



From: Emily Cleath <ejcleath@gmail.com>
Sent: 2021-10-15 13:18:38 EST
To: RA-EDCharterRegs@pa.gov
Subject: Public comment in support of PDE proposed charter regulation #6-349

Dear Secretary Ortega,

My son's school district, Pittsburgh Public Schools, is getting decimated by charter school costs. His school in particular lacks many of the resources needed to provide a high-quality education to its majority low-income students, despite being the only school in the state with an International Baccalaureate program. It should be a premier school. Instead, its struggles to provide adequate staffing and materials have led to declining enrollment.

I am writing to support the proposed charter school regulation #6-349. I have followed the charter school issue for a long time and have been concerned with issues of accountability, equity, quality, and transparency in the charter sector.

I support requiring charter schools to follow generally accepted standards of fiscal management and audit requirements.

I support requiring the trustees of charter schools to be held to basic ethical standards and to disclose and abstain from any conflicts of interest.

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 serve all students.

I support a requirement for charter admissions policies to be publicly posted and I believe that discriminatory enrollment practices should be ended to ensure that all students have equal access to charter school education.

I support charter school teachers having access to good healthcare, just like their peers who teach at school districts.

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