

My name is Jana Holland and my oldest child currently attends Alliance Charter Academy. My husband is also a teacher at Alliance and I am very involved in our school community.

Eleven years ago, my husband started as a substitute teacher at Alliance and he's been there ever since and is now both a full-time teacher for multiple subjects and an Education Specialist. We were so happy with the school's model that when my first son got old enough, we enrolled him in preschool there. He's eleven now and flourishing at Alliance. I'm excited to enroll my soon-to-be kindergartener this upcoming school year.

The school acknowledges that education is not a one-size-fits-all and encourages individualized learning. The flexibility and dedicated teachers in our public charter school allows for a dynamic curriculum that makes sure my son learns in the ways that suit his needs, and with the ability to build our schedule, I can be involved in his learning on a schedule that works for our family. The school model encourages parent involvement, especially in the elementary years. Though I had to give up a full-time income, I am happy to make that sacrifice knowing how impactful this education model is for my kids.

Having so many parents who care on the campus has truly created an amazing community. It is clear that parents at the school are committed to being a part of their children's success. I've been working in education for over 26 years, and I've never seen anything like the community we've built at Alliance.

While this school has been incredible for my son and family, it is disappointing that our students aren't receiving the same funding as their district peers. Public charter schools have more flexibility to create the curriculum needed to meet educational standards for their students. My husband will spend hours crafting creative hands-on science lessons for his students and there's not always the funds for the materials he needs. Often, that ends up coming out of our pocket, to make sure the kids are getting the best education he can give them, despite getting paid less than teachers in district schools.

Our facility is really where the lack of funding becomes apparent. Our building is in dire need of much-needed upgrades. Last November, local voters passed a \$163 million bond measure for Oregon City schools that would provide upgrades for school facilities like new roofing and updated heating and cooling systems. Alliance Charter Academy, despite being a public school needing the same facilities updates, is not eligible to receive any of those funds. I am so proud of the community we have built at Alliance. This school has been life-changing for my family. This school, these students, are worth more than 48 cents on the dollar. Please support House Bill 3444 and ensure public charter schools are funded fairly.