture. Since 1995, many families with children have left Detroit. Between 2007 and 2012, 125 Detroit Public Schools (DPS) were closed. In addition, in 2013, the Governor announced the creation of the Educational Achievement Authority (EAA) which would take over 15 of the state’s lowest performing schools – all located in Detroit. Three of the fifteen schools were converted into charter schools. The 2012 closures, coupled with the creation of the EAA schools, impacted almost one third of Detroit students.

Parents remaining in Detroit now have a plethora of options for their children: new Detroit Public Schools (DPS) buildings with new programs; schools of choice districts outside of the city; “new” schools in the Education Achievement Authority system (EAA); and increasing numbers of public school academies (PSAs), i.e. charter schools, inside and outside of the city.

With the closures of DPS schools and new schools opening every year, the mobility rate of Detroit students is very high – 48% of elementary students, 42% of middle school students, 48% of high school students have attended more than one school. This compares with the statewide average of 21%. Mobility is especially high for students attending charter high schools. The high mobility rate correlates with lack of academic achievement of the city’s students as seen by the lack of improvement in the MEAP and MME scores of students who move.

The turnover of students in DPS and in the charter schools in and around Detroit is problematic if those schools are to successfully prepare students to be career and college ready. The high turnover of students in Detroit schools also impedes efforts to turn around low performing schools – whether charters, DPS, or EAA schools.

Data Sources

This report is facilitated by Michigan's participation in the national CREDO study. Individual student data was drawn from the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) counts of students from both fall and end of year from 2008 through 2012-13. Individual student data was matched with data from the Bureau of Assessment and Accountability. The MEAP results of students were used to evaluate if students who performed better on the MEAP or MME also remained in one school for a longer period of time. Further analysis explored whether there is a difference between student performance of students stayed in a DPS school and for those who stayed in their selected PSA or choice school. Additional information about the schools that students move to and from was drawn from the state's Top to Bottom ranking for 2011-12.

Mobility of Students in grades one to five

This section of the report uses data for elementary school students who were in first grade in 2008 and are present in the CEPI system through 5th grade. A total of 9,056 students were tracked as Detroit residents for all of the five-year tracking period. More than half of the elementary school students moved at least once during this period. *Moves do not include students transitioning to another building in the same district including from one building to another, for example from a K-2 building to a 3-5 building. If a building is converted to either an Educational Administrative Authority or a charter school, it is counted as a move.*

Table1: Number of moves by elementary students

Number of Moves	Detroit Residents	
	N	%
0	4,376	48%
1	2,968	33%
2	1,310	14%
3	359	4%
4	43	0%
Total	9,056	100%

Forty eight percent (48%) of all first graders living in Detroit in 2008 remain in their original school through fifth grade. Thirty three percent (33%) of students move once, and eighteen (18%) move more than once.

However, there were differences in student movement among students who began in PSAs compared to students who attended a traditional public school (TPS) either in DPS or outside of Detroit (TPS outside Detroit).

Table 2: Comparison of moves of elementary students

Started 1st Grade in 2008	Detroit Residents							
	PSA		DPS		TPS outside Detroit		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No move in 5 years	1,276	44%	2,942	52%	123	32%	35	48%
1 move	1,007	35%	1,794	32%	146	39%	21	29%
2 moves	476	16%	743	13%	78	21%	13	18%
3 moves	134	5%	193	3%	28	7%	4	5%
4 moves	22	1%	17	0%	4	1%	-	0%
Total	2,915	100%	5,689	100%	379	100%	73	100%

In 2008 2,915 first grade students (23%) were enrolled in a PSA either in Detroit or outside the city; 5,689 (63%) were enrolled in Detroit Public Schools (DPS); 379 (4%) were enrolled in a TPS other than DPS (schools of choice) and 73 (1%) were enrolled in other schools, including non-public schools, ISD schools, etc. Students who started 1st grade in 2008 in DPS (52%) were the most likely to remain for five years in their original schools, compared to 44% of students in PSAs and 32% of students participating in schools of choice. Twenty two percent (22%) of PSA students moved two or more times, compared to 16% of students who began in DPS, and 29% of students who attended a district of choice.

Table 3 subdivides the movement of students who moved once within five years. More than half (54%) of one time movers who began in a PSA moved to a different PSA and 21% moved to a DPS school. Eighteen percent (18%) of DPS students who were in a building that closed moved to a new DPS school; an additional 31% of students in buildings that didn't close moved to another DPS school. Forty percent (40%) of one time movers from DPS moved to a PSA; some of these students actually remained in a building that was converted to a PSA. A small number of students attending a TPS outside of Detroit moved, and most of those remained in the same LEA.

Table 3: Students who move once in five years from grade 1 to grade 5

1 Move/Transfer within Grade 1 - 5											
Start 1st Grade in PSA in 2008				Start 1st Grade in DPS in 2008				Start 1st Grade in TPS outside Detroit in 2008			
Detroit Residents		N	%	Detroit Residents		N	%	Detroit Residents		N	%
PSA Building Closed	PSA to new building/same PSA	21	2%	DPS Building Closed	DPS to new building in DPS	337	18%	TPS Building Closed	TPS to new building/same LEA	5	5%
	PSA to different PSA	54	6%		DPS to TPS outside Detroit	8	0%		TPS to TPS/different LEA	3	3%
	PSA to DPS	12	1%		DPS to EAA (Same BCode)				TPS to EAA		
	PSA to TPS outside Detroit	3	0%		DPS to EAA (Different BCode)	2	0%		TPS to PSA in Detroit	2	2%
	PSA to EAA				DPS to PSA in Detroit	117	6%		TPS to PSA outside Detroit	2	2%
PSA to other			DPS to PSA outside Detroit	30	2%	TPS to Other					
PSA Building Not Closed	PSA to new building/same PSA	113	12%	DPS Building Not Closed	DPS to Other			TPS Building Not Closed	TPS to new building/same LEA	20	21%
	PSA to different PSA	448	48%		DPS to new building in DPS	597	31%		TPS to TPS/different LEA	26	27%
	PSA to DPS	186	20%		DPS to TPS outside Detroit	111	6%		TPS to EAA		
	PSA to TPS outside Detroit	76	8%		DPS to EAA (Same BCode)	47	2%		TPS to PSA in Detroit	19	20%
	PSA to EAA	9	1%		DPS to EAA (Different BCode)	27	1%		TPS to PSA outside Detroit	20	21%
PSA to other	7	1%	DPS to PSA in Detroit	420	22%	TPS to Other					
Total		929	100%	Total		1,896	100%	Total		97	100%

There are multiple options for students who move and these options increase exponentially between the first and second move and even more for students who move three or four times. Students attending DPS schools are three times more likely to have moved multiple times. A total of 1,591 DPS students moved once, compared to 561 students in charter schools. For some students this may just be the result of a school converting to a charter school. (A summary of the movement of 2,270 second movers is available at www.michigan.gov/charters under the News and Reports section.)

Table 4 shows where the original cohort of first graders were by 5th grade.

Table 4: Districts where students begin and where they are attending 5 years later

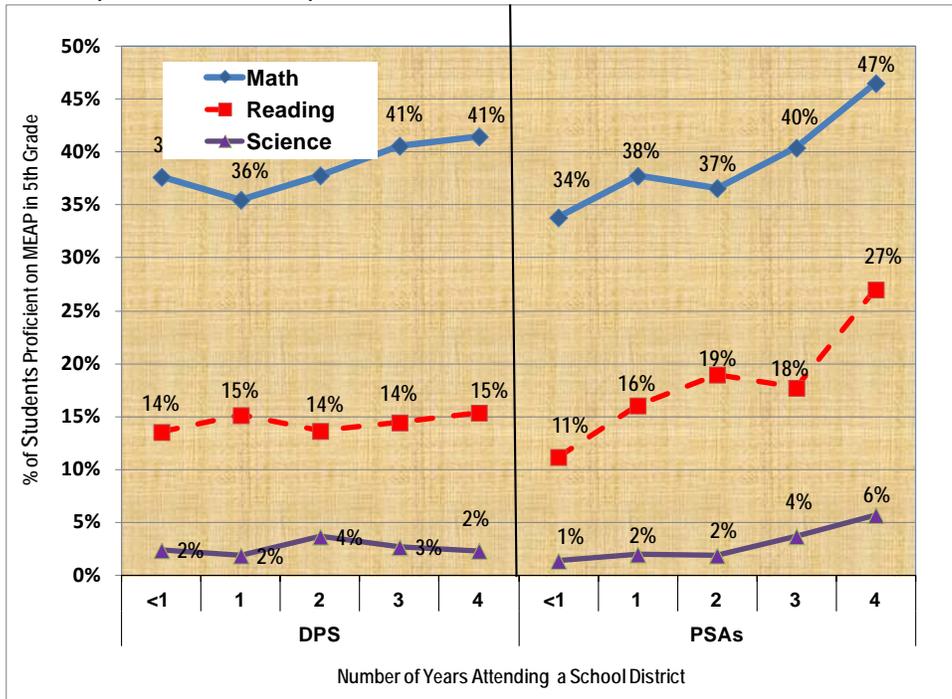
Grade 1	N in Grade 1	Detroit Residents									
		N in Grade 5					% in Grade 5				
		PSA	DPS	TPS outside Detroit	EAA	Other	PSA	DPS	TPS outside Detroit	EAA	Other
PSA	2,915	2,212	452	184	56	11	76%	16%	6%	2%	0%
DPS	5,689	1,622	3,274	450	319	24	29%	58%	8%	6%	0%
TPS outside Detroit	379	124	104	124	25	2	33%	27%	33%	7%	1%

Note: Table can be found in "Mobility Summary"

Seventy six percent (76%) of students who started in PSAs are still attending a PSA five years later, although not necessarily the same one where they started; 16% are now attending DPS schools. Fifty eight percent (58%) of students who began in a DPS school remain there five years later; 29% of former DPS students now attend charter schools, including DPS schools that were converted into charter schools, and 6% attend EAA schools.

Table 5 compares the percentage of students who are proficient on 5th Grade MEAP in Math, Reading, and Science in 2012 by the number of years a student attended a specific district.

Table 5: 5th graders proficient on MEAP 2012 by the number of years they attend a charter school, a DPS school, or a school of choice outside Detroit



Students who began in charter schools had a lower proficiency rate than students in DPS. However, their proficiency rates increased by 14% in math, 16% in reading, and 5% in science over four years. Proficiency rates for students in DPS increased by only 3% in math, 1% in reading, and not at all in science over four years. For all students, the longer they remained in a district, be it DPS or a charter school, the more likely they were to be proficient on MEAP. Note that because of the small number of students attending districts outside of Detroit for 2 and 3 years, the percentage proficient is not reliable.

Table 6 shows how the lowest performing students improve on the MEAP test over time.

Table 6: Percentage of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on the 5th grade MEAP

Number of Years in the Same District	% of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on MEAP Math			% of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on MEAP Reading		
	DPS	PSA	School of Choice	DPS	PSA	School of Choice
	2 years	36%	47%	**	47%	41%
3 years	42%	44%	**	43%	41%	**
4 years	42%	51%	45%	46%	41%	40%

The lowest performing charter school students were more likely to improve in math; the lowest performing DPS students were more likely to improve in reading.

As shown in Table 7, most of the schools Detroit students attended are ranked in the bottom 50% on the state's Top to Bottom ranking.

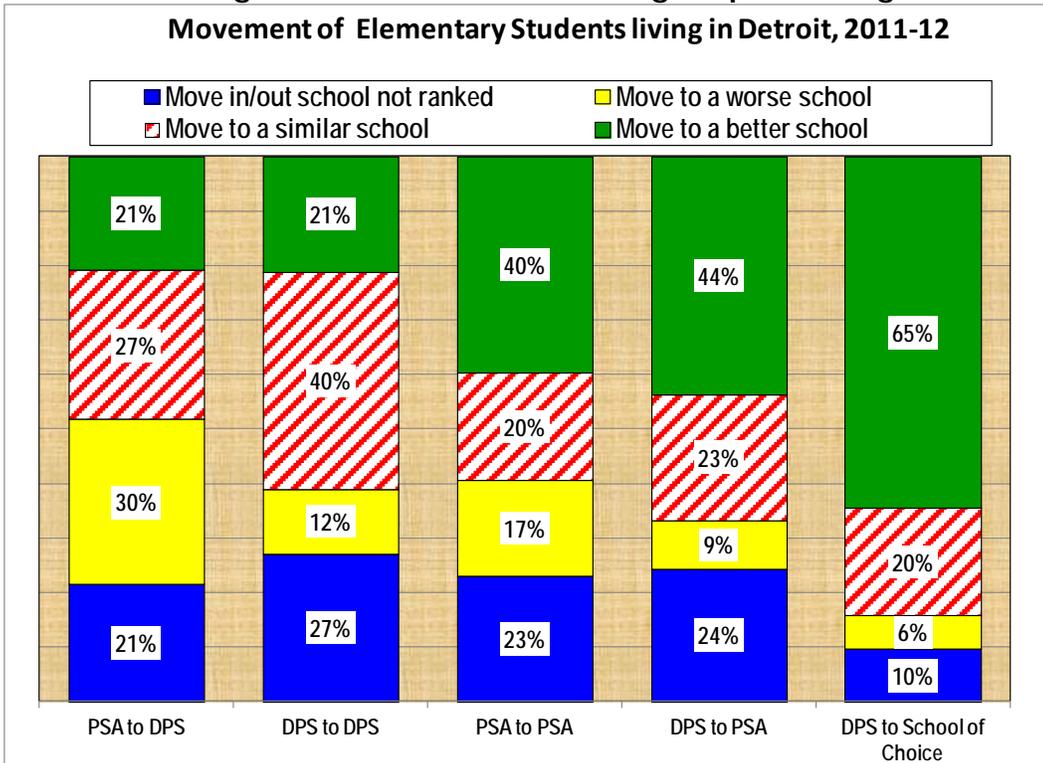
Table 7: Top to Bottom Rankings of schools Detroit students attend

TTB rank in 2012	PSA			DPS School			EAA School			TPS outside Detroit		
	# of schools	# of Detroit students	% of Detroit students	# of schools	# of Detroit students	% of Detroit students	# of schools	# of Detroit students	% of Detroit students	# of schools	# of Detroit students	% of Detroit students
<= 5%	16	3,856	8%	43	20,508	40%	11	8,613	93%	3	1,402	28%
6% ~ 25%	54	19,741	40%	27	13,598	27%	1	634	7%	2	1,013	20%
26% ~ 50%	37	11,585	23%	5	2,321	5%				1	368	7%
> 50 %	21	5,696	11%	8	5,610	11%						
Unranked	60	8,769	18%	25	8,660	17%				11	2,310	45%
Total	188	49,647	100%	108	50,697	100%	12	9,247	100%	17	5,093	100%

Forty eight percent (48%) of the 2008 cohort of students currently attend PSA schools and 67% of students now attending DPS schools are in buildings ranked in the bottom quarter. Eight percent (8%) of PSA students and 40% of DPS student are attending a school ranked in the bottom 5%. Forty eight percent (48%) of students in TPS outside Detroit are in schools in the bottom quarter. Only 11% of PSA students and 11% of DPS students are in schools ranked over 50%.

Table 8 shows whether students moved from a low performing school to a higher performing school on the state’s Top to Bottom ranking between 4th and 5th grade in 2011-12.

Table 8: Do 4th grade students move to a higher performing school?



Twenty one percent (21%) of PSA students who moved from a PSA to a DPS school moved to a higher ranked school, compared to 40% of students moving from one charter school to another or 44% of students who moved from a DPS school to a charter. Students who left the city for a school of choice were most likely to move to a higher ranked school.

Mobility of Students in grades 6 to 8

The data set used to compare mobility of middle school students is comprised of students who were in 6th grade in 2010 and can still be located in CEPI in 8th grade in 2012.

Table 9: Number of moves by middle school students

Number of Moves	N	%
0	5,660	62%
1	2,835	31%
2	623	7%
Total	9,118	100%

Sixty two percent (62%) of 6th graders in Detroit in 2010 remained in their original district until 8th grade. Thirty one percent (31%) of students moved once, and 7% moved twice.

However, there were differences in student movement among students who began in PSAs and students who attended Detroit Public Schools or a school of choice.

Table 10: Comparison of student moves

Started 6th Grade in 2010	PSA		DPS		TPS outside Detroit		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No move in 3 years	2,452	60%	3,094	66%	22	10%	92	81%
1 move	1,307	32%	1,365	29%	142	67%	21	18%
2 moves	332	8%	241	5%	49	23%	1	1%
Total	4,091	100%	4,700	100%	213	100%	114	100%

In 2010 4,091 Detroit 6th graders were enrolled in a PSA (45%), 4,700 were enrolled in DPS (52%) and 327 (3.5%) were enrolled in schools of choice or other schools. Thirty eight percent (38%) of PSA students in middle school moved at least once, compared to 34% of DPS students.

Table 11 breaks down the movement of Detroit middle school students who moved once within three years.

Table 11: First Moves of students between 6th and 8th grades

1 Move/Transfer within Grade 6 - 8											
Start 6th Grade in PSA in 2010				Start 6th Grade in DPS in 2010				Start 6th Grade in TPS outside Detroit in 2010			
		N	%			N	%		N	%	
PSA Building Closed	PSA to new building/same PSA			DPS Building Closed	DPS to new building in DPS	329	16%	TPS Building Closed	TPS to new building/same LEA	1	1%
	PSA to different PSA	55	4%		DPS to TPS outside Detroit	16	1%		TPS to TPS/different LEA		
	PSA to DPS	20	2%		DPS to EAA (Same BCode)				TPS to EAA (Same BCode)		
	PSA to TPS outside Detroit	6	0%		DPS to EAA (Different BCode)	1	0%		TPS to EAA (Different BCode)		
	PSA to EAA				DPS to PSA in Detroit	46	2%		TPS to PSA in Detroit	3	2%
PSA to other			DPS to PSA outside Detroit	3	0%	TPS to PSA outside Detroit					
PSA Building Not Closed	PSA to new building/same PSA	110	8%	DPS Building Not Closed	DPS to Other			TPS Building Not Closed	TPS to Other		
	PSA to different PSA	590	45%		DPS to new building in DPS	707	34%		TPS to new building/same LEA	12	9%
	PSA to DPS	375	29%		DPS to DPS outside Detroit	195	9%		TPS to TPS/different LEA	48	37%
	PSA to TPS outside Detroit	125	10%		DPS to EAA (Same BCode)	195	9%		TPS to EAA (Same BCode)		
	PSA to EAA	27	2%		DPS to EAA (Different BCode)	50	2%		TPS to EAA (Different BCode)	1	1%
PSA to other	7	1%	DPS to PSA in Detroit	516	25%	TPS to PSA in Detroit	64	49%			
				DPS to PSA outside Detroit	30	1%	TPS to PSA outside Detroit				
				DPS to Other	9	0%	TPS to Other	2	2%		
				Total	2,097	100%		Total	131	100%	

Of students who began in a PSA and moved once, 49% moved to a different PSA and 31% moved to a DPS school. Of students who began a DPS school, 50% moved to another DPS building and 27% to a PSA in Detroit.

Table 12 shows where the 6th grade cohort of students attended in 8th grade.

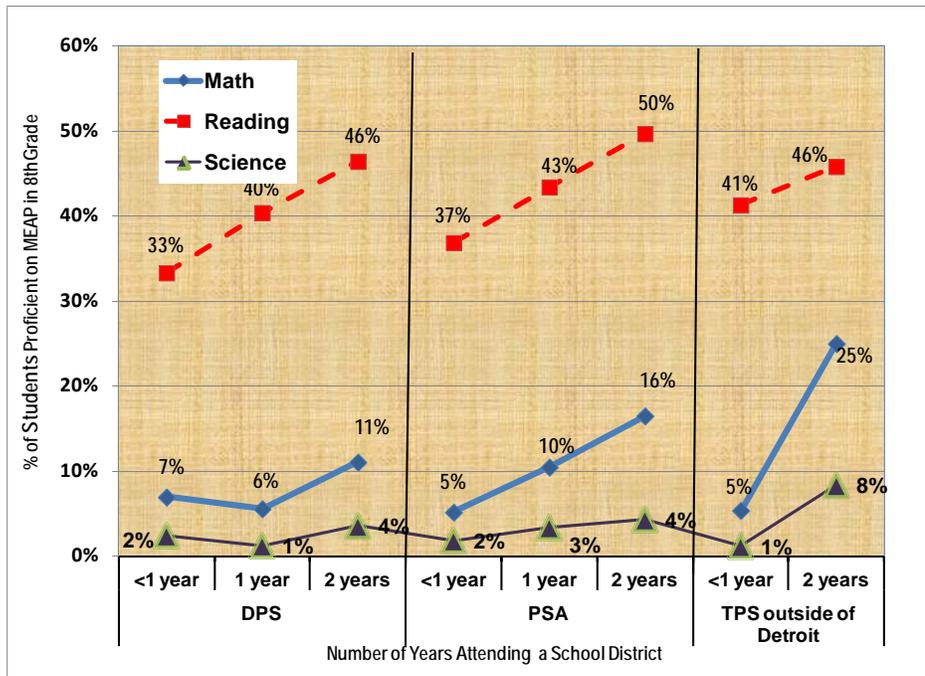
Table 12: Districts where students began and where they attended in 8th grade

Number of students beginning in a PSA/TPS in Grade 6 and still in a PSA/TPS in Grade 8												
Grade 6	N in Grade 6	N in Grade 8					% in Grade 8					
		PSA	DPS	TPS outside Detroit	EAA	Other	PSA	DPS	TPS outside Detroit	EAA	Other	
PSA	4,091	3,283	537	185	76	10	80%	13%	5%	2%	0%	
DPS	4,700	789	3,305	237	355	14	17%	70%	5%	8%	0%	
TPS outside Detroit	213	96	100	-	13	4	45%	47%	0%	6%	2%	

Eighty percent (80%) of students who began in PSAs were still attending a PSA after two years and 13% moved to a DPS school. Seventy percent (70%) of students who began in DPS were there in 8th grade, 17% moved to a PSA and 8% to an EAA school. All students who began in a TPS outside Detroit completed 8th grade either in a PSA or DPS school.

Table 13 compares the percentage of students proficient on 8th Grade MEAP in Math, Reading, and Science in 2012 by the number of years a student was in a specific district. This graph tracks the same cohort of students who were in sixth grade in 2010.

Table 13: Proficiency rates on 8th grade MEAP 2012 by the number of years students attend a PSA, a DPS school, or district of choice



The longer students remained in a district, be it a PSA or a DPS school, the better the student performed on the MEAP. Middle school students attending PSAs outperformed DPS students in math and reading, and have similar proficiency rates in science.

Table 14 shows how the lowest performing students improve on the MEAP test over time.

Table 14: Percentage of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on the 8th grade MEAP

Number of Years in the Same District	% of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on MEAP Math		% of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on MEAP Reading	
	PSA	DPS	PSA	DPS
1 year	6%	18%	8%	46%
2 years	0%	22%	6%	51%

The lowest performing DPS students were three times more likely to improve in math and almost six times more likely to improve in reading after one year than students who attended charter schools. After two years, the

improvement rates for students who stay in DPS schools are even higher.

As shown in Table 15, most of the schools Detroit students attended were ranked in the bottom 50% of the state's Top to Bottom ranking.

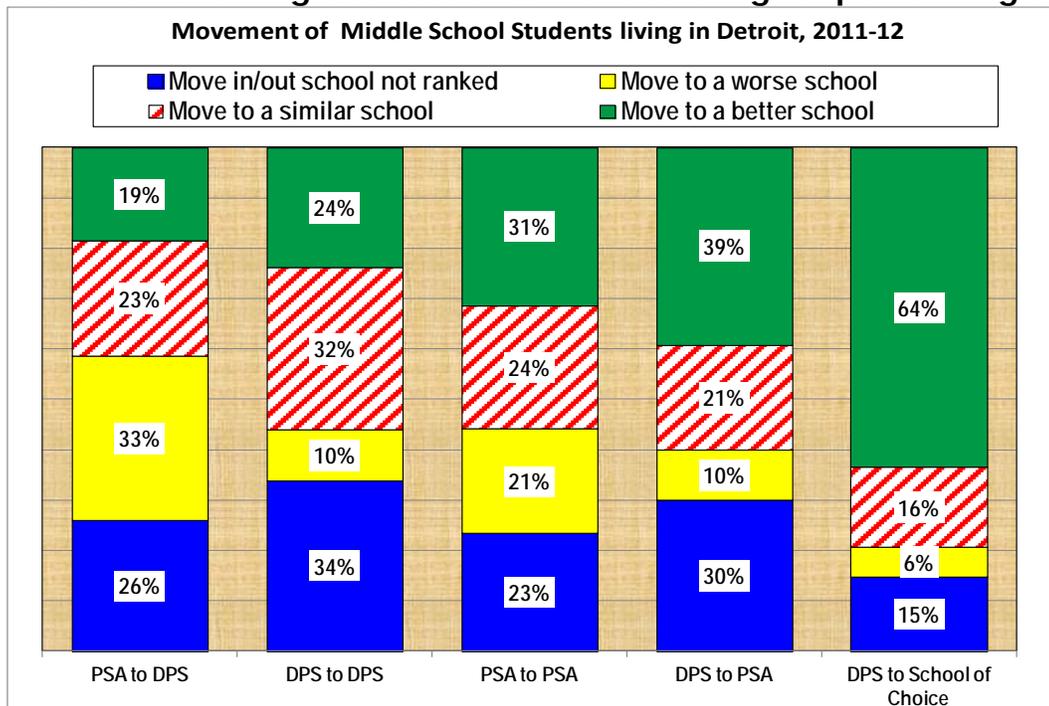
Table 15: Top to Bottom Rankings of schools Detroit students attend

TTB rank in 2012	PSA			DPS School			EAA School			TPS outside Detroit		
	# of schools	# of Detroit students	% of Detroit students	# of schools	# of Detroit students	% of Detroit students	# of schools	# of Detroit students	% of Detroit students	# of schools	# of Detroit students	% of Detroit students
<= 5%	16	3,856	8%	43	20,508	40%	11	8,613	93%	3	1,402	28%
6% ~ 25%	54	19,741	40%	27	13,598	27%	1	634	7%	2	1,013	20%
26% ~ 50%	37	11,585	23%	5	2,321	5%				1	368	7%
> 50 %	21	5,696	11%	8	5,610	11%						
Unranked	60	8,769	18%	25	8,660	17%				11	2,310	45%
Total	188	49,647	100%	108	50,697	100%	12	9,247	100%	17	5,093	100%

Eight percent (8%) of PSA students and 40% of DPS students attended a school ranked in the bottom 5% (those on the state's priority list). In addition, almost all students in EAA schools (by definition the bottom 5%) lived in Detroit. Forty eight percent (48%) of students in PSA schools and 27% of students in DPS schools were in buildings ranked in the bottom quarter. Forty eight percent (48%) of students in TPS outside Detroit were in schools in the bottom quarter. Only 11% of PSA students and 11% of DPS students were in schools ranked higher than 50%.

Table 16 shows whether students moved from a low performing school to a higher performing school on the state's Top to Bottom ranking between 7th and 8th grade in 2011-12.

Table 16: Did 7th grade students move to a higher performing school?



Students who moved from DPS to a School of Choice were most likely to move to a better school, compared to the 19% of PSA students who moved to a (higher ranked) DPS school, the 31% of PSA students who move to another (higher ranked) PSA, and the 39% of DPS students who move to a (higher ranked) charter school. Of the 804 students who moved from a bottom 5% school, two thirds moved to a

school in the bottom quarter. Very few students had the opportunity/choice to move to schools ranked higher than 50%.

Mobility of Students in high school, grades Nine to Twelve

The data set used to compare mobility of high school students is comprised of 8379 Detroit students who were in 9th grade in 2009 and can be located in CEPI for four years. This accounts for 65% of the students who began high school in 2009. *Students who drop out and do not immediately reenroll in a different district are not included. Students who drop out of one district and reenroll either in a TPS or online program six months later are included.*

Table 17: Number of moves, includes transfers within the same district

Number of Moves	N	%
0	4,329	52%
1	2,982	36%
2	866	10%
3	199	2%
Total	8,376	100%

Fifty two percent (52%) of 9th graders in Detroit in 2009 remained in their original district until 12th grade. Forty eight percent (48%) moved at least once during high school.

However, there were significant differences in student movement among high school students who began in PSAs compared to students who attended a TPS in their resident district or another district.

Table 18: Movement of Detroit high school students

Started 9th Grade in 2009	PSA		DPS		TPS outside Detroit resident city		Other	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
No move in 4 years	1,034	46%	3,264	55%	30	15%	1	10%
1 move	710	32%	2,175	37%	93	47%	4	40%
2 moves	420	19%	381	6%	63	32%	2	20%
3 moves	80	4%	103	2%	13	7%	3	30%
Total	2,244	100%	5,923	100%	199	100%	10	100%

Over four years, only 44% of charter school students and 55% of DPS schools students remained in their original schools. The small number of Detroit resident students who began in a school of choice outside the city were more likely to move than other groups of students (85%).

Table 19 breaks down the movement of Detroit students who moved once during high school.

Table 19: Students who moved once in four years from 9th to 12th grade

Start 9th Grade in PSA in 2009			Start 9th Grade in DPS in 2009			Start 9th Grade in TPS outside Detroit in 2009					
	N	%		N	%		N	%			
PSA Building Closed	PSA to new building/same PSA		0%	DPS Building Closed	DPS to new building in DPS	435	19%	TPS Building Closed	TPS to new building/same LEA	3	4%
	PSA to different PSA	95	15%		DPS to TPS outside Detroit	49	2%		TPS to TPS/different LEA	3	4%
	PSA to DPS	93	15%		DPS to EAA (Same BCode)				TPS to EAA (Same BCode)		
	PSA to TPS outside Detroit	2	0%		DPS to EAA (Different BCode)	73	3%		TPS to EAA (Different BCode)		
	PSA to EAA	3	0%		DPS to PSA in Detroit	37	2%		TPS to PSA in Detroit		
	PSA to other		0%		DPS to PSA outside Detroit	3	0%		TPS to PSA outside Detroit		
PSA Building Not Closed	PSA to new building/same PSA	9	1%	DPS Building Not Closed	DPS to Other	1	0%	TPS Building Not Closed	TPS to Other		
	PSA to different PSA	148	24%		DPS to new building in DPS	445	19%		TPS to new building/same LEA	3	4%
	PSA to DPS	225	36%		DPS to TPS outside Detroit	363	16%		TPS to TPS/different LEA	44	58%
	PSA to TPS outside Detroit	33	5%		DPS to EAA (Same BCode)	648	28%		TPS to EAA (Same BCode)	1	1%
	PSA to EAA	9	1%		DPS to EAA (Different BCode)	36	2%		TPS to EAA (Different BCode)	1	1%
	PSA to other	10	2%		DPS to PSA in Detroit	185	8%		TPS to PSA in Detroit	21	28%
Total	627	100%	Total	2,311	100%	Total	76	100%			

A total of 627 students began ninth grade in a PSA in 2009. Of the PSA students, 51% moved to a DPS school and 41% moved to another PSA. Of the 2311 students who began in DPS, 38% moved to another DPS school, 33% moved to an EAA building, and 18% to a TPS outside Detroit. Sixty two percent (62%) of the 76 Detroit students who started in a school outside Detroit moved to another TPS in a different district.

Following the same cohort of 9th graders, Table 20 shows where these ninth graders attended in 12th grade.

Table 20: Districts where students begin and where they attend after four years

Number of students beginning in a PSA/DPS/School of choice in Grade 9 and where they are in Grade 12											
Grade 9	N in Grade 9	N in Grade 12					% in Grade 12				
		PSA	DPS	TPS outside Detroit	EAA	Other	PSA	DPS	TPS outside Detroit	EAA	Other
PSA	2,244	1,394	589	84	162	15	62%	26%	4%	7%	1%
DPS	5,923	373	4,063	257	1,182	48	6%	69%	4%	20%	1%
TPS outside Detroit	199	28	130	1	38	2	14%	65%	1%	19%	1%

Sixty two percent (62%) of students who started high school in a PSA attended a PSA four years later, compared to 69% of 9th graders who began/stayed in DPS and 84% of students who began/stayed in a TPS outside of their resident district. Twenty six percent (26%) of students who started 9th grade in a PSA attended a DPS school in 12th grade.

Table 21 compares the performance of students on Michigan Merit Exam in 2012 with the same cohort of students who were in ninth grade in 2009.

Table 21: Performance of students on the Michigan Merit Exam by the amount of time they attended a district

		N	Percent Proficient				
			Math	Reading	Writing	Science	Social Studies
DPS	< 1 year	796	1%	19%	12%	1%	6%
	1 year	618	2%	24%	20%	3%	8%
	2 years	4,955	6%	28%	23%	4%	9%
PSA	< 1 year	386	1%	22%	14%	1%	4%
	1 year	309	3%	20%	16%	0%	5%
	2 years	1,211	4%	23%	19%	3%	9%
Same TPS outside Detroit	< 1 year	63	0%	22%	0%	0%	5%
	1 year	5	**	**	**	**	**
	2 years	9	**	**	**	**	**

** indicates there is insufficient data for validity

The percentage of high school students proficient on MME increased over two years in reading and writing for students who started in DPS and PSAs. The trend holds true on a smaller scale for math or science. The percentage of students proficient on MME after two years in DPS schools was greater than the percentage of proficient students attending PSAs for the same amount of time.

Conclusions

The last twenty years have seen dramatic changes in the Detroit educational picture. Since 1995, many families with children have left Detroit. Between 2007 and 2012, 125 Detroit Public Schools (DPS) were closed. In addition, in 2013, the Governor announced the creation of the Educational Administration Authority (EAA) which would take over 15 of the state's lowest performing schools – all located in Detroit. Three of the fifteen schools were converted to charter schools. The 2012 closures, coupled with the creation of the EAA schools, impacted almost one third of Detroit students.

Parents remaining in Detroit now have a plethora of options for their children: new Detroit Public Schools (DPS) buildings with new programs; schools of choice districts outside of the city; “new” schools in the Education Achievement System (EAA); and increasing numbers of public school academies (PSAs), i.e. charter schools, inside and outside of the city.

Detroit students change schools significantly more often than students elsewhere in Michigan.

Students in schools of choice change schools more frequently than students who attend DPS or PSAs.

Table 22: Mobility of students in all grade configurations

Changes	Districts Detroit students attend				Districts Detroit students attend			
	PSA	DPS	TPS outside Detroit	State	PSA	DPS	TPS outside Detroit	State
No move	4,762	9,300	175	277,216	51%	57%	22%	79%
1 move	3,024	5,334	381	56,578	33%	33%	48%	16%
2 or more moves	1,464	1,678	235	18,461	16%	10%	30%	5%
Total	9,250	16,312	791	352,255	100%	100%	100%	100%

Only 51% of PSA students, 57% of DPS students, and 22% of students attending schools outside of Detroit have stayed in the same district over their time in elementary, middle, and high school. This compares with the statewide average of 79%. Mobility was especially high for students attending charter high schools and for students in schools of choice.

Charter school students were more likely than DPS students to remain in a charter district at the end of elementary and middle school, even if it was not the same school where they started. Some of this mobility can be explained by DPS building closures and reconfigurations.

Table 23: Where students were at the end of each age cycle

Initial district	% of first grade students in 5th grade					% of 6th grade students in 8th grade					% of 9th grade students in 12th grade				
	PSA	DPS/ Resident District	School of choice	EAA	State	PSA	DPS/ Resident District	School of choice	EAA	State	PSA	DPS/ Resident District	School of choice	EAA	State
PSA	76%	16%	6%	2%	64%	80%	13%	5%	2%	72%	62%	26%	4%	7%	59%
DPS/Resident district	29%	58%	8%	6%	82%	17%	70%	5%	8%	89%	6%	69%	4%	20%	86%
TPS of choice	33%	27%	33%	7%	66%	45%	47%	0%	6%	81%	14%	65%	1%	19%	84%

Seventy six percent (76%) of charter students in elementary grades and 80% of charter students in middle school remained in a PSA. Data reflects more mobility for DPS students, some of which can be explained by building closures and reconfigurations. Only 62% of charter high school students remained in a PSA in 12th grade compared to 69% of 9th graders in DPS schools. Since 2012, 20% of former DPS high school students attended EAA high schools. A small percentage of Detroit students who began in a school of choice remained there, across all age groups. Detroit students move significantly more often than students elsewhere as shown in the state average.

The high mobility rate of Detroit students correlates negatively with the academic achievement of the city's students. Detroit students have not improved their proficiency rates on the MEAP and MME compared to the state average.

Table 24: MEAP and MME proficiency compared to the state

	Years attending	Percent Proficient 5th grade MEAP		Years attending	Percent Proficient 8th grade MEAP		Percent Proficient MME	
		Math	Reading		Math	Reading	Math	Reading
Detroit area PSA	3	18%	40%	1	10%	43%	1%	19%
	4	27%	47%	2	16%	50%	4%	23%
DPS	3	14%	41%	1	6%	40%	2%	24%
	4	15%	41%	2	11%	46%	6%	28%
State	3	37%	64%	1	20%	55%	13%	41%
	4	50%	73%	2	38%	68%	32%	60%

Elementary and middle school students in Detroit area PSAs outperformed students in DPS after attending a PSA for 4 years. In contrast, DPS high school students outperformed students in PSAs. But, more importantly, Detroit students – in PSAs and in DPS schools – not only lag far behind the state proficiency rate, the improvement in proficiency scores lags behind the state growth. For example, students attending an elementary PSA for four years increased their math proficiency from 18% after 3 years of attendance to 27% after 4 years of attendance, an increase of 9%. The state improvement average increased 13%.)

A comparison of the improvement of the lowest performing students between Detroit area schools and the state can also be made.

Table 25: Percentage of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient 5th and 8th Grade Students Improving on the MEAP

Elementary grades	Number of Years in the Same District	% of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on MEAP Math			% of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on MEAP Reading		
		PSA	DPS/ Resident District	School of Choice	PSA	DPS/ Resident District	School of Choice
		Detroit	2 years	47%	36%	**	41%
3 years	44%		42%	**	41%	43%	**
4 years	51%		42%	45%	41%	46%	40%
State	2 years	66%	54%	53%	55%	54%	52%
	3 years	59%	53%	52%	57%	52%	50%
	4 years	54%	48%	47%	50%	50%	50%

Middle school grades	Number of Years in the Same District	% of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on MEAP Math			% of Not Proficient and Partially Proficient Students Improving on MEAP Reading		
		PSA	DPS/ Resident District	School of Choice	PSA	DPS/ Resident District	School of Choice
		Detroit	1 year	6%	18%	**	8%
2 years	0%		22%	**	6%	51%	**
State	1 year	62%	49%	50%	56%	53%	50%
	2 years	50%	49%	48%	49%	44%	43%

Table 25 compares the growth rate of students in the Detroit area schools with similar schools in Michigan. In elementary math, PSA students are more likely to improve than DPS students; in middle school, the opposite is true. In elementary and middle school reading, DPS students demonstrate more growth. More students in charter schools improve in each time period than students in resident districts or schools of choice. Unlike the MEAP proficiency rate, the rate of growth for low performing students does not increase the longer a student stays in a district.

The high rate of mobility in Detroit schools correlates negatively with performance of students attending those schools. Achievement of students in both DPS and charter schools appears to have been impacted by parents ability to choose education options for their children, and by closures, transformations, creation of the EAA, and opening of many new charter schools. Data supports that students in the Detroit Public Schools and PSAs who remain longer in a school district are more likely to be proficient and the lowest performing students more likely to improve on the MEAP. The continuing turnover of students in both DPS, EAA, and charter schools is problematic if those schools are to successfully prepare students to be career and college ready.

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