

THE Center for Education Reform



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IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE FRONT!

NEW YORK STATE HAS A CHARTER SCHOOL LAW!!!

As victory is declared, New Jersey retreats.

At about 1:30 this morning (Friday, December 18), the New York State Senate passed by a vote of 39-21 a charter school law. At 3:30 am, the State Assembly followed suit by a vote of 94-44. Governor George Pataki's charter law is strong. Its positive features include:

- the inclusion of the State University of New York (SUNY) board of trustees, which is comprised of gubernatorial appointees, as a chartering entity. Fifty of the 100 total charters will be issued upon the recommendation of SUNY;
- a blanket waiver of all bureaucratic rules, regulations, and laws applicable to public schools, except for health, safety, and civil rights;
- total freedom from state tenure laws and pre-existing collective bargaining agreements;
- total freedom from bureaucratic certification requirements for non-instructional personnel, including principals;
- total freedom for a charter school to design its own curriculum, decide its own school uniform policy, and set the length of the school day and school year;
- accountability measures including a five-year performance-based charter, oversight by the chartering entity and the Board of Regents, and a requirement that charter schools administer at least the same exams as public schools and meet or exceed all state performance standards;
- complete financial and administrative autonomy from local school districts;
- flexibility in teacher certification rules;
- unrestricted participation of private-sector partners and private educational firms;
- freedom from mandated union representation for 10 charters regardless of school size, and for 90 others if a school's enrollment remains under 250 children for the first year of operation; and
- existing per pupil operating funding follows students to the charter school they select.

The above was provided by the New York Charter School Resource Foundation. Please feel free to call Gerry Vazquez at (516) 598-4426 with any questions.

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