



ED, CharterRegs

From: Thomas, Chris <chris.thomas@ofsd.cc>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:49 PM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Charter School Regulations

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These public schools should be held to the same standards as regular public school districts.

I am amazed that they use their excess tuition monies to advertise, basically, against public schools from which they draw their students.

1. **Charter school applications requirement:** Establishes requirements for applications to open a charter school, allowing school districts authorizing brick and mortar charter schools and PDE authorizing cyber charter schools to hold the schools to high academic, fiscal and administrative standards; ensures charter schools will equitably serve all students; and provides consistent application expectations.
2. **Non-discriminatory enrollment policies:** Requires charter schools to post their non-discrimination enrollment policy on their website and in the student application so families and taxpayers know how admission preferences are considered and weighted.
3. **Boards of Trustees ethics standards:** Clarifies that charter school trustees are subject to the state's Public Official and Employee Ethics Act, addresses conflicts of interest, and sets penalties for violations. The same requirements already apply to school districts.
4. **Financial and auditing standards:** Requires charter schools to use common accounting principles and auditing standards as school districts already do. This will make reviewing annual reports and financial records easier for school districts and PDE.
5. **Redirection process clarification:** Outlines the process to reconcile disputes over school district payments to charter schools for student tuition.
6. **Charter school employee health care benefits parity:** Ensures charter school staff have adequate health care. The charter school law requires charter schools provide the same health care benefits as the authorizing school district. The regulation clarifies that when a charter school serves more than one school district, the school district in which the charter school's administrative office is located is the district of comparison.

These 6 should be a minimum of adoption and further - budgeting and funding need to be reviewed as to actual expenses - it has become burdensome to all Pennsylvanias to afford public schools and charter schools.

Thank you

Chris Thomas

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Christopher C. Thomas
 Member, Board of School Directors

Notary Public
300 Marion Street
Old Forge, Pennsylvania 18518
570-457-6721

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