



Allow Nonprofit Public Charter Schools

That Help Close
Achievement Gaps for Kids

Every child deserves a chance to succeed in college, careers, and life, which starts with a great education. Unfortunately, many Kentucky children are not succeeding in their public school, with students of color and low-income students being disproportionately left behind. One alternative to traditional public schools can be public charter schools, but Kentucky remains one of seven states that does not allow public charters.

Kentucky's public charter schools should help our most vulnerable students succeed and should be tuition-free and open to any child who wants to attend. Strong accountability in exchange for autonomy is the charter school promise.

Elements of Strong Charter School Legislation in Kentucky:

Maintain accountability and assessment standards equivalent to traditional public schools

To eliminate the risk of potential misuse of public funds, public charter schools must have the same accountability standards as other public schools. If they are not meeting these goals, strong legislation would hold public charter schools to the highest accountability — losing their charter and being forced to close.

Require that teachers are certified like current public school educators

Kentucky certification would hold teachers at public charter schools to the same professional standards as traditional public schools and ensure a quality teaching staff.

Implement a transparent, monitored authorization process with multiple pathways to authorization

Approved authorizers could include local boards of education, public universities with an accredited teacher preparation program, and the mayor of any first-class city. The Kentucky Board of Education should monitor the authorization process and handle appeals.

Guarantee only not-for-profit charter school operators

Not-for-profit operators have the strongest track record for student outcomes, and that should be the prime consideration in any legislation. Virtual charters have not been successful with students.

Protect charter school personnel like other public school employees

As a public school, charter operators should have the ability to hire and maintain high quality, dedicated teachers. All personnel need the same protections as other public school employees, and districts or schools can opt to participate in the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System.



KENTUCKY YOUTH ADVOCATES