

Network for Public Education (NPE) study—Doomed to Fail: An Analysis of Charter School Closures from 1998-2022.

NPE's [study](#) of charter school closures in the U.S. indicates that one in four charters close by the five-year mark. At the twenty-year mark, over one-half of the charters have closed.

According to the study, during the period 2022-2024 low enrollment was the leading cause of charter closures (46.8%), followed by fraud and mismanagement (21.6%). 10% closed due to financial reasons and nearly 14% due to academic reasons.

In Ohio, about one-half of the charters the state of Ohio has authorized closed or didn't open. ECOT is just one example of a charter school that closed abruptly in the middle of the school year.

Parents take substantial risks when they enroll their children in charter schools in Ohio and elsewhere. The snake oil sales pitch embedded in the charter industry lures many parents to enroll their children without the full disclosure of the risks involved.

In the final analysis, state officials put the education of children at risk when they enacted the charter school legislation. They should have considered that establishing deregulated education entities with scant transparency and supervision would create an unstable environment for students. The qualifications for charter school sponsors and management company operators are negligible. So are the legal requirements for the creation and operation of charter schools.

In Ohio, fraud and mismanagement in the charter industry is prevalent. ECOT is a prime example but one of a long list. Lack of transparency and accountability in the industry is largely the reason for so much fraud and waste in this education sector.