

April 20, 2021

To Whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the removal of the percentage of limitations in school districts who may enroll in virtual public charter. I have been an educator working both in the public school system and privately for over 25 years. I currently serve seventeen students with language processing challenges, working memory, and executive function challenges. Many of these students, with the incredible support of their parents have made huge educational strides, even during this pandemic year, using the on-line Charter format. I have been very impressed with the teachers, who have called me and even visited my reading practice from these charter programs on behalf of the students. The programs are as challenging as the public system, but are more individualized and provide better pacing and reduce the anxiety of many students with learning challenges. Research shows that 85% of our prison population is estimated to have diagnosed learning disabilities. By providing more options for this population, we are preventing human suffering.

I have three sons, all of whom attended public school here in Newberg. One of my sons found our public setting to be incredibly overwhelming. As a result, he decided to attend Baker Early College on-line. He had to pass the PCC entrance exams, which he did and then attended all of his courses through the PCC system. This program allowed him the peace he needed as a student and permitted him to balance his studies with his passion for music. He graduated in 2019 and then completed his Associates Degree through PCC and is now going off to a 4-year program to study music and photography. It is the charter system that allowed us to create a positive learning environment for my son. I was impressed with the level of accountability and the courses.

Finally, some of my current high school students, would be dropouts without the support of the Charter schools, for each student is tracked carefully and, in my experience receives more individualized instruction and assistance. IEPs are honored and my students are thriving. It is very important that we continue to provide viable and varied learning options for students. Not every student will thrive in the large public setting. By removing these restrictions you are standing with and supporting those who require different paths in education. As a dyslexia consultant, I can attest to the extreme lack of research-based interventions that are available to the population I serve. By removing options, students will suffer. I urge you to support Charter Schools and acknowledge their importance in this 21st century where we are only just beginning to understand and meet the needs of learning differences in our community.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Lowery, M.A.T.
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LIPs trained
Tier 1 Collaborative Problem