

POSITION STATEMENT

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The National PTA acknowledges charter schools as one avenue to school reform and supports the concept of charter schools only if the schools reflect the positions and principles of the National PTA.

The National PTA will support legislation or policy decisions relating to charter schools that meets the following specific conditions.

Charter schools must:

- Be open to all students
- Be supported by specifically allocated public funds in amounts that do not exceed and do not divert moneys from public schools
- Adhere to all federal and state laws which protect the health and safety of children, prohibit discrimination and insure access for all children, and comply with the Freedom of Information and Open Meetings Acts
- Comply with federal and state laws governing public schools which require fiscal responsibility and accountability
- Be chartered by and made accountable to the state and local school boards in the districts in which they are located
- Ensure that professional staff are certified for the position they hold
- Involve parents* in the decision-making and accountability processes
- Provide innovative education
- Establish a mechanism for periodic, independent evaluation to determine if they are meeting the provisions of their charter and to meet or exceed the same standards as required of other public schools

Charter schools must not:

- Be operated by for-profit organizations, nor be affiliated with a non-public sectarian, religious or home-based school
- Charge tuition or fees not charged by public schools
- Have a negative impact on public schools

*All uses of "parent" refer to any adult who has primary responsibility for the education and welfare of a child.

Adopted: by the 1995 Board of Directors
Revised: by the 1999 Board of Directors
Retired: by the 2004 Board of Directors

Section XVIII