Detroit’s Public Education System
• Coalition of education, civic, community and philanthropic organizations founded in 2010.

• Shared Goal: an excellent education for every Detroit child, cradle to career, by 2020.

• “Excellent Education” is defined by 90/90/90/90 criteria.
1990 Detroit's Public Education System: 379 schools

- DPS Central: 250 schools, ~150,000 students
- Private Schools: 120 schools
2000 Detroit's Public Education System: 393 schools

244 schools
~135,000 students

51 schools
~16,000 students

98 schools
2015

268 Schools  /  118,000 Students Living in Detroit

Source: 2013-14 Resident/Nonresident CEPI file to identify which schools were >50% Detroiters. 2014-15 Student Count file to come up with enrollment at those schools.
Detroit doesn’t have one K-12 school system, it has 12.

What do we mean by “system”?

We refer to the 12 systems operated by: DPS, the EAA, and 10 additional charter school authorizers.

- Each system has its own way of deciding where and when to open or close a school, and who should run the school.
- Each system has its own way of deciding what level of family support to provide (window for enrollment, whether to provide transportation, etc).
- All of that is largely invisible.
It’s like there are 12 drivers on a street and each is driving by their own rules. They wave to each other, but don’t talk to each other, and certainly don’t coordinate their actions. Each parks wherever they want, drives the speed they like, and most ignore pedestrians.
Symptoms of Detroit’s school landscape:

1. We have way too many schools. Since nobody is in charge of the big picture, there is no way to effectively match need with supply.

2. One major system, DPS, has been unable to resolve its financial distress for 15+ years, destroying children and neighborhoods.

3. Because nobody is accountable for quality, bad actors profit from predatory behavior.

4. The EAA, even after over $70M in private investment, has been inconsistent and is barely surviving.

5. School quality is poor across the whole landscape.
K-8 Schools: Math

DPS Central | EAA Central | Charters | Others
---|---|---|---
DPS charter | Ferris | Lake State | Suburban District
EAA charter | Wayne RESA | Oakland | Private Schools
EMU | GVSU | SVSU | Bay Mills
CMU | | | Northern MU

MEAP Math Scores

Note: These are two year averages of MEAP Math (2012-13 and 2013-14)
High Schools: ACT

DPS Central

EAA Central

Charters

DPS charter

Ferris

Lake State

Wayne RESA

Oakland

EMU

GVSU

SVSU

EMU

CMU

Bay Mills

Northern MU

Others

Suburban District

Private Schools

High Schools with Composite ACT score at or above 21

High Schools with Composite ACT score below 21

Schools that do not have a score

ACT Composite Scores

Note: This chart only shows High Schools
Top-to-Bottom Ranking, 2013

Schools in Top Half of Top-to-Bottom Ranking, 2013

Schools in Bottom Half of Top-to-Bottom Ranking, 2013

Not Ranked
A Possible Future
Coalition on Future of Detroit Schoolchildren

◆ Equitable and accessible PreK-12 school CHOICE system that works for Detroit families and schools.

◆ Coordinated, efficient management of school opening, intervention, and closure decisions based on QUALITY and neighborhood need.

◆ Stable, sustainable, improving system that attracts and supports talent to improve ACADEMIC OUTCOMES for children.

◆ LOCAL CONTROL of an education system aligned with Detroit’s recovery.
CFDSC Major Recommendations

http://choiceisoursdetroit.tumblr.com/report

1. **Create Detroit Education Commission**
   a. Makes school opening & closure & siting decisions
   b. Transparent accountability criteria, applicable to all schools
   c. DPS board & charter operators run their own schools

2. **State Assumes DPS Debt**

3. **Return DPS Governance to a Locally-Elected Board**

4. **Simple universal systems to support school choice**
   a. Simplified enrollment system
   b. Common transportation system