

FEC outline

Specific Activities/Strategies

The goals of this effort are as follows:

* To support the continued development of a national fiscal equity campaign strategy including a major education effort to inform state policymakers throughout the US about the issue of public charter school inequities.

* The development in support of state partners of plans and goals to address fiscal inequity among their states.

Strategy 1

CER will work with the three current targeted states to ensure that organizations representing children and/or parents in that state's charter schools launch fiscal equity campaigns. CER will help local groups with the development of plans and the procurement of funding, when necessary.

Strategy 2:

Policymakers across the states will be educated on the need and constitutional importance of fiscal inequity and the public nature of charter schools. CER will continue to meet nationally with state policymakers through representative groups, such as ALEC, NGA, NCSL and additional caucuses representing various groups of lawmakers. They will be presented with compelling information, testimony and support on issues surrounding fiscal inequities in charter schools and to build coalition support for any legislative action that may be necessary. Efforts will be made to work through groups such as BAEO, HCREO and others who have access to minority lawmakers.

Strategy 3:

CER will conduct comprehensive research, the results of which will include documentation of school finance impacts state by state, and a publicized on-line searchable database for public access, combined with searchable inventories of all methods of financing charter schools, sorted according to best and worst practices. CER will track state efforts on equity and report on them nationally regularly. Model legislation to solve fiscal inequities in charter schools will be created for all target states and for any other requested groups.

Strategy 4:

We will solicit from legal scholars and lawyers on the teams complete analysis to guide state and local allies in assessing the constitutional grounds for challenges to all target states.

Anticipated Results

The primary outcome we seek from this grant is the preparation of strategies and timelines for the fiscal equity campaign in the three states identified and a plan for the coordinated launching of the lawsuit in all three states.

In attempting to achieve this goal, CER will benchmark progress relative to the strategies outlined above. We have identified the following outcomes:

- The development of formal groups in each of the three targeted states committed to a lawsuit for fiscal equity, each with a developed plan for their campaigns and proposals for funding.
- Improved understanding among lawmakers about fiscal inequity and increased visibility about financing of charter schools.
- Production of the public access database on charter school equity and best practices for lawmakers in developing proposals.
- Development of a PR plan that includes releasing issue briefings, press releases and op-eds on fiscal equity leading up to the launch of the lawsuits.