



From: Ruth Sheets, <rsheets6@comcast.net>
Sent: 2021-10-15 15:47:02 EST
To: RA-EDCharterRegs@pa.gov
Subject: Public comment in support of PDE proposed charter regulation #6-349

Dear Secretary Ortega,

When charter schools were first proposed, the goal or stated goal was to try new programs that could be tested faster than they could be in regular public schools supposedly because Teacher's Unions were so problematic. That was a lie, but a lot of Republicans and conservatives bought it. Alas, many Democrats did too hoping to make education more relevant for all of our children. Charter schools have turned out to be enterprises for private entities who want to make a lot of bucks on the public dole. That's educational welfare. They rarely do anything different from the real public schools. Many of the teachers are unqualified. There is little monitoring or accountability. They get their money off the top and pay huge salaries for the CEOs and other private personnel. Many pay the staff poorly unless there are requirements by the school district a charter is attached to. Universities run some charter schools and get paid by taxpayers what they used to do for their communities while training their teachers. Republicans would love to privatize all the public schools so they can have more control over what is taught. They are so scared of truth they want no mention of racism or misogyny or homophobia or any of the other things Republicans regularly participate in. It is shameful and PA should do better.

So, I am writing to support the proposed charter school regulation #6-349. I have followed the charter school issue for a long time and have been concerned with issues of accountability, equity, quality, and transparency in the charter sector.

I support requiring charter schools to follow generally accepted standards of fiscal management and audit requirements.

I support requiring the trustees of charter schools to be held to basic ethical standards and to disclose and abstain from any conflicts of interest.

I support a rigorous and standardized charter application process that will allow charter authorizers to hold prospective charter schools to high academic, fiscal, and administrative standards and help authorizers ensure charter schools are prepared to equitably serve all students, not just the ones who are easy to manage.

I would like to see charter participation limited in communities because their presence is destructive to communities like mine, Chester. One or two per community is plenty to do what they claim their goal was.

I support charter school teachers having access to good healthcare, just like their peers who teach at school districts.

These proposed regulations will bring clarity to the law and help to make charters more transparent and ethical.

Sincerely,

Ruth Sheets
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