



Oppose Increased Financial Support for the Charter Industry

The six educational organizations listed above - representing parents, classroom teachers, school-related professionals, school business officials, building administrators, superintendents, and school boards - strongly opposes the following changes with respect to charter schools:

- providing for statewide Building Aid for charter schools;
- eliminating state reimbursement for supplemental tuition paid to charters, shifting those costs to local school districts, particularly at a time when schools are required to absorb all costs within a near zero percent tax cap;
- allowing charters to change authorizers;
- prohibiting any entity from requiring a charter school to sign a contract as a prerequisite to offering pre-K programs;
- allowing charter schools flexibility to hire more uncertified teachers;
- increasing statewide support to charter schools by \$27.4 million or more;
- unfreezing the NYC charter tuition amount which provides charter schools with a per-pupil increase; and
- making permanent the more generous rent formula for NYC charter schools and further enhancing this formula.

However, our members strongly support increased programmatic and fiscal accountability and transparency for charter schools. Charter schools continue to underserve the neediest students and enroll a disproportionately low number of English language learners (ELLs) and students with disabilities throughout the state. Further, there is great need for auditing and review of finances, suspension and discipline practices, and contracts made between charter schools and management organizations.

New York's schools are struggling with a near zero property tax cap, and are still owed \$4.8 billion in GEA and Foundation Aid, while charter schools continue to receive significant funding increases with no additional accountability or transparency.