



ST. LOUIS SCHOOL CLOSURES TRENDS ANALYSIS

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St. Louis School Closures Trends Analysis

By: Dorothy Rohde-Collins and J. Cameron Anglum

Key Points

- The public education system in St. Louis is ever-changing. Schools open and/or close nearly every year. Of the 88 schools that opened between 1991 and 2023, 27 were SLPS schools and 61 were charter schools. Of the 106 schools that closed during the same time period, 87 were SLPS schools and 19 were charter schools.
- In 2023, the proportion of students and schools is approximately 60% for SLPS and 40% for charter agencies. Ten years prior, SLPS had approximately 75% of both schools and students and charters had 25%.
- The locations of SLPS and charter schools have not been distributed evenly across the city's ward geography. For SLPS, the two wards with the most schools are in north St. Louis while the two wards with the fewest schools are in south St. Louis. The distribution pattern of charter schools is less clear, although it also reveals significant ward-by-ward variation. There are two wards with a significant number of charter schools — one is in north St. Louis while the other encompasses neighborhoods downtown and in south St. Louis. Wards in south St. Louis tend to have fewer charter schools than those in north St. Louis.
- SLPS enrollment has declined from 25,009 to 16,069 over the last ten years: black student enrollment has decreased from 20,589 to 13,168 and white student enrollment has decreased from 2,892 to 1,998. Charter school enrollment has increased over that same period from 8,447 to 11,455: black student enrollment has increased from 5,847 to 8,091 and white student enrollment has increased from 1,680 to 1,948.
- White students are overrepresented in charter schools. Black students are overrepresented in SLPS schools. In 2022, SLPS enrolled 62% of the city's Black students and 51% of the city's white students. Only 10 years before, SLPS enrolled approximately 70% of both Black and white students.

Introduction

The public education system in the City of St. Louis is notable for its constant change. The list of schools from which parents and caregivers can choose varies from year to year as struggling schools close and new schools open.

This churn of school openings and closings is due, in part, to a reliance on a public choice model. The City's public schools fall into two main categories — Saint Louis Public Schools (SLPS), a traditional public school district composed of neighborhood and magnet schools, and charter school agencies. Though schools in both categories are funded by public tax dollars, SLPS is governed by a democratically elected school board while each charter school agency is governed by a privately appointed board similar to a non-profit. Each of these categories contain additional choices based on geographic location, specialized curricula, and/or enrollment requirements.¹ This system of choice expanded even as the city's population declined and the demographic makeup changed.²

The first charter schools in St. Louis opened in the 2000-01 school year.³ Bolstered by support from the mayor⁴ and regional business leaders,⁵ charter schools expanded even as the City's overall population declined.⁶ Part of the decline, the child population fell precipitously from approximately 90,000 children in

¹ Rohde-Collins, D. & Hartman, J. (2024, February). Measures of Segregation: Race, Income, and Test Scores in St. Louis City's Public Education System. PRiME Center. Saint Louis University.

<https://www.sluprime.org/education-reports-database/measures-of-segregation-race-income-and-test-scores-in-st-louis-citys-public-education-system>

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<https://www.sluprime.org/policy-brief-database/missouri-charter-and-magnet>

² Rohde-Collins, D. & Hartman, J. (2024, February). Measures of Segregation: Race, Income, and Test Scores in St. Louis City's Public Education System. PRiME Center. Saint Louis University.

<https://www.sluprime.org/education-reports-database/measures-of-segregation-race-income-and-test-scores-in-st-louis-citys-public-education-system>

³ Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [DESE]. (n.d.). Charter Schools Frequently Asked Questions.

<https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/charter-schools>

⁴ Crouch, E. (2015, January 27). Boom time for St. Louis Charter Schools. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/education/boom-time-for-st-louis-charter-schools/article_74e12b12-41d9-5c49-acd1-fec06a36c018.html

Hunn, D. (2007, November 9). Slay's answer to city school woes: Charter schools. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/government-politics/slays-answer-to-city-school-woes-charter-schools/article_82a1c2a4-e44d-5c59-ba16-265ae76e293a.html

⁵ Mazur, M. (2017, August 25). Regional Business Council Announces Additional Support for KIPP STL. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

https://www.stltoday.com/pr/business/regional-business-council-announces-additional-support-for-kipp-stl/article_b56c3dd8-8c2a-11e7-9298-5cb9017beffc.html

⁶ Barker, J. (2024, March 14). St. Louis metro area falls behind Orlando, Charlotte in population. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/business/development/st-louis-metro-area-falls-behind-orlando-charlotte-in-population/article_ffdbb268-e155-11ee-a036-bb03e3578d09.html

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2000 to 54,000 children in 2020.⁷ Even the declining population brings up concerns of inequity: the 40% decrease in the child population⁸ has disproportionately affected Black children⁹ and their families.

St. Louis' large population decline has inflicted significant stress on its public policymaking, including its system of public education. In the past three decades, more than 100 public schools (both SLPS and charter) have permanently closed,¹⁰ though over 80 new schools have opened over the same period.¹¹ Typically, public school closures are a result of decreasing enrollment, low academic performance, and/or declining finances.¹² Charter schools may also close as a result of action by their sponsor¹³ including a sponsor's decision to cease sponsorship operations.¹⁴

This report expands upon the work of Rohde-Collins & Anglum (2023) to identify trends in school openings and closings by sector from 1991-2023. Identification of these patterns will prove useful to educators and policy makers as they work towards improving access to quality educational opportunities for the City's children. The ability to address the intractable problems of high student mobility, teacher shortages, access to affordable housing, and pervasive segregation requires an accurate accounting of school locations, openings, and closings. The expiration of Covid relief funding¹⁵ coupled with the continued loss of population and sustained public school enrollment decline increase the likelihood of future school closure decisions for both SLPS and charter agencies.

⁷ Rohde-Collins, D. & Anglum, J. C. (2023, September) Public School Enrollment and Closures in Saint Louis City. PRiME Center. Saint Louis University. <https://www.sluprime.org/education-reports-database/publicschool-enrollment-closures-saint-louis-city>

⁸ Rohde-Collins, D. & Anglum, J. C. (2021, October 15). Why our shrinking city needs a temporary halt on opening new schools. [Editorial]. *St. Louis Business Journal*. <https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2021/10/15/commentary-census-data-school-planning-and-the-s.html>

⁹ Shelton, A. & Gorton, M. (2022, November). Elementary Age Population Decline, School Closures, and Access to Public Elementary School Options in St. Louis City. PRiME Center. Saint Louis University. <https://www.sluprime.org/policy-brief-database/elem-age-population-decline-school-closures-and-access-to-elem-school-options>

¹⁰ Duncan-Shippy, E. M. (2023) Shuttering Schools in the Gateway City: School District Viability and Black Community Relations After Mass K-12 School Closures in St. Louis, MO, *Peabody Journal of Education*, (98)2, 223-249, DOI: 10.1080/0161956X.2023.2191569

Rohde-Collins, D. & Anglum, J. C. (2023, September) Public School Enrollment and Closures in Saint Louis City. PRiME Center. Saint Louis University. <https://www.sluprime.org/education-reports-database/publicschool-enrollment-closures-saint-louis-city>

¹¹ Rohde-Collins, D. & Anglum, J. C. (2023, September) Public School Enrollment and Closures in Saint Louis City. PRiME Center. Saint Louis University. <https://www.sluprime.org/education-reports-database/publicschool-enrollment-closures-saint-louis-city>

¹² Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [DESE]. (n.d.). Charter Schools Frequently Asked Questions. <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/charter-schools>

¹³ Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [DESE]. (n.d.). Charter Schools Frequently Asked Questions. <https://dese.mo.gov/quality-schools/charter-schools>

¹⁴ Singer, D. (2012, March 29). Missouri Baptist U. agrees to give up authority to sponsor charter schools. *St. Louis Public Radio*. <https://www.stlpr.org/education/2012-03-29/missouri-baptist-u-agrees-to-give-up-authority-to-sponsor-charter-schools>

¹⁵ Walderman, A. & Fortis, B. (2021, October 20). The Federal Government Gave Billions to America's Schools for COVID-19 Relief. Where Did the Money Go? *ProPublica*. <https://www.propublica.org/article/the-federal-government-gave-billions-to-americas-schools-for-covid-19-relief-where-did-the-money-go>

Methods and Data¹⁶

This education report is a descriptive analysis of publicly available data provided by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). All public schools in the City of St. Louis that operated at any point during the years 1991-2023 are included, except for some specialized schools such as special education facilities and alternative schools.

We supplemented DESE records with information from the City of St. Louis Address and Property Information Search website,¹⁷ the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper archives,¹⁸ and the St. Louis Public Schools website¹⁹ to identify school addresses, ward locations, and the dates of school opening and/or closing.

For all years of analysis:

- Year represents the spring semester (e.g., 1995 represents the 1994-95 school year) which reflects DESE reporting practices.
- Assigned ward reflects the 2021 ward boundaries for the City of St. Louis.

St. Louis Ward Geography

The City of St. Louis now consists of 14 wards after a 2021 ward reduction and redistricting effort. Ward numbering begins with Ward 1 in south St. Louis and progresses north to Ward 14. The boundaries were drawn to be relatively equal with regard to total population.²⁰ However, total population and child population may not be proportionate. For example, children represent nearly one-quarter of Ward 3 residents but less than one-tenth of Ward 9 residents.²¹

The City of St. Louis is racially segregated as a result of decades of intentional policy-making that emphasized economic development.²² The population of wards in north St. Louis is majority Black while

¹⁶ For more details on the methodologies of this report, please see the methods section of Rohde-Collins & Anglum, 2023.

¹⁷ City of St. Louis Property & Address Search. <https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/data/address-Search/index.cfm>

¹⁸ *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. <https://www.stltoday.com/>

St. Louis Public Library Newspapers & Magazines. <https://www.slpl.org/resources-types/newspapers-magazines/>
Newspapers.com. <https://www.newspapers.com/paper/st-louis-post-dispatch/4064/>

¹⁹ St. Louis Public Schools. <https://www.slps.org>

²⁰ Schlinkmann, M. (2021, November 2). Proposed 14-ward redistricting plan for St. Louis unveiled. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

https://www.stltoday.com/print/a-section/proposed-14-ward-redistricting-plan-for-st-louis-unveiled/article_b6ea6f84-da00-5bda-bfe4-d8ceab398ff5.html

²¹ City of St. Louis. (n.d.b) Ward Census Data.

<https://www.stlouis-mo.gov/government/departments/planning/research/census/data/wards/?censusYear=2020&comparisonYear=0&measure=P0030001&boundaryYear=2021>

²² Anglum, J. C. (2023). Separate and Unequal in St. Louis? Strengths and Limitations of School-Level Funding Data Using a QuantCrit Framework. *Urban Education*, 00420859231192082.

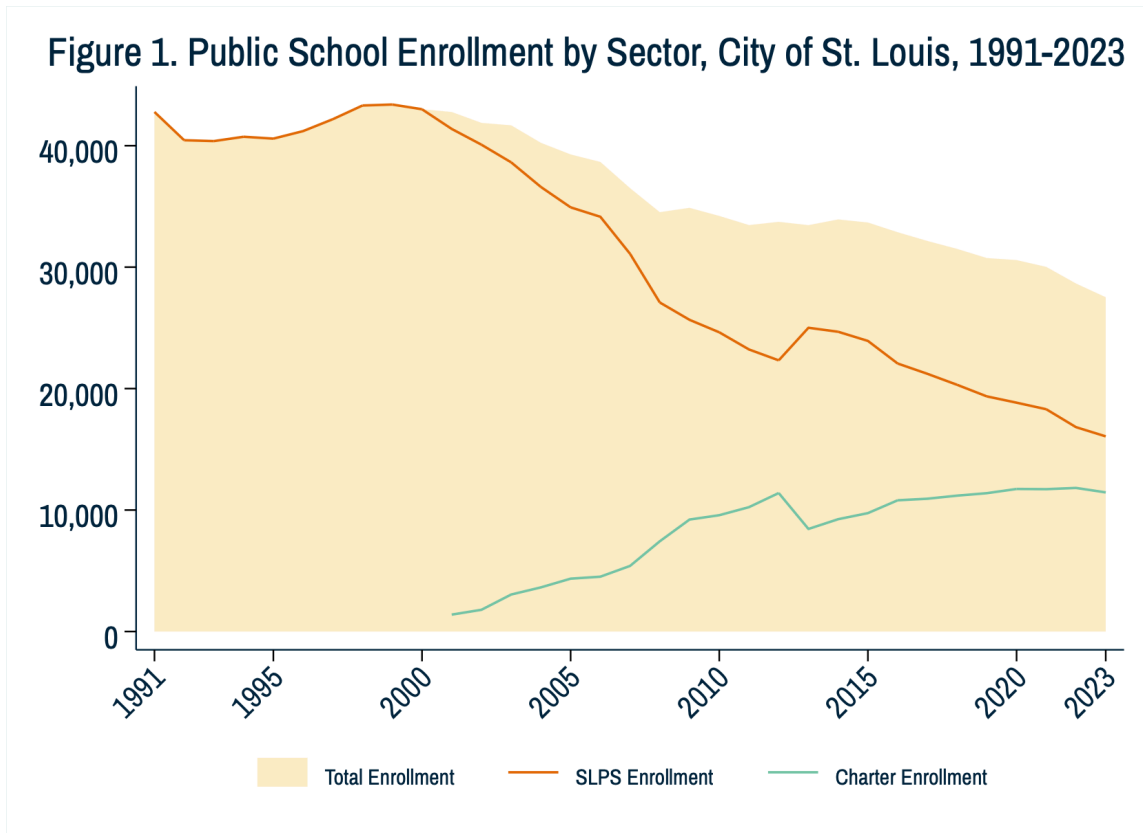
Cambria, N., Fehler, P., Purnell, J.Q., & Schmidt, B. (2018). Segregation in St. Louis: Dismantling the Divide. Washington University in St. Louis. <https://healthequityworks.wustl.edu/our-work/quality-neighborhoods-housing/segregation-in-st-louis-report/>

the population of many wards in south St. Louis is majority white. Delmar Boulevard, often referred to as the Delmar Divide, serves as an unofficial boundary between North City and South City.²³ While no official categorization exists for which wards are considered north and which are south, the analysis in this report considers south wards to be Wards 1-7 and north wards to be Wards 9-14. Ward 8 encompasses an area that stretches from downtown to far south St. Louis and is therefore difficult to categorize as either north or south.

A Comparison of SLPS and Charter Schools

Enrollment

Prior to 2001, SLPS educated 100% of public school students and operated 100% of the city’s public schools. As charters entered the city and expanded operations, SLPS’ share of both enrollment and schools decreased while the charter share increased (Figures 1 and 2, Tables 1 and 2). In 2023, SLPS educated approximately 16,000 (58.4%) students in 60 (61.2%) schools while charter schools educated approximately 11,000 (41.6%) students in 38 (38.8 %) schools (Figure 3).



Johnson, W. (2020). *The Broken Heart of America*. Basic Books.

²³ Cooperman, J. (2014, October 17). The story of segregation in St. Louis. *St. Louis Magazine*. <https://www.stlmag.com/news/the-color-line-race-in-st-louis/>

Figure 2. Number of Public Schools, City of St. Louis, 1991-2023

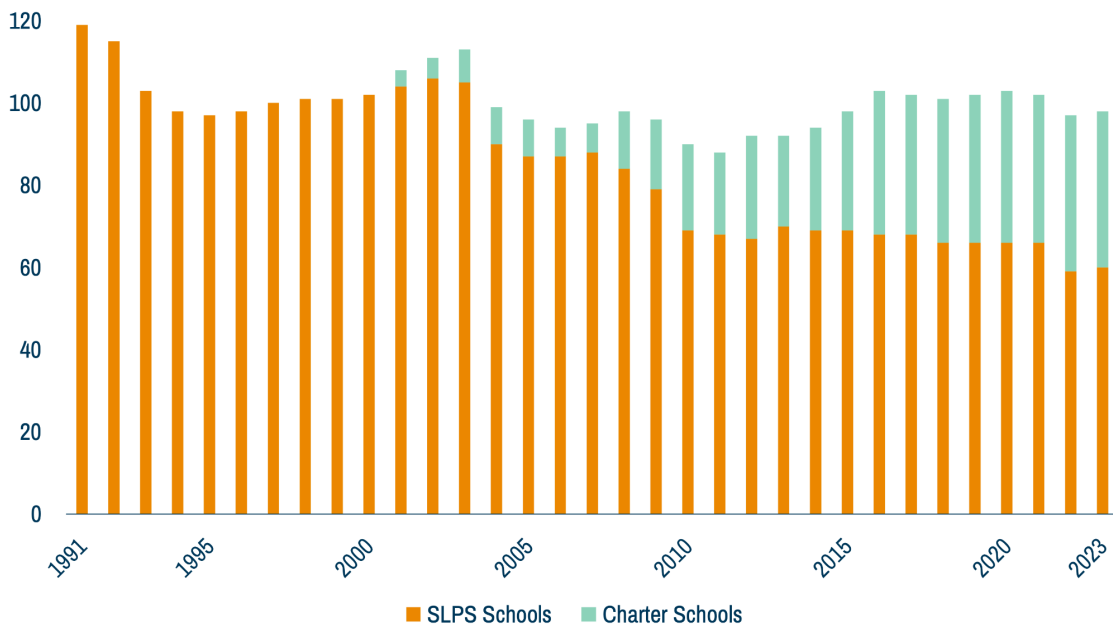
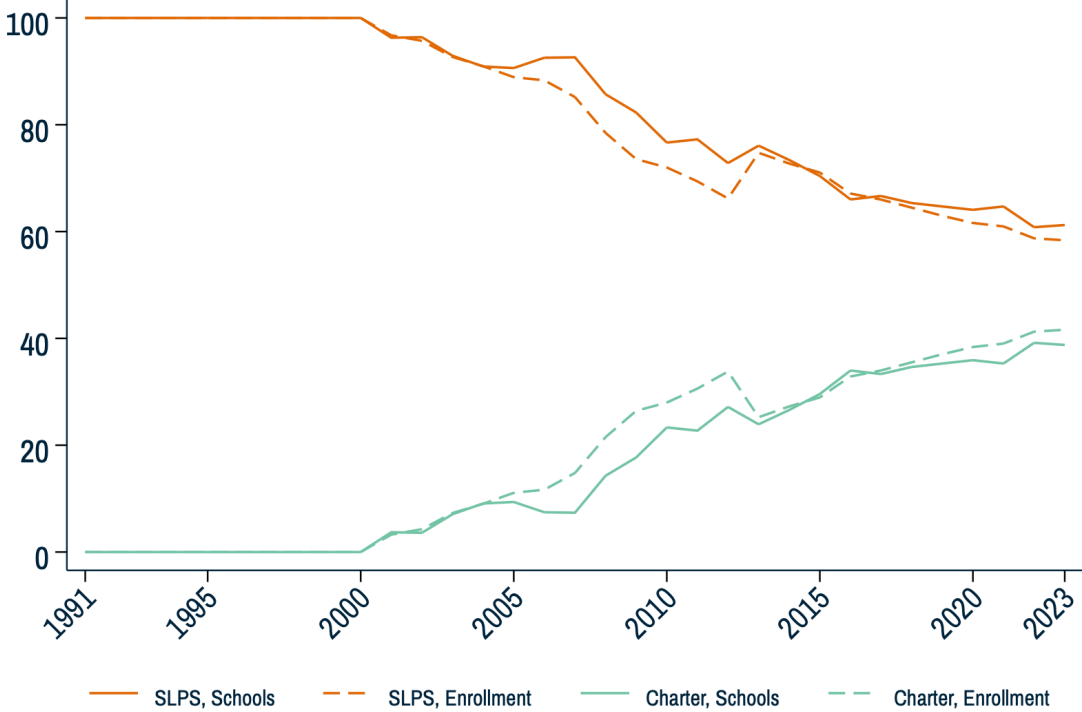


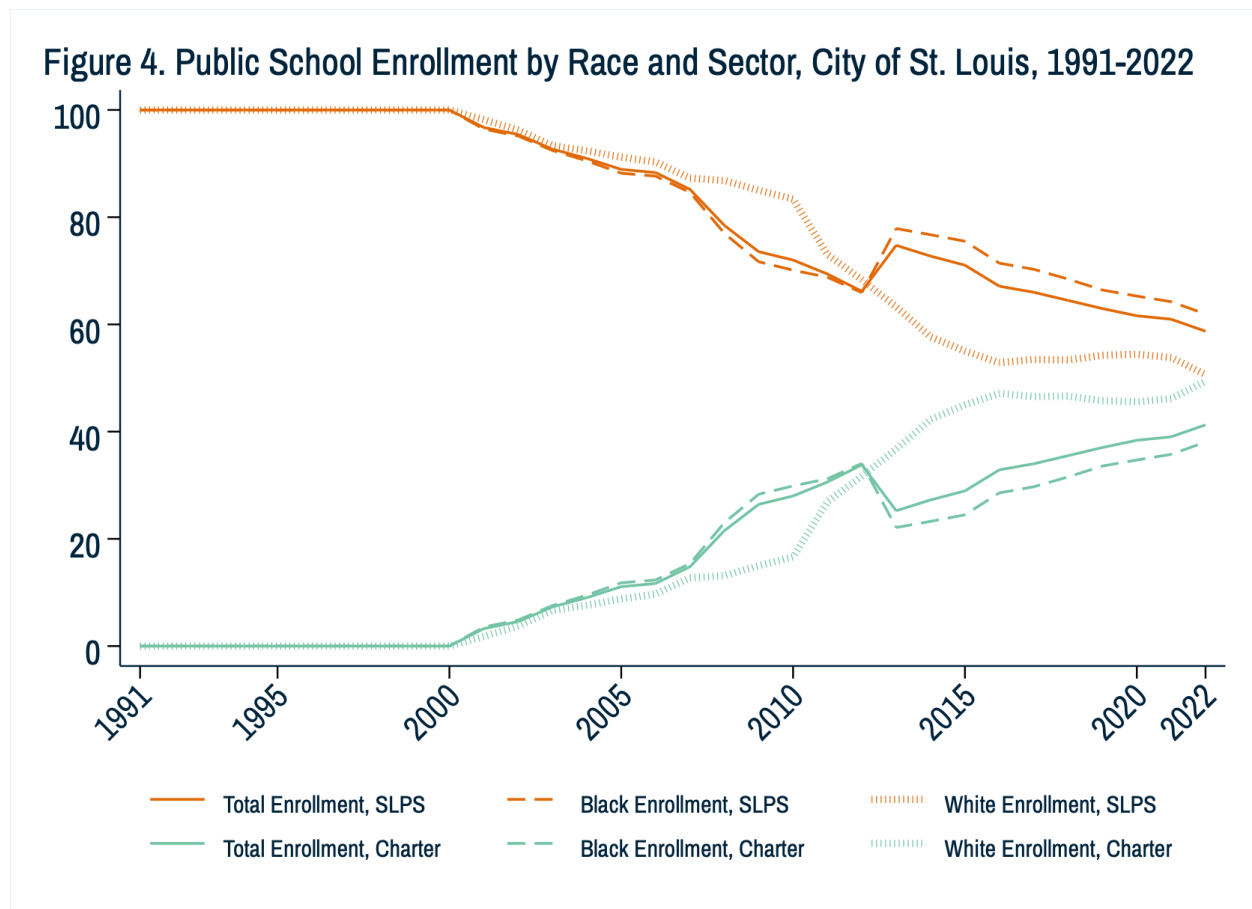
Figure 3. Percent of Schools and Enrollment by Sector, City of St. Louis, 1991-2023



Demographics

The SLPS and charter sectors differ with respect to their student racial makeup (Figure 4 and Table 3). While charter schools once enrolled a comparable share of Black and white students to SLPS schools, this pattern changed as more charter schools opened. In particular, the sudden 2012 closure of Imagine Schools, comprised of 6 charter schools and approximately 3,500 students,²⁴ led to a drastic demographic shift in the charter sector. Beginning in 2013 and thereafter, the share of white students enrolled in charter schools has far exceeded the share of Black students.

Currently, charter schools enroll more than their proportional share of white students and less than their proportional share of Black students. In 2022, of St. Louis City's public school population, SLPS enrolled 13,168 (62%) Black students and 1,998 (51%) white students; charter schools enrolled 8,091 (38%) Black students and 1,948 (49%) white students. Only 10 years before, SLPS enrolled approximately 70% of both Black and white students, marking a significant enrollment and demographic realignment in the City's schools.



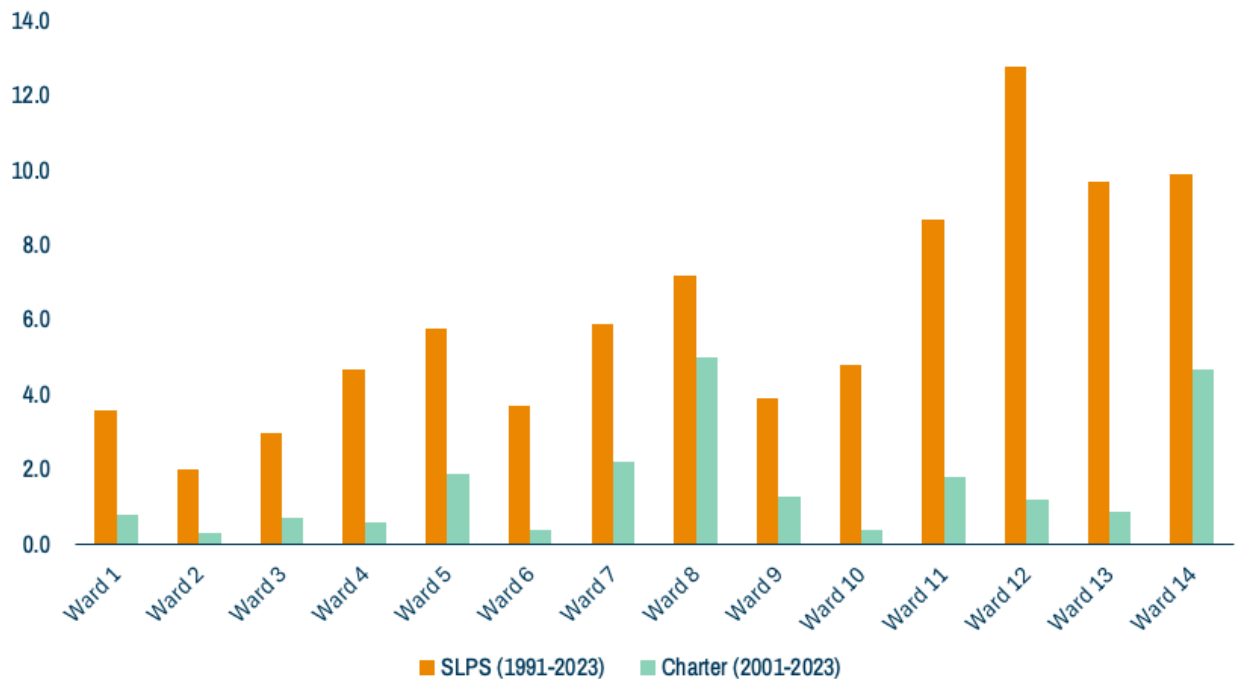
²⁴ Tomassini, J. (2012, April 18). Mo. board votes to close Imagine Charter Schools in St. Louis. *Education Week*. <https://marketbrief.edweek.org/strategy-operations/mo-board-votes-to-close-imagine-charter-schools-in-st-louis/2012/04#>

Geography

Both SLPS and charter schools are distributed unevenly across the city's ward geography (Figure 5, Tables 4 and 5). SLPS schools operated in all wards for every year of the study time period. The first charter schools opened in 2001 in Wards 5, 8, 13, and 14. Today, there is at least one charter school in every ward. In 2023, SLPS schools are located in all wards while charter schools are located in every ward but Ward 1. Ward 11 has the most SLPS schools (seven) and Ward 8 has the most charter schools (nine).

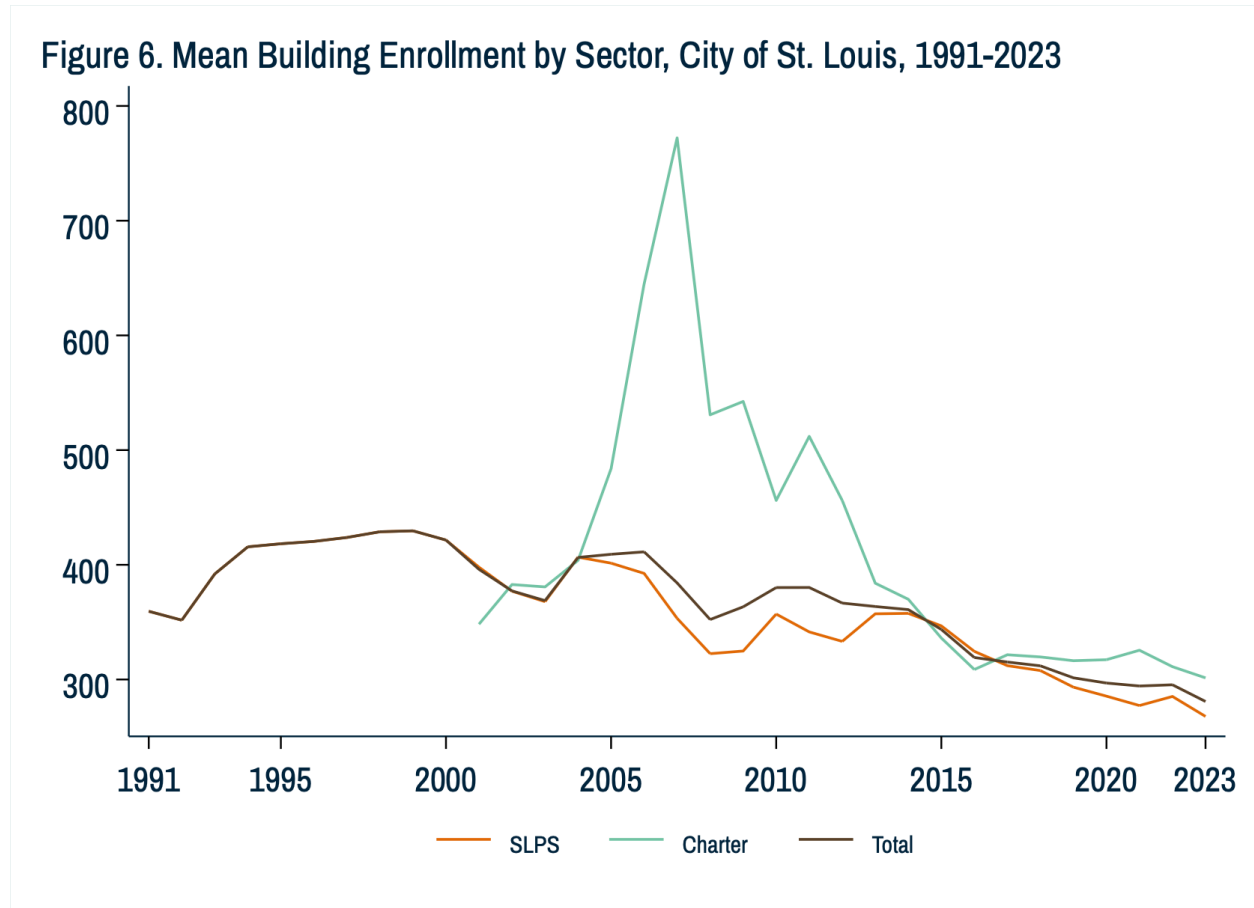
The number of schools also varies considerably over time. No wards increased the number of SLPS schools during the study period while a significant number of schools closed in some wards. For example, Ward 12's school count dropped sharply from 23 to six by 2023.

Figure 5. Mean Number of Schools Per Ward, City of St. Louis



Students and schools have similar distribution patterns across sectors. SLPS has approximately 60% of schools and students while charter agencies have approximately 40% of each. As a result, the current mean building enrollment is similar for each sector with around 300 students per building (Figure 6, Table 6). However, this was not always the case. From 2006 to 2014, the mean building enrollment for charter schools far exceeded that of SLPS schools. This was driven primarily by several charter schools operated

by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Academy and Imagine Schools, which closed suddenly in 2010 and 2012, respectively.²⁵



Although SLPS and charter schools may have different demographic profiles, the similarity in mean building enrollment suggests that both sectors may experience similar challenges with respect to enrollment-based policies like school funding, educator recruitment, and facilities needs. Fewer students means fewer dollars which makes it difficult to provide a broad offering of courses, wraparound services, athletic programs, and extracurricular activities. Low and/or declining building enrollment, such as that characteristic of many St. Louis City schools, often figures prominently in permanent school closure deliberations.

²⁵ Singer, D. (2010, April 29). Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Academy, a charter school in St. Louis, suddenly shuts its doors. *St. Louis Public Radio*. <https://www.stlpr.org/education/2010-04-29/ethel-hedgeman-lyle-academy-a-charter-school-in-st-louis-suddenly-shuts-its-doors>
Singer, D. (2012, April 17). Decision to close Imagine schools sets off scramble to find alternatives. *St. Louis Public Radio*. <https://www.stlpr.org/education/2012-04-17/decision-to-close-imagine-schools-sets-off-scramble-to-find-alternatives>

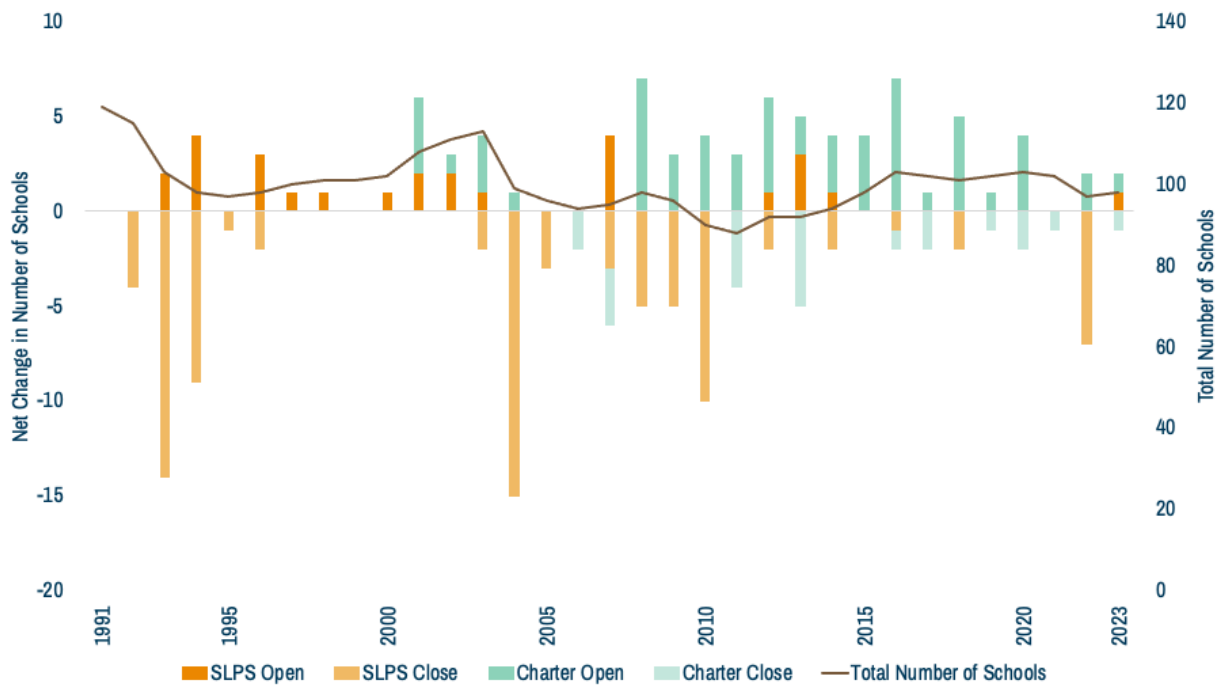
School Openings and Closings

The list of schools from which parents and caregivers can choose changes in some way nearly every year. Between 1991 and 2023, there were only two instances²⁶ where the number of schools stayed the same from one year to the next. While this demonstrates a lack of stability, the total number of schools often masks additional churn as schools frequently open even in years when schools are closing and even within the same sector (Figure 7 and Table 7).

In sum, 106 schools closed while 88 schools opened. Of the total 106 closures, 87 were SLPS schools and 19 were charter schools, which accounts for 59.5% of SLPS schools and 31.1% of charter schools that were open during any year of the study time period. Of the 88 schools that opened, 27 were SLPS schools and 61 were charter schools.

School closures occurred in all but seven years out of the 32 years included in this analysis. SLPS closures range from one in 1995 to 15 in 2004 while charter closures range from one in multiple years to five in 2013. In short, the only thing that is predictable about the public education system in St. Louis is its perpetual change.

Figure 7. Public School Openings and Closings, City of St. Louis, 1991-2023



²⁶ This represents a slight change from Rohde-Collins & Anglum, 2023 which noted only one instance of stability. The difference is due to a change in how the data was coded after identifying an inconsistency in DESE data. This correction also slightly alters the total number of school openings and closings.

Policy Implications and Future Research

The public education system in St. Louis is always changing. Schools open and close nearly every year. Yet, the larger policy context all but guarantees these decisions will become more frequent in the near future. The expiration of Covid-era funds, continued depopulation, and declining student enrollment will make it even more difficult to operate so many small schools. The number of schools, their decreasing enrollment, and the system of choice make it difficult for SLPS and charter agencies to operate efficient, effective schools.

Decisions about school closings, openings, and neighborhood locating must weigh the city's complicated history and strive to reverse the negative effects of previous policy-making, including much which was rooted in racism and bias. Additionally, the city's continued population loss means that these decisions cannot be based on education data alone. City policy makers and education leaders must plan together and share data to ensure all students and families have equal access to educational opportunity. SLPS, charter school agencies, and charter sponsors should also consider coordinating strategic planning efforts to ensure that public education options are effective and accessible to all regardless of where in the City a child lives.

SLPS' aging infrastructure also necessitates conversations about school closures and openings. A recent analysis of SLPS school facilities indicates a projected \$1.8 billion price tag for capital expenditures over the next 20 years,²⁷ rendering it likely SLPS will need to close aging buildings and potentially construct new ones. Historical trends provide insights as to where schools could be located to produce better outcomes overall.

Over time, some Missouri charter sponsors have ceased sponsorship operations, requiring existing schools to find a new sponsor to prevent closure. These decisions may contribute to churn in the public school system by increasing the number of school closures or necessitating the relocation of schools. Alternatively, fewer charter sponsors may decrease overall churn, at least within the charter sector. Fewer charter sponsors may reduce the capacity for school sponsorship resulting in fewer charter schools opening. Additionally, fewer sponsors may lead to more coordination and collaborative strategic planning processes.

²⁷ Cordogan Clark Ittner. (2024, May 28). Facilities Condition Assessment Update for Saint Louis Public Schools. Saint Louis Public Schools. https://www.slps.org/cms/lib/MO01001157/Centricity/Domain/8808/2024_05_28_SLPS%20FCA%20Update%20Pres%20for%20SLPS%20BOE_CCA.pdf

Although the SLPS vs charter debate features prominently in the region's education policy discourse,²⁸ at times it serves to distract concerted focus from the issues that plague the majority of schools regardless of sector. High rates of student and teacher mobility mean that, even in schools which remain open from one year to the next, the school community can change considerably. The churn within schools, the sector, and the system make navigating the public education system stressful for students and their families.

Future research should expand upon this descriptive analysis to identify causal relationships in school closure and openings. Student demographics, geography, and school type are just some of the factors that may be considered. A more detailed understanding of our city's public education system and how these decisions are made could inform both municipal and educational planning efforts. Concerted, collaborative planning between city elected officials, policy-makers, and educators may produce a more efficient education infrastructure that can be a stabilizing presence in St. Louis neighborhoods and wards.

²⁸Crouch, E. (2016, April 19). St. Louis Public Schools says it's owed \$42 million from charter schools. St. Louis Post-Dispatch. https://www.stltoday.com/news/local/education/st-louis-public-schools-says-its-owed-42-million-from-charter-schools/article_051bef08-264d-590c-acb5-bede59dc6e72.html#tracking-source=article-related-bottom

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Weinberg, T. (2022, June 29). Missouri charter schools will receive millions in state funds with governor's signature. *Missouri Independent*. <https://missouriindependent.com/2022/06/29/missouri-charter-schools-will-receive-millions-in-state-funds-with-governors-signature/>

Appendices

Table 1. Enrollment by Sector, City of St. Louis, 1991-2023

Year	Total Enrollment	SLPS Enrollment	SLPS Share	Charter Enrollment	Charter Share
1991	42,779	42,779	100	0	0
1992	40,450	40,450	100	0	0
1993	40,379	40,379	100	0	0
1994	40,736	40,736	100	0	0
1995	40,582	40,582	100	0	0
1996	41,200	41,200	100	0	0
1997	42,180	42,381	100	0	0
1998	43,309	43,309	100	0	0
1999	43,391	43,391	100	0	0
2000	43,001	43,001	100	0	0
2001	42,774	41,381	96.7	1,393	3.3
2002	41,876	39,962	95.4	1,914	4.6
2003	41,676	38,630	92.7	3,046	7.3
2004	40,236	36,601	91.0	3,635	9.0
2005	39,279	34,925	88.9	4,354	11.1
2006	38,662	34,148	88.3	4,514	11.7
2007	36,500	31,095	85.2	5,405	14.8
2008	34,525	27,094	78.5	7,431	21.5
2009	34,883	25,662	73.6	9,221	26.4

Year	Total Enrollment	SLPS Enrollment	SLPS Share	Charter Enrollment	Charter Share
2010	34,216	24,637	72.0	9,579	28.0
2011	33,462	23,223	69.4	10,239	30.6
2012	33,731	22,328	66.2	11,403	33.8
2013	33,456	25,009	74.8	8,447	25.2
2014	33,929	24,680	72.7	9,249	27.3
2015	33,676	23,927	71.1	9,749	28.9
2016	32,874	22,068	67.1	10,806	32.9
2017	32,156	21,222	66.0	10,934	34.0
2018	31,504	20,315	64.5	11,189	35.5
2019	30,750	19,360	63.0	11,390	37.0
2020	30,582	18,843	61.6	11,739	38.4
2021	30,022	18,303	61.0	11,719	39.0
2022	28,653	16,829	58.7	11,824	41.3
2023	27,524	16,069	58.4	11,455	41.6

Table 2. Number of Schools by Sector, City of St. Louis, 1991-2023

Year	Total Schools	SLPS Schools	SLPS Percent	Charter Schools	Charter Percent
1991	119	119	100	0	0
1992	115	115	100	0	0
1993	103	103	100	0	0
1994	98	98	100	0	0
1995	97	97	100	0	0
1996	98	98	100	0	0
1997	100	100	100	0	0
1998	101	101	100	0	0
1999	101	101	100	0	0
2000	102	102	100	0	0
2001	108	104	96.3	4	3.7
2002	111	106	95.5	5	4.5
2003	113	105	92.9	8	7.1
2004	99	90	90.9	9	9.1
2005	96	87	90.6	9	9.4
2006	94	87	92.6	7	7.4
2007	95	88	92.6	7	7.4
2008	98	84	85.7	14	14.3
2009	96	79	82.3	17	17.7
2010	90	69	76.7	21	23.3
2011	88	68	77.3	20	22.7

Year	Total Schools	SLPS Schools	SLPS Percent	Charter Schools	Charter Percent
2012	92	67	72.8	25	27.2
2013	92	70	76.1	22	23.9
2014	94	69	73.4	25	26.6
2015	98	69	70.4	29	29.6
2016	103	68	66.0	35	34.0
2017	102	68	66.7	34	33.3
2018	101	66	65.3	35	34.7
2019	102	66	64.7	36	35.3
2020	103	66	64.0	37	35.9
2021	102	66	64.7	36	35.3
2022	97	59	60.8	38	39.2
2023	98	60	61.2	38	38.8

Table 3. Enrollment and Share of Enrollment by Race and Sector, City of St. Louis, 1991-2022

Year	Public School System			SLPS				Charter			
	Total Enrollment	Black Enrollment	White Enrollment	Black Enrollment	Black Share	White Enrollment	White Share	Black Enrollment	Black Share	White Enrollment	White Share
1991	42,779	33,158	8,961	33,158	1	8,961	1	0	0	0	0
1992	40,450	31,469	8,345	31,469	1	8,345	1	0	0	0	0
1993	40,379	31,585	8,070	31,585	1	8,070	1	0	0	0	0
1994	40,736	32,062	7,896	32,062	1	7,896	1	0	0	0	0
1995	40,582	32,048	7,676	32,048	1	7,676	1	0	0	0	0
1996	41,200	32,615	7,628	32,615	1	7,628	1	0	0	0	0
1997	42,381	33,680	7,670	33,680	1	7,670	1	0	0	0	0
1998	43,309	34,463	7,749	34,463	1	7,749	1	0	0	0	0
1999	43,391	34,657	7,593	34,657	1	7,593	1	0	0	0	0
2000	43,001	34,619	7,495	34,619	1	7,495	1	0	0	0	0
2001	42,774	34,497	7,106	33,271	.96	6,979	.98	1,226	.04	127	.02
2002	41,876	33,808	6,925	32,169	.95	6,666	.96	1,639	.05	259	.04
2003	41,676	33,801	6,710	31,246	.92	6,264	.93	2,555	.08	446	.07

Year	Public School System			SLPS				Charter			
	Total Enrollment	Black Enrollment	White Enrollment	Black Enrollment	Black Share	White Enrollment	White Share	Black Enrollment	Black Share	White Enrollment	White Share
2004	40,236	32,731	6,230	29,624	.91	5,755	.92	3,107	.09	475	.08
2005	39,279	32,053	5,712	28,270	.88	5,209	.91	3,783	.12	503	.09
2006	38,662	31,883	5,185	27,952	.88	4,682	.90	3,931	.12	503	.10
2007	36,500	30,054	4,737	25,432	.95	4,134	.87	4,622	.15	603	.13
2008	34,525	28,601	4,205	22,022	.77	3,652	.87	6,579	.23	553	.13
2009	34,883	28,944	4,126	20,746	.72	3,508	.85	8,198	.28	618	.15
2010	34,216	28,275	4,027	19,827	.70	3,358	.83	8,448	.30	669	.17
2011	33,462	27,118	4,279	18,655	.69	3,126	.73	8,463	.31	1,153	.27
2012	33,731	27,076	4,397	17,854	.66	3,005	.68	9,222	.34	1,392	.32
2013	33,456	26,436	4,572	20,589	.78	2,892	.63	5,847	.22	1,680	.37
2014	33,929	26,622	4,733	20,428	.77	2,731	.58	6,194	.23	2,002	.42
2015	33,676	26,179	4,807	19,769	.76	2,645	.55	6,410	.24	2,162	.45
2016	32,874	25,361	4,756	18,114	.71	2,514	.53	7,247	.29	2,242	.47
2017	32,156	24,540	4,781	17,249	.70	2,556	.53	7,291	.30	2,225	.47

Year	Public School System			SLPS				Charter			
	Total Enrollment	Black Enrollment	White Enrollment	Black Enrollment	Black Share	White Enrollment	White Share	Black Enrollment	Black Share	White Enrollment	White Share
2018	31,504	23,906	4,688	16,363	.68	2,502	.53	7,543	.32	2,186	.47
2019	30,750	23,162	4,552	15,384	.66	2,469	.54	7,778	.34	2,083	.46
2020	30,582	22,823	4,440	14,901	.65	2,417	.54	7,922	.35	2,023	.46
2021	30,022	22,402	4,187	14,390	.64	2,253	.54	8,012	.36	1,934	.46
2022	28,653	21,259	3,946	13,168	.62	1,998	.51	8,091	.38	1,948	.49

Table 4. Number of SLPS Schools by Ward, 1991-2023

Year	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11	Ward 12	Ward 13	Ward 14
1991	4	2	5	6	6	4	8	9	5	9	11	23	14	13
1992	4	2	5	6	5	4	8	8	5	9	11	21	14	13
1993	4	2	5	6	4	3	7	6	5	7	11	19	12	12
1994	4	2	5	6	4	4	7	5	2	8	11	17	12	11
1995	4	2	5	5	4	4	7	6	2	7	11	17	12	11
1996	4	2	5	5	4	4	7	6	2	7	10	17	12	13
1997	4	2	5	5	4	4	7	7	3	7	9	17	12	13
1998	4	2	5	5	5	4	7	8	3	7	9	17	12	13
1999	4	2	5	5	5	4	7	8	3	7	9	17	12	13
2000	4	2	6	5	5	4	7	8	3	7	9	17	12	13
2001	4	2	6	5	5	4	7	9	3	8	9	17	12	13
2002	4	2	6	5	5	4	7	10	4	8	9	17	12	13
2003	4	2	5	5	5	4	7	10	4	7	9	17	13	13
2004	4	2	6	4	5	4	6	9	4	5	7	12	10	11

Year	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11	Ward 12	Ward 13	Ward 14
2005	4	2	6	4	5	4	6	8	4	5	7	12	10	10
2006	4	2	6	4	5	4	6	8	4	5	7	12	10	10
2007	4	2	5	4	6	4	7	7	4	5	8	12	11	9
2008	4	2	5	4	6	4	6	7	4	4	8	11	11	8
2009	3	2	5	4	6	4	5	7	4	3	7	11	10	8
2010	3	2	4	4	6	4	4	6	4	2	7	9	7	7
2011	3	2	4	4	6	4	4	5	4	2	7	9	7	7
2012	3	2	4	4	6	4	4	5	4	2	7	8	7	7
2013	3	2	4	4	6	4	6	6	4	2	7	8	7	7
2014	3	2	4	4	7	3	5	6	4	2	7	8	7	7
2015	3	2	4	4	7	3	4	6	4	2	8	8	7	7
2016	3	2	4	4	7	3	4	5	4	2	8	8	7	7
2017	3	2	4	4	7	3	4	5	4	2	8	8	7	7
2018	3	2	4	4	7	3	4	5	4	2	8	7	6	7
2019	3	2	4	4	7	3	4	5	4	2	8	7	6	7

Year	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11	Ward 12	Ward 13	Ward 14
2020	3	2	4	4	7	3	4	5	4	2	8	7	6	7
2021	3	2	4	4	7	3	4	5	4	2	8	7	6	7
2022	3	2	4	4	6	2	4	5	4	2	7	6	4	6
2023	3	2	5	4	6	2	4	5	4	2	7	6	4	6
Mean	3.6	2.0	3.0	4.7	5.8	3.7	5.9	7.2	3.9	4.8	8.7	12.8	9.7	9.9

Table 5. Number of Charter Schools by Ward, 2001-2023

Year	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11	Ward 12	Ward 13	Ward 14
2001	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
2002	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
2003	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	2
2004	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
2005	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	3
2006	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
2007	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
2008	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	5
2009	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	1	7
2010	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	4	2	0	0	1	1	8
2011	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	4	2	0	1	1	1	5
2012	1	0	1	1	1	0	3	5	2	0	3	1	1	6
2013	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	3	3	0	3	1	1	4
2014	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	3	0	3	1	1	4

Year	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Ward 7	Ward 8	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11	Ward 12	Ward 13	Ward 14
2015	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	6	2	1	4	1	1	4
2016	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	7	3	1	4	2	1	6
2017	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	8	3	1	3	2	1	5
2018	1	1	1	1	3	1	4	7	1	1	3	3	1	7
2019	1	1	1	1	3	1	4	7	2	1	3	3	1	7
2020	1	1	1	1	3	1	4	9	1	1	3	3	1	7
2021	0	1	1	1	3	1	4	9	1	1	3	3	1	7
2022	0	1	1	1	3	1	5	8	1	1	4	3	1	8
2023	0	1	1	1	3	1	5	9	1	1	4	3	1	7
Mean	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.2	5.0	1.3	0.4	1.8	1.2	0.9	4.7

Table 6. Mean Building Enrollment by Sector, City of St. Louis, 1991-2023

Year	Mean Building Enrollment, SLPS	Mean Building Enrollment, Charter
1991	359.5	n/a
1992	351.7	n/a
1993	392.0	n/a
1994	415.6	n/a
1995	418.4	n/a
1996	420.4	n/a
1997	423.8	n/a
1998	428.8	n/a
1999	429.6	n/a
2000	421.6	n/a
2001	397.9	348.3
2002	377	382.8
2003	367.9	380.8
2004	406.7	403.9
2005	401.4	483.8
2006	392.5	644.9
2007	353.4	772.1
2008	322.5	530.8
2009	324.8	542.4
2010	357.1	456.1
2011	341.5	512.0

Year	Mean Building Enrollment, SLPS	Mean Building Enrollment, Charter
2012	333.3	456.1
2013	357.3	384.0
2014	357.7	370.0
2015	346.8	336.2
2016	324.5	308.7
2017	312.1	321.6
2018	307.8	319.7
2019	293.3	316.4
2020	285.5	317.3
2021	277.3	325.5
2022	285.2	311.2
2023	267.8	301.4

Table 7. School Openings and Closings by Sector, 1991-2023

Year	Total Number of Schools	Net Change Over Prior Year	SLPS Open	SLPS Close	Charter Open	Charter Close
1991	119	n/a	0	0	0	0
1992	115	-4	0	-4	0	0
1993	103	-12	+2	-14	0	0
1994	98	-5	+4	-9	0	0
1995	97	-1	0	-1	0	0
1996	98	+1	+3	-2	0	0
1997	100	+2	+1	0	0	0
1998	101	+1	+1	0	0	0
1999	101	0	0	0	0	0
2000	102	+1	+1	0	0	0
2001	108	+6	+2	0	+4	0
2002	111	+3	+2	-0	+1	0
2003	113	+2	+1	-2	+3	0
2004	99	-14	0	-15	+1	0
2005	96	-3	0	-3	0	0
2006	94	-2	0	0	0	-2
2007	95	+1	+4	-3	0	0
2008	98	+3	0	-5	+7	0
2009	96	-2	0	-5	+3	0
2010	90	-6	0	-10	+4	0
2011	88	-2	0	0	+3	-4

Year	Total Number of Schools	Net Change Over Prior Year	SLPS Open	SLPS Close	Charter Open	Charter Close
2012	92	+4	+1	-2	+5	0
2013	92	+0	+3	0	+2	-5
2014	94	+2	+1	-2	+3	0
2015	98	+4	0	0	+4	0
2016	103	+5	0	-1	+7	-1
2017	102	-1	0	0	+1	-2
2018	101	-1	0	-2	+5	0
2019	102	+1	0	0	+1	-1
2020	103	+1	0	0	+4	-2
2021	102	-1	0	0	0	-1
2022	97	-5	0	-7	+2	0
2023	98	+1	+1	0	+1	-1
Total	-21	n/a	+27	-87	+61	-19
Overall	88 open, 106 close					

Note. A net change of -3 schools is due to conversions such as a middle school changing into a high school or a consolidation of campuses. Conversions contribute to the overall net change of -21 schools.

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