

Concerns about Proposed Additional Charter Schools in Wake County  
From Susan Book, Advocacy - Wake County PTA Council  
May 2019

As some of you have heard, many of our PTA units are fighting the proliferation of more Charter Schools in the area, many by a for-profit company. I'm asking all of us to get involved. Charters have no set boundaries, so more Charters in the county will effect the entire county. Charters get an unfair advantage as the rules stand now. We need to hit the pause button.

The Charters will be approved by a meeting of the State Board of Education in early June. Please write to them and express your concern. In the coming weeks, I hope to have a template resolution/position statement on the proliferation of Charters. Public dollars are at stake and we have no voice in the governance of Charters. Let's work together to preserve our public schools.

Read more about the proposed charter schools here:

[News and Observer Article](#)

Here are some of the key concerns about charter schools.

1. Segregation is a concern. Wake County is a diverse county and without bussing and allowing free and reduced lunch students at the rate that reflects the county as a whole, Charters have the potential to re-segregate the county.
2. Many of our public schools are under-enrolled. By adding Charters we might destroy perfectly good public schools. As Wake adjusts from rapid growth, we need to give the Wake County School System time to adjust as well.
3. Charter schools have advantages public schools don't have due to legislation. This puts Charters at an unfair advantage. Charters can set their own calendars, some have an advertisement budget that exceeds anything WCPSS can achieve. Most important when problems arise there isn't a public board.
4. Charters do not take all our Special Needs children. Many children are turned away quietly because they cannot meet the needs of our severely disabled students. Without full staff certified teachers, many parents can't send even high functioning children to their care. This is exclusionary, yet they receive public funds. Please feel free to use your own issues or even personal stories.

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Action steps:

- Contact the NC State Board of Education
  - A sample letter from Jones Dairy can be found [https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LI9CwiiIXpCEYD4FQTuwhp1T4thCwY\\_NtPUTmfiRq4](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1LI9CwiiIXpCEYD4FQTuwhp1T4thCwY_NtPUTmfiRq4)
  - A sample letter from Wakefield can be found <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1o4K5PT0iGSuXICORszbaFtaQy4CIZRP>
  - Feel free to use these or create your own!
  
- Reach out to the NC Senate Education Committee
  - SB247 has been introduced to put a moratorium on the spread of charter schools. Urge the Senators to support the bill and hear our concerns.
  
- Contacts located [https://drive.google.com/open?id=10wMzQXJqFTRJWeO\\_nhQFMMHydoAKqD-9](https://drive.google.com/open?id=10wMzQXJqFTRJWeO_nhQFMMHydoAKqD-9)
  
- Contact the Charter School Applicants and tell them they are not welcome!
  - <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1R7qjIMFsQQ5JzQjMaa3eumT-wcft4abt>