

**ED, CharterRegs**

From: Mark DiRocco <mdirocco@pasa-net.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:55 PM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Comments on Regulation #6-349
Attachments: PASA Comments on Charter Regs.pdf

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Dear PA IRRC,

Please accept the attached comments from the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) regarding Regulation #6-349 on charter schools.

Sincerely,

Mark DiRocco

Mark D. DiRocco, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators
2608 Market Place, Harrisburg PA 17110
Office: 717-540-4448
Cell: 717-514-8718



To: The Pennsylvania IRRC
From: The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators
Mark DiRocco, Executive Director
Re: Comments on Regulation #6-349
Date: October 18, 2021

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) represents approximately 900 school superintendents, assistant superintendents, intermediate unit executive directors, intermediate assistant executive directors, and other school leaders across the state. PASA supports the proposed update to the Pennsylvania Charter School Regulations #6-349 for the following reasons:

1. **Charter school applications requirement:** Establishes better 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.

PASA believes the update to these regulations will provide for a more thorough and efficient process to approve and operate charter schools in Pennsylvania.