

Students Who Attend Personalized Learning Flex-Based NCB Public Charter Schools Should Not Be Shortchanged By The State



Providing personalized learning, flex-based education costs more than a traditional classroom-based education. Developing a tailored and customized education plan for each student costs more money than using a one-size-fits-all model that has the same curriculum, same learning environment, same pace, and same teacher for large groups of students.

Many flex-based nonclassroom-based (NCB) public charter schools provide extensive in-person education for students several days a week but they do not receive state funding for their facilities. All costs for facilities, maintenance, transportation, technology, and instructional materials must come out of flex-based NCB charter schools' operating budget as they are not subsidized by any of California's facility subsidy programs.

There are many costs that flex-based NCB public charter schools incur that classroom-based schools do not have to pay for. There are also several state funding sources that flex-based NCB public charter schools are ineligible for that classroom-based schools can access.

Many of the students who enroll in flex-based NCB public charter schools are disadvantaged and cutting their education funding will only exacerbate education inequities that exist in our state.

Policies that pick winners and losers among students, particularly disadvantaged students, are irreparably harmful to those students and the public education system as a whole. Funding must be equitable for all California students, regardless of the educational model that best meets their needs.

Costs that Flex-Based NCB Public Charter Schools Incur Each Year That Traditional Classroom-Only Schools Do Not Have to Pay



Facility and Rental Costs

- Mortgage/lease costs for Learning Centers often located in multiple counties
- Mortgage/lease costs for office space
- Rentals for professional development and staff meetings
- Rentals for state testing and internal assessments
- Rentals for in-person meetings with staff and parents
- Rentals for in-person services for special education, special needs, English language learner students

Technology Costs

- Laptops, chromebooks, and ipads for students and staff
- Hotspot and wifi costs for students and staff to ensure connectivity
- More extensive online course licenses and fees
- More expensive and complex technology systems to support remote learning

Teacher Transportation Costs

- Mileage reimbursement for teachers to meet with students and families, proctor assessments, and attend professional development meetings
- Mileage reimbursement for teachers and staff to provide in-person special education services such as speech therapy

Personalized Instructional Materials and Services Costs

- Ordering and fulfillment costs for individualized education resource materials such as textbooks and workbooks to personalize learning for each student
- Individualized extra-curricular activities
- Mandate to spend 80%+ of total expenditures on student instructional support services

Teacher and Administrative Staffing Costs

- Staffing costs required to meet the state-mandated 25:1 pupil-teacher ratio requirement for funding determination compliance
- Central office staffing (human resources, accounting, etc.) that traditional schools often receive from a school district

Instruction-Related Shipping Costs

- Mailing laptops and instructional materials to students

Authorizer and Other Costs

- Annual 1% to 3% authorizer oversight fee
- Limitations on reserves which reduces monthly cash flow



Funding Sources That Flex-Based NCB Schools Do Not Have Access to That Traditional Public Classroom-Only Schools Can Use

Charter school facility subsidy programs

Prop. 39 facilities program

Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P)

After School Education and Safety Program (ASES)

Classroom-based school hold harmless declining enrollment relief funding

About the Association of Personalized Learning Schools & Services

APLUS+ was founded in 2002 and today represents 93 Personalized Learning Public Charter Schools collectively serving more than 90,000 K-12 students in 56 counties throughout California. APLUS+ member schools employ more than 2,500 credentialed teachers who provide student-centered education delivered through multiple learning settings.

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