



FLOOR ALERT

Vote NO – AB 2990 (C. Garcia)

(as amended June 4, 2020)

AB 2990 would prohibit an entire sector of public schools in good standing from providing a holistic and well-rounded public education to students, impose complex and ill-defined audit requirements, impose burdensome contracting requirements, and force charter authorizers to micro-manage school building level policy—all forcing needless increases in both charter schools’ and charter authorizers’ administrative costs at a time when all schools are facing deep budget cuts and significant inter-year cash deferrals.

AB 2990 singles out charter public schools and imposes unnecessary burdens on nonclassroom-based charter schools just as their innovative practices are needed most and traditional public schools are learning quickly to emulate successful online and synchronous distance learning practices. Many activities prohibited by the bill are not seen by these charter schools as enrichment but equity of access to quality educational opportunities and providing the best possible public education services for all their enrolled students, and to help mitigate fiscal challenges.

AB 2990 places significant requirements and prohibitions on “educational enrichment activities,” which defined vaguely and rendering the bill impossible to implement in good faith. Many of these activities such as distinct special learning lessons, field trips, or other activities are regularly utilized and offered by traditional public schools to site-based students during the school year.

AB 2990 would place a number of costly bureaucratic procedures and limitations on “educational enrichment activities” for nonclassroom-based schools that do not apply to the thousands of other bricks and mortar traditional public schools across the state.

AB 2990 does not create an equal standard across California’s public education system, therefore creating inequitable opportunities to succeed for the 600,000 students in charter public schools.

AB 2990 imposes new costly requirements and create additional limitations for nonclassroom-based charter public schools when all public schools are facing budget cuts and in need of maximum flexibility related to distance learning. During this time of COVID-19, distance learning is an essential element in keeping California’s children on track and unfortunately, AB 2990 exacerbates the challenges children and families are confronting.

EdVoice respectfully urges a NO vote on AB 2990.