



ED, CharterRegs

From: Rodriguez, Stephen <vrodriguez@pottstownk12.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:43 PM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Public comment in support of PDE proposed charter regulation #6-349
Attachments: PDE Ortega Letter 10-18-21.pdf

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Dear Secretary Ortega:

I am writing in support of the proposed charter school regulation #6-349. I have followed the charter school issue and have advocated on multiple fronts to address the issues of accountability, equity, quality, and transparency in the charter school sector.

Charter schools are funded with public money and therefore should be subject to the exact same level of accountability and generally accepted standard of fiscal management and audit requirements. The Pottstown School District, its parents, and sSchool Board of Directors supports requiring the trustees of charter schools to be held to the basic ethical standards and to disclose and abstain from any conflicts of interest. The reason we support this is because there are multiple examples of such disclosures not happening. We also understand that charter school operators often stack the deck with yes men who offer new levels of accountability and may indeed financially benefit from the use or misuse of taxpayer dollars.

The Pennsylvania League of Urban Schools (PLUS), a caucus of Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators has long advocated and strenuously supports rigorous and standardized charter application processes that allow charter authorizers to hold prospective charter schools to high academic, fiscal, and administrative standards to help the authorizer ensure charter schools are prepared to equitably serve all students and not simply make a profit at the taxpayers expense.

We also stand united and support the requirement for charter admission policies to be publicly posted to avoid the discriminatory enrollment practices that have been investigated and exposed over the years.

The Pennsylvania League of Urban Schools Caucus, the Pottstown School District, and I personally support the proposed charter school regulations because it will bring clarity to the law and help make charter schools more transparent and ethical.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Stephen J Rodriguez

Superintendent of Schools,

Pottstown School District

***PA League of Urban Schools Caucus- President**

***Pottstown Area Industrial Development- President**

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October 18, 2021

Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

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Sincerely,

Stephen Rodriguez
Superintendent of Schools
President of PLUS