

A4PEP Update – March 2024

Bill on Charter School Accountability and Transparency

A4PEP has working on a bill with State Representatives Lorena Garcia and Tammy Story. It has now been introduced – [HB24-1363, Charter School Accountability](#). The bill covers a number of topics, including the following:

- Charter schools will be required to fully disclose the sources of all their income, including gifts, grants, donations, and fundraised dollars.
- They will be required to disclose all expenditures, including payments to education management organizations.
- Automatic waivers will be eliminated for all future charter schools and for current ones when they are up for renewal. (Most automatic waivers deal with teacher licensure and compensation. Currently charter school teachers make an average of \$10,000 less than district teachers and rarely have any benefits.)
- Local school boards will have the final decision to approve or deny charter applications, rather than the State Board of Education if their initial decision is appealed.
- Local school boards will be able to close or non-renew charters in times of declining enrollment.
- Charter schools will have to pay for all the administrative costs incurred for special education by the school district.
- Charter school board members and leaders will be prohibited from having any conflicts of interest.
- Charter schools will be required to pay for any district facilities they utilize.

A4PEP is asking you to support this bill by contacting your legislators or by submitting a message of support here: <https://app.coloradocapitolwatch.com/comment/288000024> (use Access Code 4141).

A4PEP's Next Virtual Forum on March 24

Our next virtual forum will be **The School Privatization Playbook** on Sunday, March 24, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Amy Frogge will discuss the national school privatization “playbook” that has been operating in Tennessee, Colorado, and many other states across the nation. She will share her experiences on the Metro Nashville school board from 2012 to 2020, where she engaged in a bruising battle to protect and preserve public education, coming into the “crosshairs” of the national privatization movement that funneled millions of dollars, high-priced lobbyists, and out-of-state advocacy organizations into an effort for the approval of a charter school. Join [here](#). More information is available on A4PEP's website [here](#).