

Please find below the JCPS 2017 Position Regarding Charter Schools. Constituent proposed amendments to charter position are denoted in red:

### **Authorizers •**

- Establish local school districts as charter authorizers.
- **Establish local, democratically elected school boards as sole charter authorizers.**

### **Accountability •**

- Require teachers to be certified by the Education Professional Standards Board.
- Establish required reporting from charter schools to include: entrance data, cohort completion rate, expulsion& discipline data; performance/achievement gap data by defined subpopulations to the Commissioner and Interim Joint Committee on Education.

### **Applicants to Operate a Charter School •**

- Permit only independent non-profit entities to manage charter schools. The non-profit entities should not be owned or managed by a for-profit entity.
- Prohibit virtual/online charter schools.

## **Enrollment •**

- Require charter school enrollment to be available to any parent/guardian in a district.
- Prohibit exclusion of students due to disability or any other characteristic.
- **Prohibit exclusion and/or expulsion of students due to intellectual and/or physical and/or emotional disabilities, limited English proficiency, and/or level of student parent/guardian involvement.**

## **Finance •**

- Ensure that funding for charter schools does not detrimentally impact funding provided to "other public schools.
- Require transparency regarding non-public funding sources and external organizations with which the charter school enters into a fee-for-service contract.
- Approve funding to provide financial stability for districts with significant enrollment shifts due to charter schools, as districts manage changes to their fixed costs.
- **Approve funding to provide financial stability for districts with significant enrollment shifts due to charter schools, as districts manage changes to their fixed costs as a result of per-pupil allocations exiting public schools.**
- **Should a charter student be removed, or self-selects removal from a charter school, all public monies**

attached to said student shall be returned to public school district.

## **Regulatory Oversight •**

- Exempt charter schools from state and local laws and regulations that do not specifically apply to charter schools, except for those regarding accountability, health, safety, civil rights, disability employee background checks, open meetings/open records, FOIA requests, and accounting practices.
- Require members of charter school boards to adhere to the same laws as other public school board members, including board training for ethics, finance, and appropriate staff evaluations.
- Require charter schools to implement elected Site Based Decision Making Councils (SBDMs).
- Charter schools shall not prohibit union membership.

## **Please also note the following concerns:**

- HB103 (charter legislation introduced by Rep. Phil Moffett) **may** mirror language crafted by a generic charter bill designed by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Constituents feel that the bill **may** not be tailored to nor representative of the education needs of the commonwealth if designed by ALEC.
- HB 103 aims to abolish Districts of Innovation:

*"Beginning on the effective date of this Act, no new districts of innovation shall be approved by the board of education. A district currently approved as a district of innovation shall remain a district of innovation until the approval period expires;"*

Most concerning to constituents is HB 103, Section 4.13:

*"2. If a student's individualized education program team determines that a disabled student's needs are so profound that they cannot be met in the public charter school, and the public charter school cannot provide a free, appropriate public education to that student, the student's district of residence shall place the student in a more appropriate setting."*

Constituents claim that Section 4.13 denotes a "cherry-picking clause" by which charters may turn away any/all disadvantaged students.

## **Please note the following concern unrelated to the charter provision:**

Board members have discussed amending our regular meeting agenda procedure to allow public speakers immediately following public recognitions. Please consider this motion in crafting future action items.