

The Morrison Institute for Public Policy recently published a report entitled “Arizona Ideas: Policies from A to Z for a Livable and Competitive State.” It describes 26 public policy ideas that have made a difference in the state. <http://www.asu.edu/copp/morrison/>

From the section titled "School Choice", following are excerpts from pages 48 and 49 of this document: (highlighting added)

SCHOOL CHOICE

Charter schools are the centerpiece of Arizona’s policies for supporting education choices for students and their parents.

But charter schools stand out as Arizona’s school choice centerpiece. Charter schools, operated by both for-profit and nonprofit organizations, receive public funds and are accountable for the requirements of their charter, academic performance, and fiscal management. However, these entities have greater decision making authority in areas such as curriculum and personnel than “regular” public schools.

Charter schools reflect a wide range of educational approaches and, over time, performance levels have varied. For example, charter **Tempe Preparatory Academy** often leads the state’s schools in performance, while Community High School in Lake Havasu City is one of the schools closed due to insufficient enrollment or an inadequate academic program. Despite charter schools’ growing pains and continuing controversy about their viability and success, however, opportunities for students and parents continue to expand. The schools can be found statewide and educate approximately 10% of Arizona’s approximately one million K-12 students.