

OPPOSE

Reign in Charter School Expansion and Ensure Oversight

Charter expansion continued despite a lack of consistent success and proven discriminatory enrollment practices against students with disabilities and other at-risk students. The expansion of charter schools has been pervasive in certain big cities and other urban communities with charter schools accounting for greater than 30% of public school enrollment in certain instances.

The Executive budget would continue and accelerate the growth in charter schools and their enrollment figures by lifting the New York City specific cap on charter schools and restoring so called “zombie” charters. This would not only be detrimental to students attending public schools in the City, it would have a long-term budgetary impact on schools throughout the state as it would continue to divert public dollars from public schools through continued direct aid to charters due to the supplemental tuition formula and the New York City charter school building aid law.

Beyond opposing the Executive’s proposed charter school expansion, we support specific initiatives to protect our system of public education.

- Prohibit new charter schools in district where 5% or more of the public school enrollment attends charter schools, unless authorized by the board of education.
- Prohibit the SUNY charter school institute from illegally granting charter renewals that exceed the statutory limit of five years.

The COUNCIL urges the Legislature to reject an expansion of charter schools and to take immediate action to constrain charter growth and ensure long-term accountability for charter schools and authorizers.