

THE IMPACT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

PhDc. Sajid Ali Yousuf ZAI
University of Arkansas
Arkansas -USA

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to discuss charter schools in the United States and how it is different from the traditional public schools in terms of student performance in math and reading subjects. Several empirical studies have been discussed in this paper to provide support for charter schools in the United States. There are currently more than 6000 charter schools that represents about six percent of the U.S. public school system. Charter schools focus on personalized approach including smaller class sizes, more individual attention to and strong parental involvement. Out of 41 areas from 22 states, 26 areas' post learning gains for charter schools is more than traditional public schools. In reading, 23 regions have larger learning gains than traditional public schools. Charter school students outperform traditional public school students in state standardized tests. The charter schools produce 40 percent better results in both math and reading scores per dollar spent.

Keywords: Charter schools, traditional public schools, United States, student performance.