

National **Charter School**
Resource Center

at American Institutes for Research

Welcome to the Webinar!

**Examining Special Education
Enrollment Differences**

We will be starting soon.



The National Charter School Resource Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement and administered by American Institutes for Research, under contract number ED-04-CO-0109/0004.



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Examining Special Education Enrollment Differences

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About the Resource Center

The **U.S. Department of Education** is committed to promoting effective practices, providing technical assistance, and disseminating the resources critical to ensuring the success of charter schools across the country. To that end, the Education Department, under a contract with American Institutes for Research, has developed the **National Charter School Resource Center**.

Presenters

Robin Lake

Director

Center on Reinventing Public Education

Betheny Gross

Senior Research Analyst and Research Director

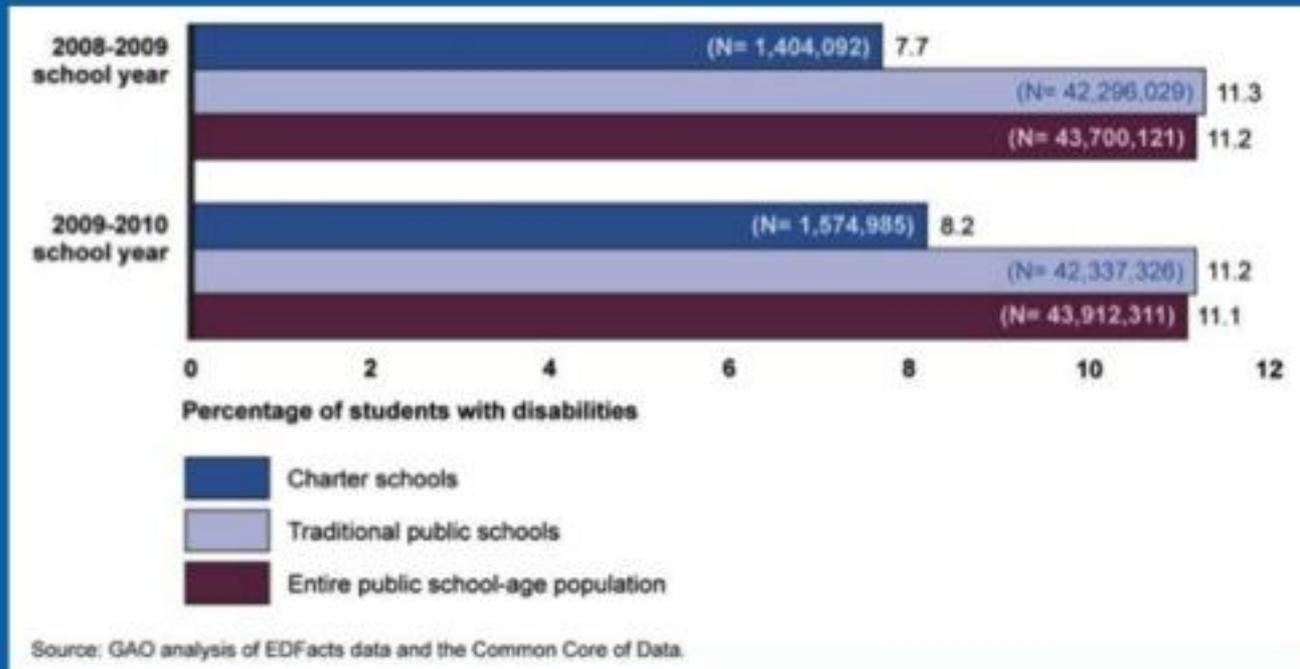
Center on Reinventing Public Education



Examining Special Education Enrollment Differences

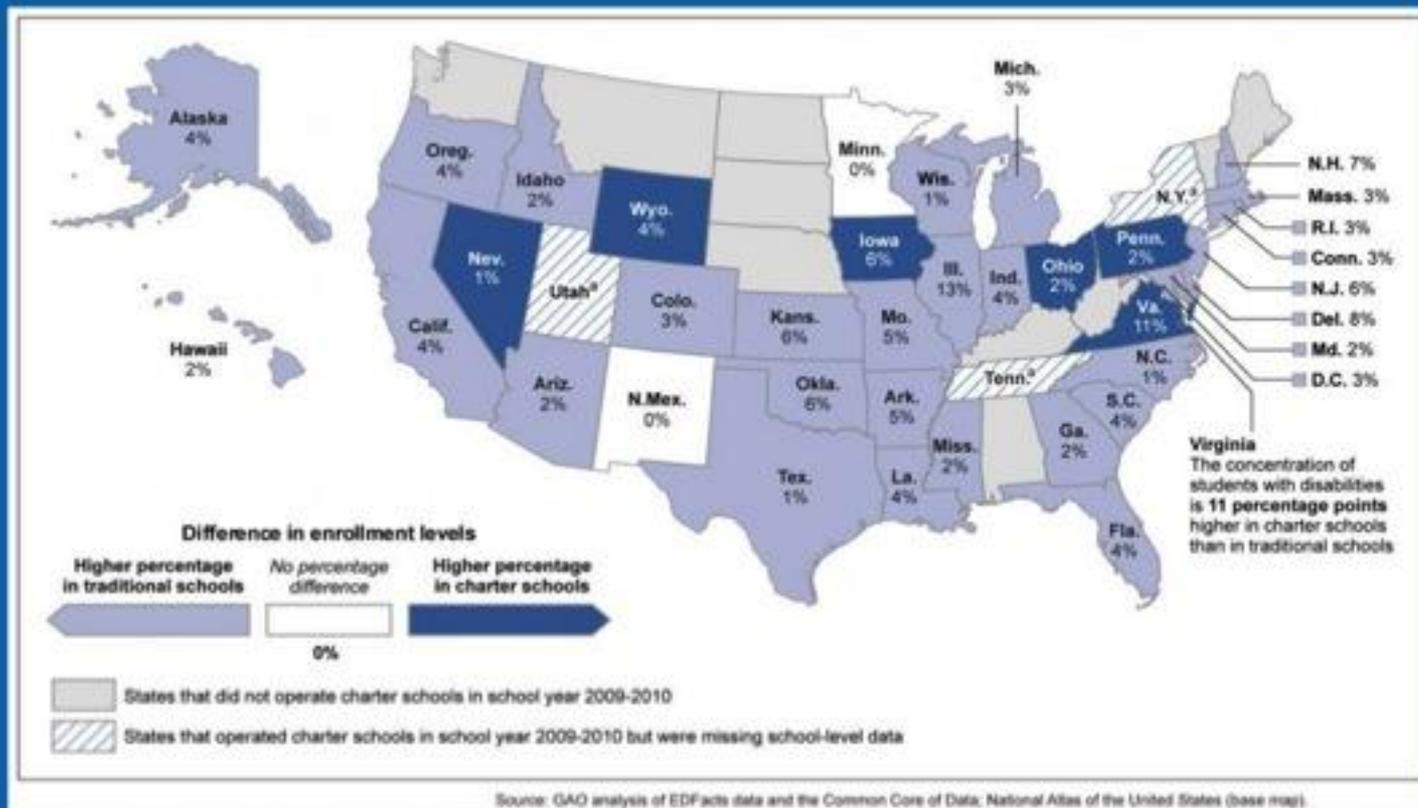
GAO Finds Special Education Students Under Represented in Charter Schools

Percent of special education students in public charter and district run schools
2008-09 and 2009-10



GAO Also Finds Variation Across the Country

Percent by which charter schools enroll fewer or greater numbers of special education students

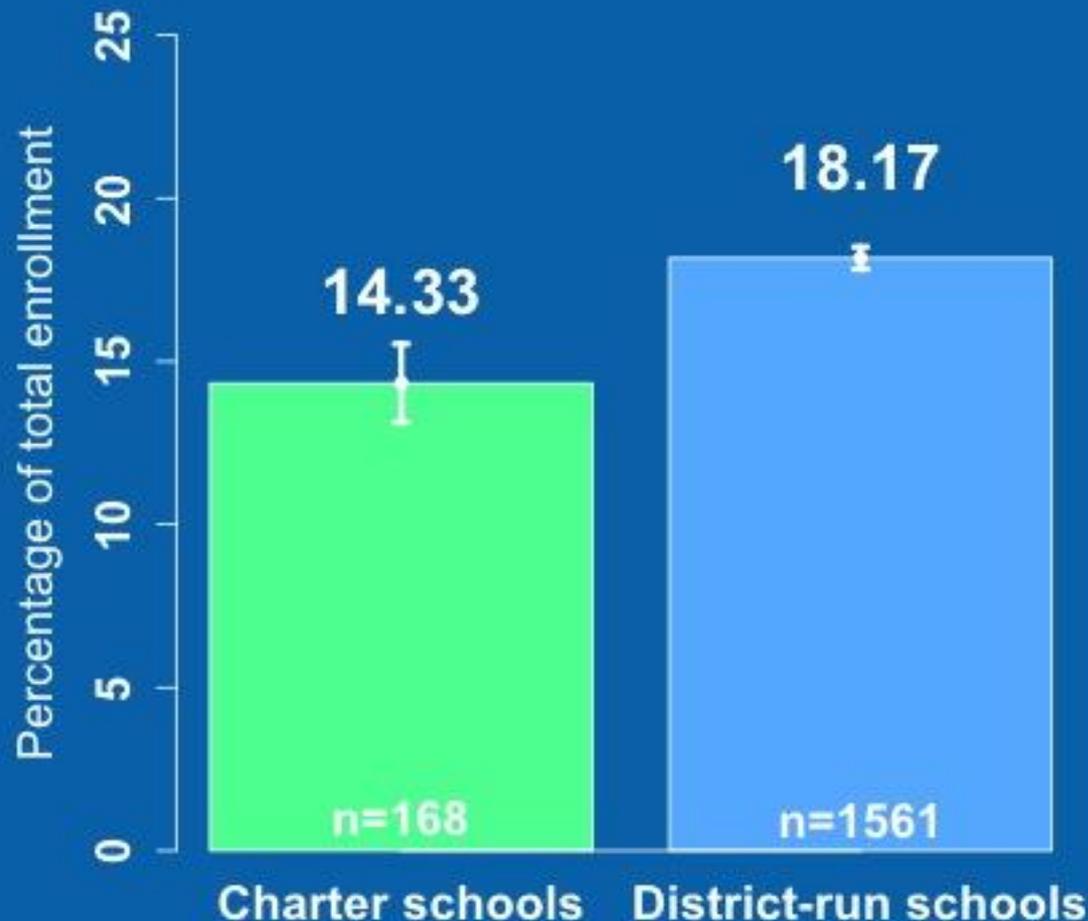


Different Lenses Offer Different Perspectives

CRPE analysis of New York City considers

- Full distribution of schools
- Grade span
- Authorizers
- Neighborhoods

New York State at First Glance

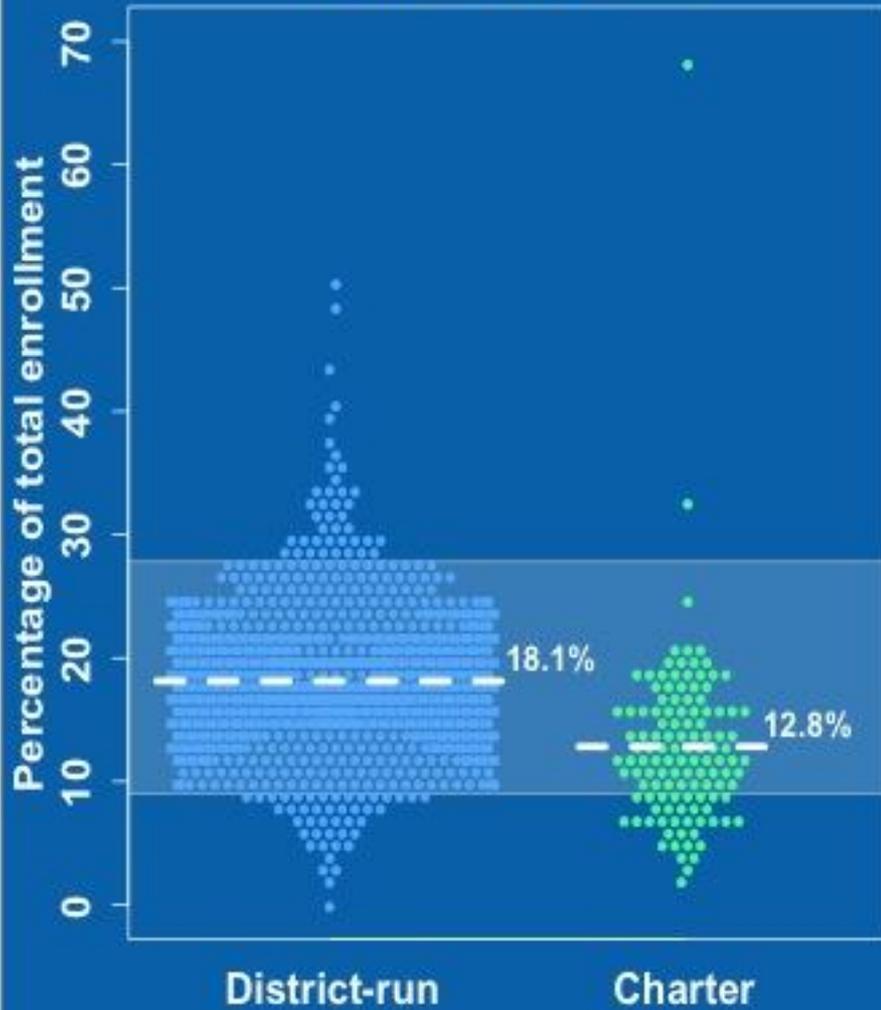


Charter schools appear to significantly under-enroll special education students

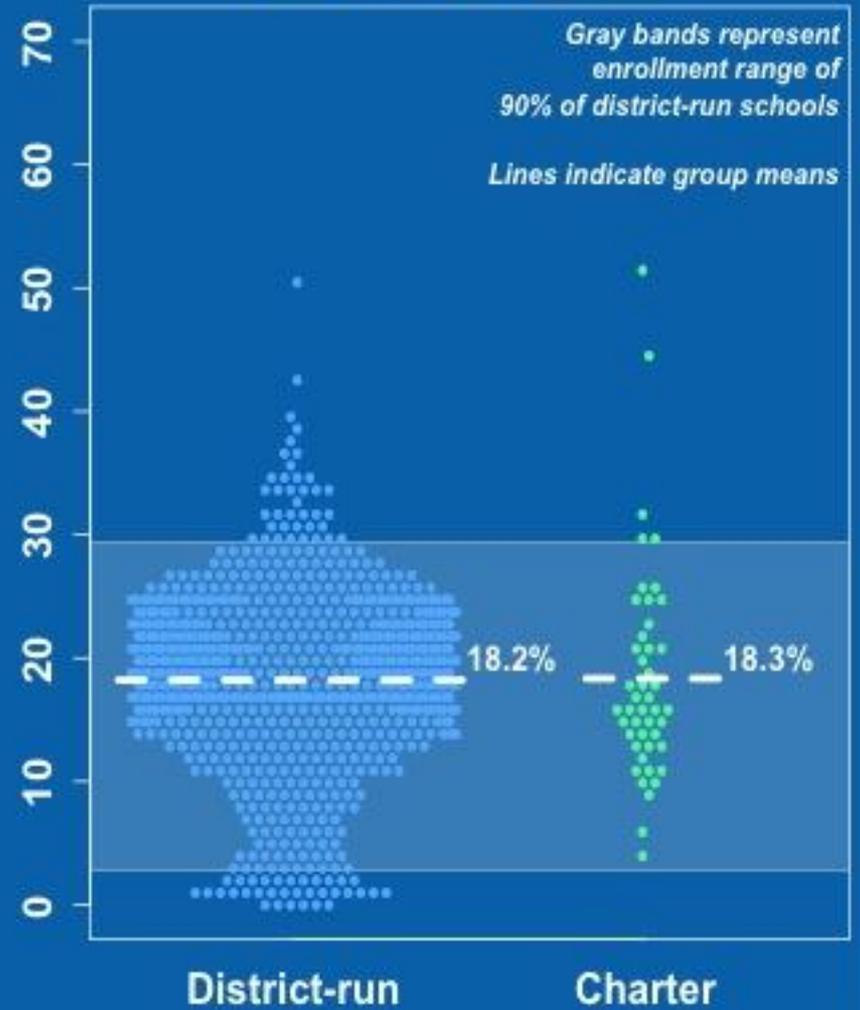
Note: Bars represent 95% confidence interval.

Important Variation Exists

Elementary & K-8 Schools



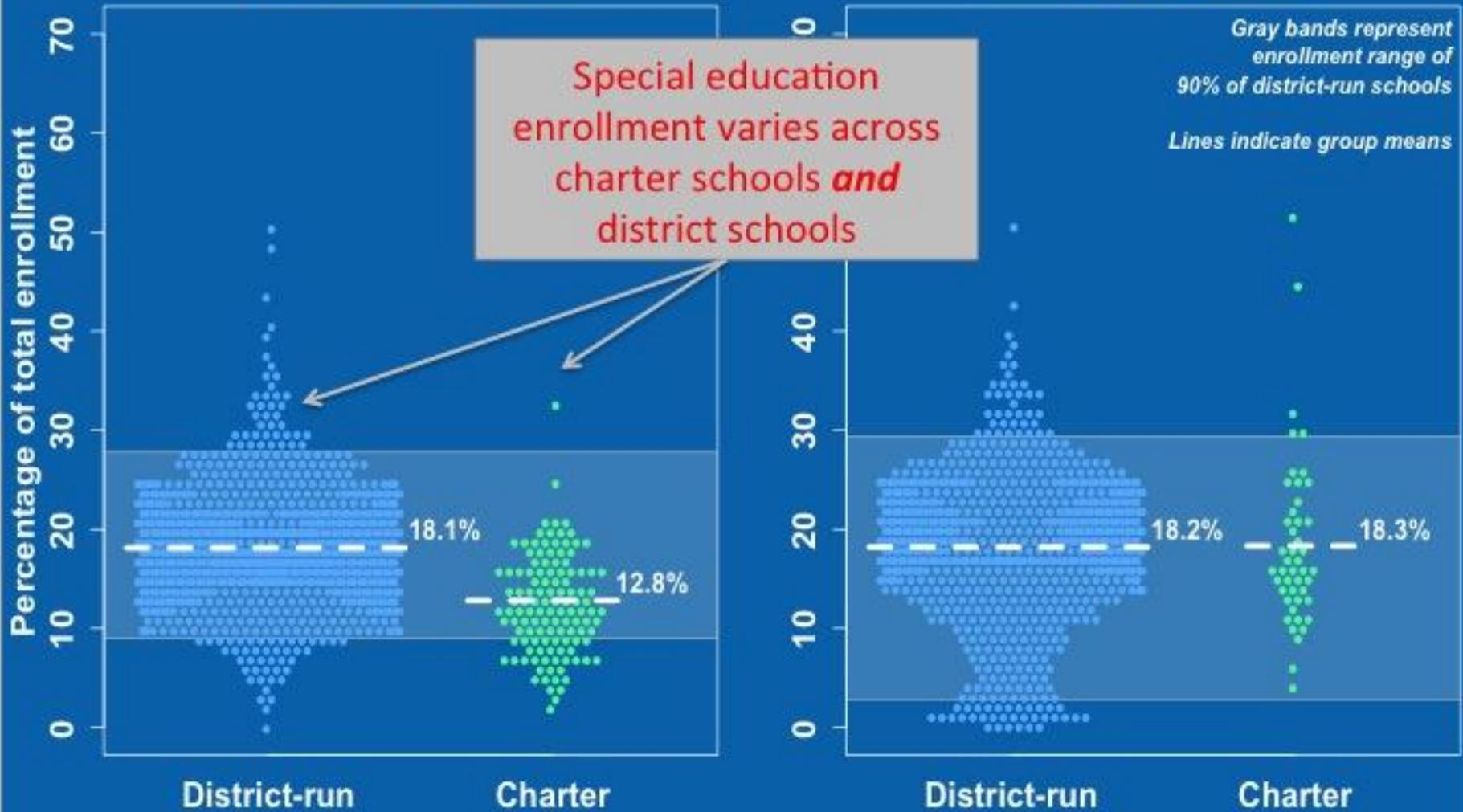
Middle, High, & 5-12 Schools



Important Variation Exists

Elementary & K-8 Schools

Middle, High, & 5-12 Schools



Important Variation Exists

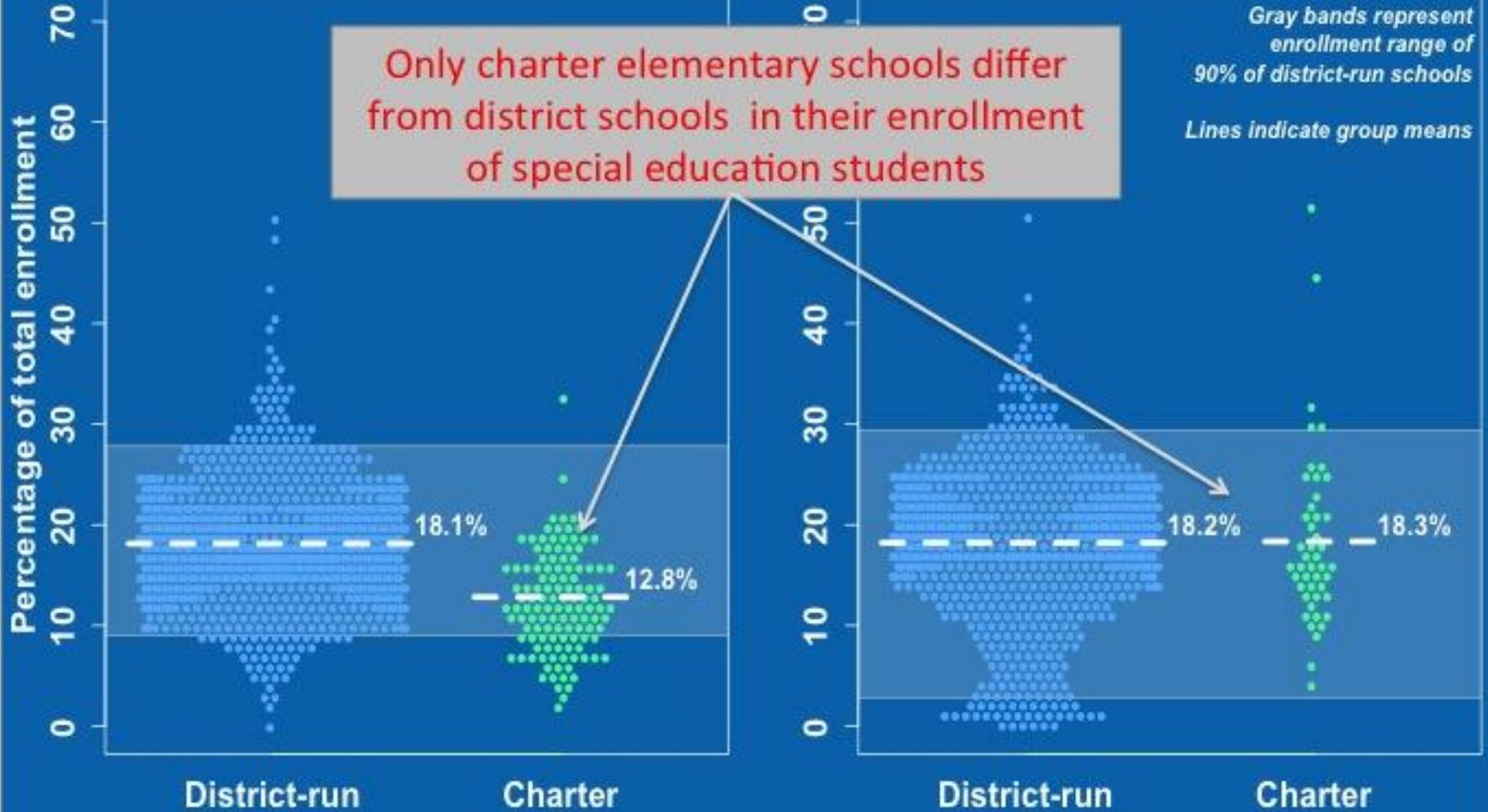
Elementary & K-8 Schools

Middle, High, & 5-12 Schools

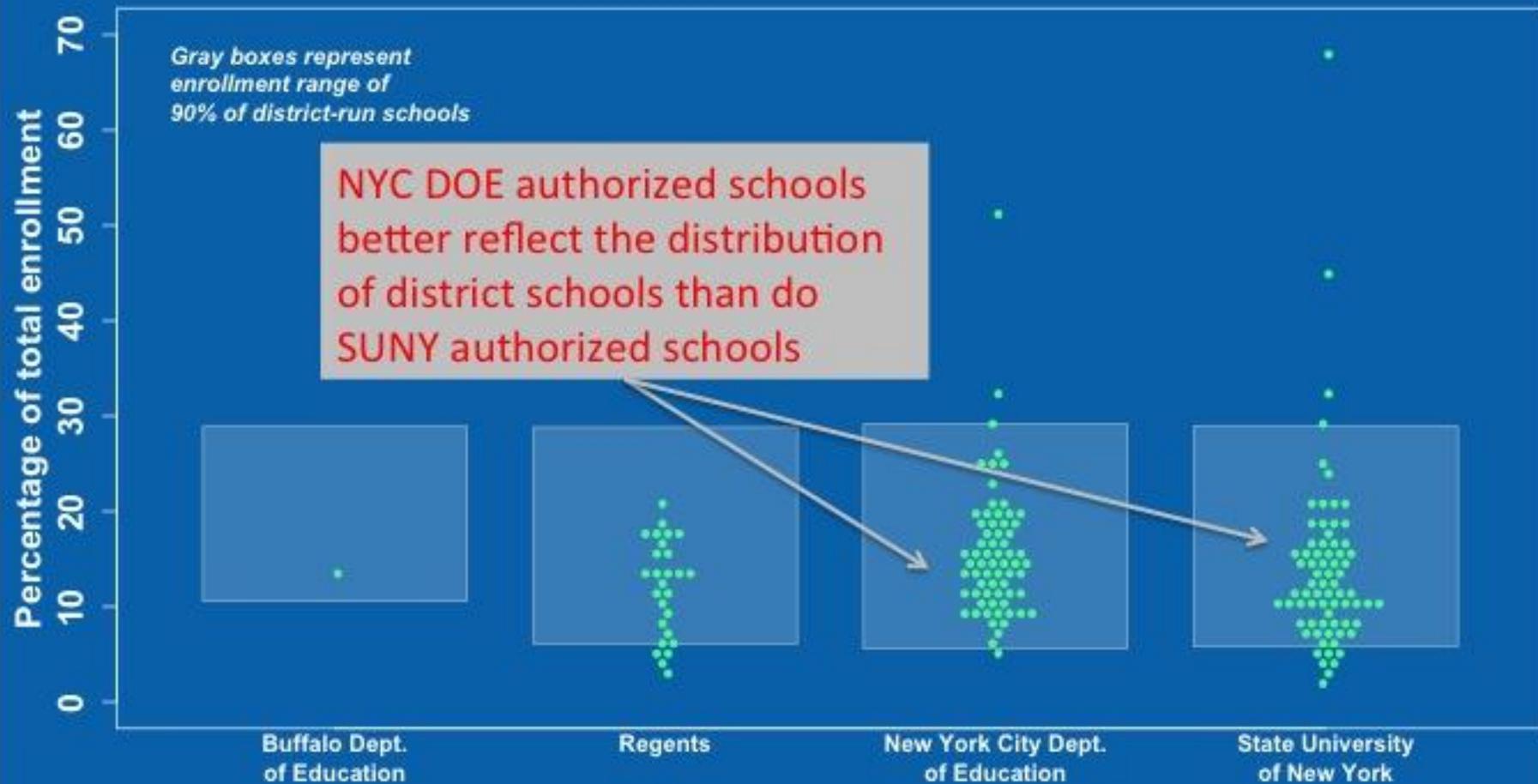
Only charter elementary schools differ from district schools in their enrollment of special education students

Gray bands represent enrollment range of 90% of district-run schools

Lines indicate group means



Variation in Enrollment by Authorizer



Variation is Also at the Neighborhood Level

Share of charter schools with lower special education enrollment in New York City

Elementary schools
(including K-8 combined)



Middle & high schools
(including 5-12 combined)



Percentage of charter schools with low enrollment of students with disabilities:

- No charter schools in this area
- 0-15%
- 15-50%
- >50%

What We Can and Cannot Say About Special Education Enrollment

We can say...

- Special education students are not represented equally across schools in either sector
- Enrollment disparities vary by state, locale, authorizer, and school

What We Can and Cannot Say About Special Education Enrollment

We cannot say...

- There is just one reason special education enrollment differs across sectors

Several Potential Sources of Enrollment Disparity

Differences in:

- Access
- Identification
- Policy Structure

Several Potential Sources of Enrollment Disparity

Differences in:

- Access →
 - Identification
 - Policy Structure
- Charter schools don't have desired programs
 - Families don't know about good charter programs
 - Charters dissuade families

Several Potential Sources of Enrollment Disparity

Differences in:

- Access
- Identification → • Charters and district schools identify differently
- Policy Structure

Several Potential Sources of Enrollment Disparity

Differences in:

- Access
- Identification
- Policy Structure →
 - Charters don't have pre-school programs for students identified at a young age
 - Charters aren't located in all neighborhoods

Points of Leverage: Schools and Districts

- Charter schools
 - Awareness of responsibilities
 - Co-ops, shared expertise
 - Partnerships with early childhood providers
- Charter-district partnerships
 - Shared services
 - Differentiated services (e.g. Los Angeles)
 - Placement partnerships for low-incidence disabilities (e.g. Denver)
 - Unified enrollment systems

Points of Leverage: Oversight Agencies

- Authorizers
 - RFP for charters with specific services
 - Coordination of charter collaborations
 - Measurement and oversight
- State agencies
 - Differentiated funding for high needs disabilities
 - Risk pools for students with high needs
 - Smart regulations (e.g. Massachusetts recruiting and retention oversight)

Unresolved Questions That Deserve More Attention

- Are charter schools less likely to identify students as needing special education?
- Are charter schools better at early intervention?
- What are the academic and other outcomes for students with disabilities who do attend charter schools?

Where States Can Start

- Analyze enrollment data to understand your state's situation
- Publish these results and start conversations about equity and access among stakeholders
- Collect data on the real costs of providing quality services for students with different needs

Questions?



Raise your hand or enter your question in the chat box
on the left side of your screen.

Thank you for participating.

- Learn more about future webinars in the ELL series hosted by the National Charter School Resource Center:
<http://registration.airprojects.org/NCSRCELL/register.aspx>
- This webinar will be archived at the following website:
<http://www.charterschoolcenter.org/webinars/>
- Please share your feedback with us through the evaluation.

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