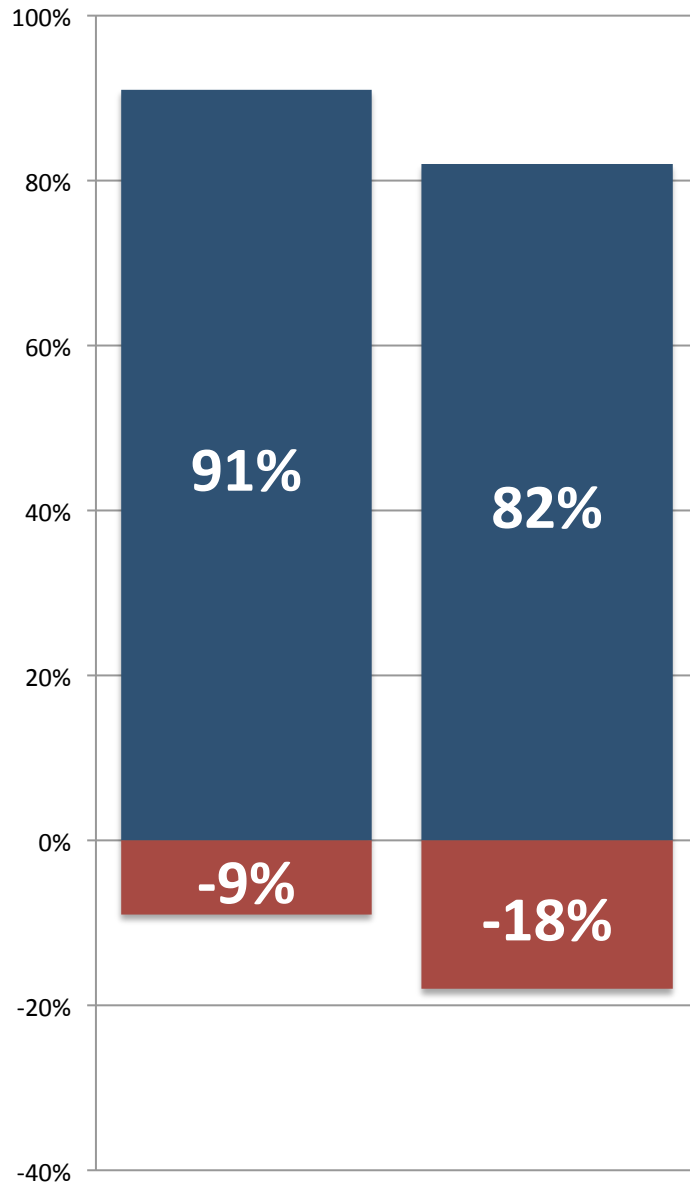




# **Commonwealth Charter Schools and Question 2**

**Paul Schlichtman  
Arlington School Committee  
October 11, 2016**

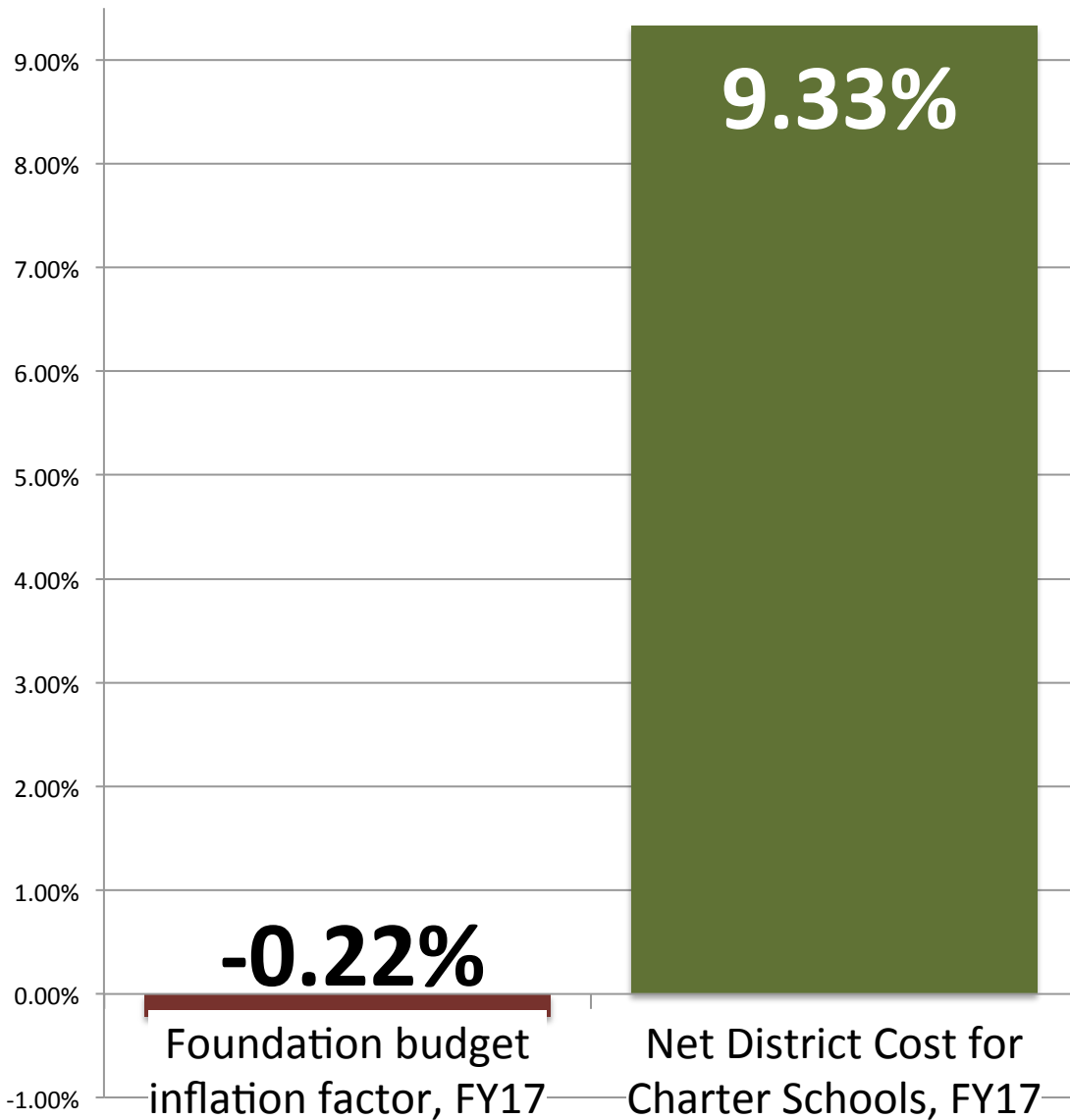


**The current charter school cap is really a plug in the fiscal drain.**

**For most Massachusetts districts, the drain is plugged at 9% of **Net School Spending**.**

**For the bottom 10% of districts the drain is plugged at 18% of **Net School Spending**.**

**If the per pupil charter school garnishment from local districts is cut in half, the number of available charter school seats would double.**



**In FY 2017, Massachusetts DEFLATED the per-pupil foundation budget by -0.22%**

**In FY 2017, Net District Cost for Charter Schools (district garnishment after all reimbursements) increased from \$412,811,820 to \$451,338,729, a 9.33% increase.**

**This is happening to school districts under the current charter school cap.**

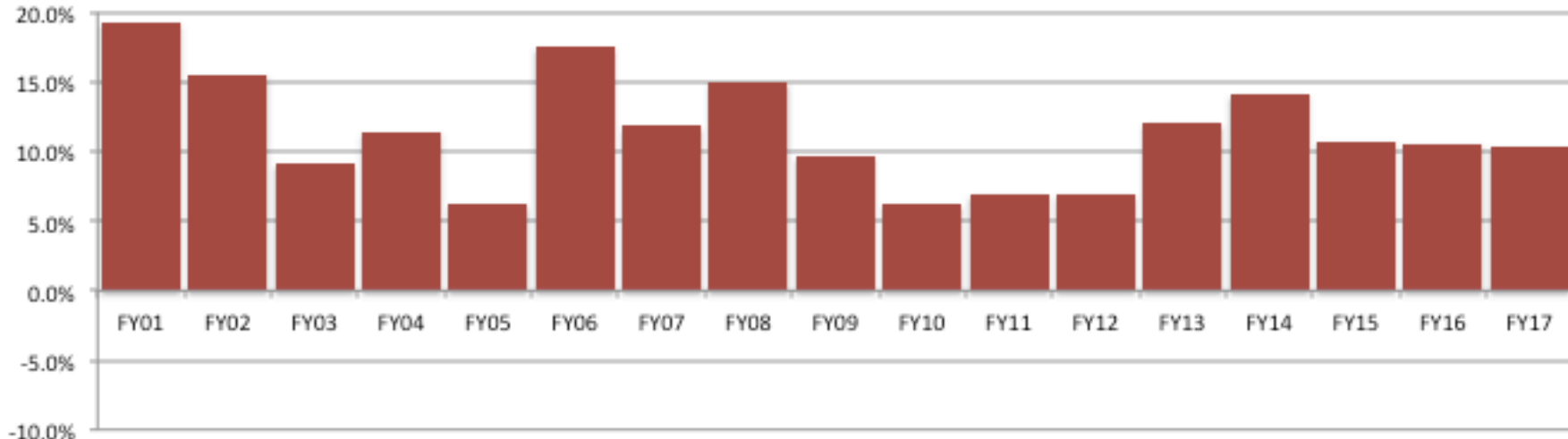
**A yes vote on Question 2, and 12 new charter schools every year, will make things much worse for children in our public schools.**

# Charter school tuition increases at a much greater rate than Chapter 70 aid

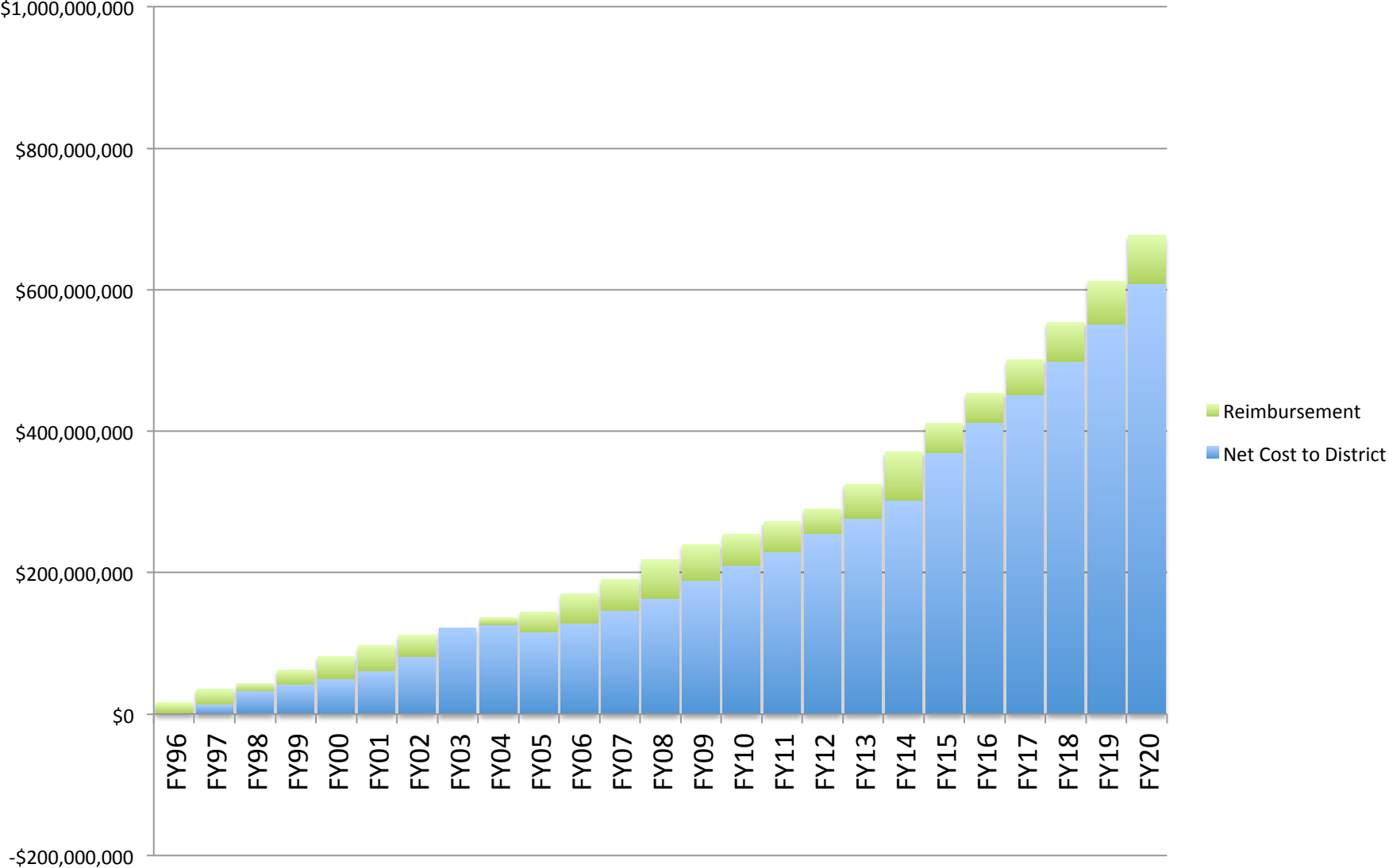
## Annual change in Chapter 70 aid, statewide



## Annual change in charter tuition, statewide



## Charter Tuition Trends and Projections without Question 2



## Question 2:

This proposed law would allow the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to **approve up to 12 new charter schools** or enrollment expansions in existing charter schools each year.

Approvals under this law **could expand statewide charter school enrollment by up to 1% of the total statewide public school enrollment (9,534) each year**. New charters and enrollment expansions approved under this law would be **exempt from existing limits on the number of charter schools, the number of students enrolled in them, and the amount of local school districts' spending allocated to them**.

If the Board received more than 12 applications in a single year from qualified applicants, then the proposed law would require it to give priority to proposed charter schools or enrollment expansions in districts where student performance on statewide assessments is in the bottom 25% of all districts in the previous two years and where demonstrated parent demand for additional public school options is greatest.

New charter schools and enrollment expansions approved under this proposed law would be subject to the same approval standards as other charter schools, and to recruitment, retention, and multilingual outreach requirements that currently apply to some charter schools. Schools authorized under this law would be subject to annual performance reviews according to standards established by the Board.

The proposed law would take effect on January 1, 2017.

(Source: MA Secretary of the Commonwealth)

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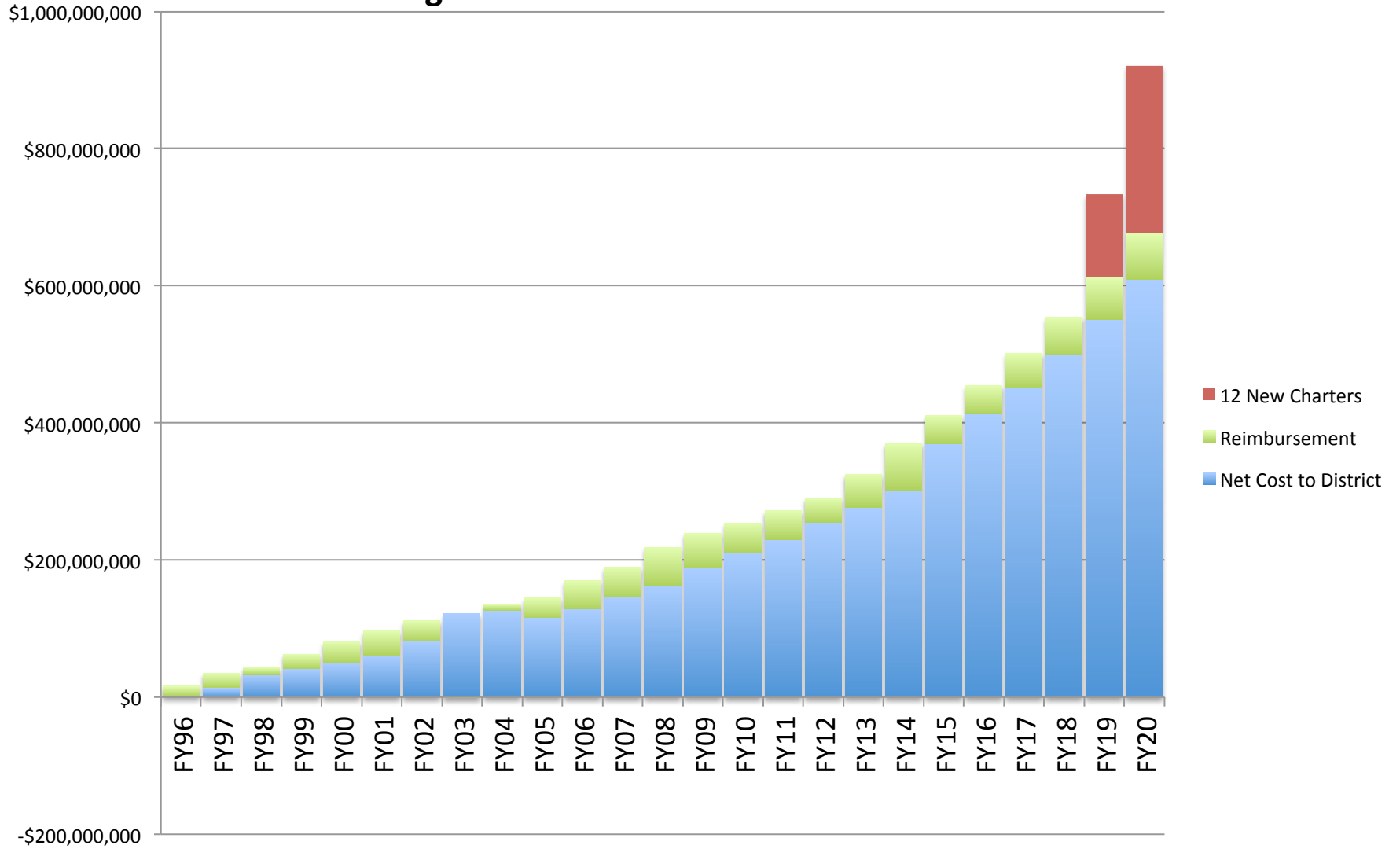
1% of current statewide enrollment: **9,534** students

Statewide average charter tuition (FY17): **\$12,675.75**

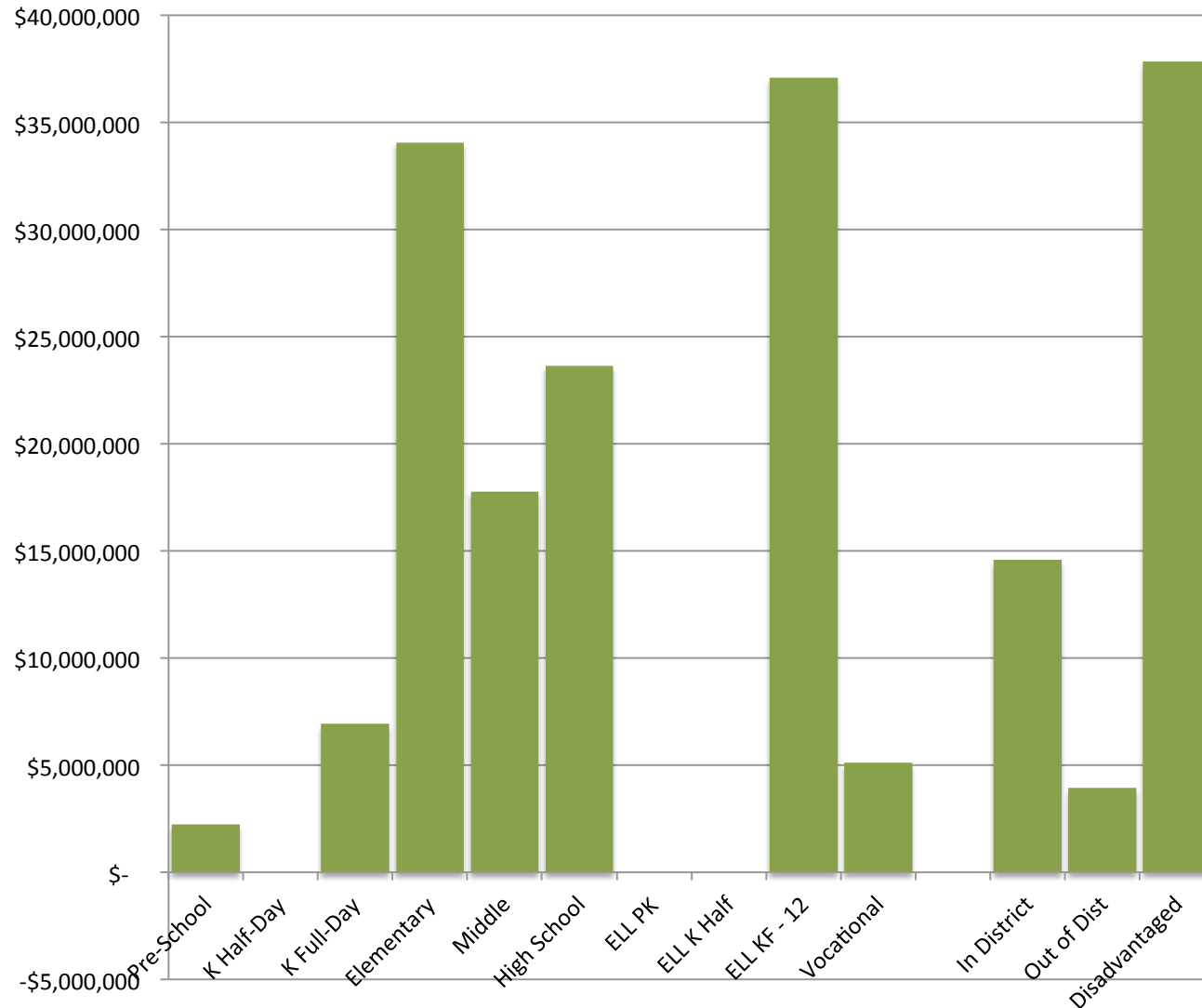
Potential annual impact of 12 new charters (FY17):

**\$120,850,600**

## Charter Tuition Trends and Projections with Question 2 adding 12 additional charters in FY19 and FY20

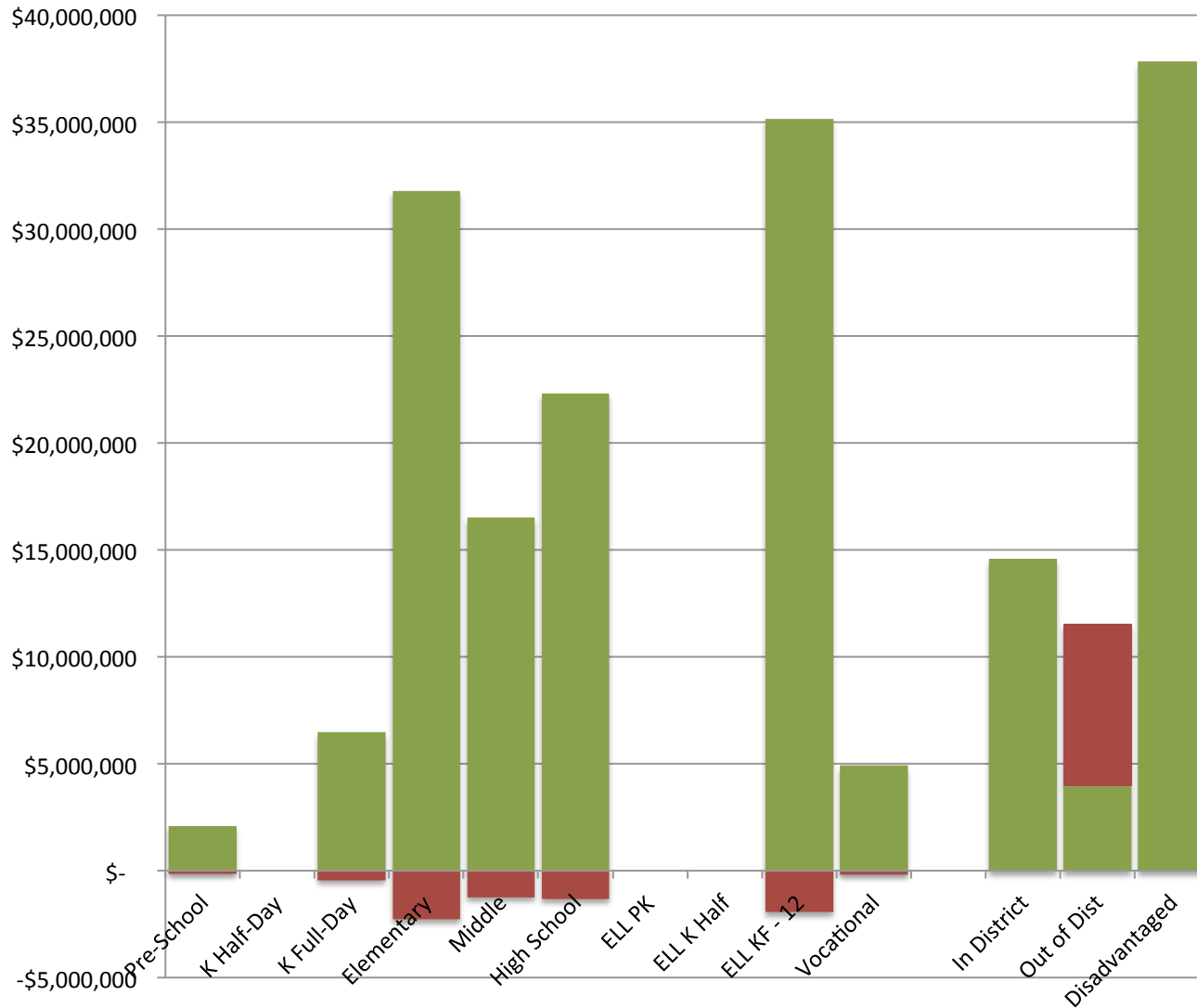


## Lowell FY2017 Foundation Budget: \$183,238,362



October 1, 2015  
foundation enrollment  
determines FY2017  
foundation budget.

## Lowell FY2017 Foundation Budget: \$183,238,362

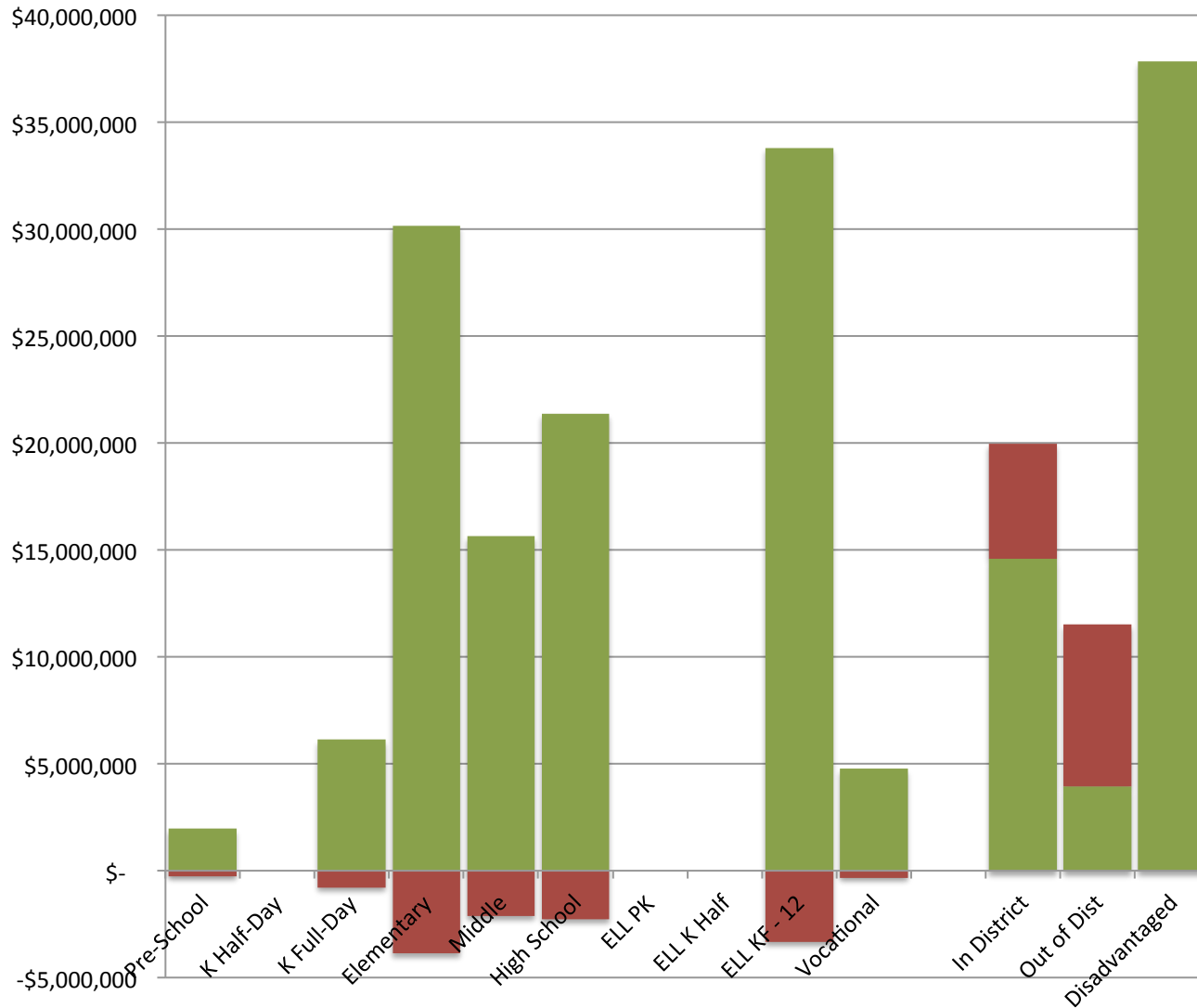


Out of district  
Special Education  
Foundation Budget  
\$3,934,086

Actual Budget  
\$11,533,797

Difference  
\$7,599,711

## Lowell FY2017 Foundation Budget: \$183,238,362

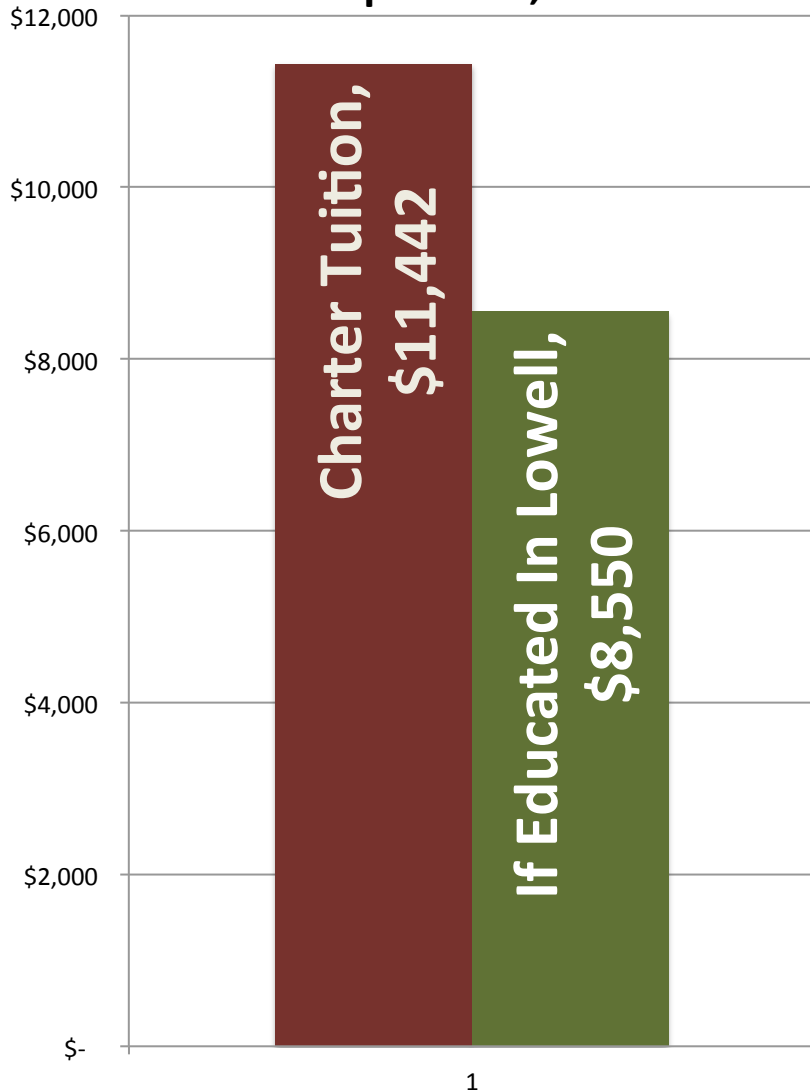


In district  
Special Education  
Foundation Budget  
\$14,584,644

Actual Budget  
\$19,954,397

Difference  
\$5,369,753

## Comparing Lowell Public & Charter Per Pupil Costs, FY2017



1653 Charter Students  
\$11,442 per pupil  
\$18,880,662

1653 Lowell Public Schools Students  
\$8,550 per pupil  
\$14,133,150

Difference:  
\$4,747,512

63 teachers

Double the district's entire  
materials & supplies budget.

Universal PK – additional \$2 million

# Arlington Town Meeting - 2015

## **ARTICLE 29 APPROPRIATION/COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

VOTED: (UNANIMOUS)

That the sum of **\$25,695** be and hereby is appropriated to be expended by the following commissions, committees, and boards in the amounts indicated:

A. Arlington Historical Commission – **\$2,160**

B. Historic District Commissions – **\$5,100**

(Avon Place Historic District Commission, Broadway Historic District Commission, Central Street Historic District commission, Jason/Gray Historic District Commission, Russell Historic District Commission, Pleasant Street Historic District Commission and Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill Historic District Commission)

C. Capital Planning Committee – **\$0**

D. Commission on Disability – **\$3,000**

E. Recycling Committee – **\$3,000**

F. Human Rights Commission – **\$4,500**

G. Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee - **\$1,775**

H. Vision 2020 - **\$3,000**

I. Transportation Advisory Committee - **\$0**

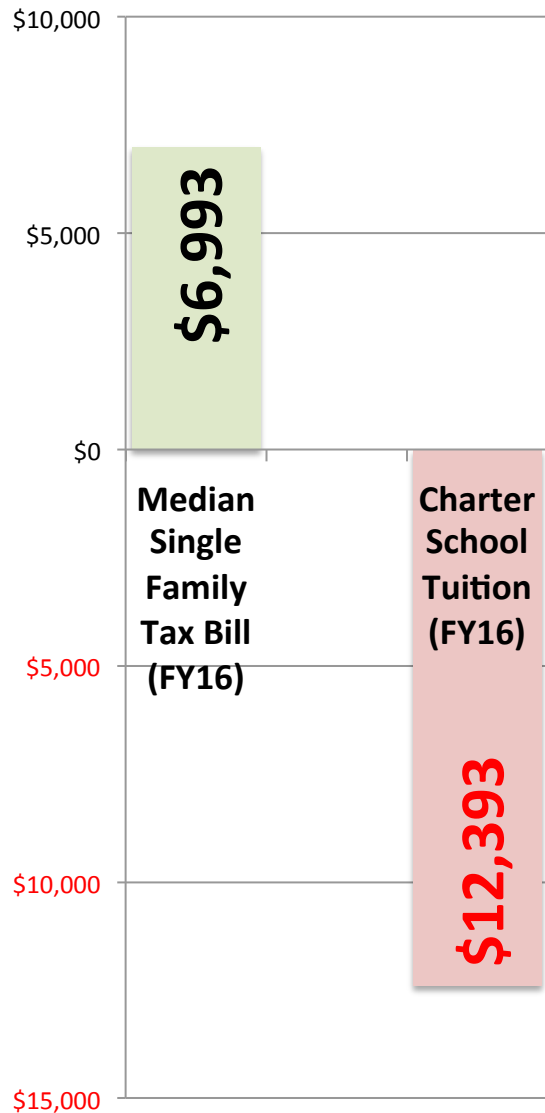
J. Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture - **\$3,160**

Said sums to be raised by general tax and expended under the direction of the various commissions, committees and boards.

A true copy of the vote under Article 29 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Arlington at the session held May 11, 2015.

ATTEST: Town Clerk

## Comparing Arlington's Average Property Tax Bill to Charter Tuition, FY16



Thus, according to common usage in the late Eighteenth Century, a duty to cherish was an obligation to support or nurture. Hence, the "duty . . . to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them; especially . . . public schools and grammar schools in the towns" is an obligation to support or nurture these interests and institutions.

JAMI MCDUFFY & others vs. SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION & others (and a companion case). 415 Mass. 545



# MINUTEMAN

A REVOLUTION IN LEARNING



- Regional Vocational Schools are self-governing choice schools.
- Annual vote to approve assessment (at or above minimum local contribution)
- Cities and towns vote to enter and amend regional district.
- Cities and towns have representation on regional school committee
- Cities and towns vote to approve capital projects

“The state has sent approximately one billion dollars back to school districts to help ease the transition when students go to charter schools, to help them readjust. What we’re seeing is that some districts are not making the adjustments that they need to make due to their enrollment.”

*Martha M. “Marty” Walz*

*Former State Representative and Senior Advisor to Democrats for Education Reform*

*WBUR charter school debate, September 13, 2016*



**39** Natick Students in  
Charter Schools:  
**\$435,421** Ch. 70 Garnishment  
**\$0** State Reimbursement  
**\$11,165** per pupil cost  
DESE Preliminary Charter Tuition, FY17

How do you adjust for a  
**\$435,421** loss of revenue,  
when **39 students** leave a  
system of **8 schools**,  
with **13 grade levels**?

“And charter schools were created in 1993 specifically to give families a choice because they needed to get out of their failing district schools. And so the idea here is to get away from locally controlled schools, in some instances for charters, because local control has led to far too many children not being well educated by district schools. ”

*Martha M. “Marty” Walz*

*Former State Representative and Senior Advisor to Democrats for Education Reform*

*WBUR charter school debate, September 13, 2016*



**Boston Globe, Sep. 14, 1993:**

**Under the education reform law cosponsored by Roosevelt and signed by Weld on June 18, the state committed itself to a **\$1.3 billion increase in state spending on schools by the year 2000**, mostly in low-income cities with poor-performing school systems, in order to ensure that every school in the state could spend at least \$5,550 per student annually by then.**

“And charter schools were created in 1993 specifically to give families a choice because they needed to get out of their failing district schools. And so the idea here is to get away from locally controlled schools, in some instances for charters, because local control has led to far too many children not being well educated by district schools. ”

*Martha M. “Marty” Walz*

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Boston Globe, Sep. 14, 1993:

The law also requires students to meet strict **new standards** to graduate from high school, mandates a battery of new **student assessment tests** to evaluate how well individual schools are doing, **replaces teacher tenure** with a simpler way of getting rid of poor teachers, provides more money for **teachers' continuing education**, and **transfers the power to hire and fire teachers** from school boards to principals.

“And charter schools were created in 1993 specifically to give families a choice because they needed to get out of their failing district schools. And so the idea here is to get away from locally controlled schools, in some instances for charters, because local control has led to far too many children not being well educated by district schools. ”

*Martha M. “Marty” Walz*

*Former State Representative and Senior Advisor to Democrats for Education Reform*

*WBUR charter school debate, September 13, 2016*



Boston Globe, June 7, 1993:

"Charter schools," innovative schools given public money but run by groups of teachers, parents, universities or museums, have **been limited to 25, with no more than five in Boston**, and they may not open before September 1995 and **may not enroll more than about 6,500 students.**

A large, diverse group of people is seated in a wood-paneled hall, likely a town meeting or public hearing. The audience is filling the room, with many people looking towards the front. The room has high ceilings and large windows. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

**Massachusetts:  
Strong tradition of setting a high  
standard for accountable local  
governance.**