



Understanding School Finance

2009-10

How do charter and private schools affect CPS?

Cincinnati Public Schools legally is responsible for the education of all school-aged children living within its district boundaries. That means CPS has some responsibilities to provide services to schools it does not operate, including private schools and publicly funded charter schools.

CPS' responsibilities to non-CPS students include providing bus transportation or paying parents a stipend when it becomes impractical for the district to provide transportation. CPS also must provide special services for students with disabilities.

By far, CPS' largest expense in support of non-CPS students is the payment of the state's per-student allocation, which follows students when they go to charter schools or to private schools participating in the Ohio Ed Choice voucher program.

- **\$44.7 million** — CPS' payment to charter schools, 2008-09
- **\$8.1 million** — CPS' payment to private schools for Ed Choice, 2008-09

The state pays school districts ***only a portion of the per-student allocation***, requiring districts to make up the difference with local taxes for each student.

Ohio's per-student allocation in 2008-09 was \$5,732; the state gave CPS only 42 percent of that. The rest came from Cincinnati's taxpayers.

CPS is paying for students attending CPS schools, plus students it is not educating. These tuition payments reduce available resources for CPS students.

Other costs paid by CPS in 2008-09 for non-CPS students:

- Bus transportation to and from charter schools — \$3.4 million
- Bus transportation to and from private schools — \$2.8 million

Transportation costs are lowest when CPS transports students to its own buildings.

CPS also spent \$14 million in 2008-09 to provide services outside the district for students with disabilities whose needs cannot be served within the district and for foster-home placement.