

Wasted Schools

Dormant charter school licenses hold back New York's students—but the solution is simple!



Charter schools are a public school option for New York families, and there's huge demand! Unfortunately, expired or unused charter school licenses—often called "Zombie Charters" but more appropriately described as "**Wasted Schools**"—are arbitrarily limiting the number of students who can choose the school that works best for them.

Wasted charter school licenses:

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Arbitrary Limits

Unused charters are counted towards the statutory limit on the number of charter schools that can operate in New York.

Serve more students

On average, charter schools in NYC have more than 500 students, which means wasted schools prevent 10,000 students from accessing the school of their choice.

Wasted school seats:

~~10,000~~

NY students on charter waitlist:

~~50,000~~

Serve all students

More than 90 percent of charter students in NYC are Black or Hispanic, and 79 percent are economically disadvantaged.

Precedent for action

The New York State Legislature has revived charter licenses in the past—but not since 2015, when a change in law brought 22 charters back into circulation.

Legislative action in 2022:

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