

Attrition Rates for Massachusetts Charter Schools
Prepared for the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education
Meeting on February 25 – 26, 2013

The attrition data displayed in this table includes both annual attrition and cumulative attrition for each school for one ninth grade cohort of students across the four year period from 2008-2009 through 2011-2012 school years. This report of attrition includes the total of all students who transferred out of the charter school back into the local district, or transferred elsewhere in Massachusetts, or who moved out of state, regardless of the reason they left. Students who are retained in their grade in any given year are not counted in the attrition rate, since they are still enrolled, though in a different grade. This analysis is based on enrollment data derived from the October SIMS data collection.

The rates displayed, and each column heading, are defined below:

2009 Cohort: The total number of students in the ninth grade at that school in 2008-2009 school year.

% Annual Attrition: The percentage of the total number of students from the original ninth grade group who are no longer students at that school at the beginning of each school year. For example, the attrition rate for Year 2 reflects the students who are no longer at the school at the beginning of Year 2, based on October SIMS. Three columns provide percentages based upon only the number of students who left in a given year, again in relation to the original *2009 Cohort* total number.

% Cumulative Attrition: The percentage of the students from the original cohort group across all years up to that point in time; this rate is based on sum of those who have left over the first two years, or three years, or all four years. The cumulative attrition rate is a percentage based on the ratio of the total number of students no longer enrolled to the total number who began together in ninth grade at that school in the 2008-2009 school year. Three columns provide percentages based on the sum of all students who have left up to that year, always in relation to the *2009 Cohort* total number in the group.

- *2010 (Year 2)* indicates the percentage based upon number of students who left the school between ninth grade in 2009 and the following year, 2010.
- *2011 (Year 3)* is a percentage based upon the sum of the number value *2010 (Year 2)* and the number who left by June of 2011.
- *2012 (Year 4)* is a percentage based upon the sum of students who left the school across all four years.