



ED, CharterRegs

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To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Concerns

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I am writing today as a concerned parent of a child who attends a local charter school in Simpson, PA. We were recently informed of attempts to hinder the ability of our school to operate effectively, as per the proposed regulation details contained within Regulation #6-349, shared with us from the school's administration.

I simply wanted to take this opportunity to say, I made the decision to take my child out of our public school district in August 2020, upon the last-minute announcement that the school would not be re-opening for in-person instruction for the upcoming school year, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While online instruction was a preferred option for some students, this was not the ideal option for my daughter; in fact, looking back over the past 18 months, I feel 100% online instruction would have set my child back considerably, both emotionally and academically. Thankfully, our local charter school offered 100% in-person instruction (with applicable safety guidelines, of course), and I was able to enroll my daughter for the beginning of the 20-21 academic year.

As a result, my 8-year old daughter is thriving in our charter school, both socially and academically. Although our public school district in which we reside re-opened this academic year with full in-person instruction, I chose to keep my daughter in the charter school. Over the past year, I have found the curriculum taught at the charter school to be more expansive, more in-depth, and due to the smaller class sizes, my daughter gets more one-on-one guidance where needed. I frequently express my gratitude to the charter school teaching and administrative staff, and I want to make it clear to the office of the Governor of Pennsylvania that Fell Charter School in Simpson, PA has surpassed my expectations for my child's learning experience.

I humbly ask that you take my testimony (along with many other concerned parents who simply want to continue to maintain a choice in their children's education) into account when making future decisions regarding the impact upon charter schools. The past year and a half has been indescribably difficult for parents of young children; we are desperately trying to manage this situation as best we possibly can. Balancing work, education, health and safety has proven to be immensely challenging, but having OPTIONS in regards to all these factors has made all the difference. Please do not take active steps to significantly limit those options, because our children will most definitely pay the price, and I have to believe that is not what ANYONE wants.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Leslie Risko

