



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY/GAINESVILLE, FL

Understanding School Choice: Social Impact

In this, the third article on “Understanding School Choice,” we follow the choices that families have made and describe the schools they have chosen. We consider the impact of these decisions on the communities inside and outside of Gainesville and describe social patterns the data provide. Our tools are population shifts, school capacities and social, economic and religious school clusters. We pose questions about the cost effectiveness of the School Choice Program.

Key points in this article are:

- One half of the 34 private schools identified in Alachua County, with students beyond the prekindergarten level, take state level funding either in the form of Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarships for low-income students or McKay scholarships for students with disabilities.
- The optimum size for financially viable elementary schools is 600-800 students, for middle schools 1,000-1,200 students, and for high schools 1,800-2,000 students. Yet, the appeal of many charter and private schools may be their tendency to be small.
- There is a concentration of charter schools in the northeast, and the utilization of public schools is lower there than in other areas of Gainesville. This has a financial impact on public schools.
- The location of large private schools in the northwest impacts racial balance in public schools.
- Most public, charter and private schools have a similar curriculum, and achievement levels are not significantly different for groups of students with similar racial/socioeconomic backgrounds.

Initially we look at where each type of schools is located, and which families are sending their children to them. Then we will explore:

- how schools differ.
- the impact on public schools if families opt for smaller schools.
- whether charter and private schools offer a measurably higher quality educational experience.

We cannot provide definitive answers to these questions, but we can describe what information we have been able to obtain, and what is lacking in order to make informed decisions.

Description of Public, Charter and Private Schools

By looking at the population of the county and its racial/ethnic and economic distribution, we get a sense of how these patterns impact our school system. The school board balances student

enrollments to reflect, as much as possible, the overall population characteristics of the county. They do this primarily by adjusting zoning areas and bussing students. As the number of alternative schools increases and the population shifts westward, balancing is more complicated. This section, describes the choices that families in our county are making.

Demographic Data. According to the *Gainesville Sun*, one half of the children in Alachua County live in families with income below the poverty level (~\$23,000 for a family of four). One half of all children qualify for free or reduced lunch programs (~\$42,000 for a family of four). Seventy one percent of the county’s 249,365 people are white, 20% are black and 9% Hispanic. <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20111129/articles/111129524?p=3&tc=pg>

Individual public school racial/ethnic profiles vary with housing patterns in different areas of the county. Elementary schools in northeast Gainesville have over 90% minority enrollment. In most other schools minority enrollment is much lower, but is often higher than the county average minority population, which may be the result of the higher percentage of white enrollment in private schools.

It is difficult to access complete data about individual private schools. Some summary data about private school enrollments are available on the School Choice web site or on the Private School Review, but data about individual schools are lacking or poorly documented. In the 2011-12 Private School Review, private school enrollment in the county was listed as: White: 53%, Black: 10.8%, Hispanic 7.7% plus a mixture of other groups.

http://www.privateschoolreview.com/state_statistics/stateid/FL
<http://dashboard.publiccharters.org/dashboard/students/page/overview/district/FL-1/year/2012>

One half of the 34 private schools identified in Alachua County, with students beyond the pre-kindergarten level, take state level funding either in the form of Florida Tax Credit scholarships for low-income students or McKay scholarships for students with disabilities. See Appendix 1 for more individual private school data.

Charter School enrollment statewide for 2011-12 was listed as 25,550 with 47% of the students reported as White, 35.1 % as Black, and 7.7% as Hispanic. Fifty percent of the students statewide qualified for free or reduced lunch. In Alachua County, six of the charter schools had 50% or more minority students enrolled, and 12 of the 16 schools were listed with 50% or more economically disadvantaged students. A few schools have predominately White or Black students. (See Appendix 3 for the list of charter schools by region in Alachua County.) Alachua County charter school enrollment for 2011-12 is listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Demographic Data on Alachua County Charter Schools

| Charter 2011-12 | Race/Ethnicity | | | | Total Enrolled | Disabled | Economic Disadvantaged |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| | W% | B% | H% | O% | | | |
| Alachua Learning Middle | 51.7 | 1.7 | 34.5 | 12.1 | 58 | 5 | 70.7% |
| Alachua Learning Elementary | 59.8 | 5.4 | 17 | 17.8 | 112 | 11 | 67% |
| Caring and Sharing K-5 | 1.9 | 93.0 | 1.3 | 3.8 | 158 | 12 | 88% |

| Charter 2011-12 | Race/Ethnicity | | | | Total Enrolled | Disabled | Economic Disadvantaged |
|--------------------|----------------|------|------|------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| | W% | B% | H% | O% | | | |
| Sharing K-5 | | | | | | | |
| Einstein 2-8 | 67 | 22.6 | 7.5 | 2.9 | 106 | 71 | 52.8% |
| Expressions | 75 | 3.4 | 10.2 | 11.4 | 88 | 0 | 9.1% |
| Siatech 9-12 | 19.1 | 65.6 | 14.0 | 1.3 | 215 | 28 | 0.5% |
| Genesis K-3 | 0 | 92.5 | 1.5 | 6 | 67 | 4 | 88.1% |
| Healthy L K-2 | 80 | 7.1 | 4.3 | 8.6 | 70 | 2 | 28.6% |
| Hoggetown 6-8 | 41.4 | 47.7 | 4.5 | 6.4 | 111 | 35 | 60.4% |
| Micanopy K-5 | 82.3 | 4.8 | 8.1 | 4.8 | 124 | 6 | 56.5% |
| Micanopy 6-9 | 66.7 | 31.7 | 1.6 | | 63 | 6 | 55.6% |
| MYcro School | 11.5 | 81.5 | 3.8 | 3.2 | 260 | 89 | 35% |
| Sweetwater 6-8 | 27.7 | 66.4 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 119 | 12 | 57% |
| Sweetwater K-5 | 32.5 | 56.2 | 5.3 | 6 | 169 | 12 | 68.6% |
| One Room K-5 | 40.8 | 42.3 | 6.3 | 10.6 | 142 | 9 | 62.7% |
| One Room Middle | 47.4 | 36.8 | 10.5 | 5.3 | 19 | 4 | 73.7% |

Source: <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>

Private Schools. In fiscal year 2011-12 there were 2,176 private schools listed statewide, but a decline of about 20,000 students from previous years. Of the 316,745 students enrolled in Florida private schools, 14.6% were enrolled in prekindergarten, 7.6% in kindergarten, and 32.2% in grades 1-5. It is interesting that the number of students is very similar across grades 6-12 (~20,000). (Florida Private School Directory). The number of private schools has not changed significantly statewide between 2007 and 2011.

In 2006, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that state funded Opportunity Scholarships were unconstitutional. These scholarships allowed parents with children enrolled in a failing public school the opportunity to enroll in a private school, but the court ruled it was legal for parents to opt for a different public school. The current private school option for low income families is to apply for Florida Tax Credit (FTC) scholarships. Corporations receive state tax rebates for money donated to a charitable foundation that then funds private schools vouchers. Step Up for Students, the foundation that distributes the FTC vouchers reports that in 2011-12, there were 40,248 private school vouchers awarded to students in 1,216 participating schools. Seventy four percent of these schools were faith based and 12.1% of households were above the poverty level. The FTC tax credit cap for 2012-13 is \$229 million state-wide and can increase by 25% a year if 90% of the cap amount is reached in the prior year.

<http://www.stepupforstudents.org/OurCause/TheResults>

Alachua County private school enrollment in 2011-12 was approximately 3,700 students in the 27 preK-12 schools listed on the Florida School Choice site. (We identified 34 private schools in Alachua County, but some schools may not have registered with the Florida School Choice organization.) Fourteen percent of the students (500) were in pre-kindergarten. Individual enrollments for private schools are not listed on the Florida School Choice site, and other sites do not list the year that is reported. However, it appears that about one third of students enrolled in private schools are in Oak Hall, Queen of Peace, Westwood Hills and Jordan Glen. None of those schools take FTC or McKay scholarships.

Some private schools serve students with disabilities. Statewide, 35.6 % of McKay schools were non-religious and 64.4% were religious. Sixteen Alachua County private schools are listed by the Department of Education as receiving McKay and/or FTC scholarships for 217 students. According to an Alachua County School Board staff member, in the past, a part of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants were given to charters and private schools, but the district had evidence that this money was being misspent, and the practice was stopped because the district could not control how the money was spent. Now the Legislature is proposing laws to require the district to give a percentage of federal grants to charter schools.

Factors that Impact the Utilization of Schools

There has to be a financial and space utilization impact on public schools when approximately 340,000 school age children statewide are enrolled in alternative charter or private schools. In some states, there have been widespread closing of public schools. In this section, we look at population trends and the utilization and capacity of Alachua County public schools. We examine where the public, charter, and private schools are located in the county, and make a comparison of the under enrollment of public schools by region. For many years, population growth in the county has been in the northwest region. Alachua County School Board has used a variety of strategies to adapt to changing residential patterns. Over the years, Alachua County has closed or converted some schools to serve administrative or special programs.

Population Trends. By 2015, Alachua County population is expected to increase by approximately 9,000. The elementary school enrollment is projected to increase by 392 students, but middle schools will decrease by 504 students, and high schools will decrease by 776 students. (See Appendix 2 for lists of school capacities by Alachua County region for 2011-12.) While all high schools are predicted to lose significant numbers of students, the largest anticipated decrease is expected at Eastside High School.

Sources: Alachua County Public Schools, 5 Year District Facilities Plan, 2007-08 and Florida Department of Education, COFTE Projections, 2007; Community Planning Act January 2012; <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/12/12001.html>
<http://edr.state.fl.us/content/area-profiles/county/alachua.pdf>

School Size. A concern is that the cost of school construction and maintenance be contained without jeopardizing school quality. Schools can be too large and impersonal, or they may be too small to afford an appropriate range of courses, services, and activities. According to the Educational Facilities Survey published by the Florida Department of Education, the optimum size of elementary schools is 600-800 students. The School Board indicated that the operation

and administration of larger schools is more economical than smaller schools. It is educationally and economically desirable for an elementary school to be large enough to justify a full-time principal, a librarian, and instructional and clerical services. The optimum size for middle schools is 1,000-1,200 students, and for high schools it is 1,800-2,000 students. Yet, the appeal of many charter and private schools may be their tendency to be small.

In Alachua County, most regular public elementary schools range in student enrollment from approximately 400-700 students. Charter schools are much smaller; only 6 of the 9 elementary schools have at least 100 students, and two of the five middle schools exceed 100 students. See Table 2 for the distribution of types of schools by grade levels.

Table 2. 2011-12 Student Enrollment Data by Type of School Choice

| Elementary School Enrollment Ranges | Regular Public | | | Charter | | | Private | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------|------|---------|--------|------|----------------------|--------|------|
| | Elem | Middle | High | Elem | Middle | High | Elem | Middle | High |
| 0-99 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 10 (missing data) | | |
| 100-199 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | | 2 | | |
| 200-299 | 2 | 0 | 1 | | | 2 | 4 | | |
| 300-399 | 3 | 0 | 1 | | | | 1 | | |
| 400-499 | 7 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 500-599 | 3 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 600-699 | 6 | 3 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 700-799 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |
| 800-899 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 900-999 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | |
| >1000 | 0 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |

http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org/information/private_schools/annual_reports/1112_Annual_Report.pdf

http://www.localschooldirectory.com/district-schools/01/Alachua-County-School-District/FL#district_information@graduation_rates

Impact on Public School Capacity. While Alachua County Schools district-wide have available capacity to accommodate enrollment growth, some schools currently use relocatable classrooms to fill enrollment demands and other schools have empty classrooms (See Table 3). All schools in Gainesville regions except the northeast are at 90% capacity, but schools in outlying towns have more room for growth. See Appendix 2 for a list of the percentages of utilization of schools by county regions.

Table 3. Alachua County Public School Enrollment and Capacity 2011-12

| District wide 2011-12 | High Schools 2011-2012 | Middle Schools 2011-2012 | Elementary Schools 2011-2012 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Capacity | 9,897 | 7,527 | 13,519 |
| Enrollment | 7,167 | 5,725 | 11,959 |
| % Utilization | 72.4% | 76.1% | 88.5% |

Comparisons by type and location of the public, charter, and private schools by county region (See Appendix 2.) raise some questions about the impact of school choice options on public school capacities. In Table 4, it is apparent that in the northeast section of Gainesville, there is a concentration of charter and private schools, and the public schools are underutilized. Public schools in that area have the lowest percent of public school utilization (74.8%) in Gainesville and the largest number (11) of charter and private schools. They also tend to have a greater percentage of students from lower socio-economic families and more schools with low school grade reports.

There is also a concentration of private schools in the northwest section of Gainesville, and these schools tend not to take FTC or McKay scholarship students. The most likely impact of these schools is on the racial/socio economic composition of the public schools, since the private school percentages of white students in the area tend to be high. While there is significant school capacity in other towns in Alachua County, the charter schools tend to be located in smaller communities that do not have a public school. Their children would be otherwise bussed to nearby communities.

Table 4. Alachua County Schools by Type and Region 2011-12

| <u>Region</u> | <u>School Level</u> | <u># Public Schools</u> | <u>% Minority Enrolled</u> | <u>Charter</u> | <u>Private</u> |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Alachua | Elementary | 1 | 50 | 1 | 2 |
| | Middle | 1 | 40 | | |
| | High School | 1 | 32 | | |
| | K-8 | | | | |
| | K-12 | | | | |
| Archer | Elementary | 1 | 38 | | 1 |
| | Middle | | | | |
| | High School | | | | |
| | K-8 | | | | |
| | K-12 | | | | |
| Hawthorne | Elementary | 1 | 52 | | |
| | Middle | | | | |
| | High School | | | | |
| | Middle/High | 1 | 36 | | |
| High Springs | PK-8 | 1 | 23 | | |
| NE Gainesville | Elementary | 3 | 97/93/98 | 3* | 1 |
| | Middle | 1 | 63 | 3 | |
| | High School | | | 1 | |
| | K-8 | | | | 1 |
| | K-12 | | | | 2 |
| NW Gainesville | Primary | | | 2 | |
| | Elementary* | 11 | 60/48/42/52/52/66/80/32/38 | * | 5 |
| | Middle | 2 | 58/48 | | |
| | High School | 2 | 52/40 | 1 | |
| | K-8 | | | | 2 |
| | K-12 | | | | 4 |

| <u>Region</u> | <u>School Level</u> | <u># Public Schools</u> | <u>% Minority Enrolled</u> | <u>Charter</u> | <u>Private</u> |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| SE Gainesville | Elementary | 2 | 88/82 | 1 | 1 |
| | Middle | 1 | 72 | | |
| | High School | 1 | 70 | | |
| SW Gainesville | K-8 | | | | |
| | Elementary | 2 | 73/47 | | 1 |
| | Middle | 1 | 72 | | |
| | High School | | | 1 | 2 |
| | K-8 | | | 1 | 2 |
| | K-12 | | | | |
| Micanopy | Elementary | | | 1 | |
| | Middle | | | 1 | |
| Newberry | Elementary | 1 | 32 | | |
| | Middle | 1 | 40 | | |
| | High School | 1 | 36 | | |
| Waldo | Elementary | 1 | 32 | | |

*2 elementary schools not listed at: <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/>

Alachua County School Board staff has conducted a study of the financial costs to the district of the charter schools. These costs are not offset by the administrative fees paid by the charter schools in part because the services required exceed the revenue obtained, and also because the loss of the individual student revenue from the state is not offset by reduced instructional staff and public school maintenance. Charter schools generally have small numbers of students in several grades drawn from several public schools. This usually does not result in a significant reduction of staff or costs at any particular public school. The total reduction in revenue to public schools is, however, significant; the district estimates that the loss of revenue after deducting personnel savings and adding in the administrative fees from charter schools was \$5,153,451. This impact was increased in the 2011 legislative session when all PECO money used for school maintenance was allocated to charter school buildings which are privately owned. In the upcoming session, there is some support to require public schools to share locally generated county tax monies with charter schools.

The financial impact of declining enrollments is one of the cost effectiveness factors to consider when planning additional charter schools, but the management flexibility accorded to charter schools has also raised policy questions. Management policies are different for charter and private schools. Charter schools have privately appointed management boards to oversee their operations. Alachua County School Board has very limited oversight and no input on charter school budget allocations, instructional personnel, or enrollment and retention policies. As a result, there have been questions about the appropriate use of their funds, not only in Alachua County, but state-wide. In Alachua County, for example, a now closed charter school would keep students enrolled until the mid-October cutoff for determining state funding and then send problem students back to the public schools. In this way, the charter school was able to retain the state funding for those students for the entire year. This year, a review of the transfer data

from charter schools back to public schools indicates that the problem is less frequent but still remains. Between August 20 (the first day of school) and October 12 (date certain of Survey 2) a total of 2,074 students enrolled in the district's charter schools. Table 5 indicates that during the week noted, the given number of students withdrew from the charter schools.

Table 5. Number of Students Withdrawing from Charter Schools Fall 2012

| Week | Number withdrew | Week after FTE funding count | Number withdrew |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| 8/20 and 8/25 | 72 | 10/15 and 10/19 | 23 |
| 8/26 and 8/31 | 15 | 10/22 and 10/26 | 13 |
| 9/3 and 9/7 | 26 | 10/29 and 11/2 | 25 |
| 9/10 and 9/14 | 23 | 11/5 and 11/9 (end of data) | 18 |
| 9/17 and 9/21 | 12 | | |
| 9/24 and 9/28 | 12 | | |
| 10/1 and 10/5 | 7 | | |
| 10/8 and 10/12 | 6 | | |

A school board staff member interprets the data as follows: “Ignoring the first week of school that is always aberrant, the average is about 16 students leaving per week. In the two weeks prior to date certain there is a decline in the number of students leaving the schools and a rise the week after. The decline may be an artifact of the fact that we send out multiple emails during that time telling schools not to change schools, enrollments, schedules etc. The spike the week after date certain is no higher than three of the other eight remaining weeks in the list.” Most of these students returned to Alachua County public schools. The 23 students who left between 10/15/12 and 10/19/12 (the week right after the student count to determine funding) were from the following charter schools:

- 2 from Caring and Sharing
- 2 from Alachua Learning Center Elementary
- 1 from Micanopy Middle
- 12 were from SIA Tech*
- 3 from Sweetwater Middle
- 3 from Sweetwater Elementary

*Of the 12 from SIA Tech, 7 were exited with a code of W26 - Transfer to adult education.

Selection and retention policies of private schools also have a financial implication. The FTC is given at the beginning of the year to the private schools. If a FTC student drops out and goes back to a public school after the attendance survey period, there is no state money generated for the student for that 90 day term. (The private school keeps it.) This has happened in Alachua County when students “just did not fit the culture of the school.”

Another cost effectiveness question revolves around the issue of what do charter schools and private schools offer that is different from regular public schools? There may be many answers to this question, but we deal with two for which we can obtain information.

Curriculum Innovation. Charter schools were originally intended to facilitate curriculum innovation and creative ways to meet student needs. Currently, the major differences between charter and their public school counterparts, however, tend to be related to smaller size and some flexibility in school hours. Some charter schools emphasize a requirement for parental participation in the schools. With most private schools, the major difference seems to be their religious orientation.

According to Diane Lagotic, the Alachua County School Board staff person who oversees charter schools, the following schools have a special focus that is significantly different:

- Einstein Montessori has a special emphasis on students with a specific learning disability.
- Expressions Learning Arts Academy emphasizes ongoing infusion and incorporation of the arts.
- Florida SIA Tech at Gainesville Job Corps focuses on a high school dropout recovery program.
- Healthy Learning Academy focuses on lifelong health and fitness.
- The new Boulware Springs will have a more year-round calendar.
- MYcroSchool has flexible 4 hour blocks to allow high school students to also work.

Academic Effectiveness. The very critical need to close the achievement gap between students from lower and higher income families is an often cited goal of School Choice Programs. However, the evidence that the alternatives to public schools are succeeding in closing the achievement gap is limited. A few national studies of charter and private schools have been published, and they report mixed, but not significant differences in achievement among the public, private, and charter school students. We provide a summary of the results from a 2009 study by Stanford University which examined results by different racial/socio-economic groups of students.

The study found that “Nationally (but not in Florida), elementary and middle school charter students exhibited higher learning gains than equivalent students in the traditional public school system. In addition, some subgroups demonstrated greater academic growth than their traditional public school (TPS) twins. Specifically, students in poverty and ELL students experience larger learning gains in charter schools. Other subgroups, however, including Black and Hispanic students as a whole, have learning gains that are significantly smaller than those of their TPS twins.” However, Black and Hispanic charter students do not fare as well in reading gains as their TPS peers. Both groups of minority students have significantly lower gains than their TPS comparison students. As with reading, Black and Hispanic students were seen to realize significantly lower learning gains in math.”

In Florida, charter school achievement results were not positive. The study reports: “In Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas, charter school students’ gains were eclipsed by their traditional public school (TPS) virtual twins. In this group, the marginal shift ranged from -.01 standard deviations in Arizona to -.06 standard deviations in Ohio. Either curve tells a sobering story. When examined by market—that is, by each charter and its virtual school—more than half the charters have less growth in learning than

the students would have realized if they had remained in traditional schools in their community. This finding says nothing about how well the local traditional schools are doing; it merely assesses the expectation that whatever the level, charters serving the same population should produce results at the same level.” See source:

http://credo.stanford.edu/reports/MULTIPLE_CHOICE_CREDO

Data from our previous article on standards and accountability indicated that one-fourth of the 16 Alachua County charter schools currently have ‘D’ or ‘F’ grades, and four others were closed in the past ten years. It is more difficult to ascertain the effectiveness of private schools because they have different accountability requirements. Charter schools are required to use the same accountability standards as public schools but private schools are not. Their students do not take the FCAT, nor are their schools or teachers graded. If the private schools are sufficiently large and receive state vouchers (none of the Alachua County private schools met these criteria) they must submit results on a national norm referenced test.

In our previous article on standards and accountability, we summarized the results of David Figlio’s 2010 evaluation of the performance of students from low-income families in Florida who attended private schools with assistance from the FTC scholarships. It should be noted that none of the private schools in Gainesville that accept state scholarships were large enough to be included in this study. *Step Up for Students* cites this study on its website by mentioning that Florida public schools have improved by having these struggling students leave the public schools, and they do as well in private schools as their peers do in public schools. Figlio states that simply removing these lowest achieving students from public schools does not account for all of the increase in the scores. There is also a small measureable increase in public school performance that can be attributed to renewed attention to struggling students in public schools.

It is easy to understand that students are different and thrive in different school environments. It is logical to choose the best situation for one’s child. The knowledge of different choices needed to make wise decisions is, however, complicated by the lack of freely available and accurate information. Moreover, a desire for a particular size of school, social environment, or academic curriculum is not just an individual choice. It is a societal choice in part because cost and quality are intertwined. The School Choice Program can offer alternatives that a community may decide are worth the expense. They may also cause traditional public schools to take a second look at how they can better meet the needs of our diverse population.

Conclusion. This series of articles on *Understanding School Choice* has made clear that school choice programs need to have better management, evaluation and reporting strategies. There should be stronger local oversight and public reporting of charter and private schools in order to make them accountable for the state tax dollars they receive. There is clearly a need to reduce fiscal mismanagement and ensure academic quality. If School Choice programs are to be cost effective, proposed charter schools located near a public school must offer a genuine alternative. Thus far, smaller schools have not necessarily proven to be better even if some parents prefer them for social reasons. While public schools may need to find more ways to respond to these social concerns, more of the same types of schools whether charter or private, do not ensure a quality education for our children.

The social and financial costs of the expansion of alternative schools are not insignificant. The shift of students to the private sector raises questions about whether or not public tax money

should be used to build and maintain privately owned buildings or support religious schools. While some would argue that charter schools save tax dollars, neither charter nor private schools have the same mandates for school facilities as public schools, e.g. playgrounds, lunch rooms, etc. Finally, we do not know the effect on teacher quality for schools that do not have the same requirements for teachers' certification, salaries and benefits. Public tax money is diverted to charter and private schools, but the accountability measures are not the same. Should not all schools and teachers receiving state money meet the same accountability and reporting standards?

Appendix 1. Private School Data

Location and Enrollment of Private Schools by Alachua County Region 2011-12

| Location | Grades/# Schools | Location | Grades/# Schools |
|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| NE Gainesville | Elementary 1 Middle High School K-8 1 K-12 2 | NW Gainesville | Elementary 5 Middle High School K-8 2 K-12 4 |
| SW Gainesville | Elementary 1 K-8 2 K-12 2 | SE Gainesville | Elementary Middle High School K-8 1 K-12 |
| Alachua | Elem/Middle 1 K-8 1 K-12 3 | Archer | High School 1 K-8 1 |

http://www.privateschoolreview.com/county_private_schools/stateid/FL/county/12001

List of Private Schools in Alachua County that are not Listed as FTC or McKay Schools

| Schools | Region | Number Enrolled | Racial/Ethnic | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------------|-----|------|
| | | | W | B | H |
| Bnai Israel Day PK-5 | NW | 22 | | | |
| Bnai Israel School PK-4 55 | NW | 26 | | | |
| Compassionate Ministries K-6 | NW | 23 | | | |
| Flowers Montessori K | NW | 45 | | | |
| Gainesville Country Day School K-6 | SW | 38 + 206 | | | |
| Grace Christian Academy School 9-12 | Archer | 69 | | | |
| Heart Pine 1-4 | NE | | | | |
| Jordan Glen K-9 | Archer | 118 | | | |
| Loga Springs Academy 1-12 | NE | | | | |
| Millhopper Montessori K-8 | NW | 232 | 60 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Oak Hall K-12 has SW | SW | 1103 | 87 | 2.0 | 3.0? |
| Passage Christian E. University K-12 | E | | | | |
| Queen of Peace PK-8 | SW | 440 | 69.5 | .71 | 12.7 |
| Sprout Learning Resources PK-8 | Alachua | | | | |
| The Children's Center K-1 | S | 55 | | | |
| Vaishnava Academy for Girls 8-12 | Alachua | | | | |
| Westwood Hills PK-12 | NW | 268 | | | |

Private Schools taking FTC or McKay Scholarships by Region 2011-12

| Private Schools with McKay or Florida Tax Credit Scholarships | Enrolled* | Race/Ethnic %W B Other | Religious | Location |
|---|-----------|------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Bhaktivedanta Academy PK-6 | 43 | | Yes | Alachua |
| Brentwood School (Oak Hall) PK-05 | 245 | 55 1 3 | No | NW |
| Christian Life Academy K-12 | 49 | 64 25 3.5 | Yes | SW |
| Cornerstone Academy PK-12 | 249 | 87 2.7 | Yes | NW |
| Countryside Christian School PK-12 | 108 | 81 8.5 6 | Yes | NW |
| Family Life Academy PK-12 | 77 | | Yes | Archer |
| First Christian Academy PK-6 | 105 | | Yes | High Springs |
| Forest Grove Christian Academy PK-12 | 46 | | Yes | Alachua |
| Gainesville Conductive Education K-12 | | | No | NW |
| Living Springs Academy K-8 | 21 | | Yes | High Springs |
| Saint Francis Catholic High School 9-12 | 260 | | Yes | NW |
| Saint Patrick Catholic Interparish School PK-8 | 366 | 78 1 6 | Yes | NE |
| Star Christian Academy PK-8 | 43 | | Yes | SE |
| The Rock School PK-12 | 235 | 58 15.7 2.3 | Yes | SW |
| Trilogy School Learning Alternatives 1-12 | 97 | 81 12.9 5.8 | No | NW |
| Windsor Christian Academy K-12 | 36 | 96 | Yes | Alachua |
| Z.L. Sung S.D.A. School K-8 | 18 | 68 9 22 | Yes | NW |

Appendix 2. Alachua County School Capacity

| Alachua County Elementary School Capacity 2015 | | | | |
|--|----------|------------|---------------|--------------------|
| CSA Region | Capacity | Enrollment | % Utilization | Available Capacity |
| Alachua | 1,161 | 984 | 84.8% | 177 |
| Archer | 527 | 497 | 94.3% | 30 |
| Hawthorne | 392 | 193 | 49.2% | 199 |
| High Springs | 608 | 564 | 92.8% | 44 |
| Newberry | 711 | 655 | 92.1% | 56 |
| NW Gainesville | 2,484 | 2,318 | 93.3% | 166 |
| East Gainesville | 2,719 | 2,034 | 74.8% | 685 |
| South Gainesville | 2,433 | 2,207 | 90.7% | 226 |
| Waldo | 250 | 197 | 78.8% | 53 |
| West Urban | 2,955 | 2,702 | 91.4% | 253 |

| High Schools 2015 | | | | |
|-------------------|----------|------------|---------------|--------------------|
| CSA | Capacity | Enrollment | % Utilization | Available Capacity |
| Buchholz | 2,303 | 1,897 | 82.4% | 406 |
| Eastside | 2,177 | 1,270 | 58.4% | 907 |
| Gainesville | 2,221 | 1,631 | 73.4% | 590 |
| Hawthorne | 530 | 160 | 30.2% | 370 |
| Newberry | 707 | 496 | 70.2% | 211 |
| Santa Fe | 1,500 | 936 | 62.4% | 564 |

| Middle Schools 2015-16 | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|------------|---------------|--------------------|
| CSA | Capacity | Enrollment | % Utilization | Available Capacity |
| Bishop | 1,115 | 657 | 58.9% | 458 |
| Fort Clarke | 946 | 787 | 83.2% | 159 |
| Kanapaha | 1,144 | 883 | 77.2% | 261 |
| Hawthorne | 168 | 144 | 85.7% | 24 |
| High Springs | 412 | 281 | 68.2% | 131 |
| Lincoln | 1,120 | 660 | 58.9% | 460 |
| Mebane | 808 | 406 | 50.2% | 402 |
| Oak View | 569 | 487 | 85.6% | 82 |
| Westwood | 1,235 | 917 | 74.3% | 318 |

2011-12 Five Year District Facilities Plan – Allocation to CSA by SBAC

PUPIL FTE PROJECTIONS BY SCHOOL (Elementary) 2012-13

| SCHOOL NAME | FTE TOTAL |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Duval, Charles | 312 |
| Metcalf, W. A. | 407 |
| Rawlings, M. K. | 293 |
| Idylwild | 607 |
| Lake Forest | 350 |
| Williams, Joseph | 512 |
| Wiles, Kimball | 765 |
| Finley, J. J. | 473 |
| Foster, Stephen | 389 |
| Glen Springs | 410 |
| Hidden Oak | 634 |
| Irby, W. W. | 470 |
| Lawton Chiles | 631 |
| Littlewood | 600 |
| Meadowbrook | 591 |
| Norton, C. W. | 657 |
| Talbot, William | 655 |
| Terwilliger, Myra | 590 |
| Alachua | 421 |
| Archer | 449 |
| Shell, Chester | 185 |
| Waldo | 201 |
| TOTAL | 11,075 |

Alachua County School Board 2012-13

Appendix 3. Location and Enrollment of Charter Schools by Alachua County Region 2011-12

| Location | Grades/# Schools | Location | Grades/# Schools |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| NE Gainesville | Elementary * | NW Gainesville | Primary |
| | Middle | | High School |
| | High School | | |
| SW Gainesville | Elementary | SE Gainesville | Elementary |
| | Elementary/Middle | | |
| Alachua | Elementary/Middle | | |
| Micanopy | Elementary | | |
| | Middle | | |

*One new elementary school to open in the fall 2013.

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