

DESCRIPTION

Student school mobility is defined as anytime a student changes schools for reasons other than grade promotion within an academic year. States have been granted individual flexibility on identifying what is considered an academic year, and Minnesota has defined that period as Oct. 1 of every school year, to the date of test administration; a time span of only seven months.¹ Students who frequently change schools between kindergarten and twelfth grade are less likely to complete high school on time, complete fewer years of school, attain lower levels of occupational prestige, are more likely to experience symptoms of depression, and are more likely to be arrested as adults.² Increased school mobility also tends to correlate with lower achievement.³ The majority of elementary and secondary school children in America make at least one nonpromotional school change over their educational careers, with many children making multiple moves.⁴

HOW ARE WE DOING

During an academic year, transfers out of a Ramsey County school district are much more common than transfers into or within a district for both public and charter schools. In 2016, the midyear transfer rate for public school students were about 18 percent, and about 19 percent for students attending charter schools. Mobility rates do not seem to be dropping significantly, but since 2012, the timing of transfers has increased during the summer.

DISPARITIES

In most cases, charter school students have almost double the mobility rates of public schools and changing schools during the current school year is most common among sixth-graders. In sixth and ninth grades, students of color are three to four times more likely than white students to have changed schools during the school year.⁵

RISK FACTORS

Mobility most often occurs because of changes in a parent's employment, or financial instabilities that heavily impact a family.⁶

WHAT RAMSEY COUNTY GOVERNMENT IS DOING

The McKinney-Vento Act requires schools to remove barriers to enrollment and attendance for students experiencing homelessness, including transportation to their school of origin. This is the responsibility of schools, but Ramsey County works through contracts with community agencies that support families experiencing homelessness to assist schools in providing educational continuity.

Information to note

- Students of color in 6th and 9th grade are three to four times more likely than white students to have changed schools during the school year.
- During the academic year, transfers out of a school district in Ramsey County are much more common than transfers into or within a district for both public and charter schools.

¹ Student Mobility. Parents United for Public Schools Web site. <http://www.parentsunited.org/to-be-filed/student-mobility/>. Accessed January 2018.

² Herbers, J., Reynolds, A., Chin-Chin, C. School Mobility and Developmental Outcomes in Young Adulthood. *Developmental Psychopathology*. 2016. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4139923/>. Accessed January 2018.

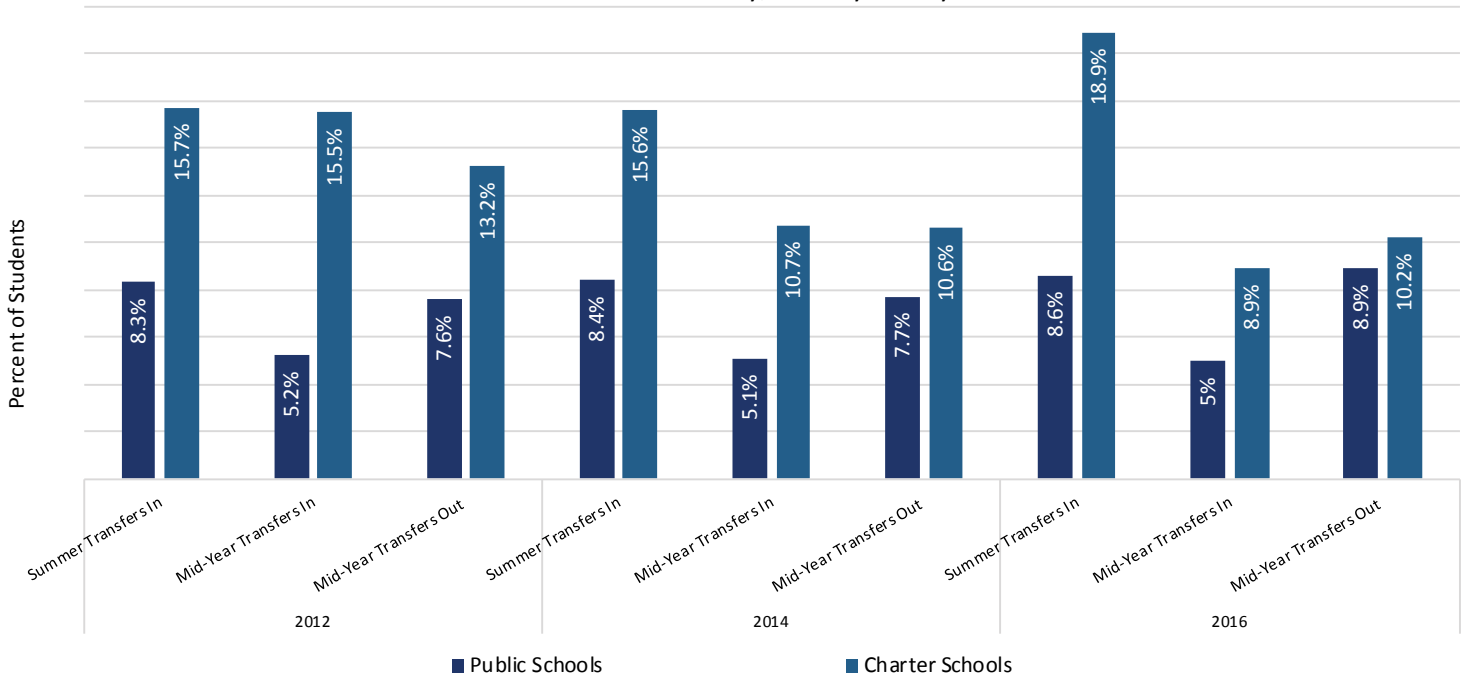
³ Mehana, M., Reynolds, A.; School Mobility and Achievement: a Meta-Analysis. *Children and Youth Services Review*. 2012. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740903001191>. Accessed July 10, 2017.

⁴ Rumberger, R.; Student Mobility: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions. National Education Policy Center. 2015. <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/student-mobility>. Accessed January 2018.

⁵ The Health and Well-Being of Minnesota's Adolescents of Color and American Indians: A Data Book. Minnesota Department of Health Web site. http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/mss/specialreports/AdolescentsOfColor_REPORT120412.pdf. Accessed January 2018.

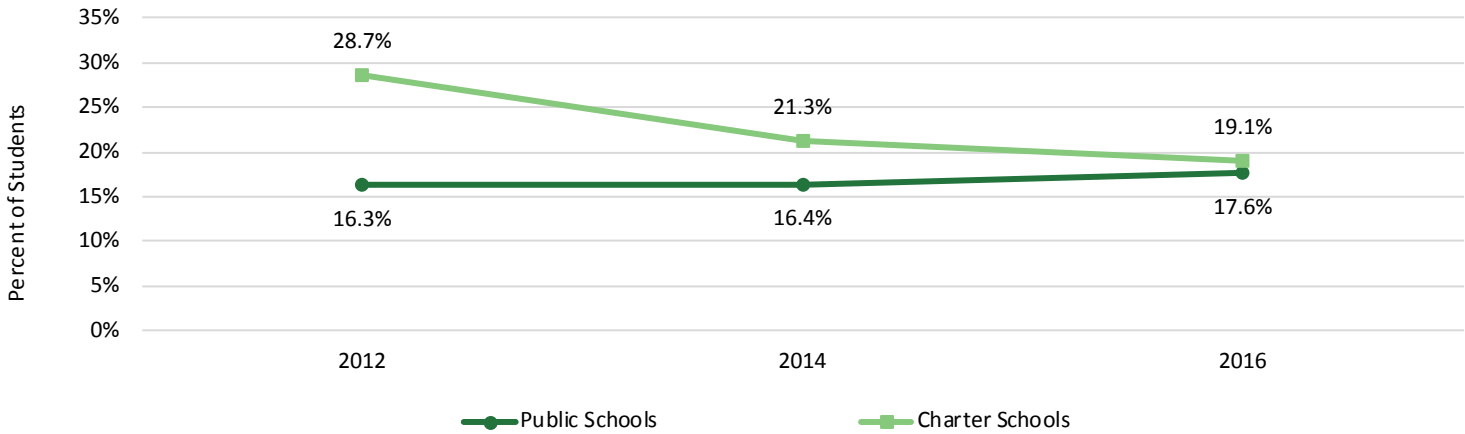
⁶ Sparks, S., Student Mobility: How it Affects Learning 92016) *Education Weekly*. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/issues/student-mobility/index.html>. Accessed January 2018.

Student Mobility, Ramsey County



Source: Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education.⁷

Mid-Year Student Transfers In and Out, Ramsey County



Source: Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education.⁷

⁷ Data Reports and Analytics. Minnesota Department of Education Web site. <http://w20.education.state.mn.us/MDEAnalytics/Data.jsp>. Accessed February 2018.