

April 1, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

Every parent got a wake-up call in March of 2020, when our kids went into online school. It was a pivotal moment for many, who realized that one-size-fits-all is an archaic model for education. Kids deserve to receive their free public education in the environment that best sets them up for success, regardless of whether it's their neighborhood school, a community charter school, or a virtual charter school.

In 2020, our family learned that our kids absolutely thrive in an online learning environment. The freedom they have enjoyed within that format has allowed them to excel in school and have more time to explore their passions outside of school. Our youngest is a sophomore in high school who will graduate with a 2-year college degree, thanks to his online charter school. Our oldest is about to graduate from an Oregon University with a 4-year degree he earned entirely through online classes. Since switching to online school, our kids' grades have soared and their engagement and interest in school and extracurricular activities has expanded radically.

Virtual charter schools are outstanding options for countless students, and excluding them from equal funding has a great potential to damage their emotional well-being as well as harming their educational experience. Here are a few reasons that students and their families choose virtual charter schools:

- The student has a disability that makes the act of attending physical school difficult.
- The student had to miss school time due to an illness and needs a learn-at-your-own pace environment.
- Students with learning disabilities can access a free public education without being shamed by peers for working more slowly.
- Many students learn more effectively without the structure of a traditional classroom.
- The distractions of physical classrooms can be overwhelming for some neurodiverse students.
- Students with immunocompromised family members who are vulnerable to the illnesses that are so easily transmitted in schools live in fear of causing their loved ones suffering.
- Some students have experienced bullying or trauma in traditional public schools, and are suffering PTSD or anxiety that would make in-person learning exceedingly difficult.
- Some young people are also competitive athletes, chess champions, performers or scholars who need the schedule flexibility afforded by a virtual school environment.

Excluding virtual charter schools from funding sends a message that these learning styles are inferior, or that there is something wrong with the students who thrive in those environments. This couldn't be further from the truth!

**Virtual charter schools aren't the right fit for every student, but neither are traditional classrooms. Let's give every kid the best chance to succeed. Support HB2583 to fund diverse learning environments and provide equitable education access to all students.**

Thank you,  
Allison McGillivray  
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