Data: Segregation in Twin Cities’ charter schools

Elementary-level charter schools in the Twin Cities are more racially segregated than their counterparts in the St. Paul, Minneapolis and suburban school districts, according to a Star Tribune analysis of enrollment data going back to 1980-81. The Star Tribune defined segregated as any school that had 80 percent or more minority students (predominantly minority) or less than 20 percent minorities (predominantly white). The National Center for Education Statistics defines a school as segregated if more than 75 percent of students are either minority or white.

Percentage of students in racially segregated schools

Charter schools have been consistently more segregated than others since they first launched in the state in 1995, although the overall percentage of charter students attending a segregated school declined slightly last year.

Predominantly minority schools are most common

The percentage of elementary-level charter schools in the Twin Cities, by year, divided up by whether the school was integrated, predominantly white or predominantly minority.

Socioeconomic segregation also common in charter schools

Predominantly minority charter schools also have very high rates of poverty, according to the percentage of students on a federal free or reduced-price lunch program in the 2014-15 school year.

Charter school standardized test proficiency compared to other schools

The percentage of students who were proficient on math and reading standardized tests in the 2014-15 schoolyear, by the demographic makeup and location of the schools.

Source: Minnesota Department of Education

Footnotes: The Star Tribune analyzed enrollment data, broken down by race, for all 7-county metro public elementary schools each year from 1980-81 to 2014-15. The seven counties were: Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka, Washington, Scott and Carver. Socioeconomic data is based on the percentage of students in each school that participated in a federal free or reduced-price lunch program in 2014-15, which is a commonly used proxy for measuring poverty. Proficiency rates are a combination of the number of students deemed proficient in math and reading on the Minnesota  Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) in 2014-15.