

## 2022 is the year for a moratorium on Indianapolis charters/Innovation schools: Why?

**a) Does Indianapolis really want a privatized IPS district ala New Orleans?** IPS is already the second most privatized District in the nation. Do Community Connection listeners really understand that IPS is heading in that direction? Who in the media is discussing this question? *Tom Ultican knows what's up. Promise me you'll spend 1 hour reading: <https://www.badassteacher.org/bats-blog/indianapolis-home-of-americas-second-most-privatized-school-system-by-thomas-ultican>*

**b) Is IPS still the only district in county that's a "D"?**

IDOE data first released Wednesday showed a slight drop in the IPS graduation rate, down three percentage points from the year before. IPS is still a "D" district. Is it the only one in Marion County?

Over the last 10 years, efforts to improve IPS via experimenting with privatization has not worked. Now what IPS?

**c) 2020 Census data from Indy's Polis Center "Indianapolis in 2021: Trends in demographics, economy, poverty and education"**

Recent Polis Center data show: 1) little change in 2019 ILEARN Latino/white and Black/white math and ELA achievement gaps; and, 2) the relationship between gentrification and charters: <http://vorcreatex.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Polis-Center-Indianapolis-in-2021-Trends-in-demographics-economy-poverty-and-education.pdf>

**d) All the actors involved in the Ignite tragedy must be held accountable for their poor decisions**

- The Mind Trust pumped up Shy Quon Ely and Brooke Beavers, and their stock, by giving each \$90K. That's a \$180K wager that Ignite would work—it didn't. *That was a mistake in judgment.*
- Remember, Supt. Johnson personally selected Ignite to take over Elder W. Diggs. *That was a mistake in judgment.*
- Mayor Hogsett granted Ignite its charter. *That was a mistake in judgment.*

Nonetheless, the above want to blame Shy Quon as though he made Mind Trust, the superintendent, and the mayor do what they did. He didn't.

- He's now the scapegoat. Those with real power just don't want to share any blame--*still another mistake in judgment.*

*The tragedy of school #42 is why we need a moratorium—The Mind Trust, Supt Johnson, and Mayor Hogsett have shown they do not know what they're doing.*

*Let's not expand. Let's fix what we got.*

### e) Are charters public schools, or not?

The issue of charters being public schools (or not) must be settled. Are Indiana’s public schools “state actors”? Are charters private actors getting public funds? These matters raised by Peter Greene and Tom Ultican must be settled publically.

- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/petergreene/2019/02/02/charter-schools-are-not-public-schools/?sh=5b643c286832>
- [Tom Ultican: Why Charter Schools are NOT Public Schools | Diane Ravitch's blog](#)

### f) The Charter-Innovation Hustle

Because of the rules that charter/Innovation schools have, they’re able to manipulate the graduation rate formula to their advantage—not only misleading the public, but a school’s own families and students.

**Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School Enrollment Chart**  
 (IDOE school #6208)  
 Enrollment numbers per 9<sup>th</sup> grade 4-year cohort for 2004-2021

	2004 – 05	2005 – 06	2006 – 07	2007 – 08	2008 – 09	2009 – 10	2010 – 11	2011 – 12	2012 – 13	2013 – 14	2014 – 15	2015 – 16	2016 – 17	2017 – 18	2018 – 19	2019 – 20	2020 – 21
9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>63</b>
10 <sup>th</sup>		<b>44</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>53</b>
11 <sup>th</sup>			<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>
12 <sup>th</sup>				<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>

- For the 2015-16 school year, CTAS had **94** 9th graders. By 2019, 4 years later, CTAS had **55** seniors. The 2019 grad rate was 81.1%. In other words, CTAS lost 39 (42%) of 9th graders after just 3 years! and still got an 81% grad rate. Go figure!\*
- For the 2016-17 school year, CTAS had **89** 9th graders. By 2020, 4 years later, CTAS had just **43** seniors. The 2020 CTAS grad rate was 97.5%. In other words, CTAS lost over half 46 (52%) of its 9th graders after only 3 years! and still got a 98% grad rate. Go figure!\*
- For the 2017-18 school year, CTAS had **91** 9th graders. By 2021, 4 years later, CTAS had **43** seniors. The 2021 CTAS grad rate was 79.6%. In other words, CTAS lost 48 (53%) of 9th graders after just 3 years! and still got an 80% grad rate. Go figure!\*
- [Is-Charles-A.-Tindley-a-dropout-factory-An-investigative-report-with-commentary-on-graduation-rates-and-promoting-power.pdf](#)

\* Charters/Innovation schools take advantage of students who are “counseled out” (behavior/low test scores) and/or who “self-select out” or chose “home schooling” (many times over threat of actual expulsion) because their leaving their school this way does not count in a school’s grad rate. See IDOE’s “Exit codes”: <https://www.in.gov/doe/files/6-exit-codes.pdf>. Students who drop out completely and do

not enroll in another school are counted against the school's grad rate. So, the 46 students who were initially a part of the 2016-17 9<sup>th</sup> grade class, evidently each left CTAS in ways that did not hurt the CTAS grad rate. *Thus, CTAS can actually lose over half of its 9<sup>th</sup> grader after 3 years, and still get a whopping 98% grad rate.* I'm not fooled, but the public is!

Although our IPS district must keep/deal with any student/family issues, its magnet schools can return a student to their area's "boundary" school.

### **g-1) Who runs own\$ our IPS?**

We can't forget that Commissioner Gore's 2020 campaign was based on a moratorium on charters. In fear, (<https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/why-is-there-so-much-money-fighting-in-the-ips-school-board-race>) her opponent—now Commissioner Kenneth Allen (and according to RISEIndy info below)—got \$266K to help his campaign.

See: <https://www.icpe-monroecounty.org/blog/are-indiana-legislators-and-ips-school-board-owned-by-out-of-state-billionaires>

Commissioner Gore had around \$10K+.

What's going on here? All this big money influencing public education bothers my conscience.

### **g-2) Bloomberg's \$750M prove it's all about the money**

To prove we need a moratorium on Indy charters/Innovation schools, late last year, none other than global billionaire Michael Bloomberg gave \$0.75B to promote charters around the US: <https://www.chalkbeat.org/2021/12/9/22826845/bloomberg-charter-schools-politics-750-million>.

Add the fact that charter/Innovation boards are privately appointed, not publically elected--Indy's/IPS's corporate reform establishment will have hegemonic control of the district. Note, last year Bloomberg gave \$100K to RISE Indy for their campaign to gain influence over the IPS board: <https://www.icpe-monroecounty.org/blog/are-indiana-legislators-and-ips-school-board-owned-by-out-of-state-billionaires>.

Will ISTA and others supporting traditional public schools ever be able to even match the campaign contributions of billionaires? No. The politics of privatization, and in a red state like Indiana, will control IPS for decades. That's not good for public education. That's not good for democracy.

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