

**Senate Bill 106 (Holmes)
House Bill 890 (Welch)
Charter School Local Control**

IEA Position- SUPPORT

Rationale for Support

The Illinois Education Association supports the concept of charter schools in the state of Illinois. However, charter schools should be approved by a locally elected school board and supported by the community before they are allowed to open. The bill would remove the ability of any state entity to overturn the decision of a local school board to deny a charter school application. This initiative would create a charter school application process where only locally elected school boards and parents could decide if a charter school is good for their community. The legislation allows a charter applicant to appeal to the courts under judicial review if it is believed the application review process was not performed as outlined in statute.

Analysis

- Neither the State Charter School Commission nor the Illinois State Board of Education is elected by local taxpayers. Therefore, neither entity should have the final decision on whether or not a charter school should be opened in local school districts.
- Local school board members are elected by taxpayers to decide what is best for their schools and the students residing in their school districts.
- A charter school that is approved by the Commission or ISBE, rather than by the locally elected school board, is not held to any accountability by the community in which it resides. However, the local district is accountable for paying 100% of the tuition cost to the charter school.
- School boards are not the only body which can approve a charter school in a district. Local voters can also petition to have the question of establishing a charter school placed on the ballot of the next regularly scheduled election.



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