

## enrollment snapshot 2013-14

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| TOTAL PUBLIC ENROLLMENT: | 46,415 |
| DISTRICT ENROLLMENT:     | 37,534 |
| CHARTER ENROLLMENT:      | 8,881  |
| CHARTER MARKET SHARE:    | 19%    |

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# Minneapolis

## HOW CHOICE-FRIENDLY ARE AMERICAN CITIES?

To answer this question for Minneapolis and the twenty-nine other cities in this study, we combined publicly available data from federal, state, and local governments with proprietary data from a variety of education groups and a questionnaire of local stakeholders. We assigned cities scores from zero to four on multiple measures of choice friendliness, which we grouped into three areas: **political support**, **policy environment**, and **quantity and quality**. Cities received an aggregate score for each area as well as an overall score, which we obtained using a weighted average that estimates each area's contribution to a city's overall choice friendliness (more below). For the purposes of this study, we defined "choice" as any alternative to the traditional neighborhood school, including charter, magnet, career and technical education, private or religious, and online or virtual schools, as well as homeschooling or other choice mechanisms, such as vouchers and open or dual enrollment programs.

### Area I: Political Support (15%)

This area assesses the willingness of local officials and other stakeholders to use their political capital to support school choice, as well as the degree to which the local media support choice in the community.

### Area II: Policy Environment (35%)

This area evaluates the policies and practices that ease the challenges that providers and consumers of school choice face. Support for providers includes funding, facilities, and technical assistance, and support for consumers includes information about school performance and school choice writ large, as well as making the act of choosing easier via a common application for all schools.

### Area III: Quantity & Quality (50%)

This area quantifies the school choice options that are available to families (e.g., charter, magnet, and online), as well as the accessibility and quality of those options.

## HOW CHOICE-FRIENDLY IS MINNEAPOLIS?

When it comes to school choice, Minneapolis is a city of firsts. In 1988, the Minnesota legislature passed the nation's first statewide interdistrict open enrollment law, which gave every Minnesotan child the right (at least in principle) to enroll in any district in the state. In 1991, it passed the nation's first charter law, which the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools still ranks as the country's best. A year later, the nation's first charter school opened its doors in St. Paul, just across the river from Minneapolis. Finally, in 2011 the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers formed the first union-backed charter-authorizing organization, the Minnesota Guild of Charter Schools, which has authorized five schools so far (including three in Minneapolis). Today, over a third of Minneapolis students either enroll in charters or leave the city's dysfunctional school district for neighboring districts.

## RANK (OUT OF 30 CITIES)

**AREA I**  
POLITICAL SUPPORT

16

**AREA II**  
POLICY ENVIRONMENT

13

**AREA III**  
QUANTITY & QUALITY

14

### Area I: Political Support

#### 15 POINTS

#### MINNEAPOLIS RANKS SIXTEENTH

out of thirty cities on political support, with a score of eight points out of fifteen. This middling rank is due largely to the lukewarm support for school choice expressed by local officials. Although the local media have mostly supported school choice, the mayor, city council, school board, and superintendent have remained neutral (perhaps because school choice is already so well established). At the state level, the governor has not mentioned school choice in his speeches.

### Area II: Policy Environment

#### 35 POINTS

#### MINNEAPOLIS RANKS THIRTEENTH

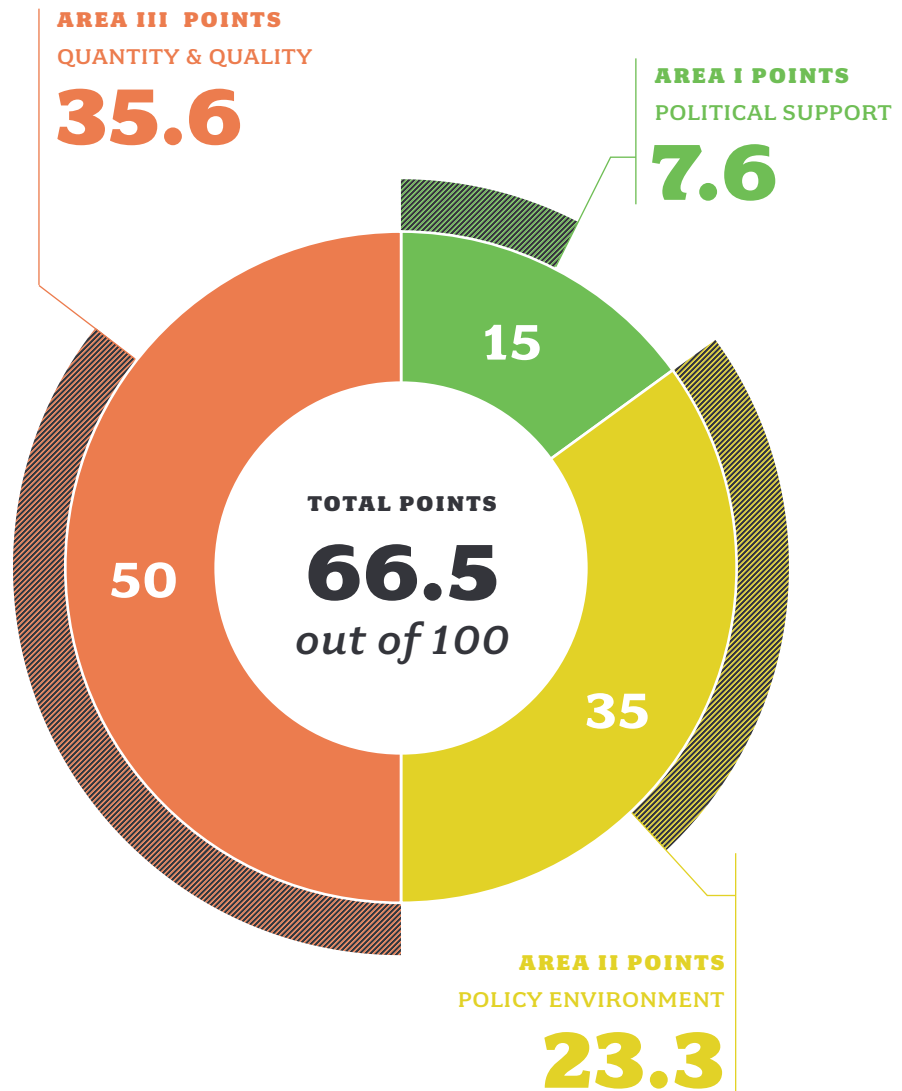
out of thirty cities on policy environment, with a score of twenty-three points out of thirty-five. The city receives high marks for a policy environment that is mostly free of restrictions on charter schools. For example, there is no statewide cap on the number of charter schools, and all charters are exempt from collective bargaining agreements. However, charters receive less funding than district schools, and in practice the district does not provide transportation to most schools of choice (despite being legally required to do so under Minnesota law). Finally, Minneapolis does not have a history of closing district schools with low or declining enrollment.

### Area III: Quantity & Quality

#### 50 POINTS

#### MINNEAPOLIS RANKS FOURTEENTH

out of thirty cities on quantity and quality, with a score of thirty-six points out of fifty. The city offers a variety of choices to families, including charter, magnet, career and technical education, independent, Catholic, and virtual schools, as well as homeschooling. Mechanisms such as inter- and intradistrict open enrollment and dual enrollment programs provide families with access to a robust set of public options, and the city treats its home-schooled students fairly by allowing them to participate in district programs. However, the quality of the city's charter schools is mixed; although Minneapolis charters outperform the city's district schools in math, they perform no better in reading.



Totals may not add up precisely due to rounding.

## MINNEAPOLIS RANKS SIXTEENTH OUT OF THIRTY CITIES

**OVERALL**, with middling scores in all three categories: political support, policy environment, and quantity and quality of choice. Minneapolis provides families with a range of public options, but its charter schools would benefit from better facilities and more flexible transportation policies, and both the city and state must pay more attention to quality control.

| HOW CHOICE-FRIENDLY IS MINNEAPOLIS? <sup>a</sup> |                                                                                                                                                      | DATA          | POINTS<br>OUT OF 4* |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>AREA I: POLITICAL SUPPORT (15%)</b>           |                                                                                                                                                      |               |                     |
| 1.1 Official Support                             | 1.1.A To what extent do you agree/disagree that the mayor is willing to use his/her political capital to support school choice?                      | Neutral/Agree | 2.33                |
|                                                  | 1.1.B To what extent do you agree/disagree that the city council is willing to use its political capital to support school choice?                   | Neutral/Agree | 2.33                |
|                                                  | 1.1.C To what extent do you agree/disagree that the superintendent is willing to use his/her political capital to support school choice?             | Neutral/Agree | 2.33                |
|                                                  | 1.1.D To what extent do you agree/disagree that the school board is willing to use its political capital to support school choice?                   | Neutral/Agree | 2.33                |
|                                                  | 1.1.E Has the governor mentioned school choice in his/her “state of the state” speeches?                                                             | No            | 0.00                |
| 1.2 Community Support                            | 1.2.A To what extent do you agree/disagree that the teachers’ unions are willing to use their political capital to support school choice?            | Disagree      | 1.00                |
|                                                  | 1.2.B To what extent do you agree/disagree that parent groups are willing to use their political capital to support school choice?                   | Neutral/Agree | 2.33                |
|                                                  | 1.2.C To what extent do you agree/disagree that the media are willing to use their political capital to support school choice?                       | Agree/Neutral | 2.67                |
|                                                  | 1.2.D What is the overall tone toward school choice as reflected in the editorials, op-eds, and opinion pieces of Minneapolis’s principal newspaper? | Agree         | 3.00                |

AREA I POINTS (out of 36.00) = 18.32

**AREA I SCORE: 18.32/36.00 x 15% = 7.63**

## AREA II: POLICY ENVIRONMENT (35%)

### PROVIDER ENVIRONMENT

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                          |      |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 2.1 Public Policies       | 2.1.A To what extent does Minnesota charter law restrict the number of charter schools in the state?                                                                                                       | There is no restriction on the number of charter schools | 4.00 |
|                           | 2.1.B Are multiple authorizers available to prospective charter school operators in Minneapolis?                                                                                                           | Yes                                                      | 4.00 |
|                           | 2.1.C Is Minneapolis’s largest school district a member of the Portfolio School District Network?                                                                                                          | Yes                                                      | 4.00 |
| 2.2 Public Facilities     | 2.2.A Does Minnesota have a “right of first refusal” policy for charter schools to obtain facilities?                                                                                                      | No                                                       | 0.00 |
|                           | 2.2.B What percentage of Minneapolis charter schools are located or co-located in city- or district-owned buildings?                                                                                       | Less than 25%                                            | 2.33 |
| 2.3 Public Support        | 2.3.A In how many ways do public entities support schools of choice in Minneapolis (of 6 possible)? <sup>b</sup>                                                                                           | 4 (of 6 possible)*                                       | 1.70 |
|                           | 2.3.B How great is the disparity between district and charter per-pupil funding in Minneapolis?                                                                                                            | Between 20% and 35%                                      | 1.00 |
|                           | 2.3.C Does Minneapolis law guarantee adequate funding for charter authorizers?                                                                                                                             | Yes                                                      | 4.00 |
| 2.4 NGO Support           | 2.4.A Is there a state or local NGO that supports school choice in Minneapolis?                                                                                                                            | **                                                       | **   |
|                           | 2.4.B In how many ways do NGOs in Minneapolis support schools of choice?                                                                                                                                   | **                                                       | **   |
| 2.5 Business Support      | 2.5.A Is there business-community support in Minneapolis for schools of choice?                                                                                                                            | Yes, for some types of schools of choice*                | 2.00 |
|                           | 2.5.B In how many ways does the business community in Minneapolis support schools of choice (of 6 possible)?                                                                                               | 6 (of 6 possible)*                                       | 2.52 |
| 2.6 Philanthropic Support | 2.6.A Is there philanthropic support in Minneapolis for schools of choice?                                                                                                                                 | Yes, for charters*                                       | 1.00 |
|                           | 2.6.B In how many ways does the philanthropic community support schools of choice in Minneapolis (of 7 possible)?                                                                                          | 7 (of 7 possible)*                                       | 3.11 |
|                           | 2.6.C Of 5 major national foundations (Broad, Carnegie, Gates, Joyce, and Walton), how many support schools of choice in Minneapolis?                                                                      | 2 (of 5)                                                 | 2.00 |
| 2.7 Teacher Policies      | 2.7.A Are Minneapolis charter schools exempt from local collective bargaining agreements?                                                                                                                  | Yes                                                      | 4.00 |
|                           | 2.7.B Are Minneapolis charter schools required to hire certified teachers?                                                                                                                                 | Yes                                                      | 0.00 |
| 2.8 Quality Control       | 2.8.A Is there a regular review process by an oversight body with authority to sanction authorizers?                                                                                                       | Yes                                                      | 4.00 |
|                           | 2.8.B What is the average quality score, out of 12, for Minneapolis’s charter authorizers (e.g., do they use academic, financial, and operational performance data to make merit-based renewal decisions)? | 10.14                                                    | 3.00 |
|                           | 2.8.C Does the district have a policy for closing schools with low enrollment and a history of doing so?                                                                                                   | No                                                       | 0.00 |

AREA II continued on next page...

...AREA II continued

## CONSUMER ENVIRONMENT

|                       |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                               |      |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 2.9 Accountability    | 2.9.A Are student data for schools of choice included in Minnesota's accountability system?                                                           | Yes, for all public schools of choice                                         | 4.00 |
|                       | 2.9.B How comprehensive are report cards for schools of choice in Minneapolis?                                                                        | Moderately/Mostly comprehensive                                               | 2.50 |
| 2.10 Information      | 2.10.A In how many ways is information on school choice disseminated to parents in Minneapolis (of 5 possible)?                                       | 5 (of 5 possible)*                                                            | 2.43 |
| 2.11 Application      | 2.11.A Does Minneapolis have a common application for schools of choice?                                                                              | Yes, for some types of schools of choice                                      | 2.00 |
| 2.12 Transportation   | 2.12.A Does Minneapolis provide or subsidize transportation to public schools of choice on equal terms as for district-assigned schools?              | No <sup>c</sup>                                                               | 0.00 |
| 2.13 Extracurriculars | 2.13.A Are Minneapolis's homeschooled students and/or students who attend charter schools eligible for district programming, such as music or sports? | Homeschooled students are eligible; charter students have limited eligibility | 3.50 |

AREA II POINTS (out of 85.94) = 57.09

AREA II SCORE: 57.09/85.94 x 35% = 23.25

## AREA III: QUANTITY & QUALITY (50%)

|                      |                                                                                                                                                               |                                  |      |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------|
| 3.1 Types of Schools | 3.1.A Are charter schools available to families in Minneapolis?                                                                                               | Yes                              | 4.00 |
|                      | 3.1.B Are magnet and/or CTE schools available to families in Minneapolis?                                                                                     | Yes                              |      |
|                      | 3.1.C Are independent schools available to families in Minneapolis?                                                                                           | Yes                              | 4.00 |
|                      | 3.1.D Are Catholic schools available to families in Columbus?                                                                                                 | Yes                              |      |
|                      | 3.1.E Are online and/or virtual schools available to families in Minneapolis?                                                                                 | Yes                              | 4.00 |
|                      | 3.1.F Is homeschooling available to families in Minneapolis?                                                                                                  | Yes                              |      |
| 3.2 Access           | 3.2.A Does the district facilitate intradistrict open enrollment, either through attendance waivers or through a districtwide lottery?                        | Districtwide lottery             | 4.00 |
|                      | 3.2.B Are there interdistrict enrollment options in Minneapolis? Can districts opt out?                                                                       | Yes; no opt out                  | 3.50 |
|                      | 3.2.C Are there dual enrollment options in Minneapolis? Can districts opt out?                                                                                | Yes, but districts can opt out   |      |
|                      | 3.2.D Does Ohio have a voucher or tax credit scholarship program? Is there a voucher or tax credit scholarship program specifically for Minneapolis students? | No                               | 0.00 |
| 3.3 Market Share     | 3.3.A Compared to other cities in the study, what percentage of public schools in Minneapolis are schools of choice (charter, magnet, and/or CTE schools)?    | Comparably, a similar percentage | 2.00 |
|                      | 3.3.B Compared to other cities in the study, what percentage of students in Minneapolis enroll in charter schools?                                            | Comparably, a similar percentage | 2.00 |
| 3.4 Quality          | 3.4.A What is the marginal impact of attending a Minneapolis charter school on learning gains in reading?                                                     | No impact                        | 2.00 |
|                      | 3.4.B What is the marginal impact of attending a Minneapolis charter school on learning gains in math?                                                        | Positive                         | 3.00 |

AREA III POINTS (out of 40.00) = 28.50

AREA III SCORE: 28.50/40.00 x 50% = 35.63

**TOTAL SCORE: 7.63 + 23.25 + 35.63 = 66.51**

### table notes

<sup>a</sup> The fifty indicators reflected in the table represent the aggregation of over one hundred discrete data points. All questionnaire data are current as of November 30, 2014. References to elected officials in Area I reflect those in office as of this date as well. All terms are generic, such as "superintendent," which can be applied to cities that have chancellors or other leaders. Depending on the context, the term "Minneapolis" refers to the city as a whole or to Minneapolis Public Schools, the largest district in the city. The latter is the case when the indicator is determined at the district level.

<sup>b</sup> For the definition of "schools of choice," see Appendix A.

<sup>c</sup> Although state law requires districts to provide transportation to charters if they request, because many charters operate on a different schedule than district schools, in practice most do not receive district transportation.

\* A few indicators may be out of less than four points due to missing data. An asterisk indicates partially missing data for a given indicator. In these cases, we subtracted an appropriate amount from the indicator and area denominators. For example, Minneapolis has only partial information for indicator 2.3.A, so we subtracted 1.33 points from the 2.3.A and Area II denominators.

\*\* Indicates missing data for the entire indicator (see above).

For complete details on the data sources and scoring for each indicator and its component subindicators, see Appendix A.