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LP AE Takes Position of Opposition Ahead of Charter Vote

In a surprise move, LPSS is once again considering the Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce's application to add another charter school as a Type 1 (local) charter in the 2017-18 school year.

This is the same application that our school board denied in October. Furthermore, this same application has already been approved as a type 2 application by BESE, with the support of Lafayette BESE member Holly Boffy.

Why the reconsideration?

Well, the lawsuit filed by LP AE/LAE against the

state is having an impact. The state court of appeals has declared that type 2 charter schools' use of MFP funds is unconstitutional. The lawsuit will now go to the State Supreme court for a final verdict. All Type 2 charters, including three in Lafayette Parish stand to lose all MFP funding. The charters could remain but would have to be funded outside of MFP dollars.

The impact on our district is that tens of millions of dollars would stay in our public schools.

The charter school management companies are clearly trying to get the

local board to pay for them because they fear losing state funding.

LP AE has formally taken a position of opposition to the Type 1 charter application submitted by JCFA. All members are urged to contact their school board representatives and urge them to vote **NO** on the DeVos agenda of school privatization.



2017-2018 Proposed Calendar

The LPSS Calendar Committee has met several times to create school calendars for 2017-18 and 2018-19. Proposed dates are as follows:

First/Last Days	
Students Report.....	8/9
Kindergarten Registration.....	3/9
Graduation.....	5/19
Students Last Day.....	5/23

Holidays

Independence Day.....	7/4
Labor Day.....	9/4
Fall Break.....	10/20
Thanksgiving.....	11/20-24
Christmas.....	12/25-1/5
MLK Day.....	1/15
Mardi Gras.....	2/12-14
Easter/Spring Break.....	3/30-4/6
Memorial Day.....	5/28

Lily's Blackboard

You Said NO to DeVos, Here's How to Say YES to Students

You called, emailed, marched and told everyone on Facebook how much you care about public education. Now it's time to take that energy/frustration/inspiration and stand up for your local public school. And since we are educators, we came up with some homework for everybody and anybody who

supports public schools, including ourselves.

1. Find out who represents you and put them on your contact list
2. Attend your next school board meeting
3. Become an education activist
4. Invite a lawmaker to visit your classroom.
5. Create a public school defense team in your neighborhood
6. Host a community teach-in on the dangers of school privatization, vouchers
7. Find out how ESSA Creates Opportunity for students.
8. Buy a copy of *Reign of Error*, by Diane Ravitch and send it to your local lawmaker.
9. Educate Betsy DeVos about the value of public

schools . Tell her why public schools are worth fighting for. If you work in a school, educate her about the challenges of the job. Tell her what issues your students face .

Join LPAE and Help Read Across America



The National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America. Now in its 20th year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources. LPAE will be celebrating Read Across Ameri-

ca on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the Lafayette Public Library main location from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm in the children's section on the first floor.

Volunteers are needed.

Please respond by Friday, February 17, 2017 if you would like to join us for the celebration. You may email Patsy Sonnier, RAA Chair-

person, at patsy.sonnier@cox.net.

We appreciate every effort you make to help us with this fun event. We hope that you can "Grab a Hat and Read With the Cat!"

Raise Your Hand for Public Education



The **National Education Association** has issued a renewed call to action—*Raise Your Hand*—a national initiative to mobilize educators, parents, and community leaders who share our commitment to ensuring the success of all our students. By tapping into their commitment and leadership to serve America's students, we are uniting our members

with parents, community leaders and elected officials across the country, to fulfill the promise of public education and prepare every student to succeed.

Find out more at <http://www.nea.org/home/raiseyourhand.html>

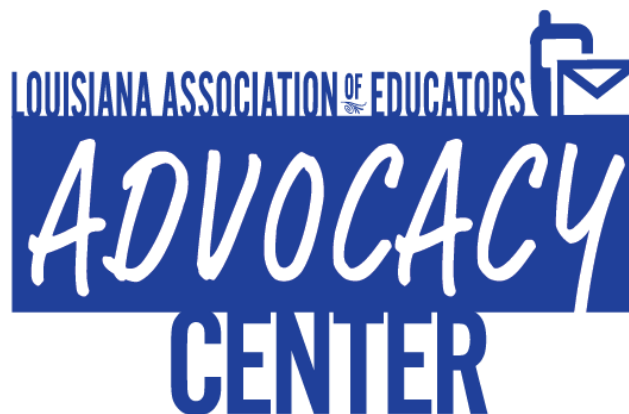


Grants Available

Lafayette Education Foundation's 2017-2018 Grant Cycle is now open! Teachers and administrators in all Lafayette Parish public schools are eligible to apply for Classroom Grants and School Impact Grants. Classroom Grants impact a single classroom and have a maximum award of \$1,000. School Impact Grants can impact a grade, subject or curriculum level, or an entire school and have a maximum

award of \$5,000. Grants are awarded based upon academic value, creativity and measurability of success and impact. LEF grants offer educators the opportunity to enhance the learning experience for their students, facing the challenges of today's classroom with adequate resources. The majority of grants are written for projects that span the entire year and often the materials can be used for consecutive years. The LEF grant process is an extremely effective method of putting academic dollars straight into the classroom, having a direct impact on student productivity and success. The application includes specific guidelines and requirements for the LEF Grant Cycle. The

deadline to apply for an LEF Grant is **April 3, 2017**. LEF has moved to an online application through Google Forms, which can be found on the LEF website at www.lefoundation.org.



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History of American Teachers Association

In 1904, John Robert Edward Lee, director of the Academic Department at Tuskegee Institute, called on teachers in Black schools to join him in creating a national organization—the National Association of Colored Teachers, later named the American Teachers Association. Throughout its 62-year history, some of the most notable Black educators in the nation belonged to and led the ATA.

As early as 1926, NEA and ATA began working together on issues of educational equity, and four decades later, as racial desegregation advanced in the wake of the Civil Rights Movement, ATA and NEA charted a path toward unification to create an even greater organization—the modern NEA.

That dream was realized when presidents of both organizations signed a historical merger agreement in 1966. Today we celebrate our unique and distinct legacies and the strength and richness our combined energies bring to bear on the evolution of public education and the profession of teaching.



*Great Public Schools
for Every Child*



To help you integrate Black History Month into your classroom, we offer a selection of lesson plans that cover a variety of subjects and that can be adapted to fit multiple grade levels.

<http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/black-history-month.htm>



neamb.com

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PROGRAM



Lafayette Parish Association of Educators

*Great Public Schools
for Every Child
in Lafayette Parish*



Charter School Vulnerabilities to Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

Public funding for charter schools (including local, state, and federal) is now more than \$30 billion annually. Despite this tremendous investment of public dollars to charter schools, and previous reports documenting gross financial mismanagement, government at all levels has still failed to implement systems that proactively monitor these schools for waste and fraud. A new report from *Center for Popular Democracy* documents that, absent this monitoring, the total waste, fraud, and mismanagement of charter school funds has now reached more than \$216 million. In addition to fiscal accountability, there are significant differences between public and private. Charter schools tend to hire younger and less experienced teachers. Charter

schools typically have appointed, rather than elected, school boards. Some charter boards hold open public meetings and some do not. About 4 in 10 charters nationally are managed under contract by for-profit or non-profit charter "chains." These may or may not be headquartered in the communities where their schools are located. The other 6 in 10 charters nationally, sometimes referred to as "mom and pop" charters, are not-for-profit and are operated by individuals or small groups of individuals, such as educators, who live in the local community. As taxpayer funded schools, charter schools need to operate openly in the ways we rightly expect of traditional public schools. Charter schools should either establish elected,

instead of appointed, governing boards, or comply with the open meeting laws that include parents and the public in traditional sector decisions. They should be required to disclose the amounts and duration of large charitable contributions that provide some charter schools with short-term large resource advantages. Ownership of property purchased with taxpayer support to open charter schools should be transferred to the local school district when a charter school is closed, instead of allowing private entities to reap windfalls from these subsidies intended to benefit students.

NEA.org, *Charter Schools 101*