



For immediate release:

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ALBANY FAMILIES, PTA, TEACHERS & CITY LEADERS ASK SUNY BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO DENY 9TH CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION

Coalition Wants Charter School “Cap” for New York State Capital

WHO: Dozens of Albany parents, PTA members, city and county leaders, and concerned residents will meet at SUNY Plaza Monday, December 12, to protest the application for what could become the city’s 9th charter school and first charter high school—Green Tech High Charter School.

The SUNY Board of Trustees Charter Schools Committee will review the charter high school application at its 10 a.m. meeting on Monday, December 12, and is scheduled to announce its decision in January.

WHAT: Charter school protesters will gather at SUNY Plaza (Broadway and Hudson) to ask the SUNY Board of Trustees Charter Schools Committee to deny the charter high school application and to cap the number of charters in Albany. Local leaders and parents will speak publicly about why more charter schools are not good for Albany’s children at 9:30 a.m. Albany City Council PTA Co-President Larry Frank will speak directly to the Board of Trustees in New York City.

WHEN & WHERE:

Monday, December 12, 2005
9:30 a.m.
SUNY Plaza
353 Broadway, Albany

WHY: Albany residents do not support the charter schools experiment—last May, when school budget voters were asked if they support using public school funds to pay for charter schools, more than 80 percent said ‘No,’ and currently almost one third of the desks at local charters remain empty. In addition, at least 455 students have returned to the public schools after spending time at the charters, including 150 who returned when one school’s charter was revoked. Charter schools are hurting public schools—public schools are forced to expand and contract when charters open and close—often resulting in larger class sizes and jeopardizing student achievement.