



## WV Public Charter Schools Act (SB 14 & HB 2014)

Charter schools legislation has been introduced in spite of the fact there is:

- **no** public outcry for charter schools in WV; and
- **no** evidence that academic achievement in charter schools exceeds that in regular public schools.

In its current form, this legislation allows for a “group of teachers,” “education organization,” or a “local school improvement council” to apply to a county board of education to convert their school to a charter school or under certain circumstances, create a new charter school. The current language completely excludes service personnel from the entire process.

If a charter school is established under this legislation, the charter school would **not** be subject to any state law, state board rule/policy or county board rule/policy related to:

- School calendar
- Length of school day
- Personnel laws contained in WV Code 18A such as hiring, termination, evaluations, seniority and reduction in force
- Required programs of study

In other words, teachers and service personnel in charter schools would become at-will employees without a contract. The principal would have the authority to “de-select” or terminate a teacher or school service personnel with no requirement of notice, or opportunity for a hearing. This bill would strip teachers and service personnel of all due process rights.

Additionally, the current language would allow outside corporations or special interest groups to provide supplemental funding to charter schools. This provision would violate Article XII, §1 of the West Virginia Constitution which guarantees “a thorough and efficient system of public education” to the children of the state. The WV Supreme Court has identified and upheld the legally recognized elements of a thorough and efficient education as being classified as equal quality in “curriculum, personnel, facilities, and materials and equipment.” {Pauley v. Bailey 324 S. E. 2d 128 (WV 1984)}

**Every day, charter schools are being exposed for financial mismanagement, lack of accountability and the failure to demonstrate academic improvement for students. AFT-WV will be providing both research-based evidence and documented examples of nationwide concerns regarding charter schools.**

**AFT-WV and WVSSPA oppose charter schools legislation.**

**Call or email Senate Leadership and Senate Education Committee members immediately!**