

Resolution #21

Public Schools Unite Us – Charter Schools Divide Us

WHEREAS:

Across the United States, public schools unite us and are the center of our communities;
and

WHEREAS:

Educators, parents, and community leaders share the common goal of providing the best
education and opportunities for all children; and

WHEREAS:

Public schools belong to all of us – to the students and hard-working families who support
them, and to the educators and staff who ensure that children from every background have the
opportunity to lead fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS:

A 2022 national study of public school parent voters found that 79% of parents are satisfied
with their children's public schools when it comes to helping their child or children achieve their
full potential, including 83% of parents in cities, 81% of Black parents, 73% of Hispanic parents,
and 81% of younger parents (under age 40); and

WHEREAS:

Corporate charter schools are a failed experiment that have not lived up to promises that
they would be laboratories of innovation and reform; and

WHEREAS:

Instead of educating all students like regular public schools, corporate charters discriminate – only keeping students who fit their business model, and turning away students with special needs, behavior challenges, or those who otherwise require individualized educational programming; and

WHEREAS:

The proliferation of corporate charter schools has disproportionately affected communities of color; and

WHEREAS:

Corporate charter companies take advantage of taxpayers by draining resources from regular neighborhood public schools, while remaining largely unaccountable and non-transparent for how billions in federal, state and local education dollars are spent; and

WHEREAS:

Parents and taxpayers across the country recognize the importance of transparency and accountability for all schools and see corporate charters as a diversion of state and federal resources that hurt their own neighborhood public schools – a recent poll showed that 79% of voters and 80% of parents oppose plans to increase the number of charters and shift funding away from their own local neighborhood public schools.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

that the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists will support families who want the best for their children by supporting our nation's public schools; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:

that CBTU will work with its members, their locals, and state and national affiliates to oppose corporate charter school expansion in our communities.

Submitted by: CBTU Executive Council