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Charter Schools Outperform Public Schools on the 2024 NAEP Grade 8 Math and Reading Assessments

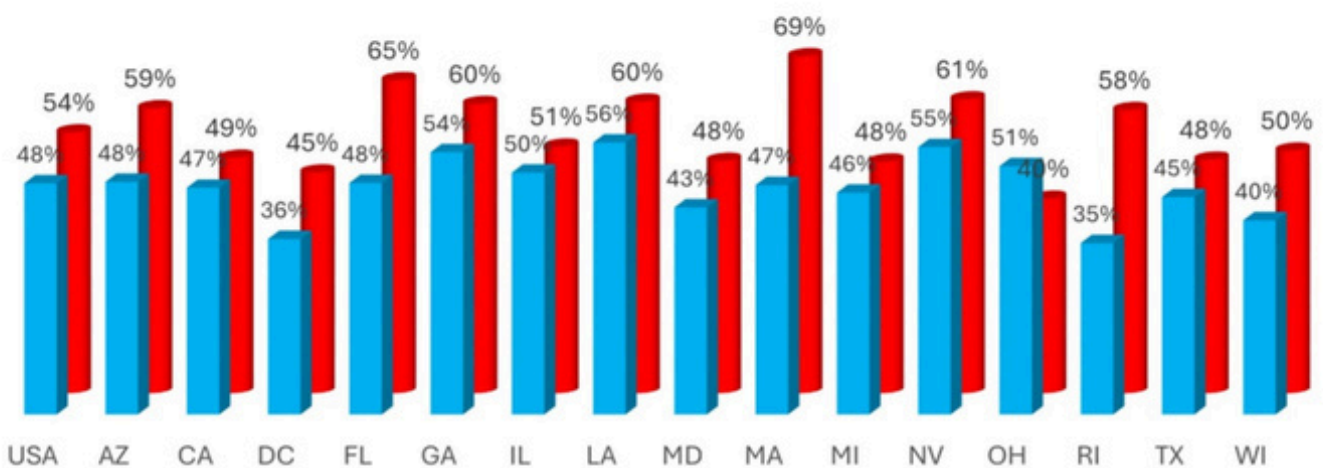
Kentucky's Supreme Court needs to consider this

Regarding charter school performance, well known education researcher Matthew Ladner has put together some interesting analyses of the 2024 National Assessment of Educational Progress for both Grade 8 Math and Grade 8 Reading.

Ladner uses a new NAEP metric for low socio-economic status for students in his Next Steps Blog, "[Nation's report card has better grades for charter schools](https://nextstepsblog.org/2025/02/nations-report-card-has-better-grades-for-charter-schools/?utm_content=325885561&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_channel=tw-216061574)," to compare charter school results to traditional school results. This considers low socio-economic status students only.

Here's how this looks for NAEP Grade 8 Reading.

Figure 2: NAEP 8th Grade Reading "Basic or Better" for Low Socio-Economic Status Students, **Charter** and **District**, 2024

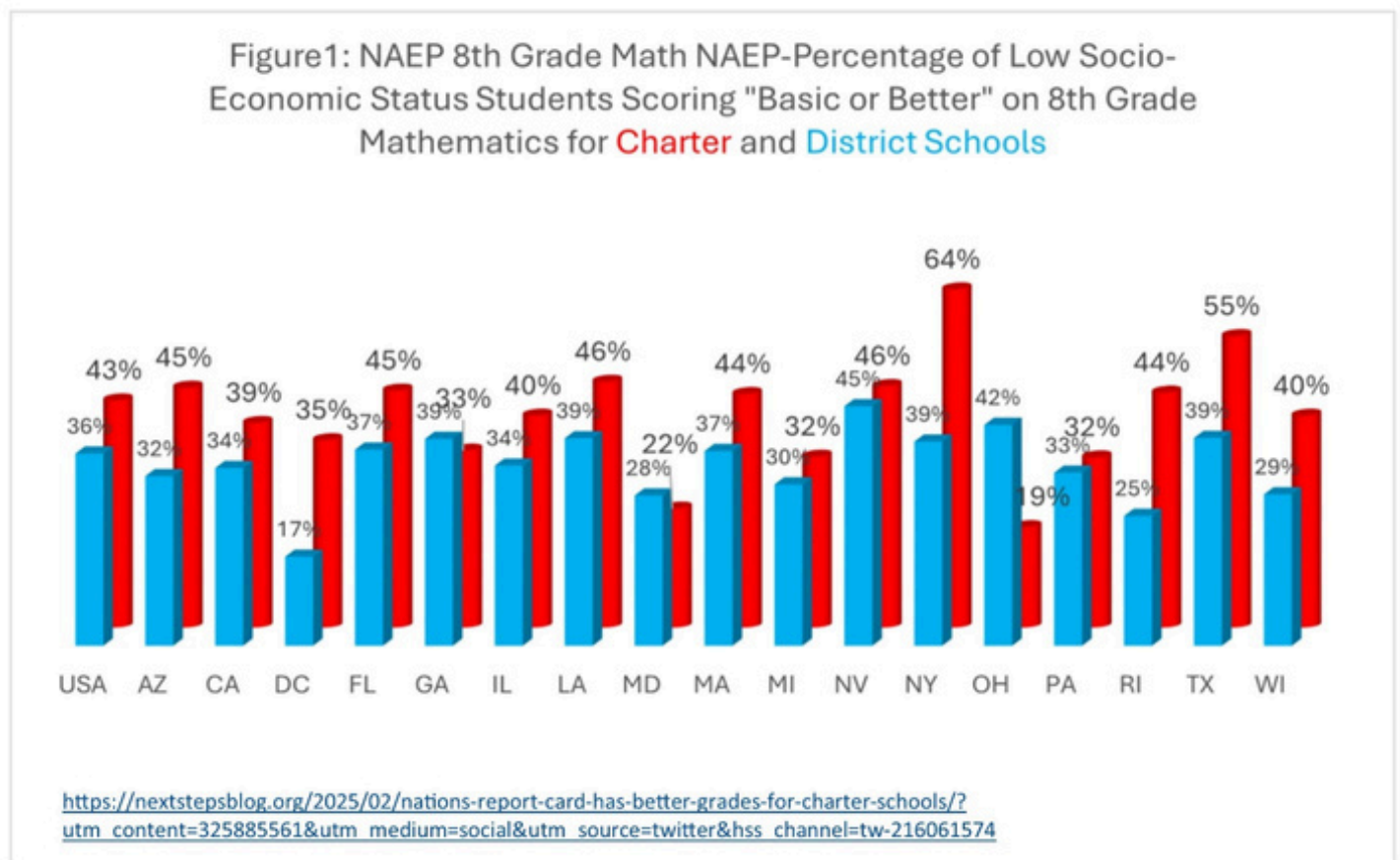


https://nextstepsblog.org/2025/02/nations-report-card-has-better-grades-for-charter-schools/?utm_content=325885561&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_channel=tw-216061574

As you can see, in virtually every case, low socio-economic status students in charter schools outperform their low-income peers in the listed states' traditional, district-oriented school systems. While some of the differences might not be statistically significant after the sampling errors in the samples are considered, the overall trend is in favor of charter

schools is clear. In fact, the national summary (USA) statistics show a definite, statistically significant advantage across the nation for low socio-economic status students in charter schools.

Here is the picture for NAEP Grade 8 Math for low socio-economic status students.



Note that a few more states, New York and Pennsylvania, are listed in the math comparison.

Unfortunately, due to NAEP's restricted sampling in 2024 (NAEP's sample sizes were lower in virtually every state than in 2019), some states simply didn't get scores reported for just the low socio-economic status students in charter schools. But, for those that did get scores, again the balance is tipped well towards charter schools.

By the way, Ladner is quite candid about limitations to his study, and you should read [his actual report](#) to better understand some of the limitations in the NAEP for doing charter school research.

But the overall message is clear: charter schools across the country are generally outperforming, and that's something Kentucky's Supreme Court needs to keep in mind as they prepare to make a ruling that will determine if Kentucky will finally get some of these schools of choice.