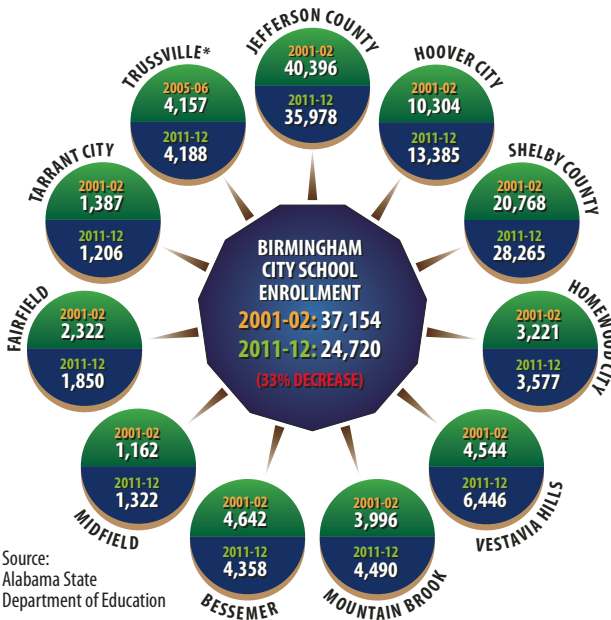




The  
Truth

About  
Charter School  
Funding

# FACT: MONEY FOLLOWS STUDENTS



## ENROLLMENT STATISTICS: Birmingham City School System 2001-02, 2011-12

The Birmingham City Public School system has seen a **33% decrease** in student population over the past ten years. This decrease has resulted in an estimated **\$100,000,000 of lost funding**, due to state and federal funds following the students. The primary reason for changes in student enrollments has been migration to other public school systems, independent private schools, or home schooling. Better public school options — through increased flexibility and public charter schools — could have kept students and funding in Birmingham.

\* Trussville schools opened in 2005, resulting in a decrease in Jefferson County enrollment to 35,834.

## MONEY LEAVES SYSTEM

A TYPICAL STUDENT TRANSFER:  
 From a **Public CITY School** to a **Public CITY School** within a **DIFFERENT School System**



**EXAMPLE:** Student transfers from a school in the **Birmingham City School System** to a school in the **Hoover School System**.

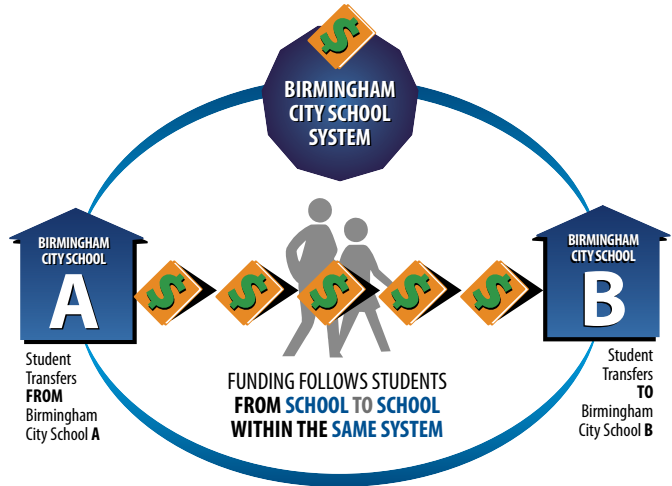
- When a student transfers from a **Birmingham City School** to a **Hoover School**, all state funding transfers with the student if the transfer occurs before school starts in August or within the first 20 days of the school year. If after the first 20 days, the state funds follow the student at the beginning of the next school year.
- All parties accept this as routine and it is routinely accepted.
- Once enrolled in the **Hoover School**, local funding and federal funding stays in Hoover.

# FACT: MONEY FOLLOWS STUDENTS

## MONEY STAYS WITHIN THE SAME SYSTEM

A TYPICAL STUDENT TRANSFER:  
From a **Public CITY School**  
to a **Public CITY School within the SAME School System**

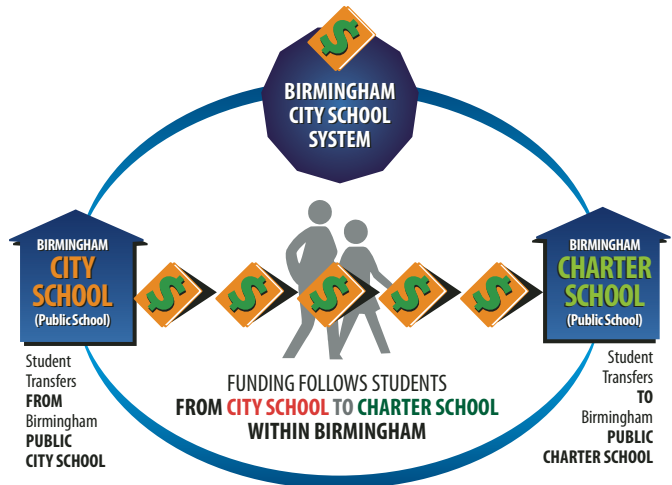
- The local, state and federal funding for the transferring student **goes with the student from School A to School B.**
- **School A** loses the student and there is no opposition; *it is an accepted and fair practice.*
- **School A** loses one or more students through a transfer and everyone (state legislators, local school board members, local superintendents of education, principals, teachers, support personnel, parents, etc.) *recognize and accept this procedure as the only fair and equitable manner to fund schools.*
- **School A** has to adjust expenses (reduce staff and other costs) as it loses students and **School B** has to adjust expenses (add staff and other costs) as it gains students.



## MONEY STAYS WITHIN THE SAME SYSTEM

A TYPICAL STUDENT TRANSFER:  
From a **Public CITY School**  
to a **Public CHARTER School within Birmingham**

- When a student transfers from a **Birmingham City Public School (School A)** to a **Public Charter School** within the City of Birmingham, local, state and federal funding would follow the student, *just as it currently does in every transfer.*
- Since transfers from one public school within a school system to another public school in the same system are routine and *routinely accepted by all parties*, why would a transfer from Public School A to a Public Charter School be any different?
- **Public Charter Schools** keep the funding at home.



# THE EDUCATION OPTIONS ACT 2012

## The Education Options Act allows school systems to:

- **Authorize** innovative Public Charter Schools through multiple pathways to approval. Local school systems will review and accept or deny charter school applications. If an application is denied in a system with persistently low-performing schools, the charter school applicant may appeal to the state-level review council.
- **Convert existing schools** into innovative Public Charter Schools through a reconstituting process under the agreement with the Authorizer.
- **Increase flexibility** for school systems through a waiver application process for a proposed “innovation plan.” The flexibility waivers allow for local school systems to implement innovative plans to improve student performance and education outcomes. The State Superintendent of Education would have the authority to grant the waiver on the condition that the stated goals are met.

## Public Charter Schools in Alabama:

- **Will produce results** through flexibility and innovation;
- **Will be held accountable** for their students’ performance;
- **Will be open to any student** and cannot discriminate based on test scores, grades or abilities;
  - If more students enroll than there are seats available, schools must conduct lotteries to determine student enrollment.
- **Will provide better options** for parents and students;
- **Are supported by 56% of Alabamians and 70% of Americans**, according to the Spring 2012 publication of the Alabama Association of School Boards.



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