

Submitter: Jessica Laird  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB767

In the 2021-2022, according to the Oregon Statewide Report Card on Oregon Public Schools, only 28% of middle schoolers were proficient in math and 44% in ELA, a drop from the previous year of 39% and 54% respectively. Those are against a long-term goal of 80%! The issue in schooling is not where borders are for charter schools. The issue is the failing public school system. Parents know this, communities know this. That's why we have seen private and charter school applications increase over the last several years. Charter schools are one of the few affordable outlets that parents have to get their kids out of the failing state public school system. You should be welcoming these schools and their focus (and achievement) on better student outcomes. You should be supporting their search for bigger and better campuses to reach and upskill a greater number of students. Afterall, all ships rise with the tide. Unfortunately, instead you are proposing to raise their administrative burden forcing them to spend more time, money and attention on district borders instead of the classroom - where a school's attention should be focused. These are the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community, they need your help improving school outcomes, not (at best) distracting their educators with legislative BS (and at worst, forcing the closure of these needed and WANTED schools).

There is no reason for this bill. Vote it down. Focus on getting public schools up to the level they are expected to be – we aren't even close! Stop wasting both the community's and your time.