



Charter Schools

Charter schools were approved to provide alternative approaches to education. They have not been the comprehensive solution to the issues challenging education that political leaders and charter school advocates claim. The vast majority of students still attend traditional 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 student success rates and the 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. * Oversight of Charter schools needs to be improved; regulations which include appropriate measures to ensure independence among interested parties and greater transparency with regard use of public funds are needed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NY State Comptroller was given the authority to audit Charter schools in 2011, yet few have been done. For those completed, the comptroller has cited a number of schools for financial mismanagement. • Questionable practices include lack of bidding, lack of independent leadership between service providers and school trustees, lack of disclosure of public funds for services contracted to private agencies and inflated properties leases.

If, after 19 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.



Charter School Impact on Monroe County Schools

Suburban schools in MCSBA member districts are now being impacted by Charter schools primarily through the cost of transporting students. The cost for transportation for each district is based on the distance outside of district boundaries that students need to be bussed, the number of charters students attend and the ability that districts have to cooperate with each other in transporting charter school students.

School District	# of students going to Charters	Cost to Transport
Brighton	5	\$30,240
Churchville-Chili	20	\$160,000
East Irondequoit	36	\$228,000
East Rochester	5	\$29,734.25
Fairport	4	\$40,800
Gates Chili	56	\$136,637
Greece	75	\$82,500
Hilton	2	\$16,319.22
Penfield	5	\$24,289.20
Pittsford	1	\$15,120
Rush-Henrietta	6	\$70,000
Spencerport	4	\$92,643
West Irondequoit	9	\$109,000

Rochester City – 17.46% of 30,217 (16-17) enrollment = 5,277 in charter schools. The **gap** between transition aid and the actual costs to the district for students who attend charters is more than \$49.2 million. Between 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 the increase in costs was \$7.6 million alone (13% increase).