

# The Center for Education Reform



1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Suite 204 • Washington, DC 20036

Tel 202-822-9000  
Fax 202-822-5077

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URGENT FAX TO : New Jersey Charter Schools  
FROM: Your friends at the Center for Education Reform

RE : Legislature's attempts to restrict *YOUR* operations

As you may know by now, the Senate will be voting this Thursday on a public school choice bill which will restrict — intentionally or not — the ability of children in each district to attend other public schools of choice at their will.

This was passed last week by the Assembly, and is **cleared for passage in the Senate.**

You can help put an end to this lunacy. Here's how:

1) The second sheet of this fax is a flier for you to copy and send **home WITH EACH AND EVERY CHILD. You must make every parent you have aware that legislators are playing with their future.**

2) Make sure you are in contact with influential people in your immediate area. Any friends you have at your local business network (Lions club, Kiwanis, Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, etc) or city council must be contacted and urgently requested to contact their own representatives or friends in the legislature and **put them on notice that this vote will not go overlooked.**

3) While you may not want to go this far, you might consider **having your children write a note to the Governor telling them why they like their school** and asking for more children to have the same chance they did.

Your own state resource people, such as Sara Tantillo, have done a marvelous job communicating with the powers that be. We are providing our advice based on our experience in other states where similar efforts have occurred. The bottom line is that lots of people are working on your behalf, and you must join their efforts and engage your parents and allies locally to pressure the legislature in Trenton. Take this seriously — and you will find yourself in a winning battle.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of children. We hope you find these guidelines helpful in your efforts to ensure better learning opportunities for all children.

## IMPORTANT NOTE TO OUR PARENTS

The state legislature is right now working on passing a new law that would limit the number of children statewide that can attend charter schools.

This law would hurt our school because it might mean we couldn't grow, which could severely limit our ability to provide new and better services in the future.

This law would also hurt other children like yours, but who right now are in failing public schools, looking for opportunities for choices similar to those we provide.

Today, there is an opportunity for another 95 schools to open. But this new law might discourage anyone from starting a new charter school, because under this new proposal, no more than 7% of children in any district can go to any public school of choice.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** *You* can make a difference and have an impact on what happens in your state today.

**HOW?** Here's how:

Every individual in New Jersey has both a state assemblyman or woman, and a state senator. **THEY NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Call their local office *and* their Trenton office. (Call Legislative Services at 1-800-792-8630 if you are not sure of the phone number or the name of your district's legislator.)

You need to tell them that you are a charter school parent and why you like your child's school.

You need to tell them that you do not believe that there should be limits placed on how many children are free to attend charter schools.

The **PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE** bill now being considered is bad for charter schools. Tell them you are going to watch how they vote on this issue.

Then follow up your call with a letter reminding them briefly that you called. Like this:

Dear Representative (or Senator) so and so:

I hope you got my message about the public school choice bill that is now before the legislature for a vote.

That bill would hurt charter schools. Charters are working for the children that attend them, and across the country, all kinds of children are benefiting from the freedom and innovations that charters allow.

Please do not let this good charter law be hurt by this bad public school choice bill. We are counting on you

(Your name and address)