

[44 Comments](#)

- [Print](#)
- [Reprint or License](#)
- [Share](#)

Outcry for increasing charters sets off alarms

GOP-backed plan would offer more options while lessening dominance of traditional public schools.

[Like](#) 8 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

By Jane Stancill, Lynn Bonner and Thomas Goldsmith
jane.stancill@newsobserver.com
Posted: Sunday, Apr. 17, 2011



Elvis Galvez, center, and others are prepared to answer their teacher's questions during a lesson in their classroom. They are some of the 22 third-graders in Kristen Parker's class at the Maureen Joy Charter School in Durham. COREY LOWENSTEIN - clowenstein@newsobserver.com

More Information

- [PUBLICED-040311 2 GTE2JAET1.1.xml FACTBOX00](#)

Bills being debated

Several bills being debated could mean sweeping change for N.C. education.

Among them:

Charter schools. A bill would eliminate the 100-school charter cap. The latest version sets an annual limit of 50 on new charters and sets up a governing commission that would work under the state Board of Education. It also requires schools to provide lunch for students at 185 percent of the poverty threshold and transportation if they live within three miles of the school. That version passed the House but the Senate failed to go along amendments; a rewrite of the legislation is expected.

Tax credits. Pending bills would offer tax credits to families who enroll their children in private schools.

The general tax credit would give parents \$2,500 a year. At that amount, the change would likely help religious-affiliated schools or private schools that charge relatively low tuition.

A special education tax credit would offer \$6,000 a year to parents of disabled children. The bill would also set up a special education fund that would get \$2,000 each semester for each student who uses the credit. That money would be used for special ed students who remain in public schools.