

Join us!

The imposition of charter schools on local communities has been met with strong opposition. Dozens of school boards have appealed the state's decision to grant charters.

A number of parent-initiated groups have been formed to support local boards in their appeals. Members of these groups gathered last March to hold a rally at the Statehouse in Trenton.

The rally garnered considerable press coverage and launched a statewide coalition of parents, taxpayers, educators and school board members determined to change the charter school law.

The coalition is working with legislators to amend the charter school law to include:

- local approval of charter schools;
- state funding for charter schools;
- requirement that charter school populations reflect the racial and socio-economic composition of the sending district.

Please join with us to ensure passage of a bill that would meet the needs of our communities and ensure an excellent education for all public school students in New Jersey.

For more information, please call The Coalition to Amend the Charter School Law at (732) 985-3155.

The New Jersey School Boards Association wants to reform New Jersey's Charter School Law:

The New Jersey School Boards Association has passed a resolution to seek legislation that requires that charter schools be established and operated by the board of education of a public school district, or that charter schools be established and/or operated by an entity other than a local board of education only if no school district is required to provide financial or other support.

Join us!

Coalition to Amend the Charter School Law

Northern New Jersey Coordinators:
East Orange District Parent Involvement
Coordinators, East Orange

Central New Jersey Coordinators:
Citizens for Public Education, Highland Park;
Taxpayers Against Charter Schools (TACS),
 Matawan-Aberdeen.

Southern New Jersey Coordinators:
Child Advocates for Renewing Public Education
(CARPE), Ocean City

For more information,
contact the Coalition at:
(732)985-3155



The Truth about New Jersey's Charter School Law:

The Worst in the Nation!

New Jersey has created the only charter school law in the nation that does not include even one of the following provisions:

- local district approval of charter schools;
- protection of existing school programs and funding;
- a requirement to ensure the racial and socio-economic balance of student populations.

sources:
• Center for Education Reform, Charter School Legislation:
State by State Analysis, Spring 1997
National Conference of State Legislatures, Charter School
Legislative Summary from 1977, Feb. 1998
**Local property tax levy & state aid for education varies
greatly among districts sending to regional charter schools.

LOCAL APPROVAL

Believe it or not...

- New Jersey's Charter School Law is the only one empowering one person, the Commissioner of Education, to grant a charter.*
- Unlike in other states, New Jersey's communities have no control over whether charter schools should be established and local taxes seized. Charter schools receive millions of public dollars, yet need is not a factor.*
- New Jersey school districts are forced to send local property tax dollars to charter schools which may be fiscally inefficient, educationally redundant and not meet the needs of the public school student population.
- New Jersey charter school boards are neither elected nor appointed by elected officials, yet they have access to millions of local property tax dollars.
- New Jersey charter school budgets are voter proof. According to the NJ Department of Education, charter school expenditures may not be put out for a referendum vote. Voters may vote down expenditures for their local school, but charter school expenditures are off limits.

It's undemocratic!

FUNDING

These are the facts...

- Although the State of New Jersey alone grants charters, funds for charter schools are taken from existing public schools budgets or from increased local property taxes. Valuable programs, instruction and teacher/student ratios are threatened.
- District budgets are at risk. Angry local property taxpayers are not given the opportunity to vote for or against funding for charter schools, as they are for local district school budgets.
- Local property taxpayers often end up subsidizing the charter school education of children in regional districts, since they may pay a disproportionate amount of local property taxes to educate children from another town!***
- Local property taxpayers must now support dozens of new, inefficient mini-districts.
- Local property taxpayers pay for additional charter school teachers, nurses administrators, aides, learning disabilities staff, custodians, cafeteria consultants, utilities, transportation, and additional school facilities. However, they realize no savings from the loss of charter students.

It's too costly!

BALANCE

Meet the need...

- New Jersey's charter school law does not require that the student population of charter schools reflect the racial and socio-economic balance of local districts.
- Regional charter schools may draw racially and socio-economically disproportionate populations, thereby threatening desegregation orders.
- Charter schools too often "cream the crop" of privileged students, those with more active parents or with higher levels of achievement, leaving behind those at-risk children most in need of smaller class sizes and more costly and labor intensive approaches. Public schools find themselves with fewer resources to meet needs because of flawed charter school funding.

**Help amend
New Jersey's Charter
School Law...**

for all our children.

It's just not fair!