

Readings on the Impact of Charter Schools

Recent Additions

(Recent Additions are in three sections: WCCUSD, California, and National)

WCCUSD

Video: Northern California Carpenters Oppose Sale of Adams Middle School property to Ron Beller, Caliber Charter School Operator

June 13, 2016

In this 3-minute video, Timothy Lipscomb, speaking on behalf of the Northern California United Brotherhood of Carpenters, explains the union's opposition to the sale of the Adams Middle School property to billionaire investor Ron Beller, focusing on Beller's lack of commitment to prevailing wages; apprenticeship and training for young people; quality, seismically safe construction; and use of local contractors. He explains the impact of such a sale on the WCCUSD community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cayreXf6ynM&feature=youtu.be>

Karina Ioffe: Richmond Considering Regulations of Charter Schools

East Bay Times, May 13?, 2016

In yet another challenge in the wake of attacks by public school teachers, parents and other critics who accuse charters of cherry-picking students, leaving districts with less money and the most challenging students, Richmond wants to require proposed charter schools to apply for a conditional use permit that would give the city the option to require additional information to prove that the site is suitable for children.

http://www.eastbaytimes.com/richmond/ci_29893664/richmond-considering-regulations-charter-schools

Labor Video Project: Richmond UTR Members / Parents & Community Protest Vulture Capitalist Charter Boss

Indy Bay, May 11, 2016

At a May 11 public meeting at Mira Vista Elementary School, "Vulture capitalist Ron Beller, who runs the Caliber chain of charter schools, was confronted with angry parents, UTR public school teachers, and public school advocates. He plans to get \$20 million from the state to build a non-union school at the John Adams school [site, closed due to seismic safety concerns] in West Contra Costa County, where there are many other K-12 schools."

<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2016/05/11/18786306.php>

Vidya Rahm and Antia Raghavan: A Power Couple Exits

Forbes, June 30, 2009

Article about billionaire "power couple" and former hedge fund managers Ron Beller and Jennifer Moses, who moved to San Francisco from London in 2009 and founded Caliber charter school in the WCCSD. They are now poised to purchase the Adams middle school site at far below market value to expand their operation. Moses has also served as an unpaid advisor to Jerry Brown.

<http://www.forbes.com/2009/06/30/goldman-couple-london-markets-equities-streetwise.html>

Rick Radin: **Richmond: Proposed Sale of School Site for Charter Campus Draws Fire**

The Mercury News, May 11, 2016

The proposed sale (to former hedge-fund billionaire Ron Beller, founder of Caliber Beta Academy), of the Adams Middle School campus, which was closed over seismic safety concerns, for a sum far below market value (\$60,000) was the subject of a recent meeting at Mira Vista Elementary School. Many speakers "responded with hostility, voicing concerns over the impact of the plan on the neighborhood, the planned sales price for the property, and many other issues, while disputing the legitimacy of Caliber's mission and those of charter schools in general."

http://www.mercurynews.com/bay-area-news/ci_29878775/richmond-proposed-sale-school-site-charter-campus-draws

Staff Writer: **13 WCCUSD Elementary Schools Earn Gold Ribbon Award**

Richmond Standard, April 14, 2016

WCCUSD elementary schools won the state award for their implementation of state-adopted academic content and performance standards, including Peres for its Efficacy Model ("Think you can, work hard, get smart"), and Washington for its dual immersion program. The full list of winners is: Coronado, Farimont, Hanna Ranch, Harding, Kensington, Madera, Montalvin, Olinda, Peres, Riverside, Sheldon, Valley View, and Washington.

<http://richmondstandard.com/2016/04/13-west-county-public-schools-earn-gold-ribbon-award/>

Link to WCCUSD press release:

<http://www.wccusd.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=1&ModuleInstanceID=6159&ViewID=047E6BE3-6D87-4130-8424-D8E4E9ED6C2A&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=11002&PageID=1>

Rick Radin: **El Cerrito's Desired Library Site at Odds with School District Plans**

Contra Costa Times, March 18, 2016

The City of El Cerrito is reconsidering its plan to build a new library on the temporary campus occupied by Korematsu Middle School--which will soon move into its permanent location--citing concerns expressed by the school board and parents of Fairmont Elementary. Fairmont plans to relocate to the site during its own rebuild.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/el-cerrito/ci_29656525/el-cerritos-desired-library-site-at-odds-school

CALIFORNIA

Evan Sternoffsky: **State Report Finds Resource Disparity in a Marin School District**

SFGate, August 30, 2016

A scathing report issued by California's Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team found that a Marin County school district has been funneling resources to a Sausalito charter school, away from a nearby Marin City school that has a majority black population, potentially segregating the schools in violation of federal civil rights laws. The report found that leaders of Sausalito's Willow Creek Academy "exercise significant control" over most of the district's board members, making for a "clearly biased financial arrangement" that benefits the charter. Students at the underperforming Bayside MLK, meanwhile, continue to fall behind as money is diverted from the school to pay for the charter school.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/State-report-finds-resource-disparity-in-a-Marin-9193904.php>

Mark Prado: State: **Sausalito-Marin City [School] Board Hurts Minorities with Focus on Charter School**

Marin Independent Journal, August 11, 2016

"In a highly critical report, a state education task force concluded the Sausalito Marin City School District board favors the district's charter school in Sausalito to the detriment of minority children who attend a traditional campus in Marin City. The report also suggests that the way board members are elected could be challenged legally, because it denies minorities equal access to representation, and that the district could be liable for civil rights violations."

<http://www.marinij.com/article/NO/20160811/NEWS/160819961>

Harold Meyerson: **How the Charter School Lobby is Changing the Democratic Party**

Los Angeles Times, August 26, 2016

"At a time when Democrats and their party are, by virtually every index, moving left, a powerful center-right pressure group within the liberal universe has nonetheless sprung up. Funded by billionaires and arrayed against unions, it is increasingly contesting for power in city halls and statehouses where Democrats already govern. That's not how the charter school lobby is customarily described, but it's most certainly what it's become."

Article details how, in California and New York, "political action committees funded by charter school backers have become among the largest donors to centrist Democratic state legislators who not only favor expanding charters at the expense of school districts, but also have blocked some of Gov. Jerry Brown's more liberal initiatives."

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-meyerson-charter-school-democrats-20160826-snap-story.html>

Amy Hollyfield: **About 400 Parents Pull Kids Out of Livermore Charter Schools**

ABC7 News, August 23, 2016

Livermore Valley Charter Prep School and Livermore Valley Charter School (run by Tri-Valley Learning corporation) are facing parental outrage and accusations of financial mismanagement. The problems, according to Livermore administrators, who have been investigating the schools since February, include not paying rent, not paying teachers and transferring foreign exchange students to Stockton against their will (the latter is being investigated by local prosecutors as

possible "false imprisonment"). The schools were questioned in 2015 by administrators about their financing scheme (which involved selling investors a \$30 million municipal bond to finance the purchase of a new high school building), but were simply accused of "not liking charters." <http://abc7news.com/education/about-400-parents-pull-kids-out-of-livermore-charter-schools/1481008/>

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Julian Vasquez Heilig: Breaking News: ACLU Finds Many Illegal Policies in Charter Schools

Cloaking Inequity, August 1, 2016

An ACLU review of California charter schools' public, written policies reveals that many charters illegally prevent students from enrolling or remaining at their schools. At least 253, representing roughly 25% of all of California's charter schools, have policies that are plainly exclusionary.

<https://cloakinginequity.com/2016/08/01/breaking-news-aclu-finds-many-illegal-policies-in-charter-schools/>

David Bacon/Rethinking Schools: Why Is Silicon Valley So Bent on Destroying Public Education? (Hint: Follow the Money.)

Alternet, October 10, 2014

Examines the "commodification" that is the charter school movement, which views education as a profit base, using the "blended learning" model of Rocketship and other chain charters as an example. This model focuses on math and literacy, replacing credentialed teachers with software and "learning specialists." Profits are made when investors help fund the non-profit charter chain, which then contracts with for-profit software companies the investors partially own. Further profits are made by sister companies that own the schools and charge rent and facilities fees. The article also discusses the buying of elections, and the success Morgan Hill had in fighting charters in its district.

<http://www.alternet.org/education/why-silicon-valley-so-bent-destroying-public-education>

Bill Radin: How California's Charter Schools Fail the Test

Capital and Main, May 31, 2016

Comprehensive look at the charter movement in California in the era of the "[Eli] Broad Plan" to install charters schools in districts nationwide under the banner of "parent choice." Although the

plan "charges that 'urban school districts are not serving students," the charters' overall report card "has not been so stellar." Links provided to series of articles about charter schools.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/california-charter-schools_us_574db2a9e4b03ede4415678c

Bill Raden: Failing the Test: Oakland's Charter School Tipping Point

Capital and Main, May 31, 2016

Journalistic investigation reveals that a private initiative on the part of the California Charter School Association (CCSA) to privatize 50% of Oakland public schools has been driving policy in the OUSD for years "under the political radar" and "without the benefit of public exposure or open debate by its school board."

<http://capitalandmain.com/latest-news/issues/education/oaklands-charter-school-tipping-point-0531/>

Zahira Torres: California to Audit L.A.'s Biggest Group of Charter Schools after Anti-Union Allegations

Los Angeles Times, May 26, 2016

Lawmakers voted on May 25 to audit Alliance College-Ready Public Schools, after United Teachers Los Angeles and a group of Alliance educators "filed several complaints accusing the charter group of violating state laws that allow educators to organize without fear of reprisal." The state's Joint Legislative Audit Committee will review expenses incurred by the charter school organization that has been fighting the union's attempts to organize teachers at its 27 schools.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-0525-state-audit-alliance-20160525-snap-story.html>

Aaron Mendelson: Charter School Groups Spending Big in California Legislative Races

KPCC, May 25, 2016

Spending by two pro-charter groups, the "Parent Teacher Alliance" (not affiliated with the PTA) and the California Charter Schools Association, has already outpaced the \$1.65 million "dark money" spent by the CCSA independent expenditure committee in 2013 and 2014 races for California state senate and assembly seats.

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/05/25/60908/charter-groups-spending-big-in-california-legislat/>

Kyle Stokes: How Much Do Charter Schools Cost LA Unified? Fact-Checking the Teacher's Union Estimate

Southern California Public Radio, May 23, 2016

The article dissects a report by United Teachers of Los Angeles stating that charters cost LA Unified over \$590 million annually, ending with a statement from the weekly newsletter of the Associated Administrators of Los Angeles principals union, which expressed hope that the UTLA's report would "convene a conversation about the need to change district practices or state laws that contribute to the impact of charter schools." The report, the newsletter said, "makes it clear that the District's future solvency is jeopardized and that charter schools contribute to that grim prediction."

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2016/05/23/60893/how-much-do-charter-schools-cost-la-unified-fact-c/>

Diana Lambert: **Charter School Advocates Flood Sacramento Education Races with \$300,000**

Sacramento Bee, May 22, 2016

"Charter school advocates have spent nearly \$300,000 backing candidates for three seats on the board of the Sacramento County Office of Education, positions that once were considered sleepy political outposts. Besides providing oversight for Sacramento County school districts, the education board reviews the charters of countywide charter school systems and hears appeals from charter schools whose applications have been rejected by local school districts."

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article79172162.html>

Mike Reicher: **Special Report: LA Charter School under Review after Principal Charges \$100k**

Los Angeles Daily News, May 22, 2016

El Camino Charter School in the LA Unified School District is under investigation due to allegations that its principal and other administrators used school credit cards for first class air fare, expensive meals, and other personal charges. The charter school receives 94% of its funding from taxpayers (\$32 million in government funds annually).

<http://www.dailynews.com/social-affairs/20160522/special-report-la-charter-school-under-review-after-principal-charges-100k>

ItPI: **LAUSD Loses More than Half a Billion Dollars to Charter School Growth**

In the Public Interest, May 2016

Brief article links to a May 2016 report by the independent research firm, MGT of America, that reveals a fiscal crisis that could have deep negative implications for both district schools and existing charter schools.

<http://thecostofcharterschools.org/ccs/>

Testimonials associated with the report: <http://thecostofcharterschools.org/ccs/testimonials/>

Howard Blume: **Retiree Benefits Become a Flashpoint in the Battle between Charters and Traditional Schools**

Los Angeles Times, April 17, 2016

Charter schools have begun paying teachers who have spent their careers at their schools to quit and return to traditional public schools before retirement, in order to avoid paying retirement benefits. However, counsel for the LAUSD has stated that teachers who return simply to retire will not be entitled to benefits.

<http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-lifetime-benefits-20160417-story.html>

Michael Barba: **Charter Schools Slow to [Adopt] Discipline Reform**

San Francisco Examiner, April 10, 2016

The Board of Education has in recent years been pushing schools in the San Francisco Unified School District toward alternatives to suspensions--which have been shown to push students out of school to a life behind bars. However, charter schools are not subject to district requirements

and data shows that some continue to use suspensions at rates between five and 10 percent.
<http://www.sfexaminer.com/charter-schools-slow-discipline-reform/>

Robert D. Skeels: **California Charter School Industry Bill Attempts to Eliminate Only Source of Public Oversight**

K-12 News Network's The Wire, April 1, 2016

The California Charter School Association (CCSA) is promoting AB 2806, which this article states would "further block oversight of charter schools, and impede any investigation into charter school wrongdoing." The article reproduces comments made against the bill in EdSource, which it calls the "source of political cover and highly biased 'journalism' on behalf of the lucrative charter school industry."

<http://thewire.k12newsnetwork.com/2016/04/01/california-charter-school-industry-bill-attempts-to-eliminate-only-source-of-public-oversight/>

Mark Irons: **Charter Schools Offer Choice but Who Benefits and at What Cost?**

San Jose Mercury News, March 23, 2016

Alameda parent busts charter management organization "myth-busters." In particular, he corrects the record on the "ample oversight" charters claim they are subject to, explains how charters "chase after" certain students in Alameda and how "the very nature of charter enrollment discourages economic diversity," and explains how money taken out of a district's per-pupil allotment takes money away from students and programs across the district, not just from the one student would have occupied.

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_29677148/alameda-my-word-charter-schools-offer-choice-but

KQED Radio: **Growth of Charter Schools in California Leads to Conflict with School Districts**

KQED, March 21, 2016

Morning radio program discussion among guests Alex Caputo-Pearl, president United Teachers of Los Angeles; Antwan Wilson, superintendent, Oakland Unified School Districts; Jed Wallace, president and CEO, California Charter Schools Association; John Fensterwald, editor-at-large, EdSource.

<http://www.kqed.org/a/forum/R201603210900>

Michael Janovsky: **The "(Eli) Broad Plan" for LA Schools Grows to More than Charters Only**

EdSource, March 20, 2016

The California Charter Schools Association has set a goal of 1 million students, despite pushback from, among others, the L.A. Unified school board, which voted unanimously in January to oppose any effort that would drive down enrollment, draining district resources through "external initiatives." The plan involves doubling the number of charters in L.A. Unified, and is backed by billionaire Eli Broad, who, since the plan was leaked last summer, is working through a new organization called Great Public Schools Now.

http://edsource.org/2016/the-broad-plan-for-la-schools-grows-to-more-than-charters-only/561997?utm_source=March+21+daily+digest+-+Fermin&utm_campaign=Daily+email&utm_medium=email

Victoria Kezra: **Trial between the City of Sunnyvale and Summit Charter School over Zoning Rules Comes to a Close**

San Jose Mercury News, March 17, 2016

A Sunnyvale judge has 90 days to decide whether the Summit charter school chain will be able to continue operating at a Sunnyvale location not zoned for a school. Summit established a school there in violation of zoning rules because its board of directors concluded that, as a charter, it was its own "school district" and therefore exempt from zoning laws.

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime-courts/ci_29648340/sunnyvale-trial-between-city-and-alternative-school-over?source=rss

Steve Rosenfeld: **California Board of Ed Tramples on Local Control, Pushes Charter School on Poor Community that Doesn't Want It**

Alternet, March 12, 2016

Contra Costa County and the Mount Diablo School District rejected the charter of national charter franchise Rocketship, stating that its computer-centric learning program, to be supervised by uncredentialed "Learning Specialists," was unsound. When the state approved the charter anyway, they concluded that "the system is rigged for charters and against local control."

<http://www.alternet.org/education/california-board-ed-tramples-local-control-pushes-charter-school-poor-community-doesnt>

"Common Enrollment" opposed in Oakland

[See video here](#)

Oakland Education Association teachers and supporter of public education rallied and marched in Oakland against "common enrollment" and the privatization through charters that are destroying public education. Participants discussed how public funds are being siphoned off from public schools and cults like the Gulen controlled Magnolia school chain are bringing their ideology into the schools. This action took place on February 23, 2016.

Motoko Rich: **Oakland District at Heart of Drive to Transform Urban Schools**

New York Times, March 4, 2016

OUSD superintendent Antwan Wilson faces heat from teachers over introducing a "common enrollment form" allowing charters to list their schools among traditional public schools on a single application. Wilson is one of a cadre of superintendents trained in an academy financed by Eli Broad, a Los Angeles billionaire (real estate and insurance) who is part of a group of businessmen seeking to remake public education. Wilson is the fourth Broad-trained superintendent to hold the position at OUSD since 2003. The article analyzes the success rates of these superintendents and the growing movement against privatization of Oakland public schools.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/05/education/oakland-district-at-heart-of-drive-to-transform-urban-schools.html?_r=0

California School Boards Association: **New Legislation would Greatly Expand State Board's Authority on Charter Schools**

February 2016

California State Senate Bill 1434 (Glazer, D-Orinda) would expand the powers of the State Board of Education (SBE) over charter school issues and create a new state-level grievance process, removing authority from local school boards and county offices of education, raising

serious concerns.

[Senate Bill 1434](#)

Laura Anthony: **State's Top Educator Tours Livermore Charter Schools Accused of Mismanagement.**

ABC News, February 19, 2016

Two schools in Livermore are known for their high performance, but district and city officials are accusing the corporation that runs them of failing to submit an audit, repay a debt to a community college, achieve ethnic balance, and of charging expensive tuition to foreign exchange students.

[ABC Livermore](#)

Adolfo Guzman-Lopez: **Advocates Say LAUSD Unduly Scrutinizing Charter Applications**
KPCC Radio, Feb. 9, 2016

Director of Advocacy for the California Charter Schools Association, Sarah Angel, complains that the Los Angeles Unified School District is currently denying half the charter school applications it receives, down from its 89% approval rate in 2013. The shift is said to have come after a plan to double the number of charter schools in L.A. became public last year. L.A. school board president Alex Caputo-Pearl responds that "There hasn't been enough regulation of charter schools."

[LAUSD](#)

Ron Jones: **Initiative that Would Shut Down Charter Schools in California Cleared to Gather Signatures**

CBS Sacramento, Feb. 6, 2016

A grassroots coalition concerned that charter schools provide "substandard education with no state government oversight," lead to segregation, and should not be funded by taxpayers seeks to repeal the California Charter Act of 1992.

<http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2016/02/09/initiative-that-would-shut-down-charter-schools-in-california-cleared-to-gather-signatures/>

Union newsletter discusses the impact of the "School Wars" between "privatizers chasing education's millions" and public educators.

Labor Notes, Feb. 2011

"A handful of conservative billionaires with enormous political and media savvy are leading an all-out war on public education and its unionized teachers. Their initiative is part of a broader attack on all public services and public employee unions. This special section on the following pages outlines the attacks and explores alternatives."

<http://www.labornotes.org/files/pdfs/school.wars.2011.pdf>

NATIONAL

Mark Dent: **Why John Oliver May Help Change Pennsylvania's 'worst charter school laws in the nation'**

BillyPenn.com, August 26, 2016

For the last several months, Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale has "railed against" Pennsylvania's charter laws. After coming out with an audit of Philadelphia's charter situation earlier this year, he has continued to stress the need for reform. He recently gave a press conference about a faulty payment appeals process that overly benefits charters at the expense of school districts. He's continually tried to bring awareness, but it seemed no one was listening--until he was featured on John Oliver's HBO show, "Last Week Tonight." (see Oliver's segment on charters here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1 htSPGAY7I>) Article details Pasquale's issues with charter schools. "There's something going on out there that needs to be looked at."

<http://billypenn.com/2016/08/26/why-john-oliver-may-help-change-pennsylvanias-worst-charter-school-laws-in-the-nation/>

Valerie Strauss: **Will the Thing that Charter Schools Love So Much Be Their Undoing?**

Washington Post, August 26, 2016

Article introduces a post by Carol Burris, a former New York high school principal who is now executive director of the nonprofit Network for Public Education. Burris explains why putting the word "public" in front of "charter school" is "an affront" to people for whom public education is a mission, and looks at whether charter schools can properly be compared with district public schools. She points to facts such as that only 4 percent of New York's charter students are English Language Learners, as compared with over three times as many — 13 percent — of the grades 3-8 students in New York City public schools, and other things that make it impossible to compare test scores.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/08/26/will-the-thing-that-charter-schools-love-be-their-undoing/>

Brian Washington: **Mom of Special Needs Student Says Mass. Voters Need to Hear Her Charter School Nightmare**

Education Votes, August 15, 2016

Based on her son's experience at a local charter school, parent Amanda Ceide is urging Massachusetts voters to defeat a ballot measure this November that would lift the state's cap on charter schools. If the cap is lifted, she believes it will lead to more charter schools where minority and special needs students, like her son, who is both, face a disproportionate number of suspensions for minor, non-violent offenses. She also thinks it will create an education system where financially strapped public schools struggle to meet the needs of our most vulnerable kids. In Massachusetts, charter schools are not legally required to hire licensed teachers or anyone formally trained in early, secondary, or special education.

<http://educationvotes.nea.org/2016/08/15/mom-special-needs-student-says-mass-voters-need-hear-charter-school-nightmare/>

Kristina Rizga: **Why Did Black Lives Matter and the NAACP Call for an End to More Charter Schools?**

Mother Jones, August 15, 2016

The policy agenda of The Movement for Black Lives released in July argues that charters represent a shift of public funds and control to private entities. Along with "an end to the privatization of education," organizers are demanding increased investments in traditional community schools and the health and social services they provide. The statement comes just weeks after the NAACP also called for a freeze on charters. The article lists the most significant concerns charter school critics have cited over the years.

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/08/black-lives-matter-naacp-moratorium-charter-schools>

Rachel Slade: **The Great Charter School Debate**

Boston Magazine, September 2016

Legislation lifting the cap on the number of charter schools the state can have, and how many students they can enroll, is on the November ballot in Massachusetts. This article provides a detailed, even-handed breakdown of the issues and history of the charter school movement in Massachusetts. It concludes: "The charter school debate touches fundamental issues in our society: income disparity, unions, and private philanthropy in the public realm. These are elemental topics that Americans have grappled with for a couple of centuries, and right now in Boston, that drama is playing out in our public school system."

<http://www.bostonmagazine.com/news/article/2016/08/28/charter-schools-debate/>

Capital & Main Staff: **Failing the Test: Charter School Power Brokers**

Capital & Main, June 2, 2016

Article discusses the "radical agenda of the Walton family," to dismantle school districts as a whole and replace them with "a new way of doing public education" that "decreases the publicness of public schools." To this end, "capturing school boards has become a major goal of the charter-school movement," along with funding education coverage in the media. It cites a report issued last year by the American Federation of Teachers and In the Public Interest that states that the charter power brokers have "taken the U.S. charter school movement away from education quality in favor of a strategy focused only on growth. It's been lucrative for some, but a disaster for many of the nation's most vulnerable students and school districts."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/charter-schools-funding_us_5750548ae4b0eb20fa0cfb08

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Capital & Main, June 2, 2016

Article discusses the "radical agenda of the Walton family," to dismantle school districts as a whole and replace them with "a new way of doing public education" that "decreases the publicness of public schools." To this end, "capturing school boards has become a major goal of the charter-school movement," along with funding education coverage in the media. It cites a report issued last year by the American Federation of Teachers and In the Public Interest that states that the charter power brokers have "taken the U.S. charter school movement away from

education quality in favor of a strategy focused only on growth. It's been lucrative for some, but a disaster for many of the nation's most vulnerable students and school districts."

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/charter-schools-funding_us_5750548ae4b0eb20fa0cfb08

No Author: **Brought to You by Walmart? How the Walton Family Foundation's Ideological Pursuit is Damaging Charter Schooling**

Cashing in on Kids, no date

"If we are committed to a public education system that strives to serve all children, with the understanding and expectation that each and every one matters, has potential, and deserves the resources and opportunity to succeed, then we must rein in the current growth model of charter expansion, and insist instead on a well-regulated and equitably resourced system of public schools that works for all children. To do that, supporters of public schools designed to serve *all* children must not only work to change how politicians and policymakers view charter schools. We must also change the Walton Family Foundation, which has driven the current market-based reform agenda over the past 20 years. This report, and the accompanying petition, are a first step in making change at the Walton Family Foundation."

<http://cashinginonkids.com/brought-to-you-by-wal-mart-how-the-walton-family-foundations-ideological-pursuit-is-damaging-charter-schooling/>

Kate Zernike: **Condemnation of Charter Schools Exposes Rift Over Black Students**

New York Times, August 20, 2016

"The nation's oldest and newest black civil rights organizations are calling for a moratorium on charter schools. Their demands, and the outcry that has ensued, expose a divide among blacks that goes well beyond the now-familiar complaints about charters' diverting money and attention from traditional public schools." Says NAACP President Cornell William Brooks, "This whole notion that charter schools are uniformly excellent, and therefore that people don't even get to raise the question, is simply not the case."

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/21/us/blacks-charter-schools.html?_r=1

Lauren Camera: **A House Divided: Calls to Curb Charter Growth Are Putting Would-be Allies at Odds**

U.S. News and World Report, August 12, 2016

"Charter schools have always represented a flashpoint in the education space. But the demands from the NAACP and the Black Lives Matter-affiliated groups highlight a new wrinkle: After years benefiting from a reform-friendly K-12 agenda that allowed its schools to flourish through the elimination of caps and increased funding at the state and federal levels, the charter sector now finds itself in the crosshairs of a burgeoning and wide-scale debate over who truly holds communities of color in their best interest."

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-08-12/in-charter-school-fight-who-speaks-for-communities-of-color>

Jeremy Pelzer: **Ted Strickland Calls for Nationwide Moratorium on For-Profit Charter Schools**

Cleveland.com, August 16, 2016

Speaking at Columbus High School about his education priorities if he defeats Republican Senator Ron Portman in November, Democratic U.S. Senate nominee Ted Strickland said he is

"opposed to for-profit charter schools because I do not believe that educating our kids should become a for-profit activity." Mr. Strickland called for a similar freeze in Ohio as governor in 2007. "http://www.cleveland.com/open/index.ssf/2016/08/ted_strickland_calls_for_natio.html

Abby Jackson: **The Walmart family is teaching hedge funds how to profit from publicly funded schools**

Business Insider, March 17, 2016

This article is over a year old, but explains the attraction of the billionaire class to charters.

"Hedge funds and other private businesses are particularly interested in the growth and success of charter schools. The growth of charter networks around the US offer new revenue streams for investing, and the sector is quickly growing. Funding for charter schools is further incentivized by generous tax credits for investments to charter schools in underserved areas.... "It's a public payer, the state is the payer on this category," he added in support of the highly safe investing opportunities in charter schools."

<http://www.businessinsider.com/walmart-is-helping-hedge-funds-make-money-off-of-charter-schools-2015-3>

Sarah K. Satullo: **Why this School Director is Fired Up about Charter School Ads**

Lehigh Valley Live, August 9, 2016

Frustrated by money being funneled away from local public schools, Bethlehem [Pennsylvania] Area School District board member is filing a Right-to-Know request to find out how much Innovative Arts Academy Charter School spent on full-page color ads in the local paper. He wants parents to know that charters are allowed to operate by different rules than regular public schools and that the school district is being forced to spend \$26 million on charter and cyber school tuitions this year and that such schools are, therefore, not "free" as their ads claim.

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/bethlehem/index.ssf/2016/08/post_403.html

Emily Deruy: **How Black Lives Matter Activists Plan to Fix Schools**

The Atlantic, August 5, 2016

Citing statistics showing that public schools remain highly segregated, with black children disproportionately likely to attend schools with fewer resources and concentrated poverty, that four of the 10 biggest school districts in the country have more security officers than counselors; and that spending on corrections increased by 324 percent between 1979 and 2013, while spending on education rose just 107 percent during that time, Black Lives Matter activists are calling for reforms that include: a constitutional amendment for "fully funded" education (activists say federal funding is inadequate and not distributed equally), a moratorium on charter schools, the removal of police from schools, and the closure of all juvenile detention centers.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/08/the-ambitious-education-plan-of-the-black-lives-matter-movement/494711/>

Chris Savage: **Two Michigan For-profit Charter Schools Being Held Accountable for Breaking the Law**

Electablog, August 5, 2016

Detroit Community Schools, a charter school located in a low-income, underserved corner of Detroit, has been ordered to repay the state \$144,000 after it illegally employed two unlicensed administrators. (In addition, out of the hundreds of students it has graduated since 2007, the charter has had only three pass the ACT.) Another Detroit charter, Universal

Academy, run by Hamadeh Educational Services, an “educational services corporation,” fired eight teachers, last winter, six of whom had attended a January school board meeting to draw attention to mistreatment of students and other problems at the school. The teachers filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board, which upheld it and ordered the corporation to restore the teachers to their former positions.

<http://www.electablog.com/2016/08/two-michigan-for-profit-charter-schools-being-held-accountable-for-breaking-the-law.html>

Valerie Strauss: **NAACP Members Call for Ban on Privately-Managed Charter Schools**

Washington Post, August 7, 2016

"The 2016 resolution uses stark language. The new resolution (see text below) notes that “charter schools with privately appointed boards do not represent the public but make decisions about how public funds are spent,” and it cites a number of problems with some charters, including punitive disciplinary policies, fiscal mismanagement and conflicts of interest."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/08/07/naacp-members-call-for-ban-on-privately-managed-charter-schools/>

Julian Vasquez Heilig: **Breaking News: NAACP Calls for National Moratorium on Charters**

Cloaking Inequity, July 29, 2016

Finding that charter schools, with their privately appointed boards, do not represent the public, yet make decisions about how public funds are spent; that current policies force school districts to accommodate charters, thereby increasing conflicts within school communities; and that weak oversight of charters puts students and communities at risk of harm, thereby further eroding public control of education, the NAACP resolves to advocate against all state or federal laws that commit or divert public funds, allow tax breaks, or establish preferential advantages for for-profit, private, and/or charter schools.

<https://cloakinginequity.com/2016/07/29/breaking-news-naacp-calls-for-national-moratorium-on-charters/>

Julian Vasquez Hellig: **Failing the Test: Nine Solution Takeaways**

Capital&Main, June 3, 2016

“Despite the trendy popularity of charter schools in some circles, their wholesale replacement of traditional public schools is unnecessary. Not only do decades of data and research show this, but in each city there are plenty of successful public schools on the other side of the tracks or highway or river. The wealthy in the United States, regardless of locality, continue to have access to quality public education. So what should *all* parents already be able to choose from in their existing neighborhood public schools?"

Article provides nine answers.

<http://capitalandmain.com/latest-news/issues/education/failing-the-test-nine-solution-takeaways-0603/>

Journey for Justice

Website of an alliance of grassroots community, youth, and parent-led organizations in 21 cities across the country: Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Eupora, MS, Hartford, Los Angeles, Newark, Patterson, Camden, Jersey City and Elizabeth NJ, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York City, Oakland, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., and Wichita. The group

has mounted a "Campaign for School Success":

[http://www.j4jalliance.com/campaigns/Download Report "Death by A Thousand Cuts"](http://www.j4jalliance.com/campaigns/Download Report)

Claire McLaughlin: Low-Graduation-Rate Schools Concentrated in Charter, Virtual School Sectors

NEAToday, May 16, 2016

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) passed in December by Congress to replace No Child Left Behind "defines a low-graduation-rate school as one that enrolls 100 or more students and has a graduation rate of 67 percent or below. Under this definition, charter, virtual and alternative high schools make up 52 percent of all low-graduation-rate high schools in the nation, compared to 41 percent for regular public schools."

<http://neatoday.org/2016/05/16/low-graduation-rate-charter-virtual-schools/>

Benjamin Wood: Utah Charter Schools Move Millions of Public Dollars to the Coffers of a Few Private Companies

Salt Lake Tribune, May 20, 2016

"Public schools of all types regularly direct money toward private businesses--like software companies, food-service distributors, and textbook publishers--for specific services. But Ascent Academy and many other charter schools take it a step further, abdicating administrative and academic functions to private companies." Two companies in particular, Academica West and Eminent Technical Solutions, received nearly 7 million dollars from charter schools last year. They did not and do not have to disclose how they spend the public education funding they receive, and do not have to return any surplus.

<http://www.sltrib.com/home/3863111-155/analysis-utah-charter-schools-move-millions>

Colleen Wright: Documents Point to Inflated Spending at Troubled Pinellas [County, FL] Charter Schools

Tampa Bay Times, May 15, 2016

A detailed investigation of charter management company Newpoint Education Partners reveals loose record-keeping, conflicts of interest, self-dealing, and price-gouging. The connections between Newpoint and the companies it buys from show up upon examination of state corporate records, social media, and company website archives. Newpoint has already been indicted in another Florida county for money laundering and fraudulent billing.

Steven Rosenfeld: Teachers at New York City's Biggest Charter School Chain May Be Cheating on Standardized Tests

Alternet, May 12, 2016

Social scientist hired to assess Success Academy charter chain reported "multiple incidents of Success staffers reporting that Success teachers may have prepared students for specific questions on internal tests, allowed students to copy answers from each other, scored their own students higher than students in other classes, and pointed to incorrect answers on exams and warned students to rethink their answers."

<http://www.alternet.org/education/teachers-new-york-citys-biggest-charter-school-chain-may-be-cheating-standardized-tests>

Ben Chapman: Success Academy Charter School [Network] Probed over Alleged Bias Against Kids with Disabilities

New York Daily News, May 12, 2016

Federal officials are investigating New York City's largest charter chain following a complaint co-signed by City Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Queens) and various legal groups, parents, and advocates accusing the chain of failing to provide adequate support to disabled kids, pushing them out of classes, and retaliating against families who complained.

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/nyc-charter-school-probed-alleged-bias-disabled-kids-article-1.2634057>

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/nyc-charter-school-probed-alleged-bias-disabled-kids-article-1.2634057>

Kate Zernike: New Orleans Plan: Charter Schools, with a Return to Local Control

New York Times, May 9, 2016

The governor of Louisiana is expected to sign legislation returning New Orleans' charter schools to the locally elected school board for the first time since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. However, the law will forbid the board to interfere in charter school autonomy, who to hire, how to teach, or how to spend money. In New Orleans' school district, 93% of students are in charter schools, the highest percentage in the country.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/10/us/charter-driven-gains-in-new-orleans-schools-face-a-big-test.html>

Diane Ravitch: North Carolina Attorney General Sues Charter Operator for Fraud

May 7, 2016

Attorney General Roy Cooper is suing the managers of a failed Kinston charter school, claiming they inflated enrollment estimates to get state money for education services they did not provide.

<http://dianeravitch.net/2016/05/07/north-carolina-attorney-general-sues-charter-operator-for-fraud/>

Justin Miller: Hedging Education: How Hedge-Funders Spurred the Pro-Charter Political Movement

American Prospect, May 6, 2016

A detailed, factual, in-depth look at the roots of the charter school industry and its vast political organization that is pumping "floodgates of outside money" into local elections in order to stock school boards across the country with its allies. "The hedge fund industry and the charter movement are almost inextricably entangled."

<http://prospect.org/article/hedging-education>

Lisa Graves: Education Department: No Records on Closed Charters Mentioned in Its "Commitment to Transparency"

PR Watch, May 5, 2016

The Center for Media and Democracy (CMD) reports that "despite spending billions in taxpayer dollars on charters" and putting out "press releases on the accomplishments of the Charter Schools Program," the Department of Education "claims to have no databases, no data analyses, and no internal communications about the program and charters that received funds but closed or

never opened, nor any external communications with charter school grant recipients about the success or failure of those charters." CMD is filing an appeal to this claim.

<http://www.prwatch.org/news/2016/05/13101/ed-says-it-has-no-records-re-its-commitment-transparency-charters-cmd-appeals>

Jeff Bryant: **Why State Leaders Need to Back Away from School Takeover Agencies**

Campaign for America's Future, February 11, 2016

Article discusses the seizure of schools by Republican governors and legislators in at least 11 states, stripping school boards of governing power. Focusing on test scores to brand schools as "low-performing," they then appoint a state manager with broad powers to "hire and fire, set curriculum, reconfigure the school day, sell property and, in some cases, break existing labor contracts. Increasingly, state managers are turning over traditional public schools to charter school operators, which are funded by tax dollars but are privately managed." A new report from the Center for Democracy (link provided) concludes that this has resulted in "academic failure, financial mismanagement, and student harm".

<https://ourfuture.org/20160211/why-state-leaders-need-to-back-away-from-school-takeover-agencies>

Jenny Luna: **Kids to Admins: Charter Schools Have Got to Go**

Mother Jones, May 5, 2016

On May 4, 2016, students, parents, and teachers marched in 75 cities across the country to protest inadequate school funding and charter school takeover of public schools. The "walk-in" was organized by the Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools, whose president stated, "Resources are being pulled out of the public sector and privatized. The very people they're supposed to help have no say."

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/05/public-school-walks-ins-protest-charter-takeover-testing>

Molly Bloom: **Latin Academy: Troubled Charter School Could Close after Alleged Theft, Mismanagement**

Atlanta Journal Constitution, May 5, 2016

After more than \$600,000 was taken from an Atlanta charter school to pay for dinners, non-work-related travel, bonuses to employees, and "personal entertainment at local night clubs," school founder Chris Clemons was extradited from Colorado and arrested, and the school faces closure.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local-education/atlanta-charter-school-could-close-after-alleged-t/nrHcF/>

Benjamin Herold: **Zuckerberg, Chan Tap James Shelton to Lead Huge Education Giving Effort**

Education Week, May 4, 2016

After six years in the federal department of education and a year at an education technology company that develops online courses, former Ed. Secretary James Shelton will lead the efforts of the billionaire proponents of software-based "personalized learning." The article provides links to earlier Education Week articles examining Zuckerberg's failed \$100 million investment

in Newark, N.J. public schools, and the "tangled web of organizations" Chan and Zuckerberg have created over the years to support their education reform efforts.

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/DigitalEducation/2016/05/zuckerberg_chan_shelton_philanthropy.html?utm_source=May+5+digest+-+Sue&utm_campaign=Daily+email&utm_medium=email

Lisa Graves: **Big Business Charter School Chains Seek Millions in Taxpayer Dollars with No Accountability**

Alternet, May 1, 2016

This in-depth article uses the example of KIPP, one of the most lauded charter chains in the country, to expose charter schools' lack of transparency, its consequences, and the collusion of the Department of Education in concealing information from taxpayers about charter graduation and college matriculation rates, uses of federal taxpayer dollars, attrition and performance results, and the CEO foundations supporting charter schools. It asks why charters want to keep this information secret, why government oversight agencies support the secrecy, and why American taxpayers are being asked to subsidize privately-operated schools.

<http://www.alternet.org/education/exposed-cmd-kipps-efforts-keep-public-dark-while-seeking-millions-taxpayer-subsidies>

Laurie Roberts: **No Money for K-12 but \$100 million for Charter School Operators**

The Arizona Republic, April 28, 2016

The Arizona State Senate Appropriations Committee just approved Bill 1531, which would designate \$100 million in public funds to be used to guarantee loans for certain charter school operators to help them build their private businesses, raising questions about Arizona constitution's gift clause, which makes it illegal to "give or loan (the state's) credit... to any individual, association, or corporation."

Maureen Magee: **Summit Marries Technology, Educators, and Investors**

San Diego Union Tribune, April 16, 2016

Article describes the sold-out "education summit" to be held in San Diego this week--sponsored by Bill Gates, the Waltons, and McGraw Hill, among others--that serves as a "matchmaker when it comes to hooking up investors with education start-ups." Over 3,500 attendees will be exposed to over 300 companies, which will pitch products there.

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/2016/apr/16/ed-tech-summit-in-san-diego/>

Martha Woodall: **Auditor General says [Philadelphia] Charter Schools Need More Oversight**

Philly.Com, April 13, 2016

Auditor General Pasquale says that insufficient staff and resources make the district unable to "verify the validity of hundreds of millions of dollars it is paying to charter schools in tuition payments" and calls for reform of the Pennsylvania charter school law.

http://www.philly.com/philly/education/20160413_PA_Auditor_General_Philly_charter_schools_need_more_oversight.html

Jennifer Berkshire: **The Charter Scam Deepens: The Sick New 'Bubble' that could Explode Urban Schools**

Slate, January 5, 2016

Author interviews authors of a new study that reveals how charter proponents pushing for "independent authorizers"--who would assume no risk for charter failure--are creating a situation analogous to the subprime mortgage crisis, because they would enable charters to shop around for authorizers who would not provide rigorous oversight.

http://www.salon.com/2016/01/05/the_charter_school_scam_deepens_the_sick_new_bubble_that_could_explode_urban_schools/

Valerie Strauss: **A Dozen Problems with Charter Schools**

Washington Post, May 20, 2014

This article is two years old, but many of its concerns have been borne out over time, including:

"Far too many [charters] are cash cows," "Lack of transparency and accountability," "Skimming and Weed-Out Strategies," "Contribute to the re-segregation of U.S. public schools," and "Drain resources from struggling districts."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2014/05/20/a-dozen-problems-with-charter-schools/>

Michael D'Arcy: **Charter schools pose greatest credit challenge to school districts in economically weak urban areas**

Moody's Investor Service, October 15, 2013

Charter schools can pull students and revenues away from districts faster than the districts can reduce their costs, says Moody's. As some of these districts trim costs to balance out declining revenues, cuts in programs and services will further drive students to seek alternative institutions including charter schools.

https://www.moody.com/research/Moodys-Charter-schools-pose-greatest-credit-challenge-to-school-districts--PR_284505

Motoko Rich: **Charter Schools Black and Disabled Students More, Study Finds**

New York Times, March 16, 2016

An analysis of close to 5,000 charters by the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights shows, among other things, that charters suspend black students for infractions that white students are not suspended for, as well as for subjective behavioral categories like defiance or disrespect.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/17/us/charter-schools-suspend-black-and-disabled-students-more-study-says.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fus&r=0>

Anya Kamenetz: **Bernie Sanders Says He Opposes Private Charter Schools. What Does that Mean?**

NPR Ed, March 15, 2016

A report co-authored by Bruce D. Baker of Rutgers University states that more and more charters are being run by "non-profit" CMOs (Charter Management Organizations) and EMOs (Education Management Organizations) that "promote privatization and profiteering" by, for example, paying executives high salaries or buying real estate that taxpayers must pay to maintain. The report recommends that states declare charter schools to be "public" and as such, subject to all rules on transparency and accountability.

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/03/15/470376273/bernie-sanders-says-he-opposes-private-charter-schools-what-does-that-mean>

National Poll Shows Overwhelming Support for Reining in Charter Schools

In the Public Interest, February 29, 2016

The national poll of 1,000 registered voters shows overwhelming support for initiatives to strengthen charter school accountability and transparency, improve teacher training and qualifications, prevent fraud, serve high-need students, and ensure that neighborhood public schools are not adversely affected.

<http://www.inthepublicinterest.org/national-poll-shows-overwhelming-support-for-reigning-in-charter-schools/>

George Joseph: **Why Has Charter School Violence Spiked at Double the Rate of Public Schools?**

The Nation, March 9, 2016

A few weeks after The New York Times released a controversial video of a Success Academy Charter School teacher lashing out at a first-grader and tearing up her paper for not knowing the answer to a math problem, New York City's deep-pocketed charter school advocates try to shift the narrative about who is committing violence in city schools. However, analysis of the data shows that charters reported a far higher spike in violence: 54%, more than double that of public schools, for the 2014-2015 period.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/why-has-charter-school-violence-spiked-at-double-the-rate-of-public-schools/>

Kevin Cary: **Donald Trump Doesn't Understand Common Core and Neither Do His Rivals**

New York Times, March 8, 2016

Trump's claim that America's weak educational results will be improved by returning power to local school districts is at odds with research, common sense, and the education agenda of every president, Republican and Democrat, for the past 40 years.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/08/upshot/donald-trump-doesnt-understand-common-core-and-neither-do-his-rivals.html?smid=fb-nytimes&smtyp=cur&_r=0

Valerie Strauss: **Activists Urge Senate not to Confirm Obama's Pick for New Education Secretary**

Washington Post, March 3, 2016

An open letter to the U.S. Senate published at the end of this article asks lawmakers to reject the confirmation of current acting secretary John King as new Secretary of Education, over concerns about his long history of corporate-friendly education reforms. The letter is signed by scholars, journalists, activists, and teachers' unions, and a host of other prominent public education advocates. The article provides details about King's "nonsensical" reforms and many links to related stories.

[Washington Post](#)

Video on National "Walk-in"

<http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=A%2Fef5UgMG9i8zK4iKGqdZAFi2c5z7Xw6>

Review of *Separating Fact & Fiction*

Feb 23, 2015

The irony of a recent report from the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools is that it purports to "separate fact from fiction" about charter schools. Unfortunately, in addressing 21 "myths," it embraces fiction whenever useful to push advocacy goals, thus perpetuating its own myths and fictions about charter schools.

[National Educational Policy Center](#)

David L. Kirp: **How to Fix the Country's Failing Schools. and How Not To**

New York Times, January 9, 2016

Analysis of why the Newark charter experiment funded by Zuckerberg failed, while the "slow and steady" approach of Union City, NJ, succeeded.

[NYT Kirp](#)

Valerie Strauss: **Are charter schools the new subprime loans? (Think 'The Big Short')**

Washington Post, Jan 4, 2016

Interview with Preston Green, one of the authors of an academic study that makes an analogy between the subprime mortgage crisis and political and business climate for charter schools in urban areas.

[New Subprime Loans](#)

Kate Taylor: **At Success Academy School, a Stumble in Math and a Teacher's Anger on Video**

New York Times, Feb. 12, 2016

At a Brooklyn charter school known for students' high achievement on state tests, a disturbing video shows a teacher ripping a first-grader's paper and sending her to the corner when she fails to answer a question correctly.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/13/nyregion/success-academy-teacher-rips-up-student-paper.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=second-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=0>

List, February 8, 2016

1. Public Advocates: **Forced Parent Work Policies**
January 14, 2014
Public Advocates researched 555 charter schools in California and found that almost one-third of them (30%) require parents to do work at the school for a set quota of hours. This practice is illegal under the California constitution and the Education Code. Article links to the report.
<http://www.publicadvocates.org/forced-parent-work-policies>
2. The Sacramento Coalition to Save Public Schools: **What We Believe**
No date.
List of statements in support of public schools and concerns regarding the impact of charters on public education in Sacramento.
<http://www.savesacramentopublicschools.org/what-we-believe>
3. The Sacramento Coalition to Save Public Schools: **Position on Charter Schools**
No date.
Statement of concerns about the privatization of Sacramento public schools due to privately-run charters.
<http://www.savesacramentopublicschools.org/page/sacramento-coalition-save-public-educations-position-charter-schools>
4. Parents Across America: **What We Believe**
No date.
Statement of what works and doesn't work in public education expressing concern about the privatization of public schools due to privately-run charters.
<http://parentsacrossamerica.org/what-we-believe-2/>
5. Rick Radin: **West Contra Costa Officials Discuss Charter School Rise at Forum**
Contra Costa Times, March 25, 2015
Report on the March El Cerrito Democratic Club Meeting at which WCCUSD Superintendent Bruce Harter answered questions about charter schools.
http://www.conracostatimes.com/news/ci_27784238/el-cerrito:-west-contra-costa-officials-discuss-charter-school-rise-at-forumhttp://bayareane.ws/1Ix6xHj
6. Superintendent Bruce Harter: **Slide Show compiled for the El Cerrito Democratic Club meeting of March 24, 2015**
Slides that accompanied Superintendent's presentation to the El Cerrito Democratic Club on the status of the WCCUSD, in terms of student population, subsequent college enrollment, charter school enrollment, and the building program.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9sbpMFpfg4bWdrMjIRLTNhY1E/view>

7. Matthew Allbright: **Wilmington City Council: No More Charter Schools**
The News Journal, Delaware Online, January 16, 2015
Wilmington, Delaware City Council passes a resolution urging the Department of Education not to consider any new charter school applications to the city.
<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/education/2015/01/15/wilmington-city-council-charter-schools/21834275/>
8. iSchool Guide: **Charter Schools Less Likely to Have Libraries than Traditional Public Schools**, March 12, 2015
The National Center on Education Statistic conducted a survey whose results were released in August 2013, revealing that charter schools were less likely to have libraries or librarians than their traditional counterparts.
<http://www.ischoolguide.com/articles/9200/20150312/survey-charter-schools-less-libraries-traditional-public.htm>
9. Annenberg Institute for School Reform: **Public Accountability for Charter Schools, 2014**
Link to a 15-page report by the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown university, with standards and policy recommendations for effective oversight.
<http://annenberginstitute.org/sites/default/files/CharterAccountabilityStds.pdf>
10. KALW San Francisco: **Looking at Education**
No date.
Link to the KALW radio station website sub-page where Carol Kocivar's program "Looking at Education" posts its episodes (in audio), including the May 12 program featuring Dr. Michelle Renée from the Annenberg Institute discussing their report on charter schools.
<http://kalw.org/programs/looking-education>
11. Sean Pyles: **Fighting for the Future: Charter Schools and the Battle Over West County Education**
Radio Free Richmond, May 5, 2015
Part I of Sean Pyle's series of articles discussing the impact of charter schools on the WCCUSD.
http://www.radiofreerichmond.com/fighting_for_the_future_charter_schools_and_the_battle_over_west_county_education
12. Sean Pyles: **The Rise of Charters and the Erosion of Public School Funding**
Radio Free Richmond, May 14, 2015
Part II of Sean Pyle's series of articles discussing the impact of charter schools on the WCCUSD.
http://www.radiofreerichmond.com/the_rise_of_charters_and_the_erosion_of_public_school_funding
13. Sean Pyles: **Newark, West County, and Charter Schools: the Bigger Picture**
Radio Free Richmond, May 26, 2015
Part III of Sean Pyle's series of articles discussing the impact of charter schools on the WCCUSD.
http://www.radiofreerichmond.com/newark_west_county_and_charter_schools_the_bigger_picture
14. **WCCUSD Dashboards**
Link to list of the 8 WCCUSD "Dashboards," visual displays that organize and present

district information in an easy-to-read (and access) way.

<http://www.wccusd.net/dashboard>

15. Edushyster: **\$tudent\$ for Education Reform**

November 10, 2012

Article exposing the "astro-turf" nature of what the author considers to be "fake" students-for-education-reform organization SFER.

<http://edushyster.com/tudent-for-education-reform/>

16. George Joseph and Student Nation: **Astroturf Activism: Who is Behind Students for Education Reform?**

The Nation, January 11, 2013

Exposé of the deep pockets behind this "grass roots" pro-charter, anti-union group.

<http://www.thenation.com/article/astroturf-activism-who-behind-students-education-reform/>

17. Valerie Strauss: **How to Spot a Fake 'Grassroots' Education Reform Group**

The Washington Post, October 12, 2014

Article exposing the lobby/corporate backing of SFER.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/10/12/how-to-spot-a-fake-grassroots-education-reform-group/>

18. California Charter Schools Association Advocates, **Independent expenditures report**, February 20, 2015

CCSA files numerous expenditures for WCCUSD school board candidate Valerie Cuevas

http://64.166.146.18/CFD_Web_Images/2015/144/00214420150220F26.pdf

19. The Center for Popular Democracy, Integrity in Education: **Charter School Vulnerabilities to Waste, Fraud, and Abuse**

May 2014

50-page report echoing the federal Office of the Inspector General's warning--and informing the public and lawmakers--of the mounting risk that an inadequately regulated charter industry presents to communities and taxpayers.

<http://populardemocracy.org/sites/default/files/FraudandMismgmt5-3-14%28FINALx3.0%29REV.pdf>

20. Danny Feingold: **Exclusive Interview: Robert Reich on the War Against Teachers and Public Education**

Capitol and Main, June 11, 2015

"I don't have anything against charter schools if they adhere to minimum public standards, and if they don't select their students — skimming the cream off in advance — and don't kick students out who don't meet the grade. I mean those kinds of charter schools who really are taking on public responsibilities by accepting all students..."

<http://capitalandmain.com/latest-news/issues/labor-and-economy/exclusive-interview-robert-reich-on-the-war-against-teachers-and-the-failure-of-american-education-0611/>

21. John Higgins: **State Supreme Court: Charter Schools Are Unconstitutional**

The Seattle Times, September 8, 2015

Washington State Supreme Court rules that charters cannot receive public funds because their boards are appointed, not elected.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/state-supreme-court-charter-schools-are-unconstitutional/>

22. Sharon Noguchi: **California Charter School Scores Dive**
Contra Costa Times, September 14, 2015
Tests scores of many once high-flying charter schools plummeted on state results released in September 2015. Article provides a list of charters, including Summit K2 in Richmond, and their scores.
http://www.contracostatimes.com/education/ci_28807510/california-charter-school-scores-dive
23. Rick Radin: **Richmond: Strong Interest in New Charter Schools Focusing on Technology**
Inside Bay Area News, September 15, 2015.
http://www.insidebayarea.com/breaking-news/ci_28811855/richmond-strong-interest-new-charter-schools-focusing-technology
24. Lee Fang: **Venture Capitalists Poised to 'Disrupt' Everything About the Education Market**
The Nation, Truth Out, September 29, 2014
"Venture capitalists and for-profit firms are salivating over the exploding \$788.7 billion market in K-12 education."
<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/26485-venture-capitalists-are-poised-to-disrupt-everything-about-the-education-market>
25. Kate Taylor: **At a Success Academy Charter School, Singling Out Students Who Have 'Got to Go'**
New York Times, October 29, 2015
On charters, "cherry picking," and expulsion rates.
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/30/nyregion/at-a-success-academy-charter-school-singling-out-pupils-who-have-got-to-go.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=second-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&mtrref=www.nytimes.com&gwh=4CCC2A3B695467E2C6A6ABE6131FF32F&gwt=pay&assetType=nyt_now
26. Contra Costa County Office of Education: **Charter Schools in Contra Costa County**
Link to list of charter schools in Contra Costa County.
<http://www.cccoe.k12.ca.us/supe/charter/charterschools.html>
27. Rep. Marcie Maxwell: **21 Reasons to Oppose Charter Schools**
The Stand, July 19, 2012
Washington State Representative states reasons to vote against Initiative 1240, which she says was funded by "wealthy individuals" to try to legalize charter schools in Washington.
<http://www.thestand.org/2012/07/21-reasons-to-oppose-charter-schools-initiative-1240/>
28. Richard Eber: **County Trustees Block Rocketship Charter School Campus in Concord**
Contra Costa Bee, October 23, 2015
The decision was considered a major victory by the Mount Diablo School District and the teacher's union, which vehemently opposes charter schools of any kind.
<https://contracostabee.com/rocketship-charter-blocked-by-county-board/>
29. Rick Radin: **El Cerrito Charter School Campus Planning Expansion**
Contra Costa Times, Dec. 4, 2015

Summit K2 charter has 240 7th and 8th-grade students and plans to add a new 7th-grade class each year for the next four years until it becomes a full-fledged middle and high school with 630 students.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/richmond/ci_29199202/el-cerrito-charter-school-campus-planning-expansion

30. Valerie Strauss: **Say This, Not That, A Slick PR Guide to Selling Charter Schools by a Key Charter Group**

The Washington Post, July 22, 2014

Exposes the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools' 18-page "Charter School Messaging Notebook" with sections that include "Say This, Not That," and "Who Are 'Our People'."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2014/07/22/say-this-not-that-a-slick-pr-guide-to-selling-charter-schools-by-key-charter-group/>

31. Valerie Strauss: **Why Hedge Funds Love Charter Schools**

The Washington Post, June 4, 2014

This article actually refers to a Huffington post blog by Alan Singer, explaining how obscure laws affect social policy, such as how certain tax benefits and real estate investments are promoting investment in charters.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2014/06/04/why-hedge-funds-love-charter-schools/>

32. Ana Tintocalis: **Los Angeles, Oakland Engaged in New Charter School War**

KQED News, December 9, 2015

A new push for public school systems to give charter schools more access to district students pits public school advocates against self-described education reformers.

<http://www.kqed.org/news/2015/12/09/los-angeles-oakland-engaged-in-new-charter-school-war>

33. Jonathan Pelto: **More on SFER -- Corporate Money in the 2015 Denver Board of Education Election**

Wait What? Blog, December 7, 2015

Further update on "how the charter school and broader education reform industry is using a variety of advocacy groups to back their effort to privatize public education and undermine the teaching profession."

<http://jonathanpelto.com/2015/12/07/more-on-sfer-corporate-money-in-the-2015-denver-board-of-education-election/>

34. Jessica Huseman: **These Charter Schools Tried to Turn Public Education into Big Business. They Failed**

Slate, December 17, 2015

Examines the trend away from for-profit charters; gives overview of charter movement/history.

http://www.slate.com/blogs/schooled/2015/12/17/for_profit_charter_schools_are_failing_and_fading_here_s_why.html

35. Seattle Education: **What Bill Gates Has Spent So Far in Our State to Support Charter Schools**
December 2015
A list of the precise amounts given by the Gates to support specific charter schools (or, as the author puts it, "force them down our throats").
<https://seattleducation2010.wordpress.com/2015/12/29/what-bill-gates-has-spent-so-far-in-our-state-to-support-charter-schools/>
36. Rev. Jesse Jackson: **Charters and Heavy Testing Hurt our Schools**
Chicago Sun Times, Nov. 2, 2015
"Charters are spreading like kudzu; wall-to-wall standardized testing is nearly universal--and the parents are right: it isn't working."
<http://chicago.suntimes.com/opinion/7/71/1066087/jesse-jackson-charters-heavy-testing-hurting-schools>
37. Abby Jackson: **An alarming new study says charter schools are America's new subprime mortgages**
Business Insider, Jan. 6, 2016
Reporting on a December 2015 study that finds that the risky economic and policy dynamics that caused the subprime mortgage crises in 2008 are emerging in the relationships between the government and business-related sponsors of charter schools. It could impact urban communities the most.
<http://www.businessinsider.com/are-charter-schools-the-new-mortgage-crisis-2016-1>
38. Valerie Strauss: **Are charter schools the new subprime loans? (Think 'The Big Short')**
Washington Post, Jan 4, 2016
Interview with Preston Green, one of the authors of an academic study that makes an analogy between the subprime mortgage crisis and political and business climate for charter schools in urban areas.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2016/01/04/are-charter-schools-the-new-subprime-loans-think-the-big-short/>