



## ED, CharterRegs

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**From:** Nicole Heim <heimni@shikbraves.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 20, 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** ED, CharterRegs  
**Subject:** [External] Cyber Charter Reform

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First off, thank you for the opportunity to speak my mind on an ongoing issue I see both at the taxpayer level, and at the school budget level. I am the Child Accounting Officer for two neighboring school districts, and an angry, questioning taxpayer at one.

Seeing the commercials on TV for "free education, at no cost to the parent" make me cry foul! There may be no out of pocket expenses for the parent enrolling their child in this sub-par platform, but there certainly is in the indirect route of higher taxes for all, making these advertisements deceitful.

Over the last few years, I've seen our limited school budget continue to decrease to allow for this new trend in demand. Perhaps the formula worked for some time, when this was used as a viable option for a few socially impaired situations. But with the fear of covid driving more to this alternative, we are bleeding money.

Common sense tells me that their expenses are not near what a struggling brick and mortar encounters. One staff member can teach a multitude of students across grade levels and curriculum. They do not require the overhead, the support staff, the administration costs, etc.

In addition, they are not even required to show the resident district proof of residency upon enrollment, but yet, we are forced to pay the bill on their say so. I personally have known of many situations, where the family provided initial proof of residency, then took their free computer, moved out of state, and continue to log in and accept their "free" education, while we were stuck footing the bill.

I also have seen situations where a student was regular ed, passing testing, but within a month of enrolling in a cyber charter, and they were identified with lightning speed.

Last year, and thus far this year, I have seen students show up on our bill without an enrollment notification. When I questioned, the stock answer was they were too busy to send them. Where is the accountability? Public schools cannot use an excuse like that. But yet, someone found time to bill us.

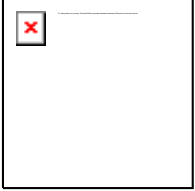
On the flip side, I have done my homework educationally, and looked up standardized test scores. I don't believe any further comment on this is required.

I find this entire process appalling, and I don't believe the districts should have to pay when they are offering perfectly good education. If the parent desires this option, the cost should be absorbed or subsidized through them, especially when we also offer a comparable cyber program.

I hope you take this information into consideration when re-vamping the legislature on this, because it's only a matter of time before doors are closed and options are taken away, driving taxpayers out of state.

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Blessings!  
Nicole M. Heim  
PIMS Coordinator



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