Education Is for Kids – Not for Profits!

* **Charters are a lucrative real estate investment.** 
  + **Charters rent or buy buildings from private real estate developers using public funds.** <http://dianeravitch.net/2015/10/16/real-estate-investors-jump-into-charter-chool-market-see-large-annual-profits/>
  + **The federal New Markets Tax Credit allows them to collect tax credits that allow them to “double their money in as little as seven years.”** [http://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2013/09/10/charter-school-gravy-train-runs-express-to-fat-city/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2013/09/10/charter-school-gravy-train-runs-express-to-fat-city/%20)
* **Charters are a way for elected officials to reward their political cronies.**
  + **The for-profit school industry is a large contributor to candidates who support charter schools.** <http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-charter-donations-20151202-story.html>
  + **Privately governed charters in many states are exempt from open meetings requirements and requirements to seek competitive bids on contracts.** <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/charter-revenue>
  + **Because they lack public scrutiny, charters are able to purchase goods and services from the companies of board members and administrative staff.** [http://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2013/09/10/charter-school-gravy-train-runs-express-to-fat-city/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2013/09/10/charter-school-gravy-train-runs-express-to-fat-city/%20)
* **Charters don’t provide better educational outcomes for kids.** 
  + **The majority of charters show scores no better than or even worse than those of public schools on standardized tests.** <http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865582169/Study-Majority-of-US-charter-schools-perform-equal-or-worse-than-traditional-schools.html?pg=all>
  + **Charters cut costs by maintaining inexperienced staff.** <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/charter-revenue>
  + **Charter CEOs draw hefty bonuses based on enrollment, not on student achievement.** [http://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2013/09/10/charter-school-gravy-train-runs-express-to-fat-city/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2013/09/10/charter-school-gravy-train-runs-express-to-fat-city/%20)
* **Charters don’t provide equal access to every student.** 
  + **Charters can cherry pick their students, weeding out students with learning disabilities or special needs** . <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2015/02/28/separating-fact-from-fiction-in-21-claims-about-charter-schools/>
  + **Charters can expel students they deem undesirable.** <http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2014-02-26/news/ct-chicago-schools-discipline-met-20140226_1_charter-schools-andrew-broy-district-run-schools>
  + **Privately governed entities like charters do not guarantee the same constitutional protections as public institutions.** <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/charter-revenue>
* **Charters are more expensive than public schools.** 
  + **Charters spend more per student on administration, and spend less per student on instruction.** <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/charter-revenue>
  + **“Excess costs” of charter schools accrue through administrative fees, acquisitions and transfers of buildings and property with accompanying debt service, and asset hoarding, which do not apply to public schools.** <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/charter-revenue>

Public Schools vs. Charters – What’s the difference?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | PUBLIC SCHOOLS | CHARTERS |
| Governed by public officials | **√** | **X** |
| Subject to open public records & open meetings laws | **√** | **X** |
| Required to comply with public bidding requirements | **√** | **X** |
| Required to disclose finances including detailed annual financial reports & public posting of budgets | **√** | **X** |
| Public officials subject to open meetings laws | **√** | **X** |
| All documents/employee contracts/ financial documents & communications between officials subject to open records laws. | **√** | **X** |
| Public employees with key constitutional and statutory protections | **√** | **X** |
| Students retain their constitutional and statutory rights to due process | **√** | **X** |

<http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/charter-revenue>