



## DeVos, Detroit, and a False Media Narrative

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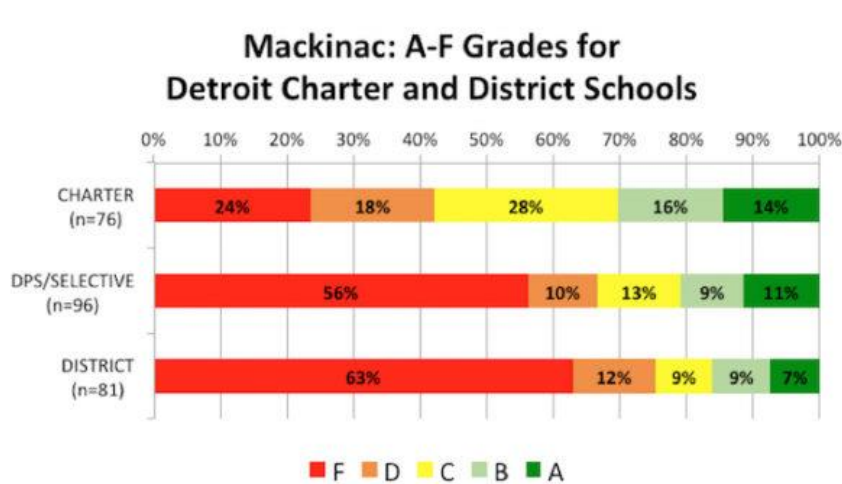
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In advance of today’s confirmation hearings for Betsy DeVos, the nominee for Secretary of Education, defenders of the status quo have been spinning a narrative about her reform efforts in Detroit that runs contrary to all available evidence.

In [op-eds](#), [editorials](#), and [editorials veiled as news](#), the *New York Times* has pushed the narrative that in Detroit, “charter schools often perform no better than traditional schools, and sometimes worse.” However, as Max Eden and I show at *Education Next* today, all the available data show that charter schools in Detroit significantly outperform their traditional district counterparts.

Here’s a taste from the [Mackinac Center’s report](#), one of the three studies of school performance in Detroit that we break down:

Once again, charter schools show a clear advantage. The percentage of charters earning an “A” is double the percentage of non-selective district schools. Nearly six in ten charters earn a grade of “C” or higher compared to only a quarter of non-selective district schools. Likewise, less than a quarter of charters earned an “F” compared to more than six in ten non-selective district schools.



If your crazy aunt or annoying coworker starts ranting about how Betsy DeVos ruined education in Michigan by supporting “failing” charter schools, now you have the data to show otherwise. For the full story (and several colorful charts), just follow [this link](#).

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