

**ED, CharterRegs**

From: David Bryant <dbryant@acrescap.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 2:45 PM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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To the Division of Charter Schools:

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

As a board member in the Freire Schools network, I am committed to ensuring that our charter schools are models of transparency, equity, quality, and accountability. While advancing these ideals may be the intent of these proposed regulations, the proposed regulations as they are written are cause for concern.

Specifically, the regulations around the charter application process take a process that was intended to promote innovation and instead create a burdensome "standard" application that far exceeds the requirements stated in the Charter School Law and then allows authorizers to request additional information from applicants at their discretion. Of course, charter applicants should be required to demonstrate their capacity to operate a school during the application process. But we have seen firsthand how the charter application process has become a bureaucratic task that is more about navigating ever increasing authorizer requirements than demonstrating the ability to provide a quality and equitable public school education to students. The only thing that will be standardized in these regulations is the undue burden on charter operators.

Demand for charter schools continues to far outpace the availability of seats in Pennsylvania charter schools. This expanded charter application and the continued ability of authorizers to add to the application will continue to stifle new charter development in the state and limit, or even worse, deny families their public school choice. And because applications form the basis for the school's written charter, each of the promises made in the new application form become a metric by which the charter school may be judged on renewal. The regulation leaves far too much open for school districts to include requirements that end up being anti-charter, which can become grounds for denial of new charters, renewals of existing charters, and expansion of charters.

These regulations seem to be designed to help the authorizers, not the charter schools and the parents who chose to enroll their children there. These regulations are not balanced and, therefore, should not be enacted.

At Freire, we acknowledge that the Charter School Law needs to be updated. But the charter school sector – both schools and authorizers – would be best served by PDE and the Governor working with elected lawmakers to strengthen the Charter School Law and create policies that make sense for all schools and families. I request that you rescind this process and work to find a legislative solution to modernizing Pennsylvania's Charter School Law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David J Bryant
Freire Charter School Board Chair

(o) 215-832-4142
(m) 215-341-7516

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: As of October 12, 2021 ACRES Capital headquarters has moved to 390 RXR Plaza, Uniondale, NY 11556. Please update your records accordingly.

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ED, CharterRegs

From: Leigh Botwinik <leigh@freireschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:16 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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As a staff member in the Freire Schools network, I believe in accountability. I hold high expectations for our schools and for how we manage them. I believe deeply in our mission to provide a high quality educational program to students who live in underserved communities.

While I'm sure that the ideals of accountability, transparency, and equity were the intent of the proposed regulations, the regulations as they are written are cause for concern.

Specifically, the regulations around the charter application process take a process that was intended to promote innovation and instead create a burdensome "standard" application that far exceeds the requirements stated in the Charter School Law and then allows authorizers to request additional information from applicants at their discretion. Of course, charter applicants should be required to demonstrate their capacity to operate a school during the application process. But we have seen firsthand how the charter application process has become a bureaucratic task that is more about navigating ever increasing authorizer requirements than demonstrating the ability to provide a quality and equitable public school education to students. The only thing that will be standardized in these regulations is the undue burden on charter operators.

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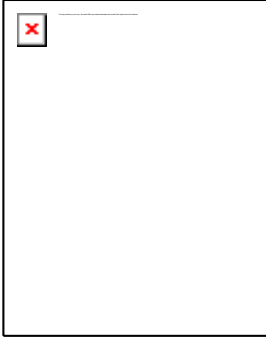
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Thank you for your consideration.

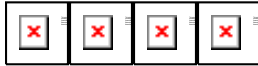
Sincerely,

Leigh Botwinik
Managing Director, Freire Schools

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LEIGH BOTWINIK *(she/her/hers)*
MANAGING DIRECTOR
leigh@freireschools.org
267-583-4452
freireschools.org



ED, CharterRegs

From: Paul Archibald <pgarchibald86@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:14 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Cc: paul.archibald@tylin.com
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Archibald

Freire Charter School - Board Member

ED, CharterRegs

From: White, Lorraine <Lorraine.White@us.gt.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:12 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Lorraine White
Freire Charter School Board Member



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ED, CharterRegs

From: Scott Solomon <scottasolomon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:06 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Scott Solomon
Chair, TECH Freire Charter School

ED, CharterRegs

From: Melanie Reiser <melanie@freireschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:08 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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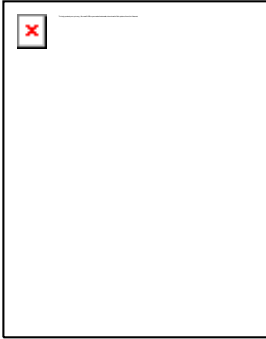
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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Melanie Burke Reiser

--



MELANIE BURKE REISER (she/her/hers)
DIRECTOR OF MISSION ADVANCEMENT

melanie@freireschools.org

[267-992-4346](tel:267-992-4346)

freireschools.org



ED, CharterRegs

From: Bill Ray <bill@freireschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:02 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
William Ray



William Ray, CPA (he/him/his)


Controller
Freire Schools

 [267-583-4458](tel:267-583-4458)

 Bill@freireschools.org



 www.freireschools.org

 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 1260, Philadelphia, PA 19103

ED, CharterRegs

From: Max Matthews <max@freireschools.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:01 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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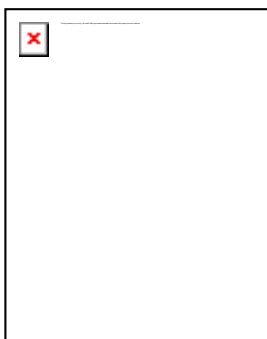
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Thank you for your consideration.



MAX MATTHEWS (he/him/his)

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND COMPLIANCE, FREIRE SCHOOLS

max@freireschools.org

267-583-4456

freireschools.org

