



## Raise The Cap On NY Charter Schools

- In April 2007, the New York State Assembly doubled the number of charter schools allowed in the state, from 100 to 200.
  - Since then, the state's charter schools movement has continued to prove itself through:
    - **Academic impact** – Most NY charter schools outperform their local districts on state tests, and New York City charter students beat the *state* proficiency rate in math.
    - **Narrowed gaps** – Randomized studies show disadvantaged charter school students steadily closing the achievement gaps with their peers from wealthy suburbs.
    - **Real innovation** – NY charter educators have created innovative governance structures, training programs, and curricula—and replicated good ideas from other states.
  - Unfortunately, New York is on track to exhaust the supply of available charters in 2010.
  - Reaching the cap also could mean that New York State will be denied access to up to \$700 million in “Race-to-the-Top” funds being allocated via competitive bid by the federal government.
  - With more than 30,000 children denied admission to charter schools last year, even a one-year delay in charter school growth would be too costly.
  - To give more parents access to charter schools, the cap on charter schools needs to be raised in 2010.**
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## Prevent Another Charter School Funding Freeze In 2010-11

- This year, at the urging of the NY United Teachers (NYSUT, the state teacher's union) the Legislature froze funding for public charter schools.
- This action resulted in the loss of \$50 million in funding to charter schools, or approximately \$1,000 per student at each school.
- Next year, history could repeat itself: early indications suggest that NYSUT will again call for a funding freeze that will financially cripple charter schools,
- This freeze really represents a “double cut” to charter schools: an immediate cut in the form of the freeze, plus a *future* cut that schools will experience in future years when the lower district spending hits the charter school formula.

- Freezing charter school funding will also hurt New York State's chances for a federal funding under the Race-to-the-Top competition, as unequal funding for charter schools will make cost the state points in their application.
  
- **To ensure that charter schools students are treated equitably, there must NOT be a freeze on charter school funding in the 2010-11 state budget.**