



ED, CharterRegs

From: A Reiko Finamore <rfinamore@me.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 10:11 AM
To: ED, CharterRegs
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Reg #6-349

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To: The Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
RA-EDCharterRegs@pa.gov

RE: Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools

I am writing to express my opposition to Regulation #6-349: Charter Schools and Cyber Charter Schools. It seems to me that this regulation will not fix the funding problems between charter schools and district schools. In fact, it puts charter schools in an even more unfair position. And what about the children with vulnerabilities who moved out of their district schools for an education that meets their needs? This leaves them at even more of a disadvantage.

It is no surprise that the Department of Education is pushing for regulations, but it is disappointing that they would be supporting these guidelines which will make the funding process even more inequitable. The Department is hoping to save up to \$60,000 annually with this regulation. The cost to charter school students, on the other hand, is incalculable.

Charter school enrollments have almost doubled in the last decade. These schools are serving kids that have struggled in the more traditional public institutions. Teachers put a tremendous amount of energy, creativity, and personal funds to customize learning experiences for children that do not fit the traditional school mold. They do this with leaner budgets, fewer supplies, and a can-do attitude, since they operate on a lower per-pupil tuition than their traditional counterparts.

This regulation **should be** about accountability within public education. But it isn't. It's just another way to make funding more difficult for charter schools that are already operating with limited resources. And it's being done without going through the proper channels. The Wolf Administration should stop this and work with the elected officials in Harrisburg to make laws that help those most in need in both public district schools and public charter schools. Doing it through regulations written by some unelected lobbyist isn't the answer.

Sincerely,
Reiko Finamore
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