



ED, CharterRegs

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Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 10:51 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Proposed Charter School Regulations 6-349

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I am writing to express my opposition to the newly proposed charter school regulations.

The newly proposed regulations do not create a fair playing field between school districts and charter schools, who are trying to provide parents with options within public. A currently written, the regulation creates a minimum standard that all school districts (authorizers) must meet, but it does not restrict the ability of the school district to create extra, unnecessary, and overly-burdensome requirements during the application process in an attempt to stymie the ability of the charter school to open/operation. This loophole can allow school districts to drown charter school administrators in unnecessary bureaucracy during the charter renewal process. The new regulations leave many opportunities for school districts to include additional requirements beyond what is required by law or regulation, providing opportunities to deny new charter applications, charter renewals or the expansion of charter schools. Traditional school districts have a motive to do so – money. In the end, students and families would suffer. These regulations are not offered to help Pennsylvania parents. They seem to be designed to help the authorizers limit charter school success and growth, and limit options for parents. These regulations are not balanced and, therefore, should not be put into law.

It is my hope that these proposed regulations would be rescinded, and all parties with an interest in public education would come together with elected lawmakers to come up with meaningful charter reform measures that are equitable, and put the best interests of students at the forefront.

I appreciate your consideration.

Peter Austin