



ED, CharterRegs

From: joyinthemorn@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, October 5, 2021 7:36 PM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349 Equity in ALL Educational Choices

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October 5, 2021

To: 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 choice even while the same families can see public school districts are failing?

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.

Also looking at this regulation, it seems it will do nothing to fix the current difficulties between charter schools and district schools when it comes to the transfer of funding so that kids get their resources at the schools that they attend in a prompt manner.

Could it be the Department of Education, the group that is pushing for these regulations, actually hopes that less charter schools can ask for redirections of tuitions for their students? And the Department is hoping to save less than \$60,000 annually with this regulation, even if it costs charter school students millions collectively across Pennsylvania.

This regulation isn't about accountability, but is about picking winners and losers within public education. This has occurred on different levels throughout the governor's term. Some of the public is weary of it.

It is my hope that you rescind this process and work with elected lawmakers in Harrisburg 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.

Cindy Dingeldein

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