



COLORADO LEAGUE of CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter Schools are Public Schools

House Bill 17-1375 Overview

Summary of Charter School Impact:

- Opens up access to potentially \$34 million in additional mill levy override (MLO) revenue each year for charter schools across the state beginning with the 2019-20 school year
- Solidifies over \$40 million in existing MLO revenue so charters can have greater assurance they can continue relying on it into the future
- Establishes a framework for state CSI equalization to which funds can be added in future years

Key Details:

- By 2019-20, all school districts with either charter schools or innovation schools *and* mill levy overrides must either share at least 95% of those mills with their charters and innovation schools or develop a district-wide plan for the equitable sharing of mills that meets the needs of and equitably supports the education of all the students enrolled in all of the schools of the district, regardless of the type of public school in which the student is enrolled
- The bill applies to all mills passed “before, on or after” the effective date of the statute, meaning that it does capture all prior mills a district may have passed
- If a district chooses to go the plan route, it must:
 - Be published for public scrutiny by July 1, 2018
 - Be fully implemented beginning with the 2019-20 school year and every year thereafter
 - Still adhere to “any purposes specifically approved by voters in approving additional mill levy revenue”
 - For each program included in the plan, a charter school or innovation school may either participate in the program or instead choose to receive their per pupil program share to apply toward a program or services of their choosing
 - A district may devote additional resources toward certain historically underserved student populations – i.e. FRL, AECs, ELL, SPED – so long as the amount distributed for the benefit of each student is the same regardless of the type of school in which the student is enrolled
 - For any revenue not devoted to either a program or historically underserved student population, the district must equitably distribute the remainder to all the schools of the school district in direct proportion to the number of students enrolled in each school

- If a district chooses to go the 95% route:
 - They may still devote additional resources toward certain historically underserved student populations – i.e. FRL, AECs, ELL, SPED – so long as the amount distributed for the benefit of each student is the same regardless of the type of school in which the student is enrolled
 - They must publicly report the calculation of how they are reaching the 95% threshold
- Regardless of which path a district chooses, the current mill amount it shares with its charters and innovation schools must be maintained for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years
- The amount of additional mill revenue a charter receives must be in addition to any other money the charter receives pursuant to the provisions of the Charter Schools Act
- If a charter contract included any sort of term that would require a charter school to waive or otherwise forgo any amount of additional mill revenue, that provision would be considered null and void
- Transparency elements:
 - Beginning in 2018, anyone who files a 990 will need to post a link to it to their financial transparency website
 - By July 1 of 2017, schools and districts who have waivers from state statute will need to post an easily accessible list of those waivers along with a copy of the associated replacement plans
 - Beginning in 2018, each charter school will need to post a copy of a standardized document developed by the League, CSI and CDE that explains the automatic waivers and the rationale for why these waivers were added to the automatic waiver list in the first place

HB17-1375 and CSI Schools:

- HB17-1375 creates the structure for a fund to help equalize funding for CSI schools out of recognition that they have no access to local tax revenue. Subject to annual appropriation by the legislature (which appropriation was not allocated via HB1375), any money placed in this fund would be distributed by CSI to its schools on an equal per-pupil basis, except that no CSI school could receive more on a per-pupil basis than the schools of its geographic school district are currently receiving from locally-raised mill levy overrides.

Questions? Contact Dan Schaller, VP of Policy, at dschaller@coloradoleague.org