



By submitting a letter-to-the-editor to your local paper, you are informing your community about the importance of preserving school choice and the state's charter schools. When composing your letter, your goals are to: describe your school; explain the student body of your school and how your school meets their individual educational needs; and the benefits that your charter school provides your family, your children and/or your community. Most importantly, your letter should explain what a decrease in state funding would mean to your charter school.

Below we have included help hints and talking points to assist you with this activity. These are suggested talking points and it is important to write your letter-to-the-editor from your unique perspective.

Helpful Hints:

- Write a letter in your own words and explain why the issue is important to you
- Use accurate information (insert web link)
- Ask a friend to review and proofread your letter
- Keep your letter concise (a letter should only be 200-250 words)
- Submit your letter as instructed by the local newspaper
- Don't send the same letter to various newspapers
- Remember to include your name, address, phone number and the school that you represent
- Return phone calls from your local paper if they call to verify that you authored the letter
- Keep track of the responses you receive from your local newspaper

General Talking Points:

Charter schools are public school and provide a tuition-free alternative to traditional classrooms. Charter schools have given choice to thousands of parents who could not afford to relocate to better school districts or pay private school tuition.

Ohio's 330 public charter schools serve over 80,000 students. Of these students, about 28 percent have a disability and 60 percent are economically disadvantaged.

Parents choose to send their children to charter schools because they are looking for a safe place to educate their children; want more personal interaction with a teacher; and desire a particular learning environment to meet their children's individual educational needs.

One size does not fit all kids when it comes to education. Charter schools recognize that students' needs and interest may vary so they provide more personalized programs and provide curriculum with a more specific purpose.

One big difference between traditional public schools and charter schools is that charter schools do not qualify for local tax money. Therefore, charter schools educate young Ohioans at a funding level about one-third less than that of traditional district school.



Since charter schools educate students with less resources than traditional public schools, this proposed budget will make educating children more challenging for schools that have very little wiggle room in their budgets.

E-school Talking Points

Online charter schools exist because no single educational approach works for all students. They are the new generation of schools that expand opportunities for a child who learn best when they can work independently at their own pace and have lesson plans tailored to their specific educational needs.

There are currently 23,000 students enrolled in 36 online charter schools.

E-schools serve gifted children, dropouts, and economically disadvantaged students, children with behavioral problems, students with special learning needs (including autistic children) and students who are planning to attend college.

E-schools embrace innovation, variety and flexibility while providing a highly individualized approach – all aspects of the 21st century education that Gov. Strickland touted in his state-of-the-state address.

While the proposed budget would provide resources for technology support and equipment, it would not provide any funding for gifted and talents education, enrichment activities, and teachers who provide specialist services or career technical education.