



Vote YES on SB16-187

Concerning Measures Affecting the Operation of Charter Schools

- Overview:
 - Charter schools have been part of Colorado's public school family for over 20 years and currently serve over 108,000 students in more than 225 schools across the state. Much like their traditional public school counterparts, charter public schools face a number of obstacles that impede their operational efficiency. SB16-187 seeks to address this by putting in place several commonsense measures that would enhance overall charter school operations and enable charter schools to focus more time and energy where they belong – in the classroom and on the students.
- Key provisions:
 - Streamlining of the Unified Improvement Plan process
 - Individual charter schools that earn the state's highest accountability rating (Performance) can submit a Unified Improvement Plan every other year instead of annually as required under current law; if at any point a school drops below a Performance rating, it would need to return to annual reporting.
 - Allowance for single charter school network financial audit
 - SB16-187 would allow charter school networks (charters with multiple campuses) to complete one financial audit each year that sits over the entire network. No transparency would be lost as networks would still need to complete component unit audits for each individual campus, but unnecessary cost and time requirements would be eliminated.
 - Itemized accounting
 - SB16-187 clarifies that the itemized accounting that districts provide to their charters related to such areas as central administrative overhead and special education costs should include, at a charter's request, a list of the personnel positions involved in providing those services. The bill also states that districts shall distribute state and federal money to charter schools on a per-pupil basis if the amount the school district received was calculated on a per-pupil basis that included charter enrollment.
 - Enhanced authorizer standards
 - Currently, the grounds under which a district can lose its exclusive chartering authority (ECA) are inconsistent with the grounds for acquiring ECA in the first place; SB16-187 seeks to align the two. Additionally, SB16-187 would shift the ECA reinstatement process to a once-annual consideration period that falls outside the typical CSI application window so that a CSI cycle can play out before a district that has lost its ECA can regain it.
 - Equitable transfers to/from CSI
 - SB16-187 would amend statute to allow that any school transferring between authorizers does not see its funding formula change. The formula created at the school's inception becomes permanent, and the geographic district's funding remains constant.

Vote YES on SB16-187 for enhanced charter school operations

Questions? Contact Dan Schaller (303.916.4352, dschaller@coloradoleague.org)