

# Interdistrict Open Enrollment in Ohio



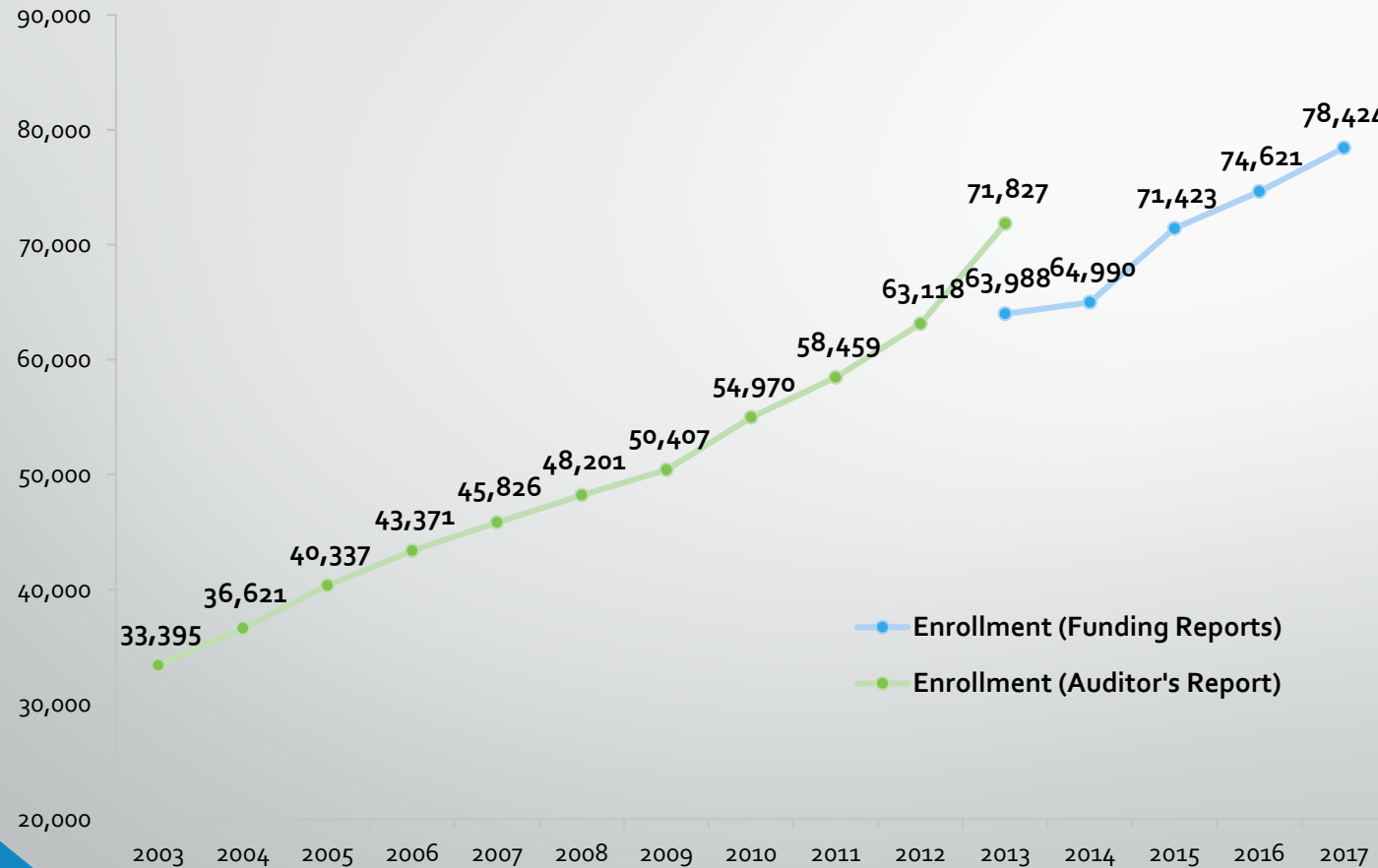
Chad Aldis

December 6, 2018

# Ohio's Open Enrollment Policies

- Interdistrict open enrollment allows students to attend schools not in their home district (intradistrict choice is up to districts)
- Open enrollment law established in 1989, one of the first states to adopt
- District participation is **voluntary**: can accept students statewide or only from adjacent districts
- Participating districts may refuse open enrollees based on capacity limits
- Cannot discriminate based on athletic or artistic talents, or special-education status

# Student Participation Trends



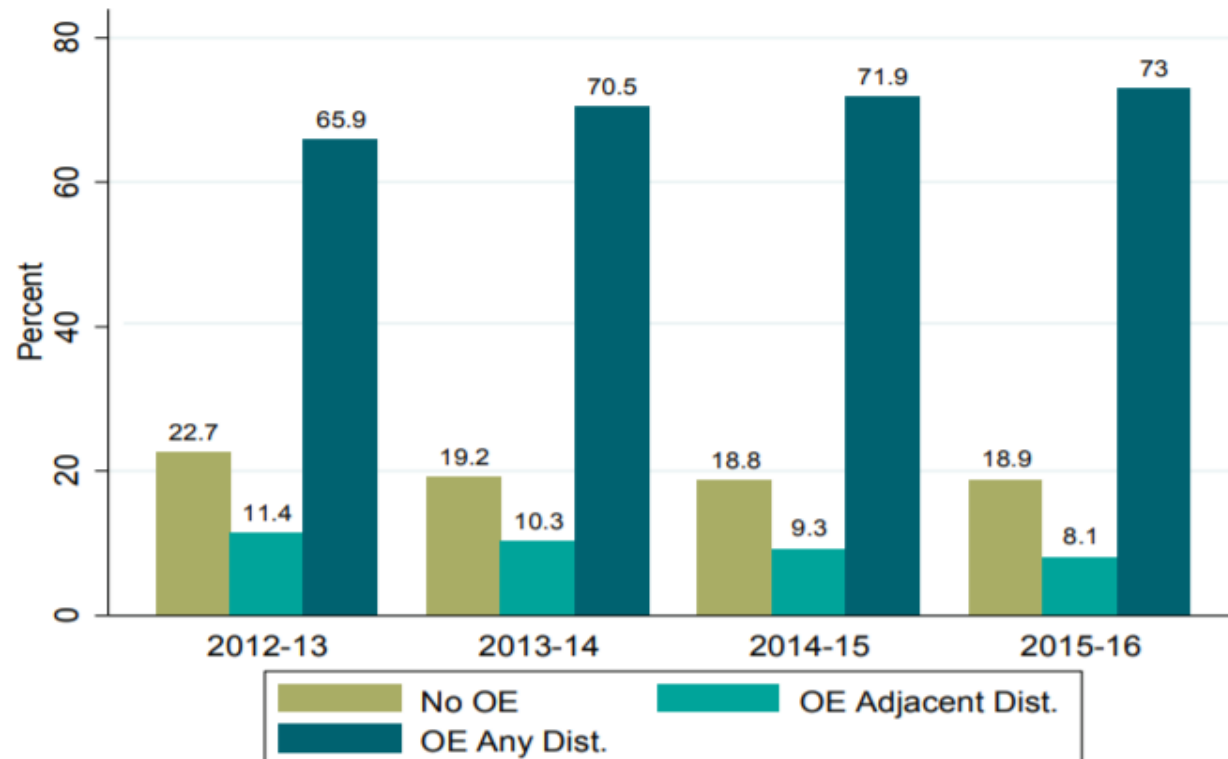
- Steadily increasing participation
- Nearly 80,000 open enrollees as of 2016-17
- Represents about 5% of Ohio's public school population

# District Participation

- In 2018-19:
  - **455** districts allow statewide open enrollment
  - **48** districts allow open enrollment from adjacent districts
  - **106** districts do not allow open enrollment
  - **83%** of all districts participate

# District Participation Trends

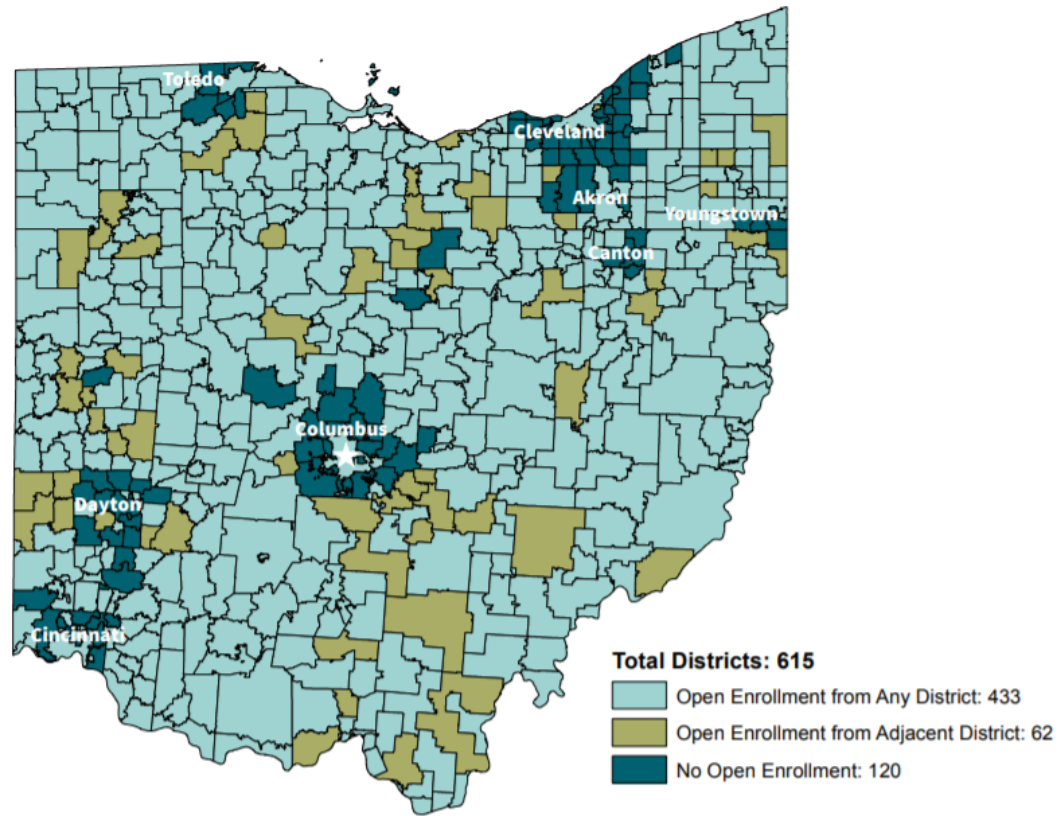
Figure 1. District participation in Ohio's interdistrict open-enrollment program, by year



- Slight uptick in district participation in recent years
- About 1 in 5 districts still refuse open enrollees

# What Open Enrollment Looks Like on a Map

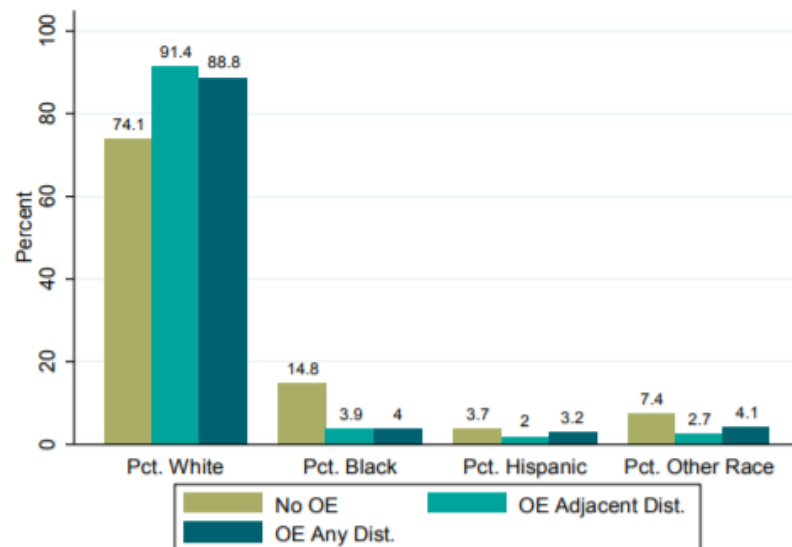
Figure 2. Ohio school districts by open-enrollment status: 2013–14 school year



- Districts surrounding Ohio's big-city districts usually don't participate
- Creates "donuts" around districts such as Cleveland, Columbus, and Dayton
- Almost all rural & small town districts participate; open enrollment is one of few options in these areas

# District Participation By Student Race/Ethnicity

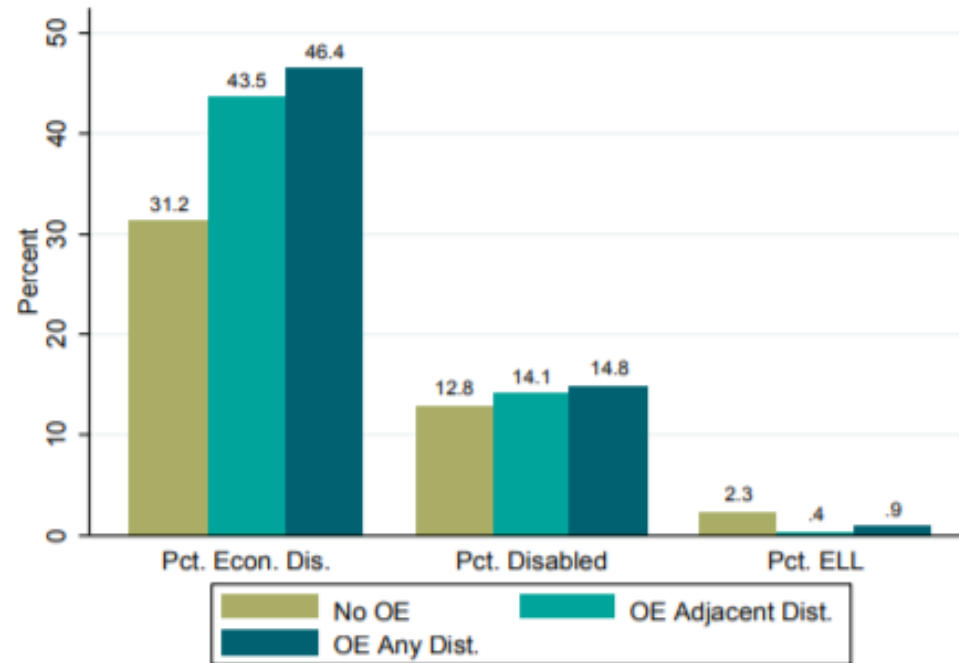
Figure 4. Mean district racial/ethnic composition, by interdistrict-open-enrollment participation and race/ethnicity: 2013-14



- Non-participating districts are more diverse by race/ethnicity
- Reflects greater diversity of suburban districts vs. rural and small town

# District Participation By Various Student Characteristics

Figure 5. Mean district characteristics, by interdistrict open-enrollment participation and characteristic: 2013-14

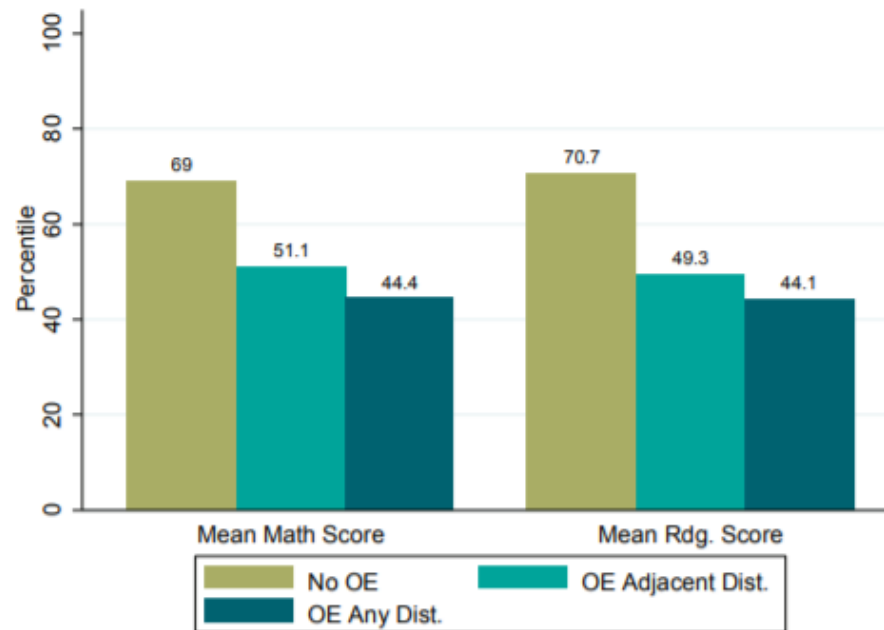


- Non-participating districts tend to have fewer low-income students, and more ELLs
- Non-participating districts have slightly fewer students with disabilities



# District Participation By Student Achievement

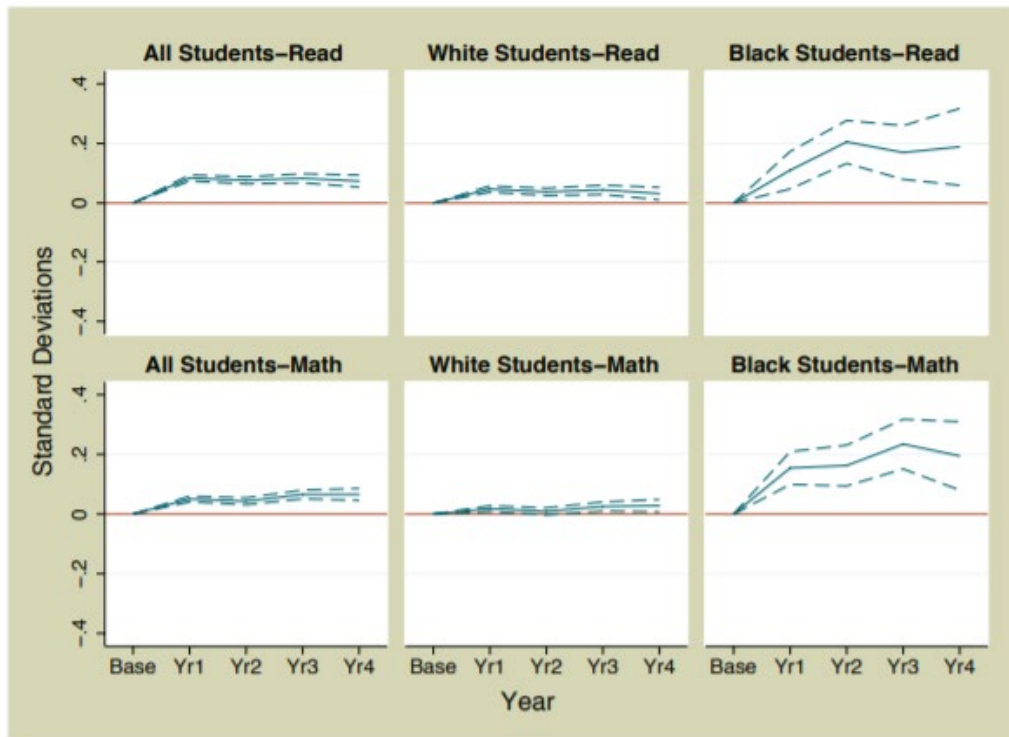
Figure 6. Mean district achievement levels, by interdistrict open-enrollment participation and subject: 2013-14



- Non-participating districts score noticeably higher on state math and reading exams

# Academic Impacts Associated with Open Enrollment

Figure 23. Difference in over-time achievement changes between consistent open enrollers and non-open enrollers, by race and subject



- Chart displays gains of consistent open enrollees compared to non-open enrollees of similar baseline achievement
- Black students who open enroll consistently make significant gains on state exams

# For More Information



Report available at:  
<https://edexcellence.net/publications/interdistrict-open-enrollment-in-ohio-participation-and-student-outcomes>

