Idaho Charter School Growth Opportunities

June, 2019
Summary

- There are growth opportunities for high quality charter schools in various Idaho markets
- Contributions to charter growth will include:
  - Growth in school-age populations
  - Continued under-performance of existing schools
  - Untapped charter market potential
Study Purpose

- Use data to understand market opportunity for new charter schools in Idaho.
- Recognize that data needs to be “ground truthed” with local knowledge.
- Reflect ongoing efforts to open new high quality charter schools in greater Boise area
- Focus on a selection other potential markets
  - Pocatello
  - Twin Falls
  - Idaho Falls
  - Lewiston/Moscow
Related Work on Idaho Charter Markets

- **Shifting Sands**
  - Examination of changing demographics and potential demand for new charter school seats.
  - Current work uses a similar school-age population projection method

- **Treasure in the Valley**
  - Focused examination of charter school opportunities in the greater Boise region.
  - Current work uses a similar method for identifying underperforming schools.
Idaho Charter Schools

51 charter schools serving 19,500 students

6 virtual charter schools serving 4,500 students

Charter students are 8% of all Idaho public school enrollments
New Charter Seats in the Treasure Valley

Opening in August 2019

- Elevate Academy in Middleton
- Forge International School in Middleton
- Treasure Valley Classical Academy in Fruitland
- Compass in Meridian will open a new building adding 224 students
Key Indicators of Growth Opportunity

- Expected growth in school-age populations
- Presence of systematically underperforming schools (proficiency levels)
- Estimates of untapped charter market share
## Expected Growth in School-age Population

### K-8
- Boise/Nampa/Eagle
- Twin Falls
- Idaho Falls
- Pocatello
- Coeur d’Alene
- Mountain Home
- American Falls

### High School
- Boise/Nampa/Eagle
- Twin Falls
- Idaho Falls
- Pocatello
- Coeur d’Alene
- Moscow
- Fruitland
School-Age Population

Change in K-8 age student population by 2024

- 4,500 new white students
- 8,600 new non-white students
- 9,800 new Hispanic students
School-Age Population

Change in High School age student population by 2024

- 6,100 new white students
- 4,000 new non-white students
- 4,400 new Hispanic students
Changing Demographics

Share Non-White Students by Region

Share Hispanic Students by Region
Modeling Underperforming Schools

- Identified schools where proficiency levels were significantly below expected levels
- 3 years of test score results
- ELA and Math
- Controlled for school characteristics
  - demographics,
  - size,
  - school type,
  - free reduced lunch, special education
- A number of schools were persistent under-performers (2 or 3 years, both ELA and Math)
Underperforming Schools

ELA and Math results from 2014-2017

2 subject tests over 3 years = 6 test events

Schools that underperform consistently: 3 or more test events out of a total of 6.
Modeling Market Share

- Estimates of charter enrollment as a function of district characteristics, regional characteristics, and state policies.
- Used data from all districts in the U.S.
- Factors important to market opportunity:
  - district size, urban/rural area
  - district growth, regional growth
  - strength of unions, charter laws (caps on growth, non-district authorizers)
  - years since enabling legislation
  - per-pupil funding, charter school growth fund investments
- There are growth opportunities in a number of Idaho markets.
ESTIMATED RANGE OF NEW CHARTER SEATS
Charter Market Share

Potential additional charter school seats through 2024.
Opportunity Index

- Map factors onto grid cells
- Each grid cell is approximately 100 square miles
- Standardize the probability distribution of grid cell values
- Combine factors into a single opportunity index

- The index is a scaled indicator of locations where there is a strong case to be made for new charter school seats
Grid 1

Students enrolled in underperforming schools
Grid 2

School-age population growth through 2024
Grid 3

Charter market share growth potential
Opportunity Index

Composite measure of all previous factors
Conclusions

- There are growth opportunities for high quality charter schools in various Idaho markets
- Strong markets:
  - exhibit growth in school-age populations,
  - students are currently being served by under-performing schools,
  - reflect some as yet untapped charter school market potential
Portland  Eugene  Seattle  Boise

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