

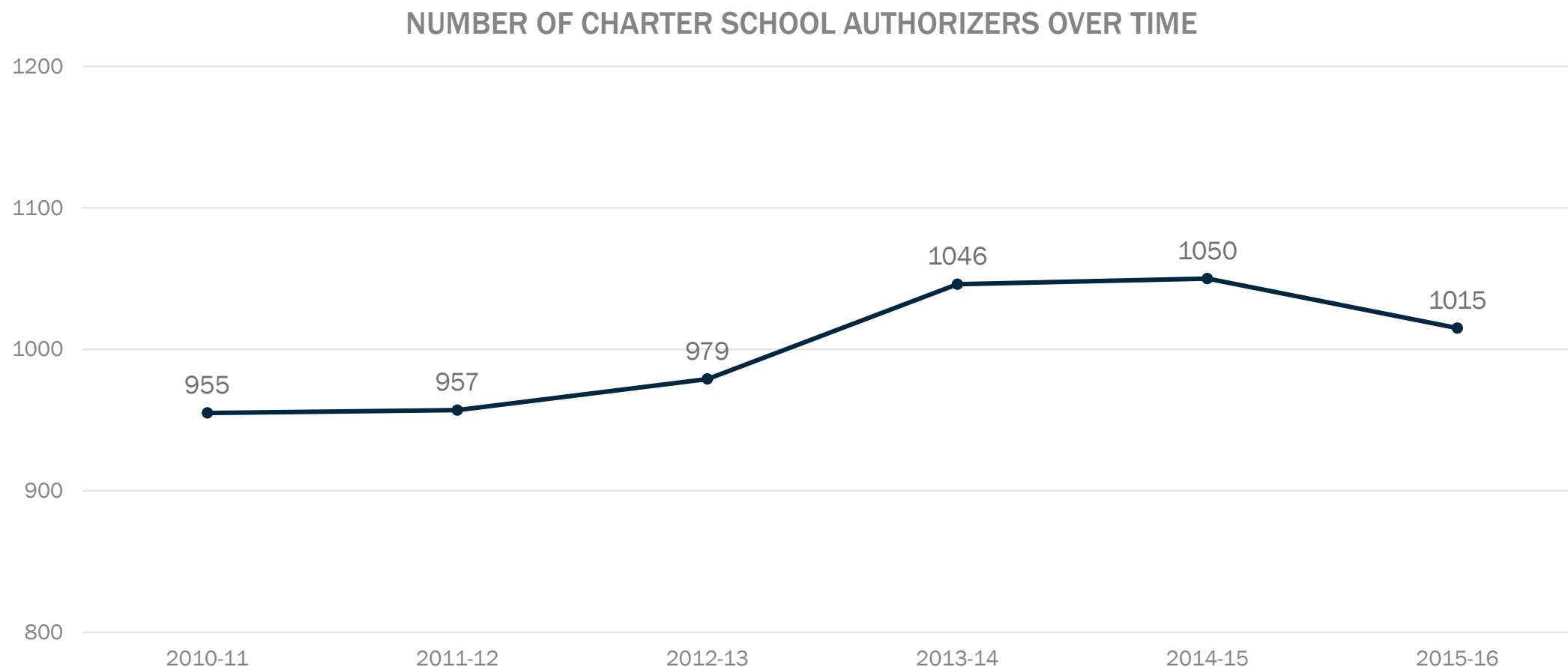


STATE *of* CHARTER
AUTHORIZING 2016



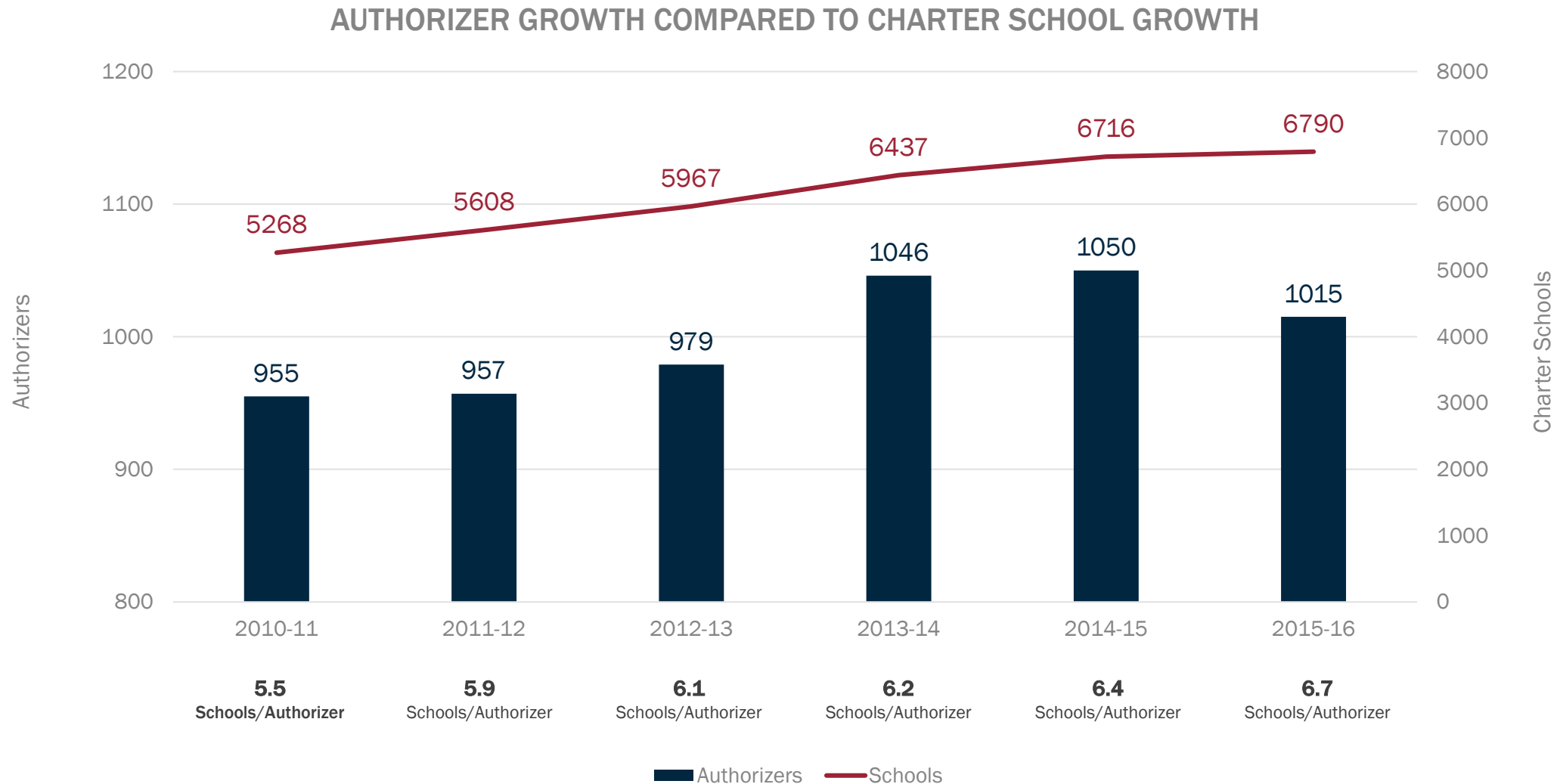
AUTHORIZER LANDSCAPE

The number of charter school authorizers slightly decreased this year.



**Note: The decrease this year is due to a change in Arizona policy, the refinement of counting techniques in Georgia, and several Minnesota authorizers discontinuing their authorizing work.*

Charter school growth continues to outpace authorizer growth by nearly three to one. There are now 6.7 schools per authorizer.

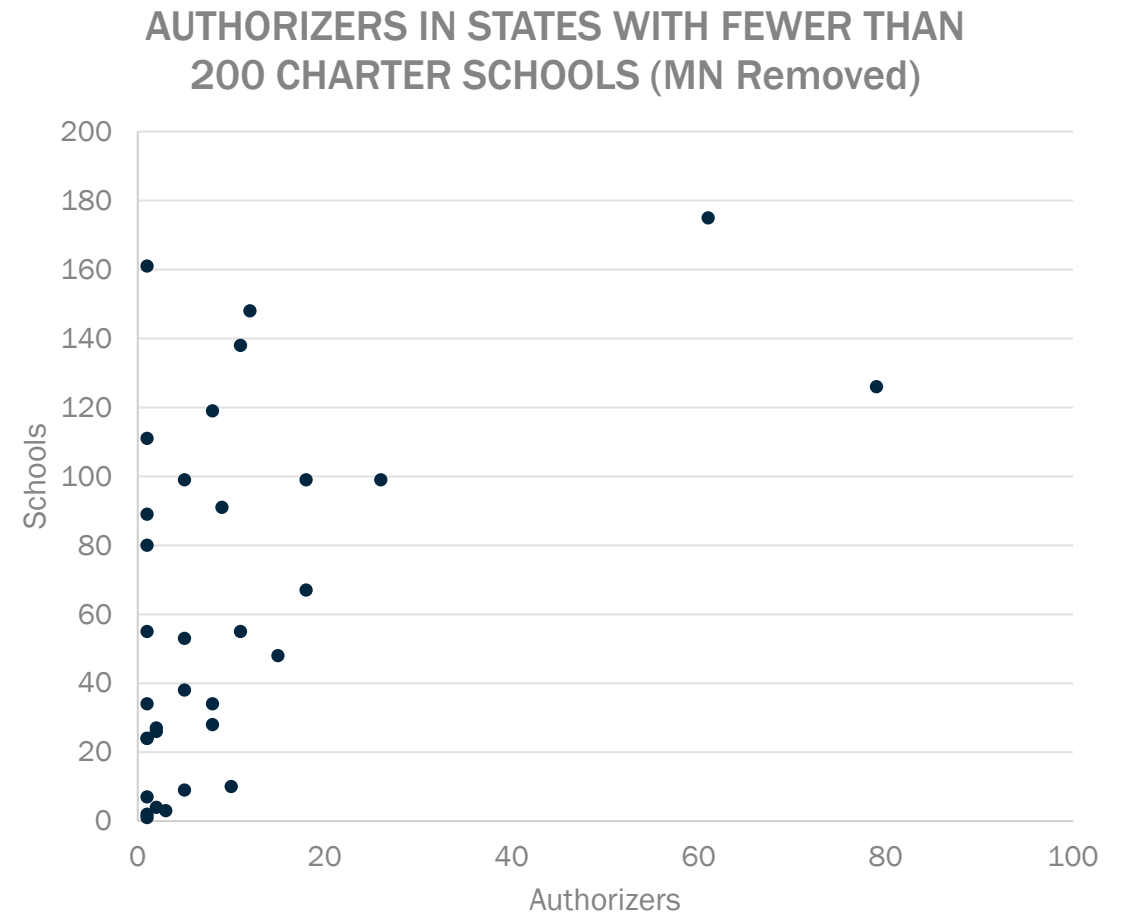
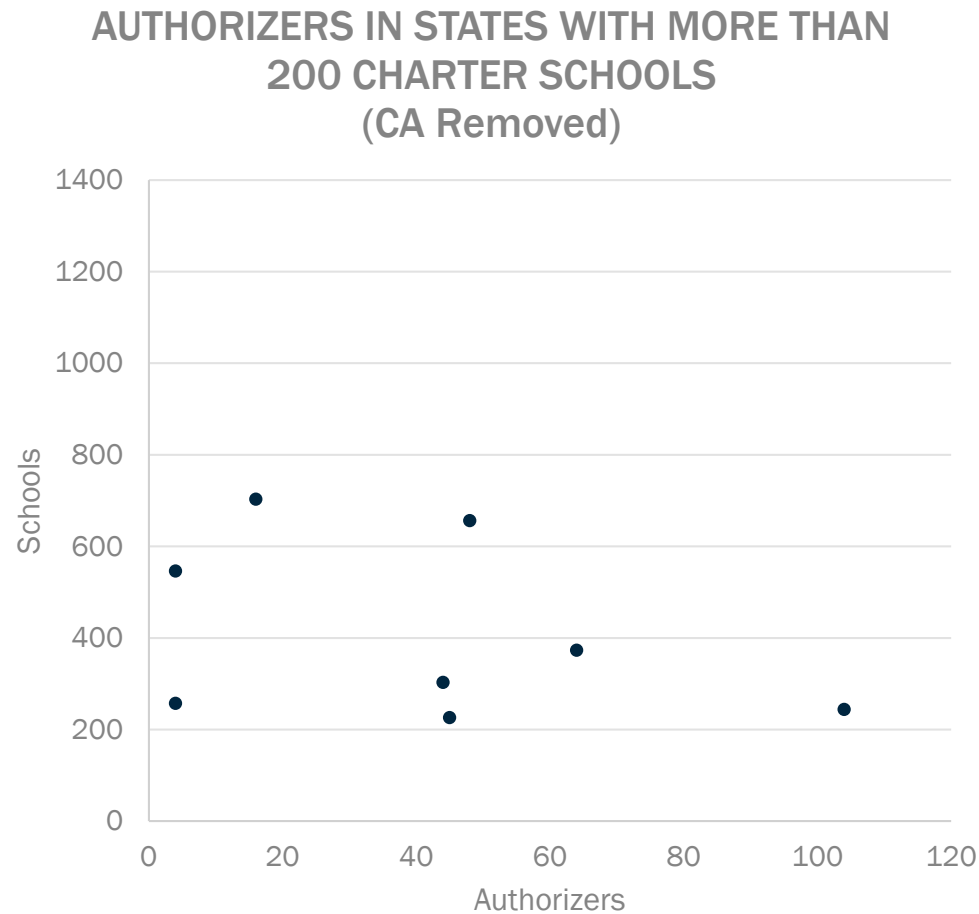


The number of very large charter school authorizers (100+ schools) has doubled since 2010-11.

NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS BY PORTFOLIO SIZE

Number of Schools in Portfolio	Number of Authorizers							
	2010-11		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	% Change
	0-1 school	540	542	520	554	546	524	-3%
	2 schools	158	156	162	173	175	167	6%
	3-5 schools	122	121	152	166	172	168	38%
	6-9 schools	52	49	50	50	50	48	-8%
	10-50 schools	66	72	77	82	84	84	27%
	51-99 schools	12	11	11	13	14	14	17%
	100 or more	5	6	7	8	9	10	100%

Changing the number of authorizers in a state has no relationship with charter school growth.

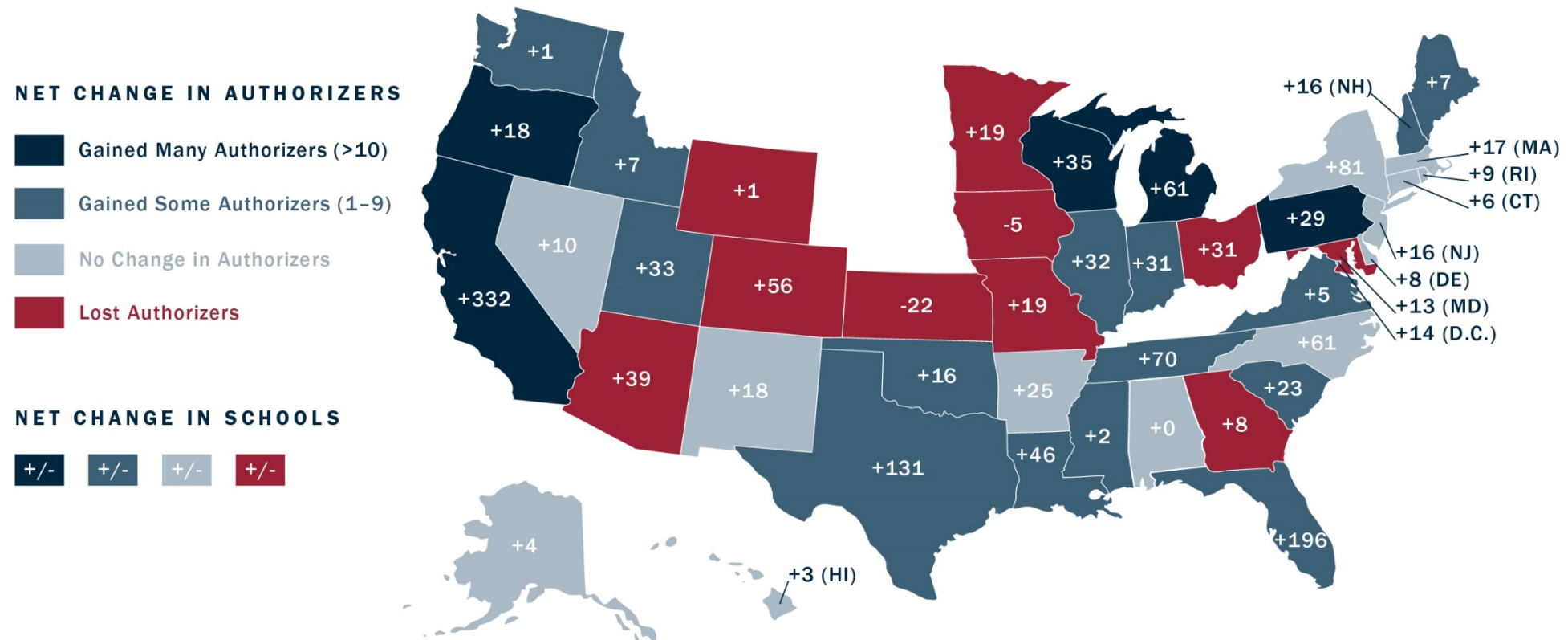


**Note: This analysis does not include the outliers of California and Minnesota.*

A decline in authorizers doesn't necessarily mean a decline in the number of charter schools.

For example, states such as Arizona and Georgia lost authorizers but saw an increase in the number of charter schools in their states.

NET CHANGE IN AUTHORIZERS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS (2011–2016)



The number of Independent Chartering Board (ICB) authorizers has more than doubled, while the number of university (HEI) and nonprofit authorizers has slightly decreased.

NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS BY TYPE

Authorizer Type	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	% Change
Higher Education Institution (HEI)	49	46	43	47	45	47	-4%
Independent Chartering Board (ICB)	8	10	14	15	17	18	125%
School District (LEA)	857	859	882	944	950	909	6%
Non-Educational Government Entity (NEG)	2	2	3	3	3	3	50%
Nonprofit Organization (NFP)	20	20	19	19	17	18	-10%
State Education Agency (SEA)	19	20	18	18	18	20	5%
Total	955	957	979	1046	1050	1015	6%

The national composition of charter school authorizers hasn't changed: school districts (LEAs) continue to make up the vast majority of authorizers.

PERCENT OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS BY TYPE

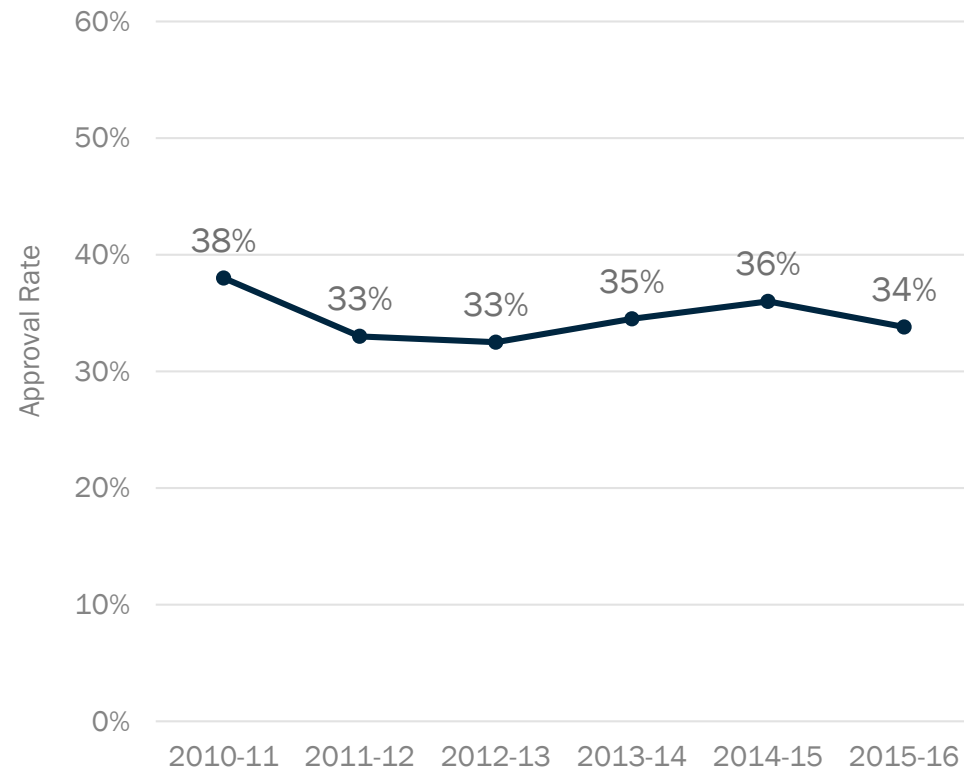
Authorizer Type	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Higher Education Institution (HEI)	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Independent Chartering Board (ICB)	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
School District (LEA)	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
Non-Educational Government Entity (NEG)	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Nonprofit Organization (NFP)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
State Education Agency (SEA)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



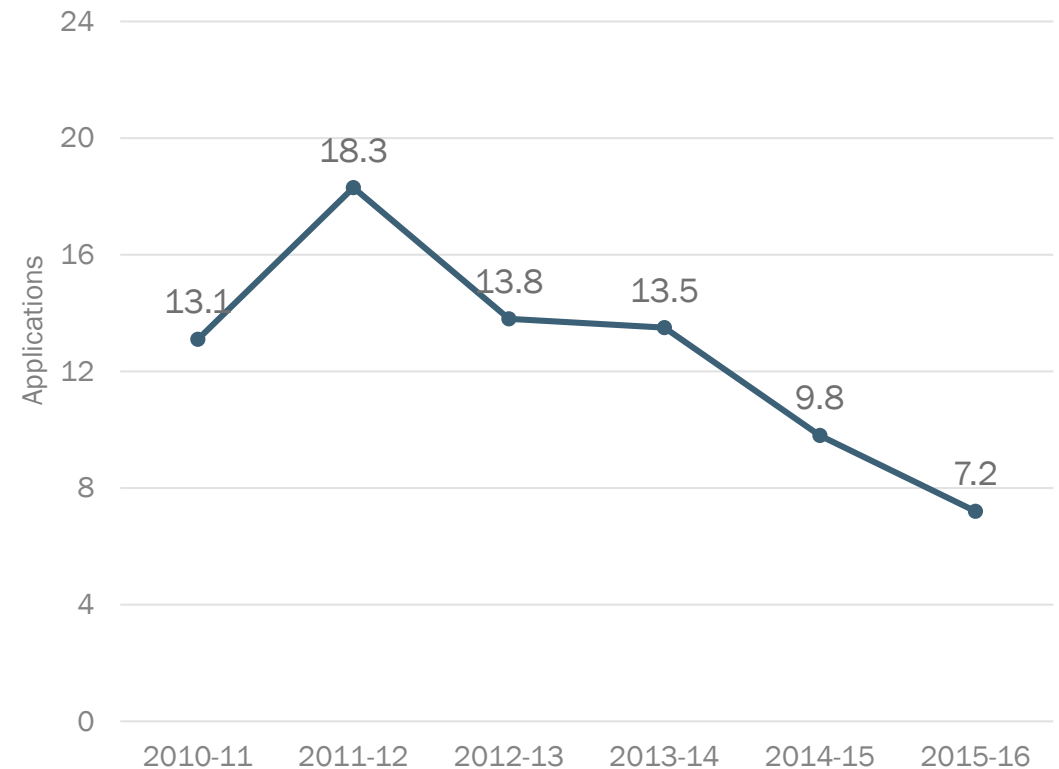
APPLICATIONS

Large authorizers still approve about one in three charter school applications, yet they also continue to receive fewer charter school applications. This means fewer overall school openings.

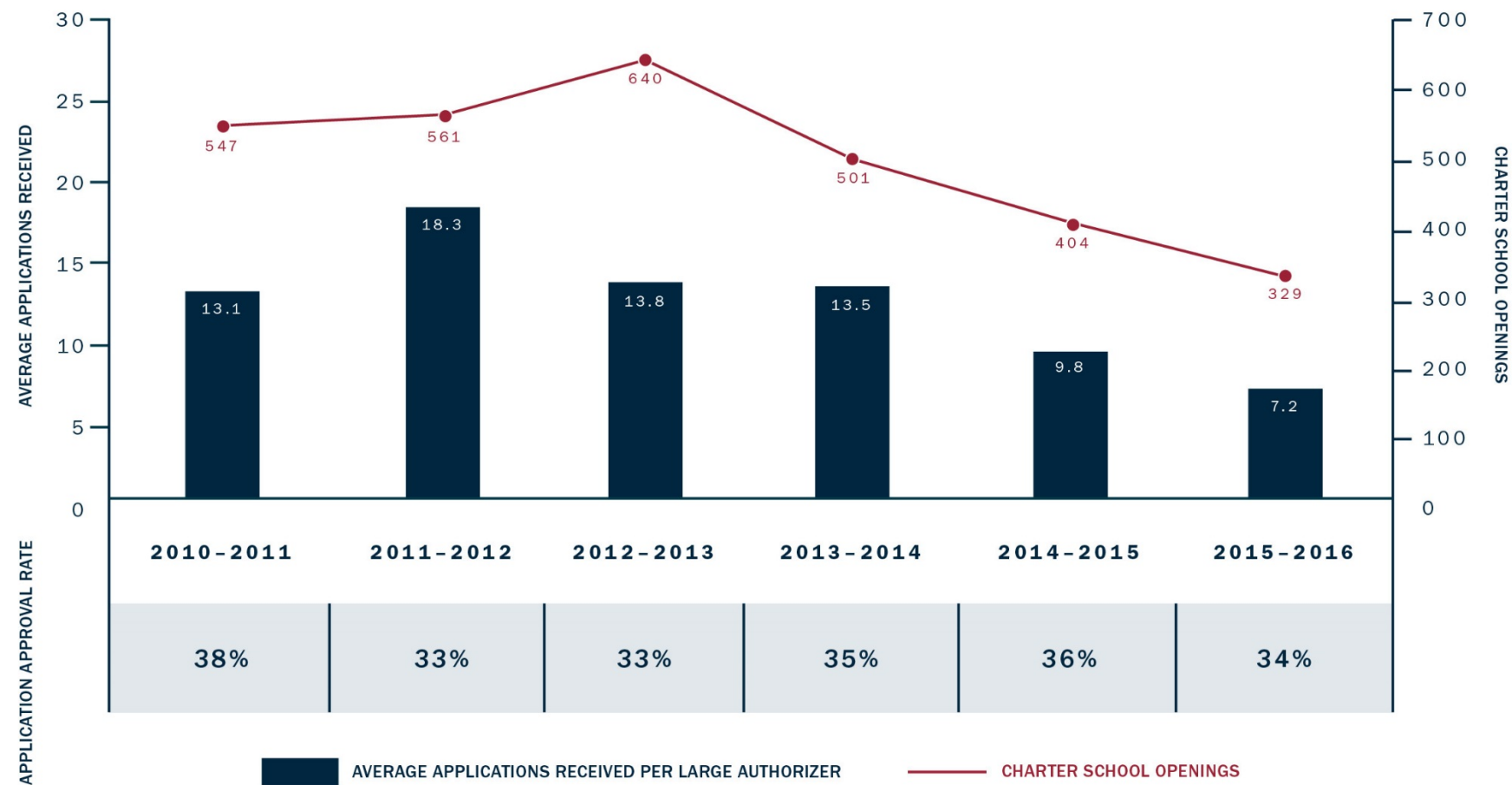
**CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION
APPROVAL RATE (LARGE AUTHORIZERS)**



**AVERAGE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED PER LARGE AUTHORIZER**

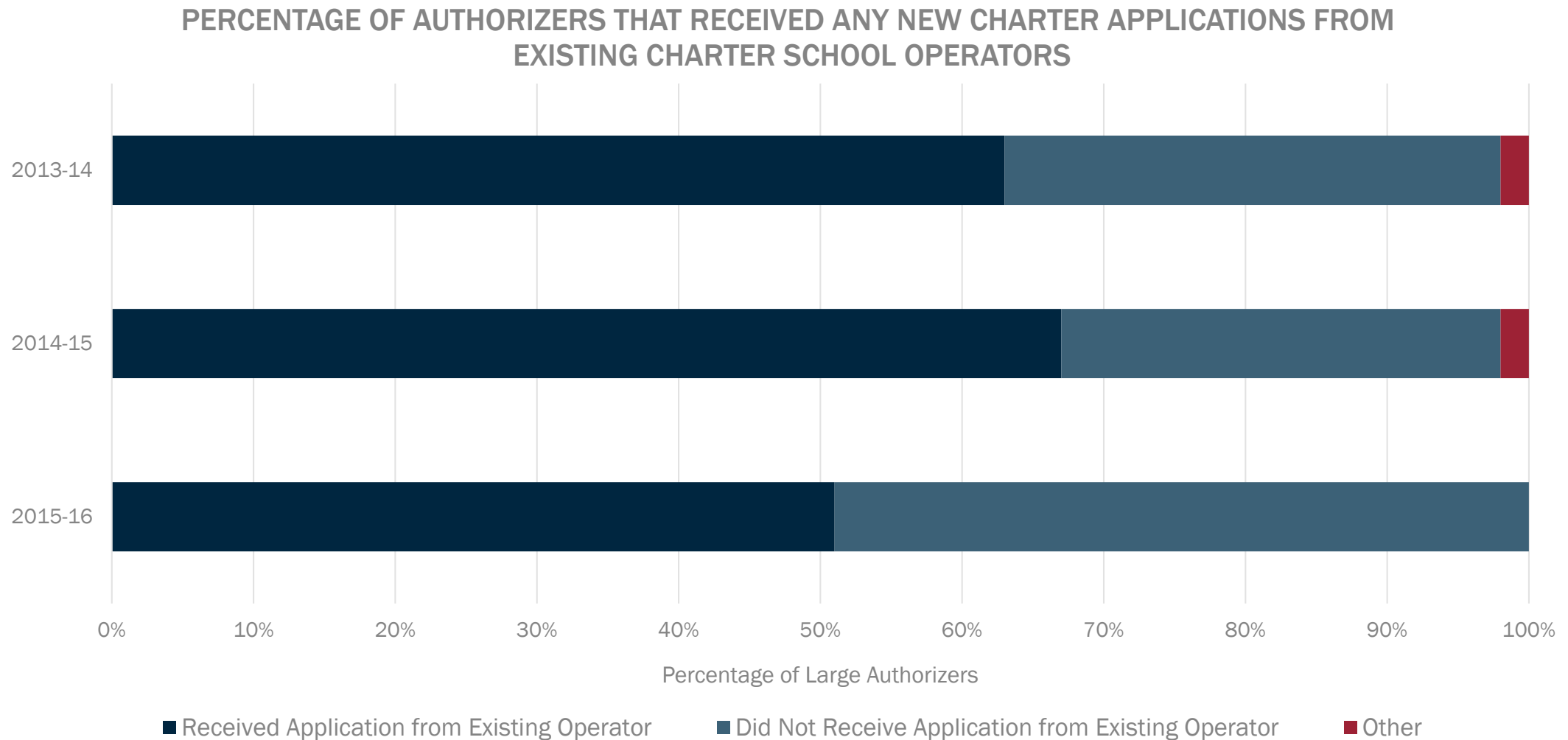


Given that authorizers continue to approve proposals at a steady rate of about 35 percent over the last five years, the slowdown can be attributed, in part, to a national decline in the number of applications.



Note: The number of charter school openings reflects national data on all charter schools, while the average applications received and application approval rate reflects data from NACSA’s annual survey of authorizers overseeing 10 or more charter schools. These authorizers oversee more than 70 percent of all charter schools across the country.

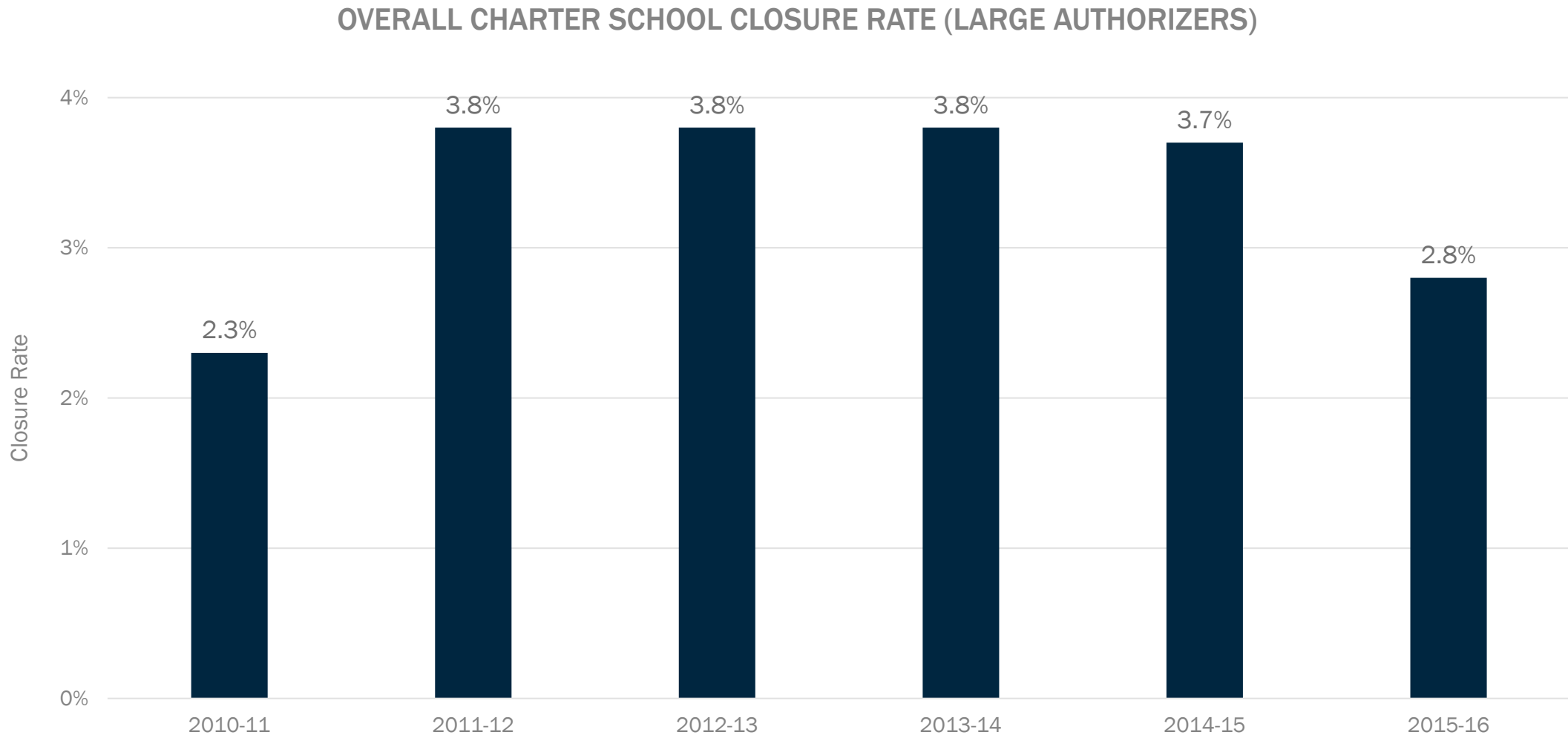
This year, roughly one out of every two large authorizers received applications to open new charter schools from existing operators.



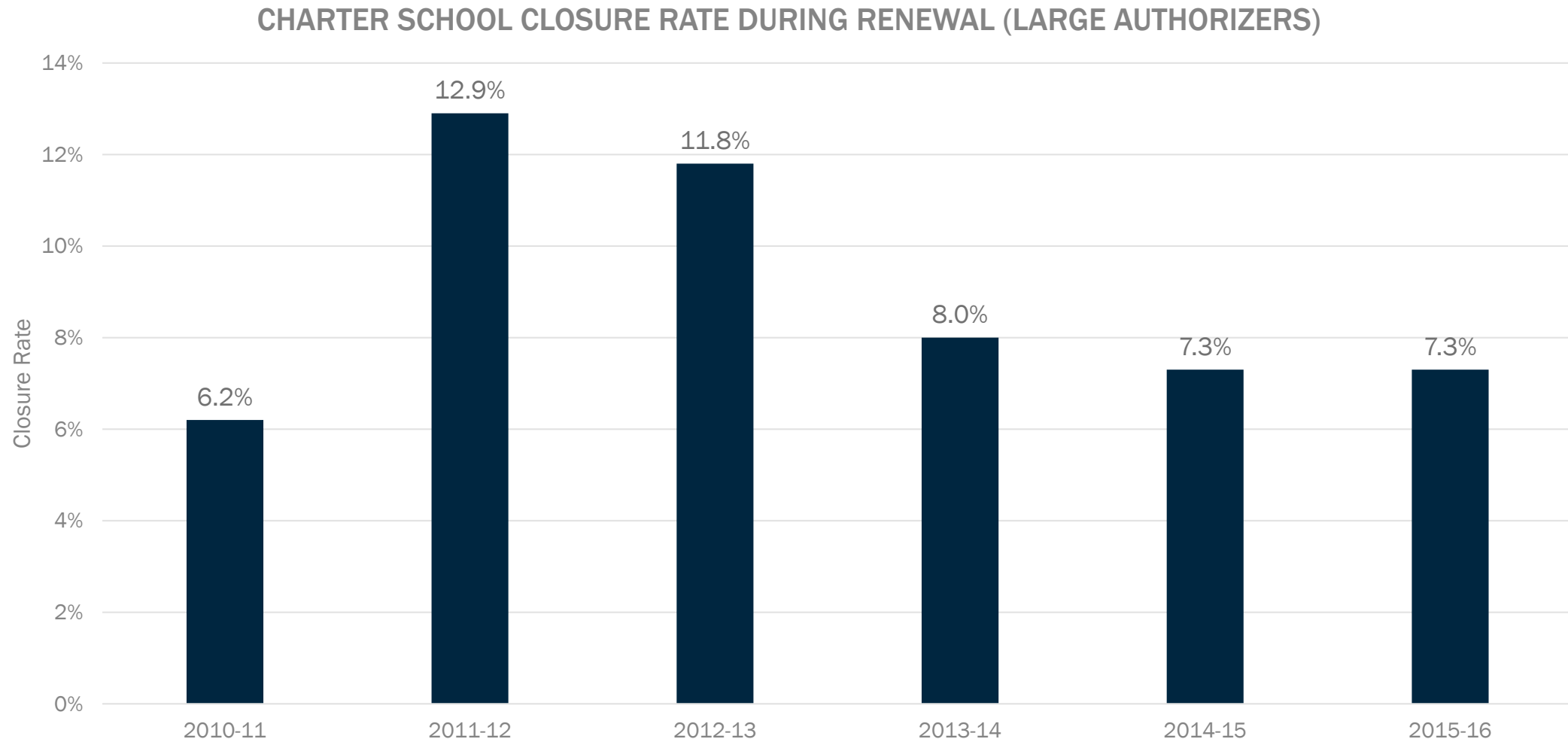


CLOSURE, RENEWAL, REPLICATION

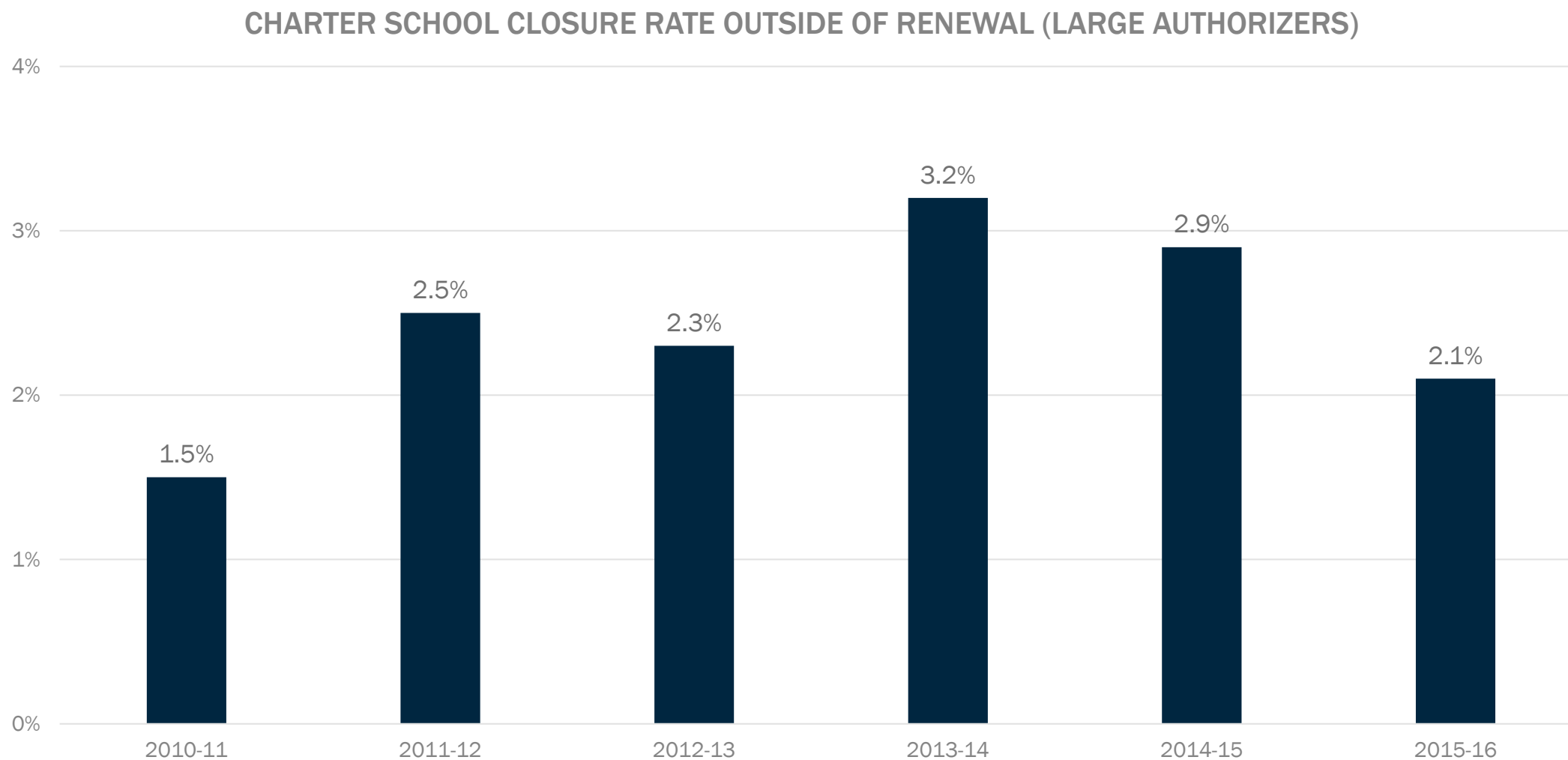
After holding steady, charter school closure rates among large authorizers decreased last year.



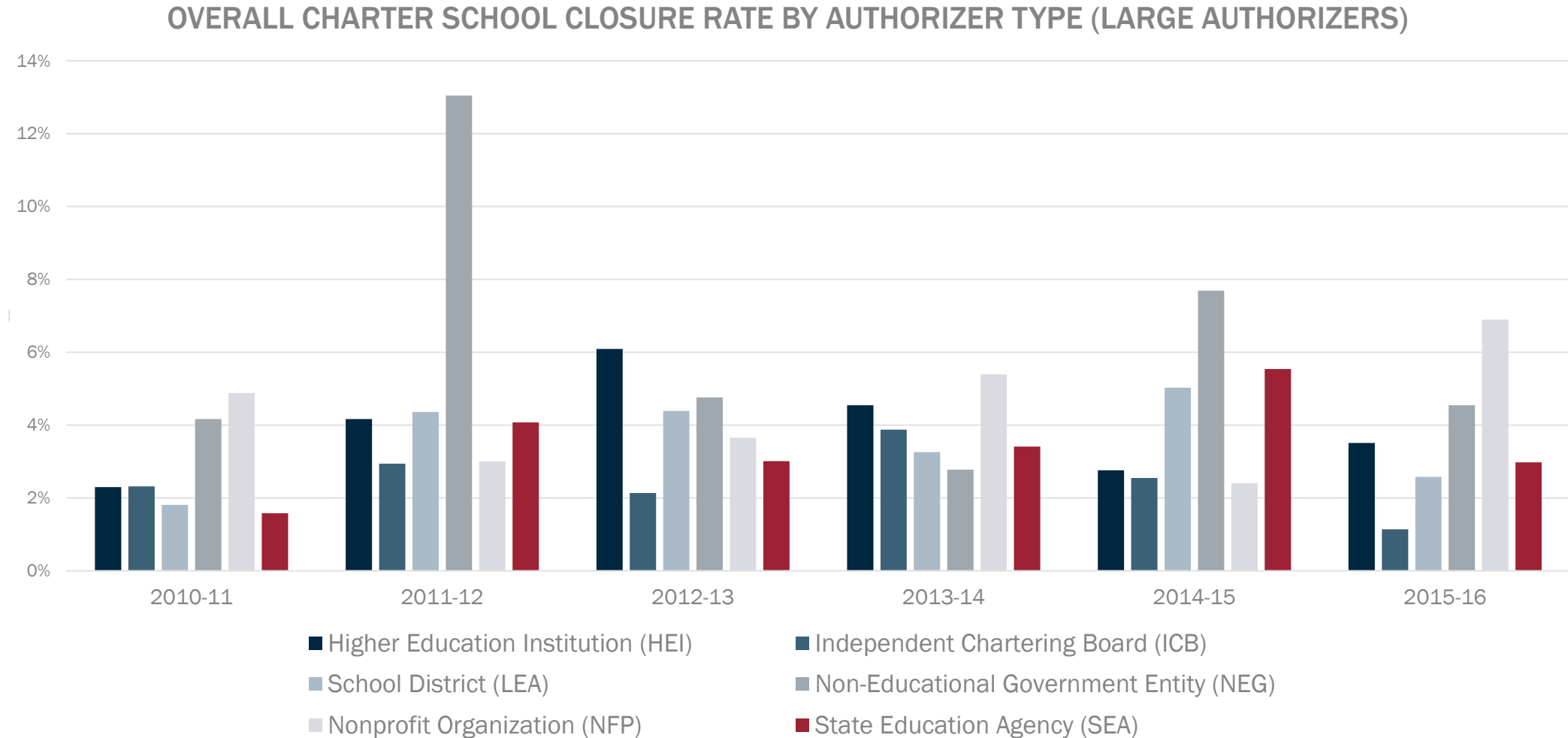
Large authorizers continue to close roughly seven percent of charter schools per year during the renewal process.



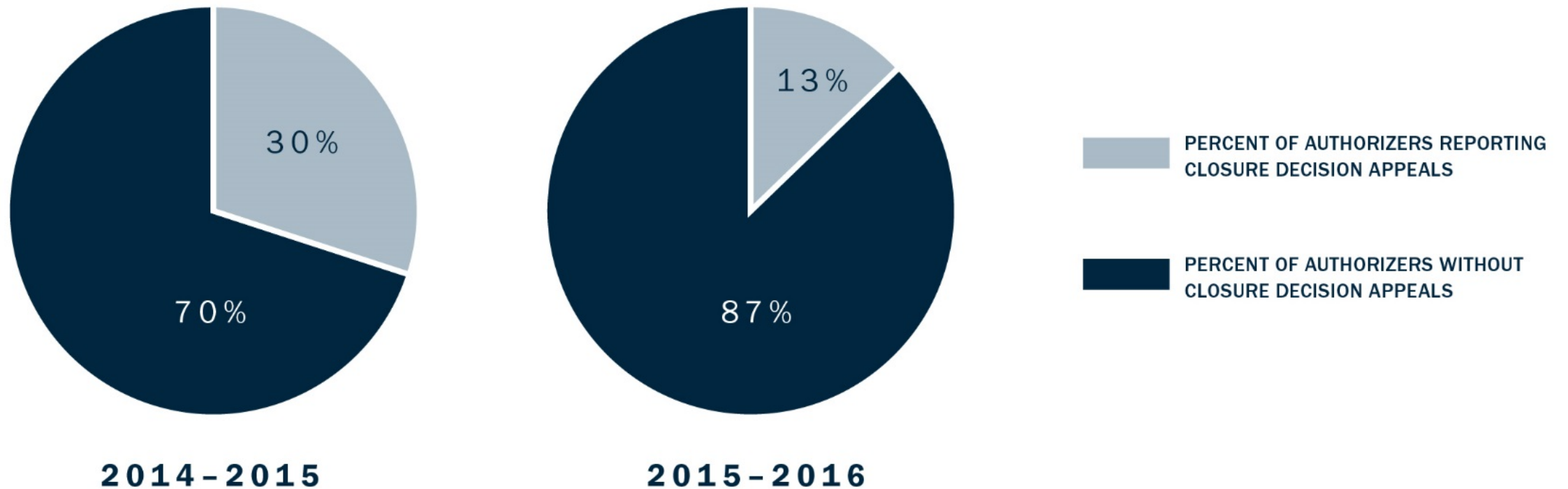
Unexpected charter school closures substantially decreased last year among large authorizers.



The overall charter school closure rate fluctuates by type of authorizer, with no evident trends from year to year.



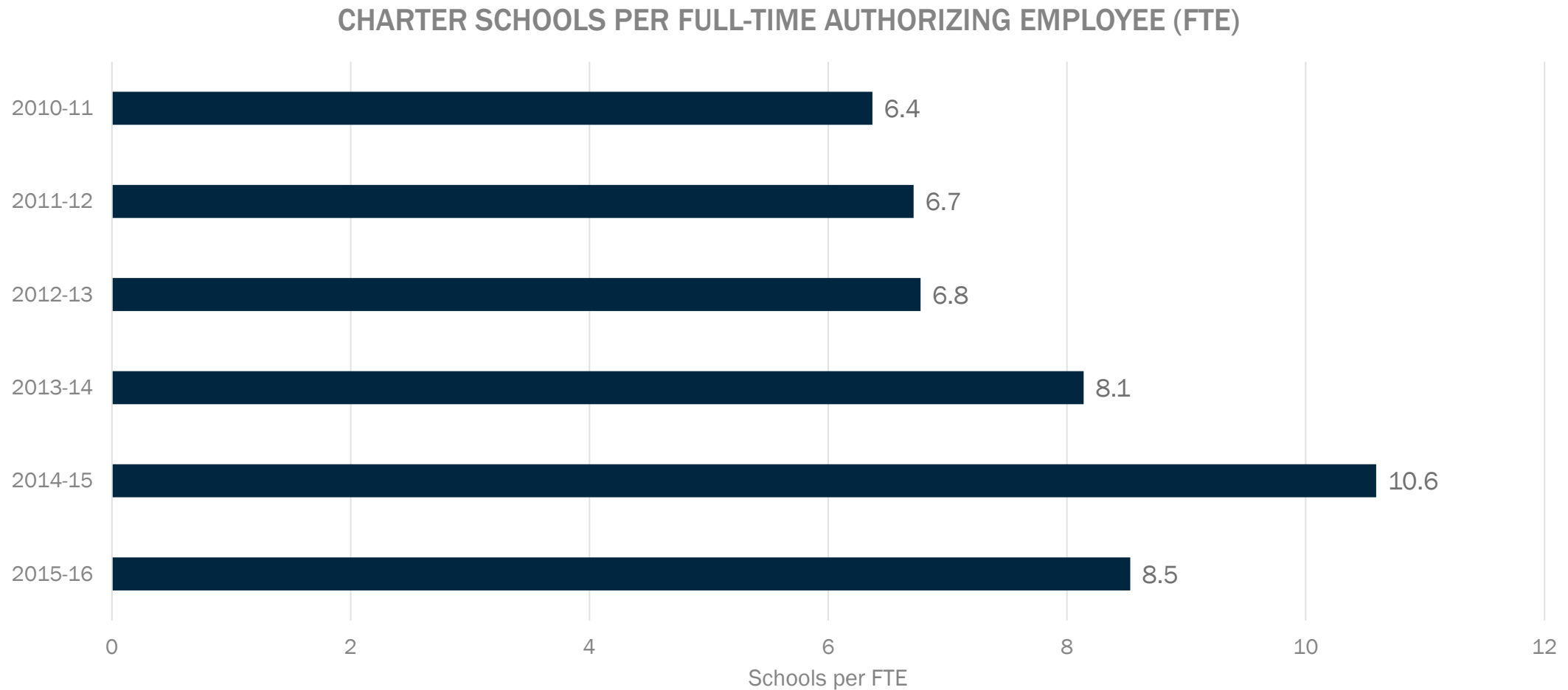
The percentage of large authorizers that had one or more of their closure decisions appealed is down significantly.





STAFFING

Charter school authorizing offices are doing more with less: on average, authorizers have one staff member for every eight schools.



State education departments (SEAs) have the highest number of schools per full-time authorizing employee.

SCHOOLS PER FULL-TIME AUTHORIZING EMPLOYEE (FTE) BY AUTHORIZER TYPE

Type	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Higher Education Institution (HEI)	2.32	2.55	4.04	2.94	5.87	3.56
Independent Chartering Board (ICB)	17.55	8.28	8.11	6.05	8.42	10.43
School District (LEA)	8.28	6.04	6.84	6.61	7.54	7.75
Non-Educational Government Entity (NEG)	4.80	5.75	5.20	5.14	6.00	5.41
Nonprofit Organization (NFP)	4.32	4.49	4.82	3.97	3.99	3.83
State Education Agency (SEA)	7.94	9.82	8.30	9.44	12.64	25.23
Overall	6.37	6.72	6.77	8.14	10.59	8.53

Overall, authorizers do not use a consistent staffing structure; they employ varying levels of staff regardless of portfolio size.

