

New data available on the massive diversion of State, Local and Federal funds to charters, approved and proposed

Reimagine Prep Charter School in south Jackson has already been approved for the 2015-2016 school year. The contract awaits.

The applications for Inspire Charter School in Columbus and Midtown Charter School in midtown Jackson are pending, with the decisions on these two applications to be decided at the December 5, 2014 meeting of the MS Charter School Authorizer Board.

Under Mississippi law each approved charter school becomes its own new separate school district, distinct from and without any duty toward or responsibility for its impact on any other school district. But the diversion of operations funding from our traditional public schools to new charters will have great impact.

Here is the data from the Reimagine, Midtown and Inspire applications that document that more than \$38 million will be diverted from the Jackson and Columbus school districts over the 5 years from the 2015-2016 school year through the 2019-2020 school year.

NOTE: In each of these 3 applications the projected diversion of State, Local and Federal funds amounts to more than \$9,000 per student per year during the 5-year period of the first contract.

Summary of 5-year Total diversion of State, Local and Federal funds from local districts to new charters, 2015-16 thru 2019-20:

Jackson Municipal:

Diversion from Jackson to Reimagine: \$15,254,249 (approved)

Diversion from Jackson to Midtown: \$ 8,911,486 (pending)

\$24,165,735 Total loss to Jackson Municipal

Columbus Municipal:

Diversion from Columbus to Inspire: \$14,626,558 Total loss to Columbus Municipal (pending)

Diversion from Jackson + Columbus: **\$38,792,293 Total Loss to Jackson + Columbus**

Breakdown of grades served, # of students, and State, Local and Federal funds diverted - by school year

NAME OF CHARTER	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
REIMAGINE PREP - JACKSON					
# Students, Grades	110 [gr. 5]	220 [gr. 5-6]	330 [gr. 5-7]	440 [gr. 5-8]	440 [gr. 5-8]
Diversion of Operating Funds from Jackson Public to Reimagine	\$1,220,159	\$2,197,055	\$3,163,731	\$4,292,429	\$4,380,875
Cumulative Loss to Jackson Public 2015-2016 thru 2019-2020	\$1,220,159	\$3,417,214	\$6,580,945	\$10,873,374	\$15,254,249
MIDTOWN CHARTER - JACKSON					
# Students, Grades	104 [gr. 5-6]	156 [gr. 5-7]	208 [gr. 5-8]	208 [gr. 5-8]	208 [gr. 5-8]
Diversion of Operating Funds from Jackson Public to Midtown	\$1,176,170	\$1,504,810	\$1,965,290	\$2,077,829	\$2,187,387

Cumulative Loss to Jackson Public 2015-2016 thru 2019-2020	\$1,176,170	\$2,680,980	\$4,646,270	\$6,724,099	\$8,911,486
REIMAGINE + MIDTOWN COMBINED					
Diversion of Operating Funds from Jackson Public to 2 charters	\$2,396,329	\$3,701,865	\$5,129,021	\$6,370,258	\$6,568,262
Cumulative Loss to Jackson Public 2015-2016 thru 2019-2020	\$2,396,329	\$6,071,194	\$11,200,215	\$17,570,473	\$24,165,735
INSPIRE CHARTER - COLUMBUS					
# Students, Grades	240 [gr. K-3]	300 [gr. K-4]	360 [gr. K-5]	360 [gr. K-5]	360 [gr. K-5]
Diversion of Operating Funds from Columbus to Inspire	\$2,166,898	\$2,708,622	\$3,250,346	\$3,250,346	\$3,250,346
Cumulative Loss to Columbus 2015-2016 thru 2019-2020	\$2,166,898	\$4,875,520	\$8,125,866	\$11,376,212	\$14,626,558
JACKSON + COLUMBUS COMBINED					
Diversion of Operating Funds from Jackson + Columbus to 3 charters	\$4,563,227	\$6,410,487	\$8,379,367	\$9,620,604	\$9,818,608
Cumulative Loss Jackson + Columbus 2015-2016 thru 2019-2020	\$4,563,227	\$10,946,714	\$19,326,081	\$28,946,685	\$38,792,293

This table of data is also attached as a pdf for your convenience.

Whether these 3 charters [i.e. 3 new school districts], if approved, turn out to be good schools is a separate question from the impact that this massive diversion of funds will have on the Jackson and Columbus districts ... which are already seriously under-funded because the Legislature fails and refuses to fully fund MAEP!

In 2014 the Legislature passed an **MAEP** funding bill [FY 2015] in which Jackson and Columbus were **under-funded** by these amounts:

Jackson: \$14,864,586 underfunded

Columbus: \$ 2,302,927 underfunded

Total: \$17,167,513 underfunded

And now these districts can look forward to the possibility of the strangling vise of systemic underfunding combined with the diversion of under-funds to new charters. This is *not* a plan for the success of our traditional public schools.

Also, attached is the link to the superb 10-29-14 Jackson Free Press article by Anna Wolfe skewering state leaders who so vigorously oppose MAEP after having passed it twice, and who use misleading, shabby math to deride MAEP in order to hide their school privatization agenda.

<http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2014/oct/29/maep-opponents-complain-about-program-they-helped-/>

