



**WYOMING ASSOCIATION  
OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**HOUSE BILL 152 - CHARTER SCHOOLS LEGISLATION**  
***Creating Equal School Rights in the "Equality State"***

**Quick Summary**

- Creates an independent board to authorize charter schools, in addition to the authorizing power of local school boards;
- Increases accountability of charter schools while ensuring equitable funding;
- Empowers parents and families by creating more high quality educational options.

**What is a Charter School Authorizer?**

An authorizer is the entity or body approved by the legislature to bring into existence charter schools. Authorizers set up processes and approve charter schools and are accountable for managing and monitoring their progress in compliance with all applicable laws.

**What is an Independent or Multiple Authorizer?**

Independent or Multiple Authorizer is the term given to entities other than local school boards that have authority under state law to approve charter schools. They are typically bodies outside of the regular education structure of a state (new public boards, universities, municipalities, etc.).

**Why Does Wyoming Need an Independent Charter School Authorizer?**

*Currently there are only three charter schools operating in Wyoming and another has recently applied to the Cheyenne School Board and been turned down. Local school boards are often unable or unwilling to have fair and impartial processes to vet charter schools, and many that do approve charter schools create friction between schooling entities. An independent authorizer is needed to ensure charter school quality and growth.*

*States that have multiple authorizers are not only more likely to foster growth, but quality growth. Eighty percent of the nation's 4,150 charter schools are in states with multiple authorizers or a strong binding appeals process. States with multiple authorizers have almost 4 times more charter schools than states requiring only or prior local school board approval.*

**How Many Other States have Multiple or Independent Authorizers?**

*17 states have multiple or independent chartering authorities. Including some of Wyoming's fellow western states of Arizona, Colorado and Idaho.*

**What do Wyomingites think about Creating an Independent Authorizer?**

- 59 percent of respondents to a recent statewide survey feel that more than one group (beyond local school boards) should have the authority to create charter schools.
- 76 percent of people surveyed support allowing communities to create public charter schools.
- 68 percent feel that parents should be allowed to choose from a number of public schools rather than assigning children to one public school based solely on where they live.



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*Do you support or oppose allowing communities to create new public schools - called charter schools - that would be held accountable for student results and would be required to meet the same academic standards/testing requirements as other public schools but not cost taxpayers any additional money?*

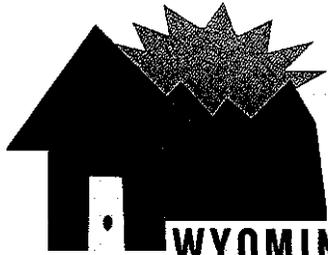
**76% TOTAL SUPPORT (NET)**

48% STRONGLY SUPPORT  
28% SOMEWHAT SUPPORT

**18% TOTAL OPPOSE (NET)**

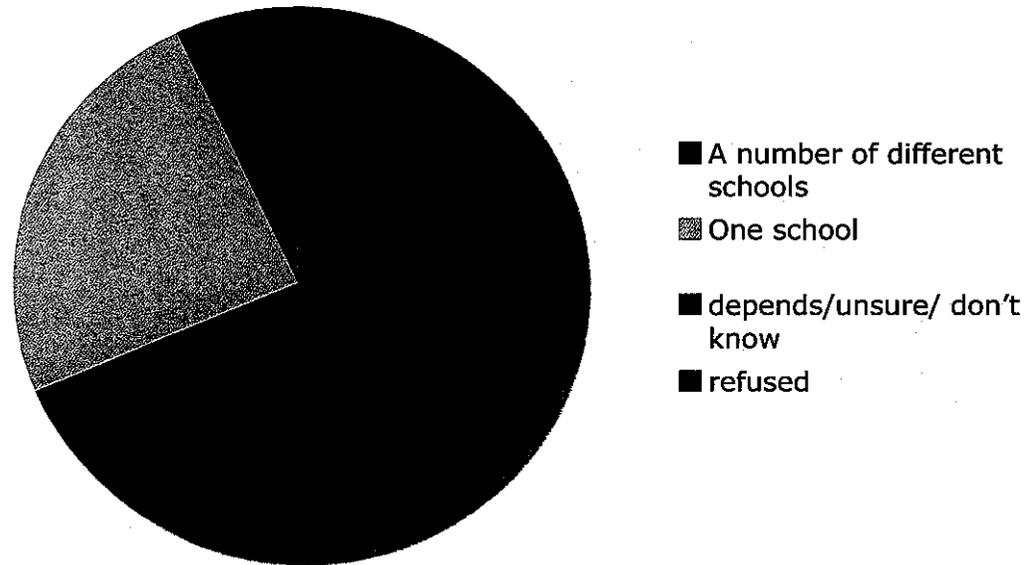
9% SOMEWHAT OPPOSE  
9% STRONGLY OPPOSE

6% DON'T KNOW (VOL)  
1% REFUSED (VOL)



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**Support for School Choice**

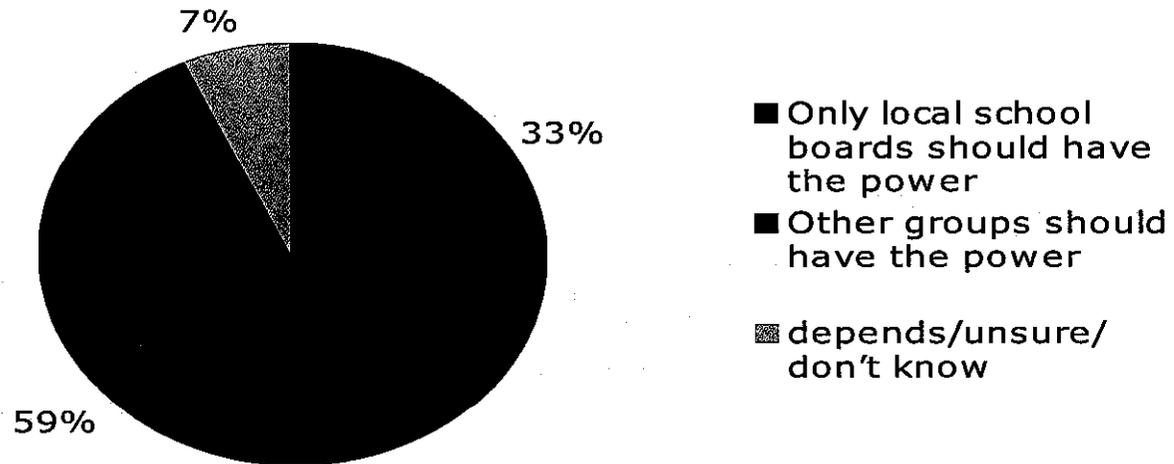


*A majority of Wyomingites believe children should not be assigned to one public school based solely on where they live, but should be allowed to choose from a number of different public schools.*



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### Equal School Rights in the "Equality State"



59% believe other groups should have the power to authorize charter schools.



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### ***Cheyenne and Jackson Voices On School Choice...***

*"The kids deserve the right to go to any school."*

—Corbett

*"The benefit [of charter schools] is that parents have deliberately chosen the school they want their child to go to. If the parent has a charter school choice, it is better for the child..."*

—Adrienne

### ***In response to the current charter school law...***

*"That sounds tough [to meet], especially if the school district is protective."*

—Victoria

*"I don't know if they will ever allow it to go any further."*

—Theresa

*"There should be an either/or somehow not having the board of education be the gatekeeper. Because if half of the parents in a school and 10% of the district is interested, then there is obviously something there."*

— Elizabeth