

Charter Schools



By Ms. Gramatges

What is a Charter School?

- ⌘ Public school financed by state government
- ⌘ Operate independently school district rules
- ⌘ Sponsored by independent groups



What I would say:

A charter schools is a public school that is financed by the state government. They are independent school district rules and regulations. For example, charter schools can create and follow their own rules on how to schedule, what to study, who to hire and fire, and how to spend their money. Charter schools are run by independent groups, such as universities, nonprofit foundations or groups of parents who want more control over how their children are taught. Charter schools cannot charge tuition, teach religion, discriminate based on culture or ethnicity.

Why are there Charter Schools?

Parents unhappy with public schools



What I would say:

Parents have been unhappy with the current focus and quality of public school education. By creating a public school that does not have to follow the traditional school rules and regulations, it was the hope of parents that they would be able to increase academic achievement by providing a school that gives parents and teachers choices about what they teach. They wanted to create a more competitive educational environment that would encourage other schools to improve their educational program.

Pros of Charter Schools

- ∞ Control of teaching methods and curriculum
- ∞ Teachers responsible for student results
- ∞ Students work to full potential
- ∞ Responsive Parents



What I would say:

It is difficult for teachers to work in a place where they are judged on their students' achievements and failures if they are not able to choose what they can teach and how they can teach it. If teachers are told how and what to teach, their creativity is stifled. They are unable to change the assignments to engage all students and meet different students' needs. If teachers are able to control the curriculum and teaching methods, they will be happier and they will be able to motivate students to learn in a creative and engaging manner.

Once teachers are given this freedom, they can be responsible for how the students learn and how much progress they make. It also allows them to change up how they teach if students need a different way of learning. This may help teachers better serve students that are at risk of dropping out of school or who have difficulty learning because of learning impairments or home concerns.

It has also been noted that parents whose children are in a charter school, tend to be more responsive and involved in school activities and instruction.

Cons of Charter Schools

- ✎ School population is hand picked
- ✎ Teachers certification not required
- ✎ Takes funding away from public schools



What I would say:

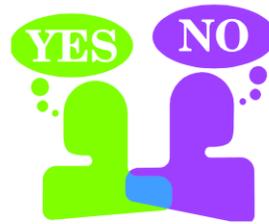
Some opponents suggest that charter school hand pick their students, selecting only the best and the brightest because a charter school must renew its contract. If the school is not doing well, if they do not show academic progress, then the contract may not be renewed.

Some also say that teachers are not required to have teacher certification to teach in a charter school. This means that criminal background checks are not required and that teachers do not have to prove minimal competency in their field. This could put students at risk-teachers may not know how to teach or may have a criminal background.

Because charter schools cannot ask for tuition, the money that is collected through your taxes will be split to cover both public and charter schools. This may impact the public schools' ability to provide supplies and resources, smaller class sizes and highly qualified teachers.

My Opinion

Charter schools can be successful in benefitting students and teachers



What I would say:

By allowing teachers the freedom to have a say in what they teach and how they teach it will result in a staff that is open to change, who look forward to coming to school each day, and who know that they can make a difference in the lives of their students. Having enthusiastic teachers who can experiment with different teaching techniques are more better equipped to create engaging lessons that can motivate students, especially those at risk, to learn and reach their full academic potential.

Works Cited

- ∞ "Charter Schools." *Issues & Controversies On File*: n. pag. *Issues & Controversies*. Facts On File News Services, 13 Dec. 2004. Web. 22 May 2013.
- ∞ Kenny, Deborah. "Why Charter Schools Work." *Wall Street Journal*. 25 Jun 2012: A.13. *SIRS Issues Researcher*. Web. 22 May 2013.
- ∞ Murphy, Sean. "Should Charter Amendment Pass?: No." *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. 01 Oct 2012: A.10. *SIRS Issues Researcher*. Web. 22 May 2013.
- ∞ ProQuest Staff. "At Issue: Charter Schools." *ProQuest LLC*. 2013: n.pag. *SIRS Issues Researcher*. Web. 22 May 2013.