

Talking Points: ELO-P, Equity & AB 84 – Charter Schools Left Behind

- Both charter and district schools are public schools serving California's students.
- Charter schools are excluded from California's Extended Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) even though we serve the same student population: public school students.
 - District schools automatically receive ELO-P funds to provide enrichment, after-school care, and summer learning programs.
 - Charter schools receive \$0 in ELO-P funding but still provide similar enrichment opportunities by stretching already limited general funds to meet students' needs.
- To fill that gap, charter schools use community vendors and independent instructors to offer art, music, STEM, and other enrichment.
 - AB 84 would prohibit this. It would require all instruction, including enrichment, to be delivered by credentialed employees of the charter school.
 - Meanwhile, district schools receiving ELO-P funds are allowed to contract with outside vendors and community organizations.
 - This creates a blatant double standard: one public school system is fully funded and allowed flexibility, while the other is unfunded and restricted.
- Over 65% of charter school students are Black, Latino, or low-income. These are the same students ELO-P is intended to support, but they will be denied access under AB 84, simply because they attend a charter.

If the state believes enrichment matters for one type of public school student, it must matter for all.

Sample Letter

Dear [Legislator's Name],

As a parent of a California public school student, I am writing to urge you to oppose AB 84. This bill would deepen the existing inequities between district and charter public schools, especially when it comes to access to enrichment opportunities funded by the state's Extended Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P).

Right now, charter schools receive \$0 in ELO-P funds, even though they too serve the California student population similar to our district schools. Despite this, charter schools stretch their limited general funds to provide enrichment programs like art, music, robotics, and physical education, often by partnering with trusted community vendors and independent instructors.

AB 84 would ban this practice. It would require all instruction, even enrichment, to be provided by credentialed employees of the charter school, a requirement not applied to district schools, which are allowed to use ELO-P funds to contract with outside providers.

This is a clear double standard.

It punishes public school students simply because they attend a charter, and disproportionately harms Black, Latino, and low-income students, the very students ELO-P was designed to support. If enrichment matters for one type of public school student, it should matter for all.

Please do the right thing. Vote NO on AB 84 or choose to abstain. Our children deserve equal opportunities, not more barriers.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your City or School]

[Optional: Add a short personal note about how enrichment or charter flexibility has benefited your child]