

Just the **FACTS:** An NEA-NH Factsheet

Do charter schools and school vouchers save money?

No. Charter schools and vouchers increase education costs to taxpayers because they have become a parallel school system that drains money from what's available to serve all students. School voucher programs can add extra layers of administrative costs and make education funds less transparent and accountable. The result of both programs is more money going to more service providers instead of directly to students and classrooms.

This is why.

Charter schools and vouchers expand education bureaucracy.

Charter school administrative staffing adds another expensive layer of management to school systems. Money to pay for more executive salaries often comes at the expense of resources for classrooms. Vouchers often use public money to reimburse private school expenses formerly borne solely by the private school.

Charter and private school costs are often

charged to the public. When students transfer to charters and private schools, the costs to provide those students transportation, free or reduced-priced lunch, and special education are often charged to the public schools or become parents' responsibilities.

Charter and voucher schools can hide their costs.

Many charter and voucher schools receive substantial private dollars they either don't have to report or keep hidden from view.

Charter schools and vouchers are a financial burden on public school systems.

These programs drain available funds that school districts could use to serve all students and often make it more difficult for public school districts to borrow money and maintain debt.

A national voucher program could add as much as \$73 billion per year to the cost of education nationwide.

Much of the additional cost is due to the shifting of private education costs, currently shouldered by parents, to the state.

What Privitizers Believe	What We Believe
Charter schools and vouchers make fiscal sense.	Charter schools and vouchers are a significant drain on public school budgets.
Charter schools and vouchers are more cost efficient.	Charter schools and vouchers add to education bureaucratic bloat.
Charter schools operate like a sustainable business.	Charter schools need propping up from private foundations, wealthy individuals, and government vouchers.

Bottom Line

Charter schools and vouchers are not a way to get better education on the cheap. Because each school or network of schools is its own financial entity, they don't have the economies of scale that public schools have. So charters and private schools supported with vouchers have to continually find more ways to tap into public school budgets or generate funds from the private sector. This drain on resources threatens the capacity of public education budgets to serve all students.

Let's stop draining our public schools and work together to strengthen them.

