



Disability data comes from http://penndata.hbg.psu.edu/documents/PennDataBooks/Statistical_Summary_2013-2014.pdf. The numbers for the charter schools were calculated by taking the totals for Philadelphia IU 26 (which includes all district and charter schools in Philadelphia) and subtracting the totals for the School District of Philadelphia.

Both the district and charter sector serve similar overall proportions of students receiving special education. The difference is in the kind of disability diagnoses those students have received. In 2013-2014, Philadelphia charters served approximately 31 percent of all the city’s public school students. Charters served about 32 percent of the city’s students receiving special education. However, the charter sector mostly served students with mild, less costly disabilities and fewer of the students with severe disabilities. For example, charters served over 46 percent of the city’s students diagnosed with a speech and language impairment, but less than 15 percent of the students with intellectual disabilities and 9 percent of the students with orthopedic disabilities.