



ED, CharterRegs

From: Jed Hamberger <jhamberger@oswayo.com>
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To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Jed Hamberger Oswayo Valley School District Superintendent Public Comment

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These regulations mirror the Governor's priorities on charter schools, which I support because it finally begins to level the playing field for public, private and cyber charter institutions. It does has provisions that mirror some of what is in Rep. Jesse Topper's bill ([HB 1685](#)), although without provisions that would allow for the expansion of charter schools and limit the authority of local school district officials. I oppose that bill, which was approved by the House Education Committee last month.

The proposed regulations clarify six areas of Pennsylvania's Charter School Law which I am in full support of!

1. **Charter school applications requirement:** Establishes requirements for applications to open a charter school, allowing school districts authorizing brick and mortar charter schools and PDE authorizing cyber charter schools to hold the schools to high academic, fiscal and administrative standards; ensures charter schools will equitably serve all students; and provides consistent application expectations.
2. **Non-discriminatory enrollment policies:** Requires charter schools to post their non-discrimination enrollment policy on their website and in the student application so families and taxpayers know how admission preferences are considered and weighted.
3. **Boards of Trustees ethics standards:** Clarifies that charter school trustees are subject to the state's Public Official and Employee Ethics Act, addresses conflicts of interest, and sets penalties for violations. The same requirements already apply to school districts.
4. **Financial and auditing standards:** Requires charter schools to use common accounting principles and auditing standards as school districts already do. This will make reviewing annual reports and financial records easier for school districts and PDE.
5. **Redirection process clarification:** Outlines the process to reconcile disputes over school district payments to charter schools for student tuition.
6. **Charter school employee health care benefits parity:** Ensures charter school staff have adequate health care. The charter school law requires charter schools provide the same health care benefits as the authorizing school district. The regulation clarifies that when a charter school serves more than one school district, the school district in which the charter school's administrative office is located is the district of comparison.

These issues (accountability, ethics, transparency, mandatory audits, management reform, tuition reconciliation) are important. While the regulations do not address the funding problem, they go far in ensuring that schools receiving public funds are accountable and that both traditional and charter schools operate on a level playing field.

Jed Hamberger
OVSD Superintendent

