



Vote YES on SB16-188

Concerning Increasing Charter Schools' Access to Resources

- 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. If combined, charter schools would be the largest district in Colorado. Despite this enormous popularity and success, the average Colorado charter public school student still only receives 80 cents on the dollar compared with his or her traditional public school peer. Senate Bill 16-188 seeks to remedy this disparity by addressing some of the key inequities related to funding and facilities that charter public school students continue to confront.
- Key provisions:
 - Equitable mill sharing
 - Unless a local mill levy override was passed for a specific program and/or grade level that a district-authorized charter school clearly does not offer, the revenue generated by that mill should be distributed on an equitable, pro-rata basis to children attending charter schools of that district.
 - Greater access to land and facilities
 - Districts shall notify charter schools on an annual basis of any vacant or underutilized buildings or land in their possession; charters shall be allowed to submit proposals for those buildings or land, and districts shall notify their charters in writing and at a public meeting if they choose not to accept a submitted proposal.
 - Framework for Charter School Institute (CSI) mill equalization
 - SB16-188 would set up the statutory framework for what equalized funding from the state for CSI schools would look like, but no dollars would be appropriated under this proposal.
 - Levelling the BEST playing field
 - There are certain provisions of the BEST statute that apply unevenly and unfairly against charter schools. SB16-188 seeks to change that by:
 - Eliminating the requirement that charters must wait until they've been chartered for 5 years before being able to apply (traditional public schools currently have no such restriction).
 - Eliminating the requirement that a charter submit a prior letter of intent to apply to the BEST program to its authorizer; instead, authorizer notification would happen concurrent with application.
 - Addition of "maintenance" to the list of allowable Charter Capital Construction expenses

No public school student should be systematically underfunded because of the type of public school they attend. Vote YES on SB16-188 to help remedy the financial inequities faced by our state's charter school students.