

**ED, CharterRegs**

From: Harvey, Donna <harvey.d@maritimecharter.org>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 11:38 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Cc: Eugene Mattioni; lenny@pacharters.org; scotthpeterman@gmail.com; Lucy Feria; Peter Saunders
Subject: [External] Opposition to Regulation #6-349; Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools
Attachments: Opposition to Regulation 6-349 - Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools.pdf

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Good morning,

[On behalf of the Maritime Academy Charter School, please see the attached letter from CEO, Mr. Eugene Mattioni, regarding Regulation #6-349; Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools:](#)

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October 1, 2021

The Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
RA-EDCharterRegs@pa.gov

RE: Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

I am writing to express my opposition to Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools.

I find that this regulation does not create a fair playing field between authorizers and charter school operators trying to give parents another choice in K-12 education. As written, the regulation creates a minimum standard that all authorizers must meet, but it does not restrict the ability of the authorizing party to create “over the top” and burdensome requirements during the application process. As written, authorizers can drown charter school administrators in red tape whenever they try to keep their schools open with a renewed charter or expand their schools because parents are happy with the results. The regulation leaves too much open for school districts to include requirements that end up being anti-charter, leaving room to be grounds for denial of new charters, renewals of charters, and expansion of charters. How is this helping Pennsylvania families that continue to look for options even while public school districts lose enrollment?

These regulations are not offered to help Pennsylvania parents. They seem to be proposed to help the authorizers, not the charter schools and the parents that keep enrolling their kids there. These regulations are not balanced and, therefore, should not be put into law.

The Maritime Academy Charter School provides cadets in grades 1 through 12 with a rigorous academic program and special theme of maritime studies. MACS’ cadets work with the latest technology to learn maritime content, such as nautical science and maritime business, while achieving high standards in English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and the Arts. MACS has a record of excellence in providing education to Philadelphia school children by giving our cadets the opportunity to seek employment in the maritime industry and enter the USCG and the US Navy.

Our expansion plans seeks to create a Maritime Center of Excellence and a new campus on the Philadelphia waterfront. We have earned the support of the Philadelphia School District, the Philadelphia Board of Education, the Charter School Office, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Governor and Legislators.

We support House Bill 1685 proposed by Representative Jesse Topper. Changes to the Charter School Law must be made through the legislative process. Maritime Academy Charter School is coming up for renewal and our 20 year anniversary. The proposed regulation would make an already challenging renewal and expansion process even more difficult.

It is my hope that you rescind this process and work with elected lawmakers to create policies that make sense for all schools. Creating laws through unelected bureaucracy is not what democracy is all about.

Thank you for your consideration.



Eugene Mattioni

Chief Executive Officer – Maritime Academy Charter School

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cc: Mr. Scott Peterman, PCE
Mr. Lenny McAllister, PCPCS