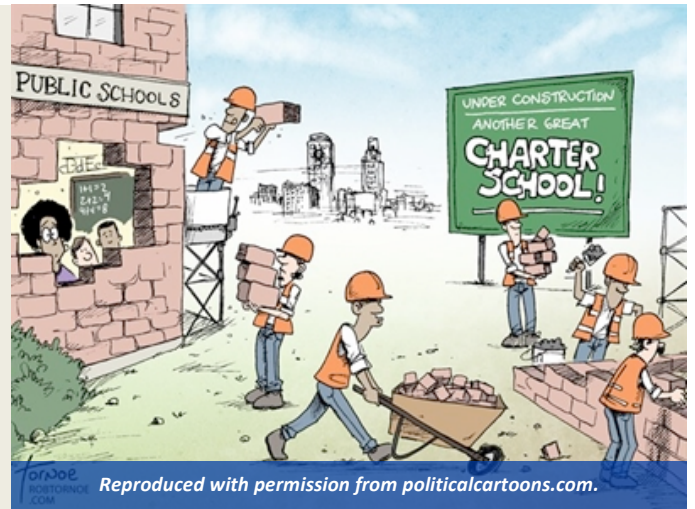


# Keep the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools

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*Commonwealth charter schools hurt students who attend district public schools. That is why the Massachusetts Education Justice Alliance opposes legislation and a ballot question to lift the cap on charter schools, and why MEJA supports bills to place a moratorium on new charter schools and to require greater accountability for existing ones.*



## LOST FUNDING

**Charter schools siphon hundreds of millions of dollars a year from public schools.** This year alone, Commonwealth charters will divert nearly \$420 million from district public schools after reimbursements are taken into account. This means larger class sizes and less enrichment for students in district public schools.

## NO LOCAL CONTROL

**Charter schools are not accountable to their local communities.** They are approved by the state, often over the objections of a large majority of local residents — the people who have to pay for them. Local school committees have no authority over these charter schools and no recourse if a charter school's practices have a negative impact on students who attend the district's public schools.

## STUDENTS PUSHED OUT

**Charter schools create a two-track system of public schools, described by the national NAACP as "separate and unequal."** Charters typically underserve special needs students, English language learners and economically disadvantaged students. Many use harsh discipline policies to push out the students they don't want.

## POOR TEACHING AND LEARNING CONDITIONS

**Rather than innovate, most charters focus on test prep and drill.** In addition, they have high teacher turnover rates as a result of poor working conditions, long hours and lack of teacher autonomy. This undermines school stability and students' learning conditions.



**Massachusetts**  
**Education Justice Alliance**

*MEJA is a coalition of parent, student, educator and social justice organizations committed to engaging communities across the state in support of the public schools our students deserve.*