

The Economist *A charter for change*

文章导读：美国特许学校是一种为学生提供个性化教育的私立学校。该学校致力于为学生提供灵活的学习环境，满足不同学习需求的学生，包括那些有学习障碍、天赋或特殊需求的学生。学校采用小班教学和个性化指导，注重学生的全面发展，包括学术、社交和情感方面。学校拥有专业的教育团队，包括特殊教育老师、心理辅导员和学习支持人员，他们致力于帮助学生克服学习障碍，发挥他们的潜力。此外，学校还提供丰富多彩的课外活动和社区服务项目，培养学生的领导能力和社会责任感。通过全面的支持和关怀，美国特许学校致力于帮助学生克服困难，实现个人成长和学业成功。



[1] The evidence for **charter schools**¹ has strengthened, just as both parties have run away from them

[1] 就在两党都对特许学校避而远之时，支持特许学校的证据却越来越多

1. **Charter schools** ['tʃɑrtər skulz]
n. 特许学校

[2] IMPROVING SCHOOLS is hard. Evidence of success or failure can take a decade to collect. What works in one place may **flop**² in another. This explains why school reformers are excited about an **authoritative**³ study from Stanford University which shows that charter schools really do help children learn (see United States section). That should settle an argument over how to arrange America's schools that has been raging for 30 years.

[2] 改善学校很难。收集成功或失败的证据可能需要十年时间。在一个地方有效的东西在另一个地方可能会失败。这就解释了为什么学校改革者对斯坦福大学的一项权威研究感到兴奋，该研究表明特许学校确实有助于儿童学习（见美国部分）。这应该会解决一场关于如何安排美国学校的争论，这场争论已经持续了 30 年。

2. **Flop** [flɒp]
v. 失败，砰然落下；（因疲劳、疾病等原因）倒下；（植物）摇摆

3. **Authoritative** [ə'θɔrə'tetɪv]
adj. 权威的；官方的；专断的

[3]The theory **underpinning**⁴ charters is that schools should be freed from the **bureaucracy**⁵ of the public-schools system and be able to hire and fire teachers **based on merit**⁶.If they have these freedoms and are held accountable,then the benefits will show up in better results.That idea attracted Republican support,but it was **controversial**⁷ on the left.Although **technocratic**⁸-minded Democrats,such as Bill Clinton and Barack Obama,supported charters,teachers' unions opposed them,arguing that they drew resources away from other public schools.When charters succeeded,the unions said,it was only because they attracted the brightest pupils or the most motivated parents.

[3]特许学校理论基础是，学校应该摆脱公立学校系统的官僚主义，且能够根据成绩雇佣和解雇教师。如果他们有这些自由并被追究责任，那么好处将体现在更好的结果中。这一想法吸引了共和党人的支持，但在左翼却存在争议。尽管有技术官僚意识的民主党人，如比尔·克林顿和巴拉克·奥巴马，支持特许学校，但教师工会反对，认为特许学校从其他公立学校抽走了资源。工会表示，特许学校之所以成功，只是因为它们吸引了最聪明的学生或最有动力的家长。

4. **Underpin** [ˌʌndərˈpiːn]

v. 支撑；巩固；支持

5. **Bureaucracy** [bjʊəˈrɒkrəsi]

n. 官僚主义；官僚机构

6. **Based on merit** [beɪst ɒn ˈmerɪt]

基于表现；基于成绩；基于业绩

7. **Controversial** [ˌkɒntreɪˈvɜːʃəl]

adj. 有争议的；引起争论的

8. **Technocratic** [ˌtɛknəˈkrætɪk]

adj. 技术管理的；技术专家治理的

[4]Although **fine-grained**⁹ studies were encouraging,the broad evidence for charters was disappointing.In 2009 the group at Stanford published an influential study showing that their pupils did slightly worse in maths and reading than students in conventional public schools.In 2013 the study was updated and the team found that charter pupils did better in reading and worse in maths.Partly as a result,the unions won the argument on the left.When he was running for office in 2020,Joe Biden described himself as "not a charter-school fan".Meanwhile,the right has **turned away from**¹⁰ charters and **fixated instead on**¹¹ "wokeness"and on giving parents **vouchers**¹² so that they have more choice over where their children go to school.

9. **Fine-grained** [faɪn greɪnd]

adj. 细粒的；细腻的；细致的

10. **Turned away from** [tɜːnd əˈweɪ frəm]

背弃；放弃

11. **Fixated...on** [ˈfɪksət...ɒn]

adj. 迷恋于

12. **Vouchers** [ˈvaʊtʃəz]

n. 证件；收据；凭单；代金券

[4]尽管细致的研究令人鼓舞，但特许学校的广泛证据令人失望。2009年，斯坦福大学的研究小组发表了一项有影响力的研究，表明他们的学生在数学和阅读方面的成绩略低于传统公立学校的学生。2013年，该研究进行了更新，研究小组发现，特许学生的阅读成绩更好，数学成绩更差。部分原因是工会赢得了左翼的争论。乔·拜登在2020年竞选总统时称自己“不是特许学校的粉丝”。与此同时，右翼已经放弃了特许学校，转而关注“觉醒”和给父母代金券，这样他们就可以在孩子上学的地方有更多的选择。

[5]Despite all this, charter networks have quietly expanded and experimented. Although some have failed (**deservedly**¹³), more have **thrived**¹⁴. The latest study, from Stanford's Centre for Research on Education Outcomes, compared 1.9m charter-school students with a control sample in 2014-19. They found that in maths the average charter student advanced by an extra six days each year compared with one at a traditional public school, and by 16 days in reading. Over time, that **adds up to**¹⁵ a big difference.

[5]尽管如此，特许学校还是悄悄地进行了扩展和试验。尽管有些失败了（理所当然），但更多的成功了。斯坦福大学教育成果研究中心的最新研究将2014-19年190万特许学校的学生与对照样本进行了比较。他们发现，在数学方面，特许学校的平均学生每年比传统公立学校多进步6天，阅读能力也提高了16天。随着时间的推移，这就形成了巨大的差异。

[6]What is more, these averages **obscure**¹⁶ important details. Charters do much better in cities and with Hispanic and African-American students. Charters in cities advanced their pupils by almost a whole month each year in reading and maths compared with the control group. Black and **Hispanic**¹⁷ students did better on those measures “by large margins” compared with their peers at traditional public schools. These are the very children the Democratic Party says it especially wants to help.

13. **Deservedly** [dɪ'zɜːvɪdli]

adv. 应得地；理所当然地

14. **Thrive** [θraɪv]

v. 繁荣；兴旺；茁壮成长

15. **Adds up to** [ædz ʌp tu]

合计达到；形成了

16. **Obscure** [əb'skjʊə]

adj. 模糊的；晦涩的；昏暗的

17. **Hispanic** [hɪ'spæɪnɪk]

adj. 西班牙的；西班牙裔的

<p>[6]更重要的是，这些平均值掩盖了重要的细节。特许学校在城市和拉美裔和非裔美国学生中的取得的表现要好得多。与对照组相比，城市的特许学校每年让学生在阅读和数学方面进步近一个月。与传统公立学校的同龄人相比，黑人和西班牙裔学生在这类指标上“大幅度”表现更好。这些正是民主党特别希望帮助的孩子。</p>	
<p>[7]And the researchers rejected the notion that this was achieved by creaming off¹⁸ motivated pupils or parents.If anything,charter schools take in students who are doing worse than their classmates in public schools.</p>	<p>18. Cream off [krim ɔf] 榨取</p>
<p>[7]研究人员拒绝接受这样的观点，即这是通过榨取有积极性的学生或家长来实现的。如果说有什么不同的话，特许学校招收的学生比公立学校的同学表现更差。</p>	
<p>[8]The Stanford study also points to something larger.Since the Supreme Court overturned affirmative¹⁹ action in college admissions²⁰ and firms began backing away from²¹ diversity,equity and inclusion²² schemes,Democrats have become unsure about how to deal with the racial disparities they focused on in 2020.They thought the way to fix black-white achievement gaps was to attack standardized tests and gifted and talented programmes. That was unpopular,and left the underlying problem unsolved.</p>	<p>19. Affirmative [ə'fɜrmətɪv] adj. 肯定的；正面的</p> <p>20. College admissions ['kɒlɪdʒ əd'mɪʃənz] 大学入学；；大学招生</p> <p>21. Backing away from ['bækɪŋ ə'weɪ frəm] 逃避</p> <p>22. Inclusion [ɪn'klʊʒən] n. 包容；包容范围</p>
<p>[8]斯坦福大学的研究也指出了更大的问题。自从最高法院推翻了大学招生中的平权行动，公司开始放弃多样性、公平性和包容性计划以来，民主党人开始不确定如何应对他们在 2020 年关注的种族差异。他们认为解决黑人和白人成绩差距的方法是攻击标准化考试以及天才项目。这是不受欢迎的，并留下了未解决的根本问题。</p>	
<p>[9]America would do more to cut racial disparities²³ by pursuing race-blind policies that focus on those who most need help.That sounds like a paradox²⁴,but it is not.Just as tax credits for poor families narrow racial disparities in income,so charter schools in cities do the same for reading and maths.Republicans should</p>	<p>23. Disparity [dɪ'spærəti] n. 差异；不一致</p> <p>24. Paradox ['pærə,dɒks] n. 悖论；似是而非的论点</p>

<p>rekindle²⁵ their enthusiasm for charters. Mr Biden should tell his education secretary²⁶ that he is now a fan of charter schools. And he should set about helping them flourish²⁷.</p>	<p>25. Rekindle [rɪˈkɪndl] v. 重新点燃；再振作</p> <p>26. Secretary [ˈsekɹəˌtɛrɪ] n. 秘书；部长；大臣</p>
<p>[9]美国将采取更多措施，通过推行以最需要帮助的人为重点的不分种族的政策来缩小种族差异。这听起来像是一个悖论，但事实并非如此。正如对贫困家庭的税收抵免缩小了收入方面的种族差异一样，城市的特许学校在阅读和数学方面也采取了同样的做法。共和党人应该重新点燃他们对宪章特许学校的热情。拜登应该告诉他的教育部长，他现在是特许学校的粉丝。他应该着手帮助他们蓬勃发展。</p>	<p>27. Flourish [ˈflɜːrɪʃ] v. 繁荣；茂盛；兴旺</p>

一、内容概括

A recent study from Stanford University shows that charter schools have a positive impact on student learning, particularly in cities and among Hispanic and African-American students. Despite previous controversies and opposition from teachers' unions, the study found that charter students made significant gains in reading and math compared to traditional public school students. The study also challenges the notion that charter schools only attract high-performing students, and suggests that they can help narrow racial disparities in education. The article suggests that both Democrats and Republicans should support and promote the expansion of charter schools.

斯坦福大学最近的一项研究表明，特许学校对学生的学学习有积极影响，尤其是在城市以及西班牙裔和非裔美国学生中。尽管之前存在争议和教师工会的反对，但研究发现，与传统公立学校的学生相比，特许学生在阅读和数学方面取得了显著进步。这项研究还挑战了特许学校只吸引表现优异的学生的观念，并表明特许学校可以帮助缩小教育中的种族差异。文章建议，民主党和共和党都应该支持和推动特许学校的扩张。

二、积累表达

1. 表达“迷恋于、痴迷于”

1.1. Be obsessed with

She is obsessed with shopping.

她迷恋于购物。

1.2. Be infatuated with

He is infatuated with video games.

他痴迷于电子游戏。

1.3. Be addicted to

He is addicted to gambling.

他迷恋于赌博。

1.4. Be captivated by

She is captivated by music.

她痴迷于音乐。

1.5. Be fascinated with

He is fascinated with science.

他迷恋于科学。

2. 表达“压榨、榨取、剥削”

2.1. Exploit

They have been exploiting the workers.

他们一直在压榨工人。

2.2. Squeeze

These companies have been squeezing the profits from consumers.

这些公司一直在榨取消费者的利润。

2.3. Extort

He has been extorting the vulnerable groups.

他一直在剥削弱势群体。

2.4. Milk

The government has been milking the taxpayers' money.

政府一直在榨取纳税人的钱。

2.5. Bleed dry

These big companies have been bleeding dry the profits of small businesses.

这些大公司一直在榨干小企业的利润。