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## **Charter Funding Still Woeful**

**WASHINGTON** – Experts at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute reacted to today’s new study from Ball State University that finds U.S. public charter schools receiving, on average, \$2,247 less per pupil than traditional public schools. This gloomy finding is based on analysis of 2006-7 data from 24 states and the District of Columbia and covers roughly 90 percent of all charter-school pupils.

*Charter School Funding: Inequity Persists* follows in the path of a 2005 Fordham study. Though the average charter-district disparity at the state level has decreased slightly from 2005, the new analysis shows the persistence of disturbing shortfalls and inequities.

Eric Osberg, Vice President and Treasurer of the Fordham Institute, said:

Our 2005 analysis showed that charters were badly underfunded relative to their district counterparts, and today, despite widespread awareness of this problem and the painful handicaps it creates for charter schools— these inequities continue. It’s disappointing.

Mike Petrilli, Fordham’s Vice President for National Programs and Policy, added:

This study shows that many states are still shortchanging their charter pupils. In these tight economic times, it’s even more important that we allocate scarce educational dollars fairly, so that students receive the same funding whether their public school is labeled “charter” or “district.”

The full Ball State University analysis is available at <http://www.bsu.edu/teachers/ocsr/funding/>

For more information about the Fordham Institute, visit [www.edexcellence.net](http://www.edexcellence.net).

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