



## ED, CharterRegs

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**From:** Terri Weidle <noreply@citizenwindow.io>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 13, 2021 3:42 AM  
**To:** ED, CharterRegs  
**Subject:** [External] Opposition to Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

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Dear Secretary Ortega and the Pennsylvania Department of Education,

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is a taxpayer-funded agency whose stated mission is “to ensure that every learner has access to a world-class education system that academically prepares children and adults to succeed as productive citizens.” This proposed regulation does NOT support your agency’s mission and is harmful toward the 150,000-plus public charter school students, parents and educators in the state.

Everyone chooses places to eat and shop etc. based on product and services rendered. Well... Charter schools are serving a population that chose another option. One cannot treat these students, parents, and educators as second-class citizens.

Regulation #6-349 is punitive toward charter schools and would burden them with additional challenges and requirements to maintain operations or grow to serve their student populations.

As you know, a majority of school districts have publicly opposed charter schools and are actively fighting to shut them down. Our students end up paying the price for these political games.

Though restrictions are being applied to charter schools, there is no application requirement for district schools to open, renew or expand their campuses. Odd thinking, right?

The pandemic made clear that families NEED more choices for education, not fewer. One size does NOT fit all, and this was made clear when more than 22,000 students enrolled in charter schools last year.

Throughout the pandemic, charter schools have shared resources and collaborated within the educational community to ensure students have continuity of education and the tools for a quality education. They should be collaborated with as leaders in the education community, not targeted with overreaching regulations.

Any potential reforms to charter schools should be reviewed and voted on by the Legislature. At a minimum, we need more time to read and understand the impacts of this regulation to comment. Thirty days is not enough. The comment period should be extended, and regulators should take the time to hear directly from Pennsylvania’s families and students with statewide listening sessions.

Every child and parent in Pennsylvania deserves the right to choose the education option best for them. It is clear anti-charter special interest groups are driving this proposed regulation. Stop playing politics with our children’s futures.

Sincerely,  
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