

Kentucky Council for Better Education

Est. 1984

Charter Schools (HB 9) Litigation Talking Points (Violates Sections 2, 3, 29, 59, 171, 180, 181, 183, 184, and 186 of the KY Constitution)

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1. Charter Schools are not a part of the uniform system of common schools as defined by the Kentucky Supreme Court's Rose decision and the recent HB 563 private school funding decision. Charters are therefore unconstitutional in Kentucky.
2. Charter schools divert state funding from school districts (State SEEK Funding) that have fixed capital and operational expenses that are not recoverable as a result of lost revenue.
3. Under HB 9, local school boards can be forced to fund charter schools from Local Tax Receipts, even when the local board of education does not consent or approve to authorize a charter school in their local community (districts > 7,500 students and HB 9 pilot areas). This results in a duplication effort that is both inefficient and wastes valuable public tax dollars.
4. HB 9 permits non-school board authority to create charter schools in "pilot" areas established by a university or a mayor with no local school district oversight. HB 9 would further require the school district to provide their state SEEK and local tax receipts to the charter school for funding purposes without the consent of the respective, elected public school board.
5. The 7,500-district size cited in HB 9 is completely arbitrary and likely subject to be easily altered in the future.
6. Charter school boards of directors are unelected individuals, with the authority under HB 9 to make appropriation decisions regarding local public tax revenue and the educational decisions of K-12 children entrusted to their care. This lacks the necessary and appropriate public oversight and accountability as is now the case universally with Kentucky public schools ("the common schools").
7. Unelected Charter board members may choose to delegate their educational responsibility by contracting with a national or regional for-profit corporation to operate the school on their behalf.
8. Charter schools represent an inequitable and inefficient system of educating ALL the children in Kentucky based on pilots and size requirements outlined in HB9.
9. There is a lack of constitutional control over the unelected charter board of directors by the local board of education. The KY State Board has a limited role in selected charter school operations, creating a lack of uniformity.
10. Local taxes levied and collected for one purpose by a local Board of Education, under HB 9, may be used for a different purpose in a charter school where the governance, oversight, and accountability completely rests with unelected board of trustees.