



ED, CharterRegs

From: Laura Horowitz <12newmoons@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 9:36 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] support regulations proposed by Governor Wolf

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Members of the Commission-

I am a Pennsylvania resident and I support the regulations Governor Wolf has proposed to make charter schools more accountable, equitable, and transparent in their use of taxpayer money.

I believe that there needs to be more clarity in Pennsylvania's charter school law and support these regulations. Families have longstanding concerns about some charter schools' admissions practices. I support these regulations, which create transparency and clarity on charter schools' enrollment processes. A rigorous and standardized charter application process will allow charter authorizers to hold prospective charter schools to high academic, fiscal, and administrative standards and help authorizers ensure charter schools are prepared to equitably serve all students.

Charter admissions policies should be publicly posted and discriminatory enrollment practices should be ended to ensure that all students have equal access to charter school education. Charter schools are public schools, after all. The proposed regulations benefit students and ensure that students will not be discriminated against based on intellectual or physical ability or disability

Charter schools are public schools. It is past time for the trustees of these schools to be held to basic ethical standards and to disclose and abstain from any conflicts of interest. It is also past time for the clarification of penalties for individuals who violate the public trust and use their position as a public school trustee for personal financial gain. Charter schools are expected to receive \$3 billion in tax dollars in 2020-2021. It is past time for these public schools to follow generally accepted standards of fiscal management and audit requirements.

Significant public money is at stake here, and it should be used wisely, effectively, and fairly.

Sincerely-

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