



## ED, CharterRegs

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**From:** Mary Jo Walsh <mjwalsh@fellcharter.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 28, 2021 2:01 PM  
**To:** ED, CharterRegs  
**Subject:** [External] Regulation #6-349

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I am writing to comment on the regulations that are clearly designed to strangle charter schools to death. (Regulation #6-349).

Specifically regarding the **Redirection Process** : reg 20-22, page numbers 59-61 of the document: this is a backhanded approach to siphoning off funds to reduce charter schools to begging and waiting for funds or to close our doors. This redirection does not solve a problem. The bottom line is that charter schools educate students; plain and simple. Charter schools should be paid in a timely fashion for the educational service we consistently deliver. Traditional public schools are not waiting for funds; we need a level playing field. The ultimate goal of this proposed regulation is to close schools so that families have NO choice in how to educate THEIR children.

Regarding **Healthcare**: pg numbers 22-24 in regs and 61-63 in the document: ANOTHER attempt to leverage funds OUT of charter schools. We cannot raise taxes to compete with ever-increasing healthcare premiums. We already receive almost 25% less funding on average and this is a direct hit to our budget. Again, it forces us to make educational decisions based on being able to stay open or closing our doors because we are being penalized through a false sense of "comparability". Lastly it is another attempt to take away choice from parents.

Regarding **Application Requirements**: pgs 4-13 in regs and 44-52 in the document. Again, setting subjective standards that will be used as obstructive, time-consuming, punitive and pointless. This part of the process is designed to deter entities from developing charter schools. Again, another way to take away choice from parents.

The overreach on the part of the Governor and his team is obvious. His draconian style of back-door approaches are limitless and show a clear misunderstanding of what charter schools are or and what we are about. How many charter schools has he/his team visited? If ALL schools in PA were held to these regulations, we would have no schools. How about leveling the playing field? What is good for children's education needs to be at the forefront of state decision-making.

Leave charter schools alone (**or** go after ALL failing schools: public, charter, private and home-school). Please get to the business of making us #1 in the country in education!

Let us do what we are great at: educating children in quality charter schools!

Mary Jo Walsh, Principal Fell Charter School.

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Mary Jo Walsh

Principal