



Charter Schools

While some charter schools provide alternative approaches to education, they have not provided the comprehensive solution to the issues challenging education that political leaders and charter school advocates claim. Only 3% of children attend charter schools. The vast majority of students attend regular public schools.

Ongoing issues concerning charter schools:

<p>ACCOUNTABILITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Charter schools are partially funded by local real estate taxes. They are not accountable to local taxpayers through locally elected officials or locally approved operating budgets. The charter school law has created taxation without representation. * Local school boards, as elected educational leaders in their communities, should make the decision to establish any charter school within their boundaries before application is made for state approval. * The renewal process for charter schools should include consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student success rates; • Maintenance of the same student population from enrollment through completion of the highest grade. * New York State law requires charter schools to give first preference in admissions to students who live in the district where the charter school is located. Therefore, if a charter school seeks to relocate to a different school district, it should have to reapply for a charter to serve a different community.
<p>FINANCING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * New York State should directly fund all charter schools. Funding needs to be restructured because school obligations are not proportionately reduced by the exit of a few students. * Without direct state funding for charter schools, the calculation for school district payments to charter schools should differentiate between elementary and secondary students. * District obligations for payments to charter schools should be adjusted when those districts are affected by reductions in state aid or increased state-mandated expenses.

If, after 13 years, New York State still believes that charter schools bring value to education, it is time to provide all public schools with the same opportunities for relief from rules, regulations, and mandates.