

# PARENTS ADVOCATING SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

## News Articles on Charter School Problems

Why post just articles about problems? Because a number of well-funded charter-school advocacy organizations compile and publicize articles showing charter schools in a positive light. Neither PASA's archive nor theirs gives a complete picture, but PASA's provides a small measure of balance. Disclaimer: PASA is an entirely volunteer project, with no income, budget or paid employees. The charter school advocacy groups are, of course, well funded and fully staffed.

March 26, 2007

Orlando (Flor.) Sentinel

### [An Orlando Sentinel special report: Charter Schools: Missing the Grade](#)

Florida is home to more than 300 charter schools – public schools funded by your tax dollars but run by groups, such as cities, nonprofits or management companies. Some operators are steeped in education experience, while others have no academic credentials. Many charter schools enjoy good reputations. But scores of them continue getting education dollars despite records of low student achievement and financial mismanagement. A yearlong investigation by the Orlando Sentinel found that the state's lack of oversight has allowed students to fail academically and charter operators to profit from their relationships with the schools. This series looks at student performance, charter-school spending and what the state is doing – or not doing – to hold the campuses accountable.

### [EVEN WITH AIRTIGHT CASE, TEA IS LAX ON CHEATING](#)

Theresa B. Lee Academy stopped just short of erecting a neon sign declaring that it had cheated on the TAKS test. Teachers at the Fort Worth charter school offered jaw-dropping accounts of administrators writing test answers on the chalkboard, composing the students' essays and doctoring TAKS answer sheets. When state

September 15, 2007      Dallas News

investigators sought testing paperwork, school leaders spun an elaborate yarn about a mythical flood that swept the documents away. And when the Texas Education Agency tried to track down Lee students, investigators began to suspect that some of the kids were mythical as well. The TEA had an airtight case against a school that broke almost every rule in the book – and then claimed to have lost the book in a flood. But when the state's punishment was announced this week, it amounted to little more than a tap – not even a slap – on the wrist.

[PRINCIPAL KEEPS JOB AFTER FAILING TO REPORT MOLESTER](#)

September 14, 2007      Arizona Central.com

The son of the principal of Morningstar Academy charter school in Apache Junction allegedly molested a girl in the classroom he taught. The principal, his mother, didn't report him and won't help authorities find him after he skipped bail, and is still running the school. The school has been in the news after its owner was indicted on 112 counts of theft and misuse of funds in a California charter school scandal.

[Shirlee Smith: CHARTER SCHOOL FAILS TO MAKE GRADE](#)

September 14, 2007      Pasadena (Calif.) Star-News

After Altadena's Nia Charter School is revealed to be unaccredited, columnist describes her bad experience with the school.

[SCHOOL IN FALLBROOK SHUTS DOWN FOR GOOD, RELOCATING EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS TO TEMECULA](#)

September 14, 2007      North County (San Diego) Times

Charter school collapses.

[PREUSS OFFICIALS ON PAID LEAVE IN GRADE PROBE](#)

The principal of the nationally recognized Preuss School on the UCSD campus has been placed on leave while university auditors investigate allegations of grade irregularities. Since June, university

September 13, 2007	San Diego Union-Tribune	auditors have been looking into reports that grades were changed and recorded inappropriately at the public charter school. Grades for the past three to four years are being reviewed. The Preuss School, known for its success in preparing poor and minority students for college, has been held up as a model of academic excellence in California and in the nation.
September 13, 2007	WTOL11.com (Toledo, Ohio)	<p><a href="#"><u>CHARTER SCHOOLS TRY TO FORESTALL SHUTDOWNS</u></a> Several charters threatened with shutdown for low performance.</p>
September 12, 2007	Akron (Ohio) Beacon-Journal	<p><a href="#"><u>ATTORNEY GENERAL SEEKS TO CLOSE 2 CHARTER SCHOOLS</u></a> Attorney General Marc Dann filed separate lawsuits Wednesday seeking to close two charter schools, saying both had failed to meet academic standards over the past six years.</p>
September 12, 2007	Fort Worth Star-Telegram	<p><a href="#"><u>STATE CONSERVATOR TO OVERSEE TAKS TESTING AT CHARTER SCHOOL</u></a> A conservator will oversee the administration of the Theresa B. Lee Academy's state assessment program after the Texas Education Agency found irregularities in the Fort Worth charter school's 2005 TAKS results.</p>
September 12, 2007	Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, Ill.)	<p><a href="#"><u>Prairie Crossing board still bickering despite warning</u></a> Charter school board members can't get along.</p>
September 12, 2007	Lancaster (Penna.) Intelligencer-Journal	<p><a href="#"><u>CYBERSCHOOLS MISSING THE MARK</u></a> Online charter schools show poor achievement overall.</p>
September 11, 2007	Arizona Republic	<p><a href="#"><u>OPERATOR OF VALLEY SCHOOL FACES CHARGES IN CALIFORNIA</u></a> Charter school operator charged with 56 charges of grand theft and 56 charges of misappropriation of funds in a California</p>

charter school case is still running a charter school in Arizona.

- September 10, 2007      New Orleans City Business  
[EINSTEIN CHARTER FACES CLOSURE AS NONPROFIT STATUS QUESTIONED](#)  
 Orleans Parish School Board could revoke lease, take control. The Louisiana Department of Education could close Einstein Charter School in eastern New Orleans for administrative improprieties this week — a first in the history of charter schools in New Orleans. The husband-wife team of Alice Midkiff and Ronald Midkiff, school director and principal, respectively, first came under fire during the 2006-07 school year amid reports of nepotism, abuse and racism.
- September 10, 2007      Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel  
[TEACHER TURNOVER RATE CALLED A FLUKE](#)  
 5 of 6 Eagleville instructors are new. Charter school's staff attrition raises eyebrows.
- September 10, 2007      Beaver County (Penna.) Times  
[LINCOLN PARK \\$1 MILLION SHORT LAST YEAR](#)  
 Charter school ran at a big deficit.
- August 29, 2007      St. Paul Pioneer-Press  
[TROUBLED CHARTER SCHOOL WILL CLOSE: JUDGE'S RULING ALLOWS SPONSOR TO END RELATIONSHIP WITH DAKOTA ACADEMY](#)  
 Management problems at Burnsville, Minn., charter school.
- August 28, 2007      Chicago Tribune  
[INFIGHTING PUTS SCHOOL CHARTER IN JEOPARDY](#)  
 The board of Prairie Crossing Charter School suffers from "constant, unnecessary and damaging hostility."
- August 28, 2007      (Denver) Rocky Mountain News  
[CHARTER TO REPAY \\$3 MILLION; STATE FOUND ERRORS IN SCHOOL'S RECORDS](#)  
 A charter school will repay the state nearly \$3 million for errors in tracking students, under an agreement announced Monday by

the Colorado Department of Education.

August 26, 2007	New York Post	<p><a href="#"><u>CHARTER KIDS OUT OF 'HELL': 'NUTBALL' BOSS QUILTS</u></a> International Leadership Charter School Principal Elaine Ruiz Lopez "allegedly wreaked havoc on education and morale."</p>
August 24, 2007	San Diego Union-Tribune	<p><a href="#"><u>TROUBLED CHARTER MAY CLOSE: QUESTIONS ON MONEY AND LEADERSHIP ARISE</u></a> The attorney for the Children's Conservation Academy tells parents, students and teachers that there's a "real possibility" the school will shut down rather than opening Monday as planned, calling the crisis "dire."</p>
August 23, 2007	Salem (Mass.) News	<p><a href="#"><u>CHARTER SCHOOL LIKELY TO OPEN WITH SHORTAGE OF STUDENTS</u></a> The once-popular Marblehead Charter School is losing enrollment as turmoil makes parents wary.</p>
August 21, 2007	(Denver) Rocky Mountain News	<p><a href="#"><u>SCHAFFER DENIES CONFLICT IN DENVER CHARTER SCHOOL VOTE</u></a> The Colorado Board of Education had voted to scrap the troubled Life Skills Charter School of Denver, but board member Bob Schaffer pushed to require the board to reconsider. When it was discovered that he had accepted the maximum legal donation from the charter school operators to his campaign for state Senate, conflict-of-interest charges flew.</p>
August 21, 2007	Twin Falls (Idaho) Times-News	<p><a href="#"><u>STATE: IDAHO CHARTER SCHOOL VIOLATED RULES FOR SPECIAL NEED STUDENTS</u></a> Officials nail Xavier Charter School in Twin Falls for busing a special-needs student to a nearby non-charter public school without telling his mother.</p>
		<p><a href="#"><u>CORRECT CHARTER SCHOOL ABUSES</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Nice work — if you can get it, as they say. We're referring to positions held by some</u></a></p>

August 20, 2007	Wheeling (W. Va.) News-Register	<p><a href="#"><u>people as board members for private charter schools in Ohio. Some of them were paid multiple times for attendance at single board meetings. In a few situations, according to a state audit, board members were paid 17 times — that's \$2,125 — for attending single meetings.</u></a></p> <p>Newspaper editorial calls for higher standards.</p>
August 19, 2007	Washington Post	<p><a href="#"><u>BOARD OF EDUCATION: ABSENT OVERSIGHT, OFFICIAL PROFITED: WARNING ABOUT EX-CHARTER SCHOOLS CHIEF WAS DISMISSED</u></a></p> <p>Former charter school executive Brenda Belton was able to steal or illegally steer to friends more than \$800,000 over three years because of nearly nonexistent oversight by an inattentive school board, an 18-month criminal investigation found.</p>
August 18, 2007	Tampa Tribune	<p><a href="#"><u>PRINCE COMMUNITY ACADEMY TO BE TARDY OR ABSENT IN '07</u></a></p> <p>One day before other schools in the district start, the Prince Community Academy charter school is set to start school 20 days late. But there are questions about whether it will open at all. The school has has problems with academics, finances, discipline and permits.</p>
August 17, 2007	Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel	<p><a href="#"><u>CHINA ACADEMY LACKS CHINESE-SPEAKING TEACHER</u></a> <a href="#"><u>CRITICAL VACANCY ON STAFF OF CHARTER SCHOOL RAISES BROADER POLICY CONCERNS</u></a></p> <p>No one on the staff of the Milwaukee Academy of Chinese Language speaks Chinese.</p>
August 17, 2007	Springfield, Ohio, News-Sun	<p><a href="#"><u>FOUNDER NOT AFRAID OF SCHOOL'S AUDIT FINDINGS: SCHOOL FOUND TO BE IN POOR FINANCIAL STANDING; IT ALSO DID NOT MEET ANY ACADEMIC INDICATORS OF SUCCESS</u></a></p> <p>Urban Youth Academy founder Michael Ward says the audit of his charter school showed financial trouble but not</p>

embezzlement or misappropriation.

[CHARTER SCHOOLS' GRADE: INCOMPLETE: A HANDFUL EXCEL, BUT MANY STRUGGLE](#)

[The performance of Ohio's charter schools has more peaks and valleys than a Cedar Point roller coaster.](#)

August 16, 2007      Cleveland Plain Dealer      At the peak sits a small cadre of charters, schools that have emerged as academic powerhouses and have remarkable academic success with hard-to-educate children in neighborhoods where traditional public schools have often failed. But the valleys dip especially low.

[WITH PROCTORS IN CLASS, CITY DAY'S TEST SCORES FALL: THE CHARTER SCHOOL IS UNDER STATE INVESTIGATION FOR POSSIBLY CHEATING ON THE ACHIEVEMENT TESTS IN 2006](#)

August 16, 2007      Dayton Daily News      City Day Community School, under state investigation for possibly cheating on Ohio achievement tests in 2006, saw its scores plummet in 2007 when testing there was monitored.

[MINISTER CONVICTED OF STEALING SENTENCED TO 7-YEAR TERM](#)

August 15, 2007      Cleveland Plain-Dealer      Ohio minister is convicted on 62 counts for stealing \$1.4 million through a charter school he founded. The charter operator collected money for 650 students even though the building could hold only 150. He also used school money to buy and renovate a building, then sold it and kept the profits for himself.

[MORE AREA CHARTER SCHOOLS RATED LOW: FEWER RATED 'EXCELLENT' OR 'EFFECTIVE' BY OHIO REPORT CARD](#)

August 15, 2007      Cincinnati Enquirer      More Cincinnati-area charter schools received low state ratings this year than last, according to the latest Ohio Report Card. Fewer were rated "excellent" or "effective," the state's highest marks, and more wound up on the lowest rungs in

"academic watch" or "academic emergency."

August 15, 2007	Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch	<p><a href="#"><u>AUDIT RAPS CHARTER SCHOOLS; STATE CITES 'IMPROPER' RECORDS, PAYMENT ERRORS</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>Charter schools operated by Akron industrialist David L. Brennan paid board members multiple times for attending the same meeting -- as much as \$2,125 per session, a state audit discovered.</u></a>          That "abusive business practice" was among a number of findings by state Auditor Mary Taylor in a review of 19 for-profit charter schools operated by Brennan. ... Taylor's audits, released yesterday, also found \$2,005 in improper credit-card purchases, widespread bookkeeping errors and lack of documentation to support many expenditures. ... Brennan is a major contributor to Republican political candidates and causes.</p>
August 14, 2007	Florida Today	<p><a href="#"><u>Editorial</u></a>  <a href="#"><u>OUR VIEW: COSTLY CHALLENGE: CHARTER FIRM, NOT PALM BAY TAXPAYERS, SHOULD PICK UP TAB FOR STATE APPEAL</u></a>          We warned Palm Bay residents to watch out for hidden costs when city leaders started a municipal charter school experiment three years ago. Now the bill is mounting.</p>
August 13, 2007	Naples (Fla.) Daily News	<p><a href="#"><u>BONITA CHARTER TRIES TO OVERCOME THE TURMOIL: EDUCATION TAKES BACK SEAT TO RESTRAINING ORDERS, 911 CALLS TEACHER LAYOFFS, THREATS, RUMORS</u></a>          Trouble at charter school.</p>
August 13, 2007	Daily Herald (Arlington Heights, Ill.)	<p><a href="#"><u>FEUDING CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD SEEKS GUIDANCE FROM STATE</u></a>          Illinois charter school beset by conflict among board members and accusations of a "precarious cash flow" and a "hostile and ugly" atmosphere. The charter-advocacy group Center for Education Reform</p>

recently named the school one of the nation's top charters.

[CHARTER-SCHOOL GROUP UNDER SCRUTINY](#)

August 12, 2007

Associated Press

The president of Ohio's White Hat Management charter-school operator gave \$200,000 to a Virginia political action committee that transferred \$870,000 to an Ohio affiliate to help elect Republicans. The Ohio State Secretary says the transaction violated campaign laws and is investigating.

[TRIAL DATE SET FOR FORMER SCHOOL CHIEF: EX-SUPERINTENDENT IS ACCUSED OF DISCOURAGING TEACHERS FROM REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE](#)

August 11, 2007

Dayton Daily News

Former head of Ohio charter school is also being investigated over allegations of cheating on standardized tests.

[BOARD, PARENTS SPAR OVER CHARTER SCHOOL CONTROVERSY: GROUPS BATTLE OVER FACILITIES, BOARD TERMS, AND PERSONNEL MATTERS](#)

August 10, 2007

The Valley Chronicle  
(Hemet, Calif.)

A group of parents is accusing San Jacinto Valley Academy of mismanaging the school, while the charter school's board president calls the complaints "misinformation.

[DISTRICT'S EX-CHARTER SCHOOLS CHIEF ADMITS FRAUD](#)

August 10, 2007

Washington Post

Brenda Belton had some gall, by her own admission. As charter school oversight chief for the D.C. Board of Education, she repeatedly stole from the school system, arranging about \$649,000 in illegal school payments and sweetheart contracts to herself and her friends. Yesterday, she pleaded guilty to four felony counts of cheating the low-performing schools system over three years and trying to avoid taxes on her ill-gotten gains.

- August 8, 2007 Cleveland Scene [CORRUPTION MADE CHEAPER: IS COLORADO UNDERCUTTING THE BRIBERY MARKET?](#)  
Column accuses Ohio's largest charter school operator, White Hat Management, of bribing public officials in Ohio and Colorado. And "despite producing lower test scores than you'd get at a Klan rally or a Cleveland City Council meeting, the company has gobbled up \$109 million in state tax money -- though it refuses to say where any of it went.
- August 7, 2007 Akron Beacon-Journal [CHARTER SCHOOL MONEY RECORDS CRITICIZED: SCHOOLS WITH PROBLEMS CALLED THREAT TO OTHERS](#)  
Charter schools with poor financial records are undermining the good job that other schools are doing, state Auditor Mary Taylor told about 75 charter school officials at the University of Akron on Monday." Taylor also cites charters that are "unauditable" because their financial records are such a shambles.
- August 6, 2007 New Orleans City Business [RELATIVE CHAOS: EINSTEIN CHARTER OPERATORS UNDER FIRE FOR ALLEGED RACISM, NEPOTISM, ABUSE](#)  
Parents and faculty members accuse New Orleans' Einstein Charter School of wrongdoing.
- August 4, 2007 Toledo Blade [ALLIANCE ACADEMY TERMINATES LEADERSHIP: 4 BOARD MEMBERS ARE REPLACED](#)  
Toledo charter school's sponsor suspends its operations for academic and financial problems; new governing board fires the founder/directors.
- August 2, 2007 North Jersey Herald News [PROBATION EXTENDED FOR PATERSON CHARTER SCHOOL](#)  
New Jersey Department of Education keeps charter school on probation due to "serious management problems."

- August 3, 2007 Jewish Week [HEBREW, ARABIC SCHOOLS SEEN STRETCHING BOUNDARIES: ACADEMIES IN FLORIDA AND NEW YORK SPUR CHURCH-STATE QUESTIONS; ADL 'CONCERNED' ABOUT HOLLYWOOD \(Fla.\) SCHOOL RUN BY RABBI](#)  
A Jewish-oriented charter school in Florida and an Arab-focused charter school in Brooklyn are both triggering concern about whether they promote religion in public schools.
- August 2, 2007 Marblehead (Mass.) Reporter [JOB CANDIDATE TURNS TABLES ON CHARTER SCHOOL TRUSTEES](#)  
Head of Marblehead charter school has been suspended indefinitely with pay, accused of assaulting a 14-year-old female student who allegedly caught him drinking in his office. Candidate for interim replacement grills trustees about the touchy situation.
- August 1, 2007 Gazette.net [NEW GHS PRINCIPAL DEFENDS HER RECORD: CHRISTINE HANDY-COLLINS SAID SHE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH D.C. CHARTER SCHOOL'S TROUBLES](#)  
Newly hired principal of Gaithersburg High School previously ran D.C. charter school that was closed down for fiscal mismanagement.
- July 25, 2007 Brighton (Colo.) Standard-Blade [FORMER CHARTER BOARD PRESIDENT PLEADS GUILTY](#)  
[An ugly chapter in local education history came to a close July 13 when the former president of the Brighton Charter High School board pleaded guilty to a count of failure to report child abuse. ... Mundy's jury trial on a charge of tampering with three witnesses as well as a failure to report child abuse charge, was scheduled to begin July 18.](#)  
Mundy was swept up in a public firestorm in October when allegations surfaced that former Brighton Charter High School teacher Carrie McCandless engaged in a

romantic relationship with former charter school student Tommy Clay.

- |               |                                     |   |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| July 24, 2007 | Midland (Tex.)<br>Reporter-Telegram | <p><a href="#"><u>VAN HOUTEN FOUND GUILTY</u></a><br/>Teacher at charter middle school convicted of forced intercourse with student.</p>  |
| July 13, 2007 | Hartford Courant                    | <p><a href="#"><u>HIGHVILLE PARENTS PLEASED: STATE AIMS TO RECOVER LOSSES</u></a><br/>State officials on Thursday took the unprecedented action of seeking a receivership for the Highville Mustard Seed Charter School in Hamden, which has been marred by alleged financial mismanagement, conflict and cronyism.</p>         |
| May 5, 2007   | East Bay (N. Calif.)<br>Express     | <p><a href="#"><u>Too Hot for School? Tough-love principal Ben Chavis says it's okay for him to use racial taunts because he's a minority and his tactics work.</u></a><br/>Principal of widely praised Oakland (CA) charter school is accused of racial, sexual and abusive taunts to students and visitors to the school.</p> |
| May 5, 2007   | Capital Online<br>Annapolis, MD     | <p><a href="#"><u>Charter school faces more probation</u></a><br/>Charter school plagued by management and financial problems.</p>  |
| May 5, 2007   | Redlands (Calif.) Daily<br>Facts    | <p><a href="#"><u>Interim director of Redlands-based charter school quits</u></a><br/>The board of a Redlands-based charter school accused of overbilling the state \$7.7 million over three years has accepted the resignation of its interim executive director.</p>  |
| May 5, 2007   | Lakeland (Flor.) Ledger             | <p><a href="#"><u>Overbilling suspected: STAR School Facing Closure School Board likely to end contract over inflated enrollment figures</u></a><br/>Charter school apparently overreported its enrollment to collect extra money.</p>  |
| May 5, 2007   | Hartford Courant                    | <p><a href="#"><u>Charter School Closing Doors Money Runs Out Before Year Ends</u></a><br/>Charter school can't pay teachers and</p>  |

collapses without warning, leaving kids in the lurch. It suffered from underenrollment as well.

- May 4, 2007      New Haven Register      [Charter school has 'til Monday to produce plan](#)  
Charter school plagued by accusations of fiscal mismanagement, misuse of funds, conflicts of interest, violations of teachers' free speech rights and more.
- May 4, 2007      WBAL (Baltimore)      [County Issues Warning To New Charter School](#)  
School plagued by charges of poor financial recordkeeping.
- May 4, 2007      St. Petersburg Times      [Charter school administrator accused of child abuse](#)  
[The Athenian Academy official used a belt to beat a 16-year-old relative, investigators say](#)  
Head of school says, "I was angry." The victim was not a student at the school.
- May 2, 2007      Charlotte Observer      [Charter school lottery called off](#)  
Lottery falls apart over confusion, duplicate submissions.
- May 2, 2007      Baltimore Sun      [Charter school faces action](#)  
[Extended probation to be recommended today for Chesapeake Science Point](#)  
Charter school plagued by problems with finances, recordkeeping and services to disabled students.
- May 2, 2007      Courier-Post  
New Jersey      [LEAP charter school needed reality check](#)  
Charter school caught admitting out-of-state athletes ahead of local students to boost its basketball team. Local "guardians" informally took in the outsiders.
- May 2, 2007      Akron (Ohio) Beacon-Journal      [Charter school remains open](#)  
Charter school on probation for financial problems, conflicts of interest.

[Highville Suspends Pair of Teachers](#)

May 2, 2007	New Haven Register	Police called over personnel issue at charter school already plagued by "disruptive events" and alleged financial management and misuse of funds.
April 3, 2007	WESH-Ch. 2 News Daytona Beach, Fla.	<p data-bbox="893 346 1429 409"><a href="#"><u>Teacher Suspended, Accused Of Sexual Relations With Student</u></a></p> <p data-bbox="893 420 1429 556">A Merritt Island teacher was suspended Tuesday while police investigate accusations of inappropriate sexual relations with a student, police say.</p>
March 25, 2007	Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch	<p data-bbox="893 609 1461 714"><a href="#"><u>Charter schools face another lawsuit Lack of monitoring ends up hurting Ohio public schools, teachers union says</u></a></p> <p data-bbox="893 724 1461 892">Five months after the Ohio Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the state's charter-school program, another teachers union is challenging the tax-funded, privately operated schools.</p>
March 24, 2007	Arizona Republic	<p data-bbox="893 945 1461 1050"><a href="#"><u>Charter scores slide despite NFL funding \$1 mil from Super Bowl got now-troubled school rolling</u></a></p> <p data-bbox="893 1060 1461 1155">The 800-student school has had a more recent infusion of \$9 million, but scores are sliding and the state is intervening.</p>
March 24, 2007	KENS News San Antonio, Texas	<p data-bbox="893 1207 1445 1270"><a href="#"><u>UPDATE: School official shocked by teacher's arrest</u></a></p> <p data-bbox="893 1281 1445 1375">The special education director of the Por Vida Charter High School is charged with indecency with a child.</p>
March 24, 2007	Los Angeles Times	<p data-bbox="893 1428 1461 1575"><a href="#"><u>Charter school operation sanctions chief The board of Gorman Learning Center, which operates in several counties, strips the official of duties after a critical audit.</u></a></p> <p data-bbox="893 1585 1461 1753">Trustees of a troubled charter school operation stripped its director of his duties Thursday, days after an audit by the Los Angeles County Office of Education found widespread abuse of public funds.</p>
	Albany (N.Y.) Times-	<p data-bbox="893 1795 1461 1942"><a href="#"><u>Charter school loses key leaders in dispute Director, board member quit Rotterdam facility after administrators' contract not renewed</u></a></p>

March 24, 2007	Union	The local school board has also fired the charter school's manager, SABIS Educational Systems, over staffing changes and low achievement.
March 22, 2007	Salem (Mass.) News	<p><a href="#">State meeting called to talk about future of charter school</a></p> <p>Five of the 12 trustees of Marblehead Community Charter school have resigned over what they call failed governance within the school.</p>
March 21, 2007	Florida Today	<p><a href="#">Our view: Keeping charters in line</a>  <a href="#">Irregularities at four Brevard schools spotlight need for strict local control</a></p> <p>Newspaper editorial cites multiple charter school problems, calls for better oversight.</p>
March 21, 2007	Florida Today	<p><a href="#">District to decide fate of Explorer</a></p> <p>Convicted felons are ordered out</p>
March 20, 2007	Deseret Morning News (Salt Lake City)	<p><a href="#">Fired principal sues charter school</a>  <a href="#">Board violated law on open meetings, the lawsuit says</a></p> <p>Chaos, controversy at brand-new charter school.</p>
March 18, 2007	Zanesville (Ohio) Times-Recorder	<p><a href="#">Charter academy closes doors, leaves students without a school</a></p> <p>Two weeks after taking over the troubled Harte Crossroads, the school's management company told parents in a letter Friday that students should report on Monday to the public school they're assigned to in their district.</p>
March 18, 2007	Pittsburgh (Penna.) Post-Gazette	<p><a href="#">Cyber-school empire under attack</a>  <a href="#">Beaver County educator fighting grand juries, suits and legislators</a></p> <p>School's operator accused of questionable business practices, financial shenanigans.</p>
		<p><a href="#">Mayor missed chance to be a leader, ease students' fears</a></p> <p>St. Louis columnist describes tense meeting between charter-promoting Mayor Francis Slay and angry high school</p>

March 18, 2007	St. Louis Post-Dispatch	students. Sylvester Brown Jr. describes "the antagonistic state of affairs between those who pushed drastic school reform, state intervention and now charter schools, and those begging for inclusion in the process ... and plain old respect."
March 17, 2007	D.C. Examiner	<p><a href="#">Zoning Commission pick with ties to charter school unaware of investigation</a> Ties to a charter school under grand jury investigation are one of the controversies surrounding a mayoral appointee in Washington, D.C.</p>
March 11, 2007	New York Post	<p><a href="#">Staff 'Fires' Back at Principal/Charter Teachers: 'It's Retaliation'</a> <a href="#">Reading, writing - and wrongful firings.</a> That's the curriculum at a new charter school in The Bronx, where an "out of control" principal axed three teachers in a month, refused to pay the salaries of two and was found guilty of expelling students without due process, according to furious former employees.</p>
March 10, 2007	San Diego Union Tribune	<p><a href="#">Grossmont Fears Charter School to Take Its Students</a> The San Diego school district approved a charter for a school that plans to open in an unwilling neighboring district, Grossmont - which is apparently legal. Grossmont officials say the charter will harm its district.</p>
March 10, 2007	Austin American-Statesman	<p><a href="#">Former Charter School Chief Indicted</a> Lincoln Navigators, a Cadillac and a day care center — all on the state's dime. In all, Dolores Hillyer, 70, is accused of misusing more than \$550,000 in state money intended for the East Austin charter school she ran until about three years ago.</p>
March 9, 2007	Associated Press	<p><a href="#">Inquiries Detailed Abuse at Prisons</a> In a Texas scandal, after reports of alleged sexual abuse of juvenile offenders by two educators at a prison school, authorities dragged their feet on pressing charges. Meanwhile, one of the accused became</p>

principal of a charter school.

- March 9, 2007      Sarasota Herald-Tribune      [Fiery Education Chief Survives Crist's Changes](#)  
New Florida governor will keep the Jeb Bush-appointed state education chief in the post. T. Willard Fair recently sparked outrage by stating publicly that he doesn't trust school districts and said they should not have power to decide whether to approve charter schools in their districts.
- March 8, 2007      Norton (Mass.) Mirror      [Less State Aid Expected](#)  
This article describes the way the Massachusetts funding system means charter schools cost schools and municipalities painful fiscal losses.
- February 28, 2007      WBIR.com (Knoxville, Tenn.)      [Second grader stripped and hit with belt in front of charter school classmates](#)  
Student's aunt pulls down his pants and beats him with a belt in front of his class. When school principal apparently doesn't react, school board can't intervene because charters are freed from burdensome bureaucratic regulations.
- February 14, 2007      Cleveland Plain-Dealer      [Minister at charter school charged with cheating state of \\$1.3 million](#)  
Charter operator allegedly billed state for 681 students when the school never had more than 128, and used state money to buy a building that he then sold, keeping the profits.
- February 11, 2007      San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News      [The mysterious saga of Sister Khadijah DID SCHOOL MONEY FUND EXTREMISTS OR IS THIS ACTIVIST A VICTIM OF PREJUDICE?](#)  
Was Ghafur using a state-funded charter school as a source of revenue to bankroll a terrorist?
- February 11, 2007      Pittsburgh Tribune-Review      [Charter Schools Lag Behind in Performance](#)  
Pennsylvania's charter schools are not the miracle solution they were cracked up to be -- in fact, they're less successful than their

		non-charter counterparts.
February 10, 2007	Delaware State News	<a href="#">School Fights to Keep Charter: Academy of Dover's enrollment, debt concern state</a> Charter suffers from financial troubles, declining enrollment.
February 10, 2007	Chico (Calif.) Enterprise-Record	<a href="#">Biggs District Sparring with Charter School</a> Rural charter school won't provide required financial information to district, doesn't show up at school meet meeting to discuss it. The charter is run by the district's former superintendent.
February 9, 2007	Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise	<a href="#">Charter School in Riverside County Gets One Last Chance</a> <a href="#">EDUCATION: Rehoboth's operators are optimistic that other measurements will support them.</a> Charter school suffers from low achievement and operational problems.
February 7, 2007	Wilkes-Barre (Penna.) Times-Leader	<a href="#">Internship Ends After Charter School Incident</a> College student working at charter school allegedly sprays 13-year-old with Clorox bleach, grabs him, throws him against the wall and chokes him. The principal calls the incident "horse play."
February 7, 2007	Vail (Colo.) Daily	<a href="#">Police Investigating School's Finances</a> <a href="#">Financial records scattered, charter school board members say</a> Money missing, enrollment inflated, school in trouble.
February 7, 2007	Palm Beach (Florida) Post	<a href="#">Appeals Court Upholds Charter Schools' Rejection</a> Would-be charter operators have run schools rocked by academic and financial problems, are now fighting to open more.
February 7, 2007	Arizona Republic	<a href="#">Former Mesa School Worker to Repay \$50,000</a> School employee won't face criminal

		charges for use of funds, but the charter school is accused of inflating enrollment, and its finances are being investigated.
February 6, 2007	The Coloradoan	<p><a href="#">Former Brighton Teacher Released from Jail</a> Charter school teacher faces charges for alleged sex with a student. The accused teacher is the wife of the charter school's principal.</p>
February 1, 2007	North County Times (San Diego County, Calif.)	<p><a href="#">Charter school board fires director, grapples with deficit</a> Large Southern California charter is in chaos over charges of misappropriation of funds, conflict of interest and other issues.</p>
February 1, 2007	Philadelphia Inquirer	<p><a href="#">Report: Managers fall short in Phila. schools</a> <a href="#">Their costlier 5-year gains lag the district's, it said.</a> Study co-authored by RAND finds that Philadelphia's privately managed schools didn't perform as well as the city-run schools, despite getting more funding. The privately run schools include charters, some run by controversial, for-profit Edison Schools.</p>
February 1, 2007	Philadelphia Daily News	<p><a href="#">District-run schools score</a> <a href="#">New study says those run by private managers fare less well.</a></p>
January 31, 2007	Toledo Blade	<p><a href="#">Toledo Performing Arts school fires director</a> <a href="#">New leaders include man convicted of fraud</a> The executive director of a financially troubled West Toledo charter school has been dismissed and replaced by a Maumee partnership that includes a man convicted of fraud for taking money from the United Way, his former employer.</p>
		<p><a href="#">Report slams city charter school</a> North Central Charter Essential School has met none of the academic goals it set for itself when it opened five years ago,</p>

January 29, 2007	Fitchburg (Mass.) Sentinel and Enterprise	according to a recent state report. The report criticizes the school for its poor standardized test scores, incomplete curriculum, inadequate teaching materials, inconsistent expectations for student performance and ineffective leadership, textbook shortage, high turnover of teachers and trustees, and declining enrollment.. (But they're still renewing the charter -- hey, what's not to like?)
January 29, 2007	Fitchburg (Mass.) Sentinel and Enterprise	<a href="#">Ex-trustees: NCCES principal forced out</a> Conflict and chaos at Massachusetts charter school.
January 25, 2007	Contra Costa (Calif.) Times	<a href="#">Reluctantly, School Board Approves Charter Expansion</a> <a href="#">Trustees cite lack of legal ground to deny plan at Livermore school</a> Livermore school board members feel forced by law to OK charter school expansion, against their will. Board member Kate Runyon: "I'm going to vote yes. It's the legal thing. It's not the right thing."
January 24, 2007	Contra Costa (Calif.) Times	<a href="#">Charter schools eye better sites</a> <a href="#">Officials say facilities not adequate for students; district is trying to find space but proposals have been voted down</a> School districts scramble to find sites for charters; existing high schools are being forced to share their space.
January 20, 2007	Pittsburgh Tribune-Review	<a href="#">State: Funds to School Not Halted</a> A Midland, PA, arts charter school is being investigated for allegedly providing no academic curriculum to students and instead sending them to other schools for academic classes. State officials say they are not blocking the school's funding while they investigate.
January 19, 2007	CBS-4.com (Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL)	<a href="#">School Board Member Charged For Lewd Acts On Child</a> <a href="#">Marion Faldas is on the board of Doctors Charter School</a> South Florida charter school board member

		charged with molestation of one youth and faces allegations of molesting three more.
January 17, 2007	Melrose (MA) Free Press	<a href="#">Charter School Funding: Mayor Claims Funding Inequitable; Charter School Officials Point to State Reimbursement</a> Massachusetts is required to pay nearly 50% more per charter pupil than it does for other students.
January 14, 2007	Albany (N.Y.) Times-Union	<a href="#">Put Brakes on Charter Schools</a> Columnist from a district that has "been burned by" charter-school problems voices concern about calls for more charters.
January 14, 2007	Albany (N.Y.) Democrat-Herald	<a href="#">Teacher's Aide Indicted in Ritalin Case</a> Charter school aide accused of trading a 17-year-old whiskey for his Ritalin pills.
January 11, 2007	Denver Post	<a href="#">Cole Charter School Set for Closure</a> Here's an easy way for KIPP to keep its achievement high -- shut down its less successful schools and dump them back onto school districts. But how is that a solution for public education?
January 11, 2007	Metropolitan (Los Angeles) News-Enterprise	<a href="#">C.A. (Court of Appeals) Revives Sex Harassment Suit Against Charter School</a> A legal twist in a lawsuit by a student who charged a charter-school teacher with embarrassing her with "sexual innuendo and profanity" when she visited the school as an 8th-grader.
January 10, 2007	KTVU.com	<a href="#">Coach Allegedly Hit Kids' Groins, Showed Porn</a> <a href="#">Children Say He Poured Water on them in Cold Weather</a> The Colorado Springs Gazette reported that Gregory Lynn Burr, 28, is accused of regularly hitting players in the groin, exposing them to pornography, and pouring water on them when the weather was cold.
January 10, 2007	Santa Cruz (Calif.)	<a href="#">Felton Teacher Found Out in Identity Case</a> Charter school director pleads guilty to

	Sentinel	impersonating teacher at her school to get personal information about the teacher.
January 9, 2007	Dayton (Ohio) Daily News	<a href="#">Former Kindergarten Teacher Held on Sex Count</a> Charter school teacher charged with sex crimes against a 7-year-old.
January 9, 2007	Riverside Press-Enterprise	<a href="#">Charter School Director Rebutts Board's Charges</a> Administrator is accused of misusing public funds.
January 6, 2007	Salt Lake Tribune	<a href="#">Charter School Head Quits Amid Scrutiny</a> School's founder resigns amid questions about ethical and financial impropriety.
January 6, 2007	San Diego Union-Tribune	<a href="#">Harbinger of Charter School's Failure Ignored</a> Editorial: With one phone call to Ohio's state auditor – or simply a Google search – the San Diego Unified School District could have learned that Donna Johnson, seeking a charter for the Jola Community School in Mount Hope, had just left a long record of financial chaos in her operation of the Imani Institute Leadership School, her previous charter school in Cleveland. ... Now Johnson owes the San Diego district \$162,516 in funding for Jola [Charter School), which folded in fall 2005 after two months' operation...
January 5, 2007	Utah Daily Herald	<a href="#">Police Called to School Meeting</a> Brouhaha over firing of charter school headmaster who was accused of insubordination and mistreating an autistic student.
January 3, 2007	Los Angeles Daily News	<a href="#">Charter School is in Default on \$9.9 Million LAUSD Loan</a> The acclaimed Accelerated School (where L.A. Mayor Villaraigosa delivered last year's State of the City address) defaults on loan to school district. State Board of Education Member Jonathan Williams is the school's founder and co-director.



Click [here](#) to return to the PASA Homepage.

Page last updated Monday November 02, 2009