



Stephen Hoffman

From: Stephen Hoffman
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 1:17 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: [External] FW: Mastery Parent Action Team re Regulation #6-349 Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

From: Ceci Schickel <Ceci.Schickel@Masterycharter.org>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 12:26 PM
To: IRRC <irrc@irrc.state.pa.us>
Cc: smartin@pasen.gov; Lindsey.Williams <Lindsey.Williams@pasenate.com>; Sonney Curt <CSonney@pahousegop.com>; Longietti, Mark <mlongiet@pahouse.net>
Subject: Mastery Parent Action Team re Regulation #6-349 Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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Dear IRRC Members,

Please find the written statement from the Mastery Parent Action Team attached and below. Please include this as written testimony regarding Regulation "6-349 Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools.



March 18, 2022

Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC)
 333 Market St, 14th Floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear IRRC Members:

On behalf of more than 10,500 families whose children attend Mastery Charter Schools in Philadelphia, we are asking you to STOP the harmful regulations proposed by the Department of Education (Regulation #6-349 Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools).

These regulations threaten the very existence of the public charter schools that have been transformative to our children's lives. Mastery has successfully turned around chronically low performing district schools in Philadelphia, while continuing to serve the same children. Our schools are now places of joy and academic achievement. As a result thousands of children have returned to their neighborhood schools because finally,

they are high quality public schools that serve all children. Our children are learning and thriving and have a hopeful future.

Our concern is that these **regulations go beyond the scope of the Charter School Law and burden our schools with more bureaucratic red tape, which will take resources away from our children.** At a time when our families and communities are still struggling with health and economic challenges due to the pandemic, why would the Education Department propose regulations that will hurt our families even more, especially our Black and brown children?

Our understanding is that new regulations are to be created in collaboration with the people most impacted by them. That most definitely did not happen. When our public charter school community asked to be involved in the drafting of these regulations, we were denied. We submitted concrete suggestions and hundreds of letters in opposition to the proposed regulations but were ignored.

We stand ready to participate in a legitimate and transparent process to create or improve regulations. Until then **we are asking you to NOT approve these regulations.** We are not alone. At this time of writing, **3,299 parents from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh have signed this petition demanding that Governor Wolf stop attacking public charter schools and asking you to NOT approve the regulations.** Here is the live petition <https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-governor-wolf-from-hurting-charter-school-students.html>.

As parents, our concern is that these regulations limit our school choice by:

1. Making it **more difficult for public charter schools** – which are free and open to all – **to be approved for renewal even when they meet all the academic standards.** This expands the inequity that our families and communities have experienced for decades.
2. Giving more authority to the school districts that oversee charter schools, **even though these same districts have been failing our children for years with no accountability.**
3. Making it **almost impossible to open new public charter schools,** which further denies parent choice.

We are hopeful you will respond positively to our reasonable request – **VOTE NO** - and do no harm to our children and schools.

Sincerely,

Mastery Parent Action Team

Cc: Senator Scott Martin, Majority Chair, Senate Education Committee
Senator Lindsey Williams, Minority Chair, Senate Education Committee
Representative Curt Sonney, Majority Chair, House Education Committee
Representative Mark Longietti, Minority Chair, House Education Committee

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