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School Choice: Why Parents Choose Charter, Private, and Homeschool Options

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SCHOOL CHOICE:

Why Parents Choose Charter,
Private, and Homeschool Options

By: Andrena Brandy Mathis

Why ?

**WHY DO PARENTS CHOOSE
CHARTER, PRIVATE, OR
HOMESCHOOL OPTIONS?**

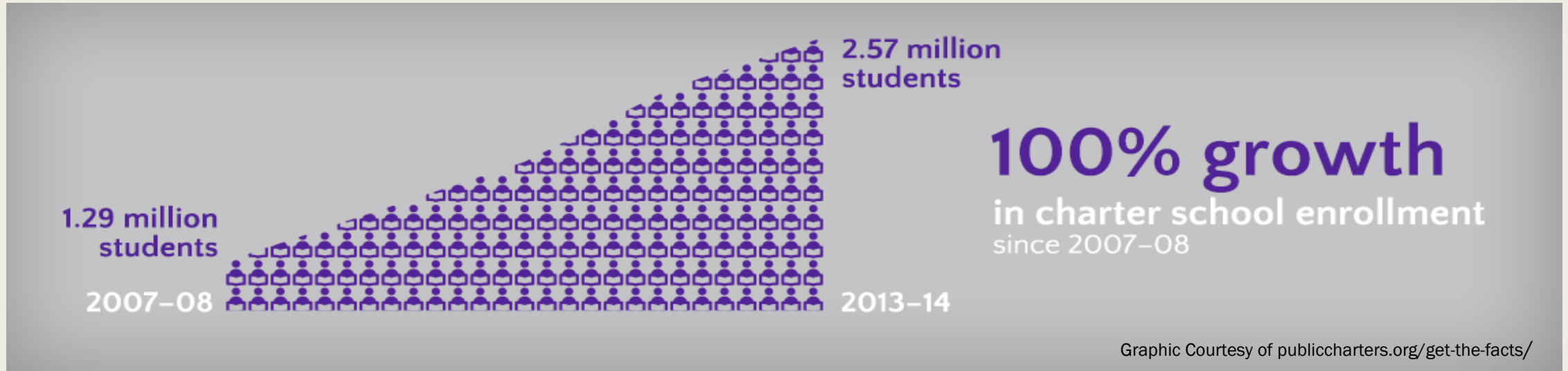
Charter Schools

- **Educator:** Andrena Brandy Mathis
- **Target Audience:** At Risk Youth
- **Purpose:** To help students who struggled in the public schools have a pathway to graduate.
- **Why parents and Students choose this option:** *Flexibility for students who have jobs, children, or health issues.*



Photo Courtesy of Eastpointehs.com

Charter School Stats



- Average high school in Tucson (2004): 10% of students had an IEP.
- Eastpointe High School (2004): 20% of students had an IEP.
- According to the Center for Research on Educational Outcomes (CREDO) “The results reveal that the charter school sector is getting better on average and charter schools are benefiting low-income, disadvantaged, and special education students” (Foster, 2014).

Charter Schools

Educator: Ms. Rachel Ramos

Target Audience: Rural Families

Purpose: To help students who are below level catch up.

Advantage: Can create individual learning plans to help the students reach grade level benchmarks.

Why parents choose this option:
Flexibility, Health Issues that Impede Education, and Lack of Options in Rural areas.



Photo Courtesy of K12.com/GCA

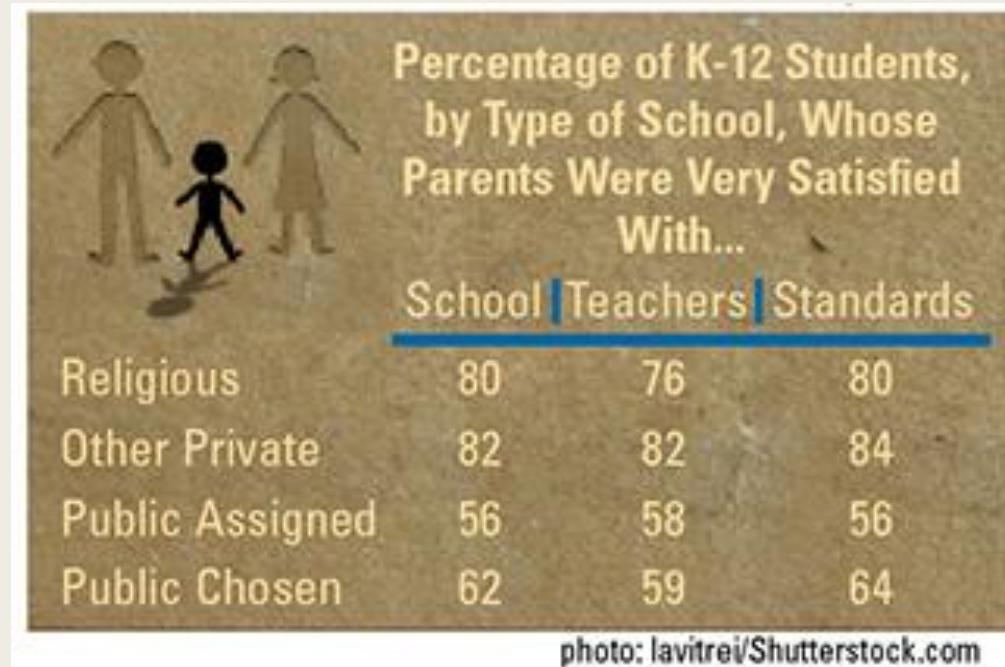
Private Schools



Photo Courtesy of A. Mathis

- **School:** Bethlehem 1st Preschool & Kindergarten
- **Educator and Parent:** Andrena Brandy Mathis
- **Purpose:** “offers local parents a convenient facility where their children can develop a love of learning in small classes with dedicated teachers” (bethlehemfirstumc.com, 2016).
- **Advantages:** small classes size of 14/2 ratio and offers enrichment courses of Spanish, Music and P.E.
- **Distinctions:** 2nd place in the Reader’s Choice for Best Preschool in the County 2013 and Awarded “Program of Excellence” for 10 years by the UMC North GA Conference.
- **Why parents choose this option:** *Small class size, Christian environment, and fills the need for more Pre-K spots in the county.*

Private School Stats



Private School Numbers at a Glance

PK-12 Enrollment (2011-12)	5,268,000 (10% of all US students)
# of Schools (2011-12)	30,861 (24% of all US schools)

Enrollment Source: National Center for Education Statistics ([see table](#))

School Source: National Center for Education Statistics ([see table](#))

Graphic Courtesy of Council for American Private Education (CAPE)

Private Schools



Educator: Ms. Timi Higgins

Purpose: “HCA is a Christ-centered, college-preparatory school committed to excellence, partnering with parents to prepare their children spiritually, academically, physically and socially to become disciples of Jesus Christ.” (hebronlions.org, 2016).

Advantages: small classes sizes with ample opportunities for one-one instruction.

Distinctions: 1st place in the Reader’s Choice for Best of Gwinnett Private School 2014, 2015, and 2016

Why parents choose this option: *Small class size, Christian environment, and emphasis on college preparation.*

Homeschool



- **Parent and Educator:** Amber Wigley
- **Purpose:** To help her sons who represent two sides of the learning spectrum be successful
- **Advantage:** Can create individual learning plans to address the different needs of each boy.
- **Why parents choose this option:** *“religious convictions, desire for a positive social environment, academic excellence, flexibility, and specific needs of the child” (Allison, 2014).*

Homeschool Stats

Sub Tests	Homeschool Mean	Public School Mean
Reading	89	50
Language	84	50
Math	84	50
Science	86	50
Social Studies	84	50

Figure 1. Home school versus public school means scores on the CORE Test. (Ray, 2010).

- The composite scores from the CORE Test indicate that home school students' are being academically prepared for the rigors of college. (Figure 1).
- The Homeschool movement has grown from nearly non-existent in the 1970s to approximately two million students in 2009 for kindergarten through 12th grade (Ray, 2010).

Jaden Wigley

- **Academic Challenges:** Diagnosed with Autism, two grades behind in core subjects, the public school pace was too fast.
- **Academic Strengths:** love of learning
- **Why Homeschool:** After 7 IEP meetings in one year Jaden was still not able to keep up in public school.



Cody Wigley

- **Academic Challenges:** Perfectionist, needs time to craft his writing assignments.
- **Academic Strengths:** in the Gifted Program.
- **Why Homeschool:** Ms. Wigley decided to teach Cody with Jaden so both boys could benefit from the one-on-one instruction.



3 Years Later....

Benefits for the Wigleys:

- Jaden moved up two reading levels in the 1st year of homeschool.
- By the 3rd year he is at grade level for all subjects but math which he is working hard at mastering division.
- Jaden has gained confidence and by joining a homeschool group has found a learning community that he feels connected with.
- Cody now loves to write and has started his own art business.
- Amber enjoys being apart of the boys learning.



Conclusion

- Charter Schools are a free schooling option that can help students who face adversities like being young parents or health issues graduate.
- Private schools benefit families with deep religious convictions or students who need small class sizes to thrive.
- Homeschooling can benefit students who need one-on-one instruction.
- Parents make these choices in order to find what education environment will best suit their child.

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