

# Charter School and School Choice Information

March 13, 2013

A series of horizontal lines in shades of teal and light blue, extending from the right side of the slide towards the center.

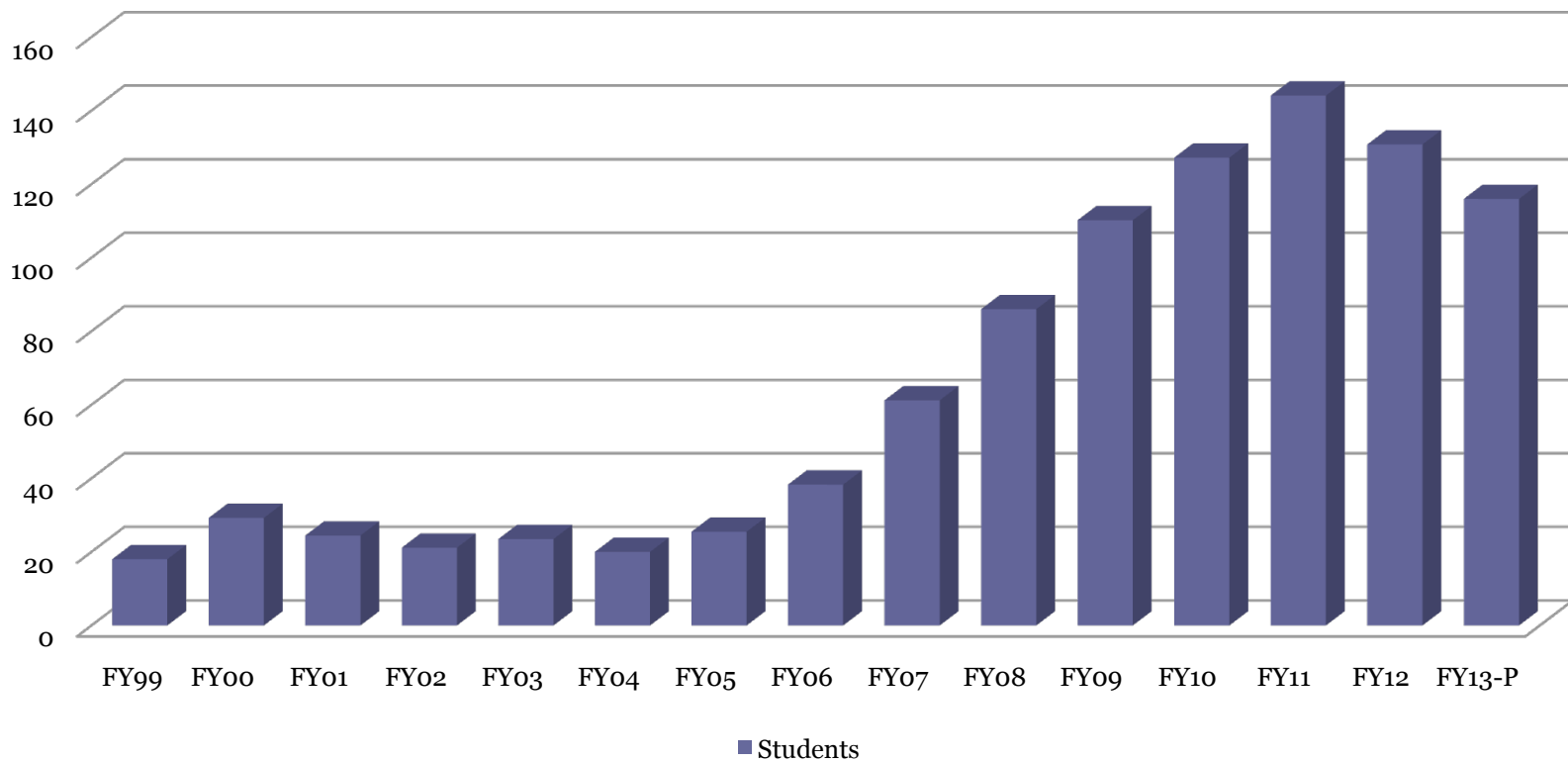


# Charter Schools

- Charter schools are independent public schools designed to encourage innovative educational practices.
- Charter schools are funded by tuition charges assessed against the school districts where the students reside.
- The state provides partial reimbursement to the sending districts for the tuition costs incurred.

# Students Attending Charter Schools

**Students attending Charter Schools**





## FY 11 to FY 13

- FY 11: 144 Students
- FY 12: 131 Students
- FY 13: 116 Students
- 20% Reduction in Total Students over last two years



# Financial Impact

- Charged on the Town's Cherry
- Net Tuition Paid – Difference between what the Town receives as state reimbursement and what it is charged on the Cherry Sheet
- Net Tuition FY 11 \$872,769
- Net Tuition FY 12 \$1,080,447
- Net Tuition FY 13 \$1,128,824
- Good News/Bad News – Enrollment is declining but state reimbursement is also declining.



# Massachusetts School Choice

- The inter-district school choice program allows a parent to enroll his or her child in a school district that is not the child's home district.
- Because of space limitations, not all school districts accept out-of-district students under this program.
- About half of Massachusetts districts participate



# Regulations

- School committees may choose to limit the number of seats available
- School committees may limit the grades where students will be accepted
- Districts must create an application process; all Massachusetts students are eligible; if more apply than there are seats, a lottery must be held (no preferences allowed)



# Regulations

- Families must provide transportation
- Once a student begins attending a district through choice, the district must allow the student to attend through high school graduation
- School Committee decides annually regarding whether to accept additional students through choice





# Revenue generated

- \$5,000 per student in state funding is diverted from the school district where the student resides to the district where the student attends through choice
- Incremental additional funding provided if a student has an individualized education plan (special needs)
- Funding goes to School Department revolving account

# Local Districts Accepting School Choice Students in FY10

<u>District</u>	<u>Grades Specified</u>
Ashland	K-12
Auburn	6, 9-12
Berlin	K-12
Boylston	K-12
Berlin-Boylston	K-12
Clinton	K-12
Harvard	K-12
Hudson	K-12
Westborough	Not accepting
West Boylston	K-12
Worcester	K-12
Nashoba	K-12



# Issues to consider in accepting School Choice

- Parental concerns regarding out of town students competing for spots in classes, in athletics, etc.
- Students having trouble adjusting to Shrewsbury expectations and norms for academics and behavior

# Sending Students

Year	FTE Pupils	Sending Tuition
1996	8.8	\$45,385
1997	6.0	\$23,815
1998	7.0	\$27,826
1999	7.7	\$37,470
2000	7.9	\$32,849
2001	4.7	\$21,108
2002	13.2	\$53,319
2003	10.7	\$46,558
2004	16.5	\$78,761
2005	17.1	\$104,140
2006	16.5	\$88,162
2007	10.0	\$61,861
2008	13.7	\$78,480
2009	18.5	\$106,835
2010	21.2	\$113,286
2011	19.5	\$107,984
2012	26.3	\$149,193
2013*	31.5	\$162,412

# Receiving Students

Year	FTE Pupils	Receiving Tuition
2011	19.2	\$96,050
2012	15	\$79,568
2013	13	\$69,568



# Cautions

- Potential choice revenue should not be seen as a quid pro quo to offset budget reductions in a difficult budget cycle
- Choice should be considered carefully each year based upon space available and potential impact



# Questions?

- Charter School and School Choice Information