

The United Teachers of Richmond CTA/NEA strive for high quality universal free public education for every student. UTR CTA/NEA advocates for well-resourced, community-centered, publicly funded and democratically managed schools. UTR CTA/NEA believes in teaching the whole child a broad curriculum that prepares them to be productive and critically thinking citizens. UTR CTA/NEA knows this requires a qualified, caring, diverse and stable workforce. We know that parental, family and community engagement are also key. All of this is only possible with sufficient, equitable and consistent funding.

Therefore:

Whereas offering parents the "choice" of charter schools removes attention from the real problems facing our educational system - Poverty and inequitable funding.

Whereas charter schools do no better and often worse academically than traditional public schools.

Whereas charter schools take away funding from traditional public schools creating a wasteful parallel school system.

Whereas charter schools increase segregation both racially and socio economically.

Whereas charter schools are unaccountable to the duly elected members of the community school boards.

Whereas charter schools are largely not unionized and therefore represent a means of weakening unions.

Whereas charter schools are less transparent then traditional public schools leading to such things as cheating on state tests.

Whereas charter schools are allowed to choose how students are admitted and can kick out students that are more difficult to teach, leading to "cherry picking" and creating a two tiered educational system.

Whereas charter school choice is supported by special interests who seek to privatize and profit from our schools.

Whereas charter schools often impose a business model that is completely inappropriate to public education.

Be it resolved that the United Teachers of Richmond CTA/NEA opposes charter school expansion in the West Contra Costa School district and the nation.