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Write on Nevada



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Charter schools 1, LA Times 0




The *Los Angeles Times* writes an editorial attacking charter schools, and Andrew Coulson of the Cato Institute takes the paper to task:

“With print media players disappearing faster than mosasaurs in the late Cretaceous, one would expect the last papers standing to be extra careful with their fact checking for fear of being blogged into extinction. One’s expectations would be mistaken.

Yesterday’s LA Times editorial on charter schools combined errors of fact and omission with a misrepresentation of the economic research on public school spending. First, the Times claims that KIPP charter public schools spend “significantly more per student than the public school system.” **Not so, says**

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the KIPP website. But why rely on KIPP’s testimony, when we can look at the raw data? LA’s KIPP Academy of Opportunity, for instance, spent just over \$3 million in 2007-08, for 345 students, for a total per pupil expenditure of \$8,917. The most recent Dept. of Ed. data for LAUSD(2006-07) put that district’s comparable figure at \$13,481 (which, as Cato’s Adam Schaeffer will show in a forthcoming paper, is far below what it currently spends). Nationwide, the median school district spends 24 percent more than the median charter school, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.”

Read the rest of his blog post at the Cato Institute.

Posted by Patrick R. Gibbons at 10:21 AM 

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