



Public Schools of North Carolina

# Office of Charter Schools

Joint Legislative Education  
Oversight Committee

March 4, 2014



# Mission

“The Office of Charter Schools (OCS), through educational collaboration, provides leadership to establish and engage a quality charter school culture resulting in ***legal compliance, board performance, financial integrity, and academic excellence.***”

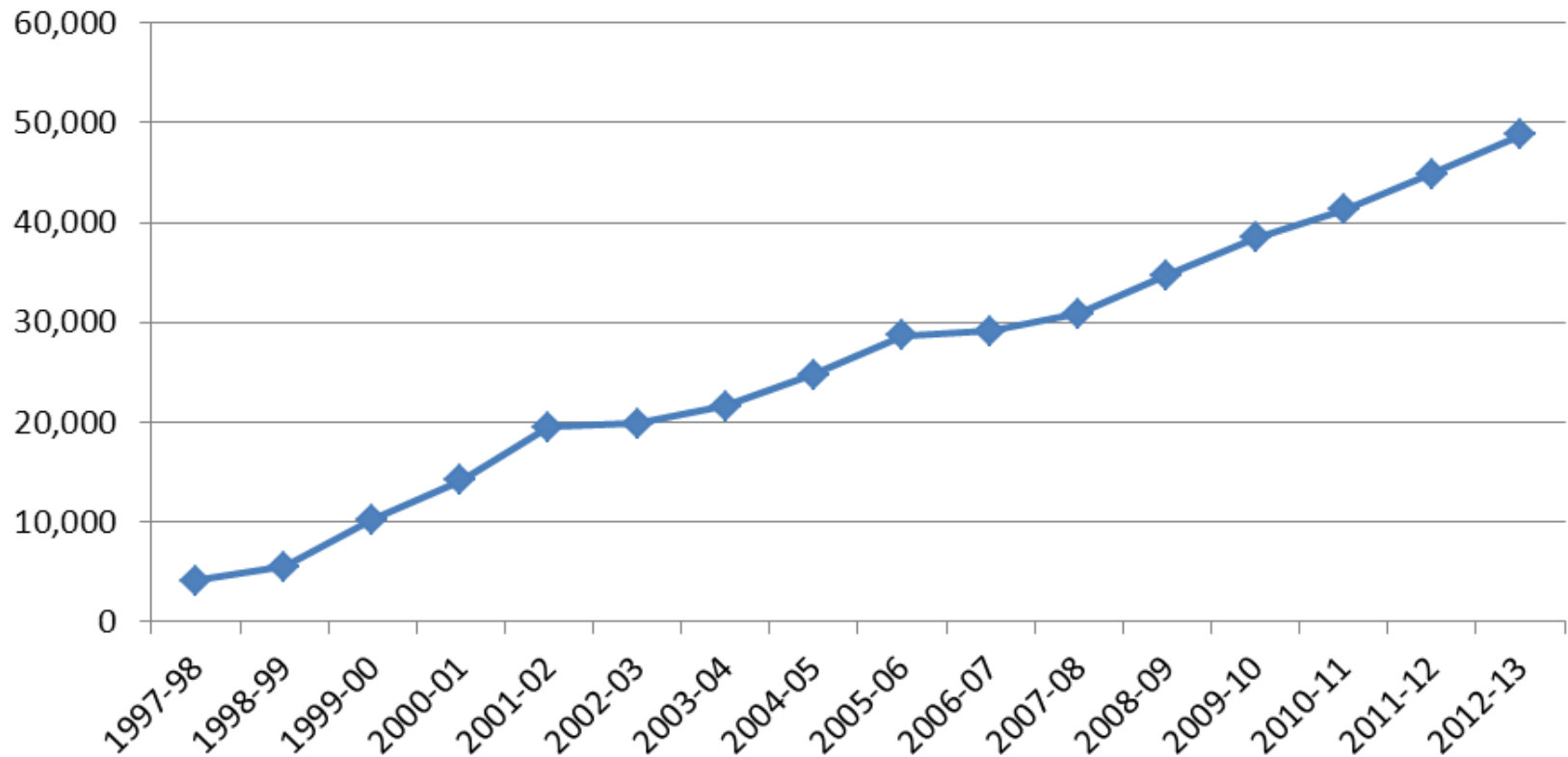


# Office of Charter Schools

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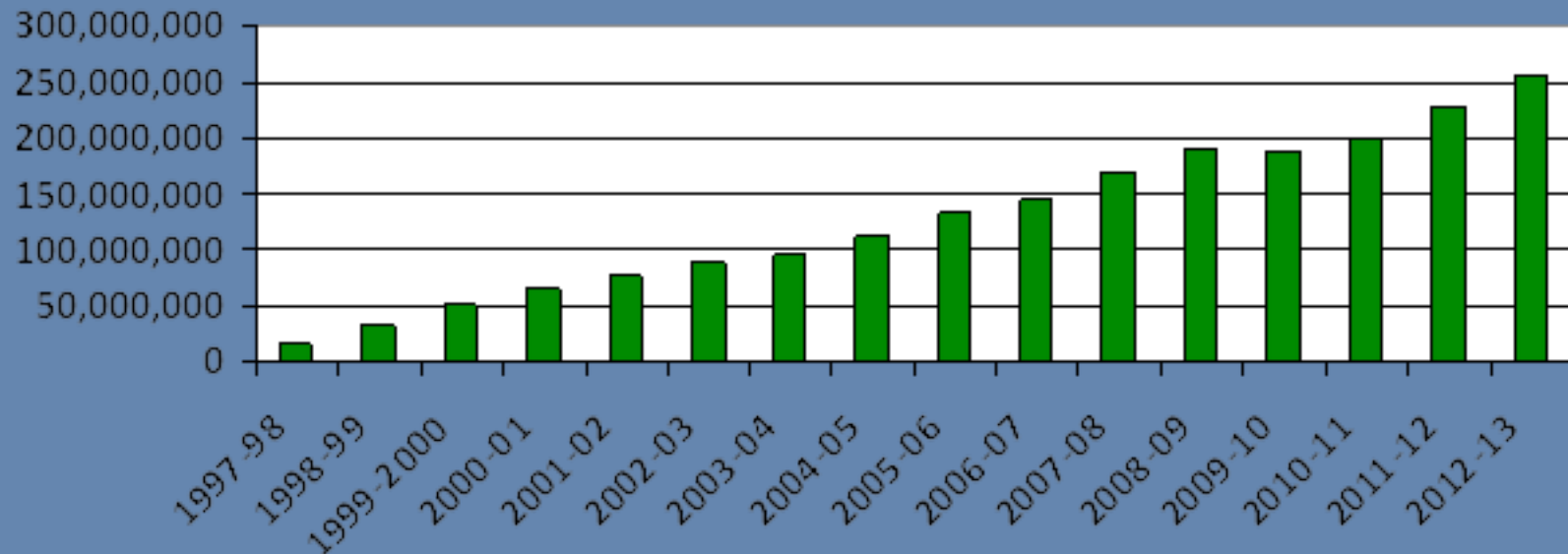
## Charter School Enrollments, 1997-2013



**Source: Highlights of the North Carolina Public School Budget, February 2013, Information Analysis, Division of School Business, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.**



## Charter School Funding 1997-2013



Source: Highlights of the North Carolina Public School Budget, February 2013, Information Analysis, Division of School Business, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.



# Charter Application History

## With the Cap (1997 – 2011)

- 425 applications were submitted for review
- 145 received a favorable report to the SBE
- 45 closed

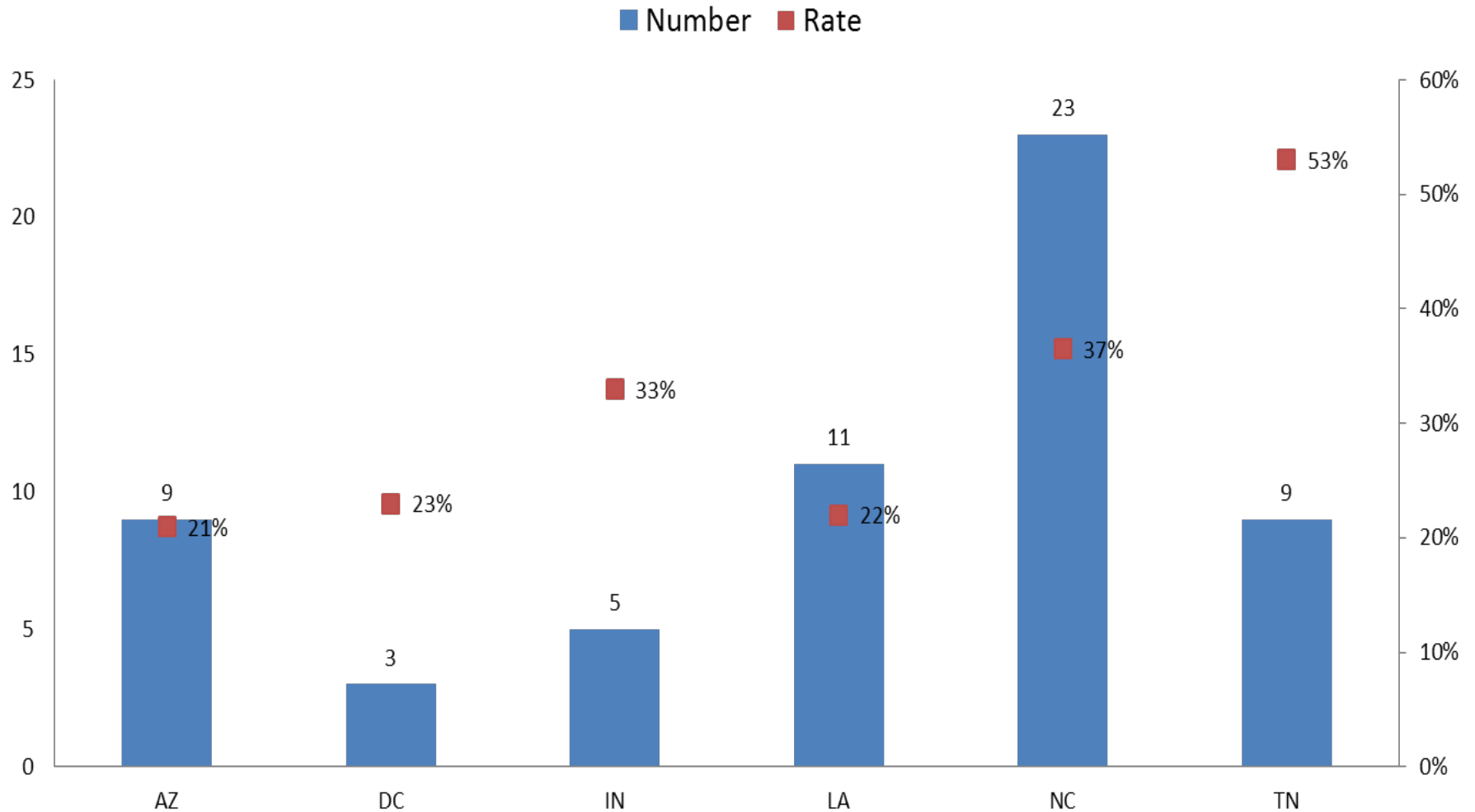
## Without the Cap (2011 - present)

- 241 applications have been submitted
- 211 have been read and reviewed
- 60 received a favorable report to the SBE\*
- 3 have closed\*\*





# Comparative Approval Rate (November 2013)



**nacsa**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

# Beyond the Application

- Mandatory planning year
- Execute the Charter Agreement
- Regular monitoring and prioritized visits
- Letters of inquiry based on issues
- Technical assistance to schools
- Guidance documents for clarification
- Complaints from parents
- Five Year Review / Renewal process
- Litigation





# Growth Ratios

- Fast track round added 8 schools
- 1<sup>st</sup> regular round added 22 schools
- 2<sup>nd</sup> regular round may add 26 schools
- OCS had 3 staff
- OCS had 5 staff
- OCS will have 8 staff

## 2012 Report by NACSA:

- **National average of .31 FTEs per charter**
  - **To meet the average, NC would need 47.7 staff**
- **State Education Agency average .16 FTEs**
  - **To meet the average, NC would need 24.6 staff**





# Application Process

1. **Structural Integrity** – OCS screens for completeness.
2. **Application Clarity** – Evaluation Teams read, review, and recommend qualified applicants to return for an interview.
3. **Proposal Quality** – Evaluation Teams interview the returning applicants to determine a favorable SBE report or not.



# Changes in the Process

## Former Methods:

- Subcommittees of PCSAC members
- Limited comments provided by external reviewers or OCS
- Full PCSAC interviewed for only 30 minutes

## Current Methods:

- Evaluation Teams – 3 CSAB, 2 external reviewers, 1 OCS staffer
- External reviewers and OCS involved in the process
- Evaluation Teams interview qualified applicants (about 1 hour)



# Application Fee and Use

- Per legislation, the SBE established a \$500 nonrefundable application fee
- December 2013: \$39,000
- OCS contracted with external reviewers
- \$24,600 for the contract work
  - Does NOT include mileage reimbursement
  - Process should conclude in May



# For the Future...

1. Special provision to permit carryover
2. Maintain the focus on approval of quality charter applications
3. Modification by CSAB (if needed)
  - Finish the current round
  - Evaluate the process and make changes

