



ED, CharterRegs

From: April Clisura <april.clisura@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:59 PM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Public comment in support of PDE proposed charter regulation #6-349

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Dear Secretary Ortega,

I am writing in strong support of the proposed charter school regulation #6-349. I am a concerned parent and urban resident of Pittsburgh, PA.

Without regulations like the ones under consideration, we run the risk of solidifying and perpetuating what amounts to a two-tiered system for public versus public charter schools. In a nation where we value educational equity and transparency how can we allow a two-tiered system with different standards for different schools. This is particularly concerning with regard to the need to have accountability for the number of disabled and economically challenged students admitted. It is absolutely bad policy to have a system where public schools not only end up being responsible for more students with disabilities and challenges, but also lose money as a result of each student who does get admitted to a charter school. Second most concerning to me is that trustees of charter schools need to be held to the same basic ethical standards, disclosures and conflict of interest policies that any small nonprofit must adhere to. I support requiring charter schools to follow generally accepted standards of fiscal management and audit requirements.

I support a rigorous and standardized charter application process that will allow charter authorizers to hold prospective charter schools to high academic, fiscal, and administrative standards and help authorizers ensure charter schools are prepared to equitably and inclusively serve all students. These standards are necessary to ensure that new charters are adequately prepared to meet the needs of students with disabilities and English Learners.

I believe that discriminatory enrollment practices should be ended to ensure that all students have equal access to charter school education and support a more open and transparent enrollment process.

The law requires charter schools to offer benefits comparable to the school districts in which they are located. The regulations clarify this requirement, which will help retain teachers and support quality learning experiences for charter school students.

These proposed regulations will bring clarity to the law and help to make charters more transparent and ethical. I support all of them.

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