



NAACP'S POSITION ON A MORATORIUM ON CHARTER SCHOOLS *TALKING POINTS*

On October 15, 2016, the NAACP Board of Directors ratified a resolution adopted by our full body of delegates at its 2016 107th National Convention calling for a moratorium on privately managed charter school expansion and for the strengthening of oversight in governance and practice (see [resolution](#); see [statement on Board's decision](#)). In support of the newly adopted policy, National Board of Director Chairman Roslyn M. Brock convened a [special taskforce](#) charged with bringing forward practical recommendations that respond to the urgency of this resolution and the inequities undermining high quality public education.

The NAACP's policy on charter schools furthers the [Association's longstanding commitment to educational equity](#) and reaffirms past resolutions regarding the consequences of privatizing public education. At the same time, the NAACP recognizes the role that charter schools can and often do play in experimenting with innovative educational techniques and in specialized education. Data drives the NAACP's qualms about the privately-managed charter school system:

- Charter schools have been known to “cherry-pick” students, giving a false impression of educational excellence and leaving traditional public schools to educate 90% of the nation's schoolchildren, including the vast majority of English Language Learners and students with special needs.
- Some reputable studies conclude that charter schools expel students at higher rates, and with less transparency, than traditional public schools. Students of color and students with disabilities face a disproportionate share of this disciplinary action.
- Charter schools educate [only 5 percent](#) of our nation's 50 million schoolchildren, and yet they receive a disproportionate share of our public funding. We need to assure the financial integrity and an adherence to long-standing protections to which every student should be privy of any publicly funded entity.
- Too many charter schools are exempted from the same level of transparency and public accountability regulations to which other publicly funded schools must adhere. This breeds inequity between charter schools and traditional public schools and, in extreme cases, opens the doors to malfeasance and mismanagement of public funds and to a violation of students' basic civil rights protections.
- For further reading, see the reports of the [UCLA Center for Civil Rights Remedies](#), the Center for [Popular Democracy](#), the Center for Research on Education Outcomes and the [Annenberg Institute](#).



In light of such a pattern of inequity and inconsistency in the charter school system, the NAACP has called for a moratorium on the expansion of privately managed charter schools at least until such time as:

- 1) Charter schools are subject to the same transparency and accountability standards to parents and the community at large as traditional public schools;
- 2) Public funds are not diverted to charter schools at the expense of the public school system;
- 3) Charter schools cease expelling students that public schools have a legal obligation and duty to educate; and,
- 4) Charter schools cease to perpetuate racial, ethnic and gender segregation, as well as de facto segregation of the highest performing children from those whose aspirations may be high but whose talents are not yet as obvious.

While the NAACP has reservations and concerns about some charter schools, we recognize that many children who attend traditional public schools are inadequately and inequitably equipped to prepare them for the innovative and competitive environment they will face as adults. The NAACP's moratorium on the proliferation of privately managed charter schools recognizes and strives to alleviate the challenges facing the entire public education system, while at the same time ensuring transparency and accountability.

The NAACP continues to believe that all of our children deserve the best education we can provide.