

Submitter: Julie Nowacki
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB4161

As a parent of a child who fought the local school district to release my child when the environment wasn't a good fit, I was met with the answer that they had exhausted their transfer out student limit, and they WOULD NOT release her records to another local school district. I challenged the Principal, School Administration and was met with an unwillingness to admit to the fact that it was due to the dollars that they were receiving from my part-time Kindergartner. We were prepared to enroll my daughter into a private school that would of cost us \$350/month which we didn't necessarily have but we were going to figure out a way so my child could receive an adequate education in a safe environment that would support her 2 years of pre-school that we had invested into.

Thankfully, I decided to make a call to an out-of-town K-12 charter school that we were considering but we held back due to the long bus drive for my 5-year-old and full day of school opposed to half day. I found out that they had one spot open for a Kindergarten enrollment and if we wanted the spot to come down immediately. We drove 25 minutes out to the school, and we were pleasantly surprised at the level of care, access and willingness to allow my daughter to start that day and to visit all the classrooms with her to make sure it was a good fit for all involved. We are so grateful for this school and community of faculty and educators who have provided her with incredible opportunities, small classroom sizes and a high level of genuineness to see her succeed in ways above and beyond what we could have imagined.

During 2020, the charter school created an online academy which then allowed my daughter to remain enrolled in 2021-2022 while we were supplementing her education through an in-person K-8 homeschool co-op that we had opened up locally. In only 27 days of sharing the mission/vision in our community, we had 40 kids registered. We were operating Monday-Friday and focused on academics, life skills and creative arts. We as parents and volunteer tutors did the best job we knew how.

Her education, involvement and accolades from this school has been nothing but the best. She is now a freshman honor level student that has received multiple awards and achievements throughout her time, and she is thriving and, on her way, to have a great future.

Please support this bill so parents like me can have options when we know what's best for our child's education. These are our future leaders, and we need to look out for their interests and provide options so they can have a quality education, teacher

support for parents and community resources without a local school district restricting them from decisions that will impact their lives and becoming a positive contributor to society.