

**ED, CharterRegs**

From: Jill Mohry <jillm@scsc4kids.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 3:08 PM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Charter Schools
Attachments: Jill Mohry- charter schools comment.pdf

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Please see my attached letter.

Thank you for your time.

Jill Mohry

10-14-21

To: The Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St. 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
RA-EDCharterRegs@pa.gov

RE: Regulation #6-349: Charter School and Cyber Charter Schools

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

I find that this regulation does not create a fair playing field between authorizers and charter school operators. As written, the regulation creates a minimum standard that all authorizers must meet, but it does not provide limits for the authorizers to follow. The charter school I work for is currently battling in the courts around illegal conditions placed upon renewal of our charter. We have been a successful part of our community and have been in the top ten elementary schools for many years in a row. We are a model for success and have proven ourselves time and time again. Because of the illegal conditions our authorizing district is mandating, unnecessary tax dollars are being spent on both sides, which would be better spent on educating students. I believe this is a tactic that the larger, authorizing district is choosing to pursue to bankrupt us. Since they are a large district, they have plenty of money readily available for any attorney needs they may have. It's David vs. Goliath. Who will win?

But really, who will lose in the end? All of the students, families, and staff that call our school home.

The students in our school seem to not be considered 'not their students' in both word and action. They are publicly called out in social media and on the districts' website by board members, administration and community members. If you take some time to watch the school board meetings, you can hear the language that they use towards our students and families. We are 'stealing' from them. Which begs me to question- would they be welcomed into their public school if our school were to shut down? Would those students who are 'not their students' be welcomed into the school? Or would they be shunned due to choices their parents made for them?

It is my sincere hope that lawmakers, the ones with the ultimate power in this decision, will consider the needs of all of the families, not just the ones with the loudest voices. Choice is a virtue of this state's education public system and should continue to be maintained. While our suburban students are not the most vulnerable students in the state, charter schools in PA predominantly serve these students providing choice to those who could not otherwise afford another type of school or education for their children.

Thank you for your time.

Jill Mohry
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