



Tell Your Legislator To Save Ohio's Charter Schools

Parents choose charter schools for a host of good reasons.

Maybe they want to be more involved in their son's or daughter's education. Maybe they crave better communication with the teacher or principal. Maybe they're looking for smaller class sizes, safe and orderly hallways, or more personalized attention for their child. Maybe their child learns best at home, using an online program. Maybe their child has a particular academic interest or educational need.

Whatever the reason, thousands of parents have chosen charter schools because they give children something they weren't getting in a traditional district classroom.

Now, that ability to choose is threatened. Governor Strickland has proposed an education budget that would strip more than \$100 million from charter school budgets – forcing many of those schools to close. If the Ohio General Assembly votes in favor of the Governor's budget, *80,000 Ohio children will be at risk of losing their schools.*

The fact is, charter schools are tuition-free, independent public schools funded by state and federal money. They exist to fulfill many of the goals described in Governor Strickland's 2010-2011 budget while providing new opportunities for kids to learn, grow and succeed in life.

You can help make sure that policy-makers in Columbus make decisions that are right for kids. How?

- 1) **Stay informed.** Sign up for our Action Alerts by registering at www.oapcs.org/contacts. You will receive regular updates about legislative developments that affect you and your child.
- 2) **Let your state representative and senator know your views.** When you receive Action Alerts, you will automatically receive easy-to-follow instructions for contacting lawmakers in Columbus and telling them to *save Ohio's charter schools*.
- 3) **Ask other parents, teachers and anyone else who cares about kids to join you in advocating for your school.** You can start by forwarding them our action letters and informational emails. Then, contact the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools (OAPCS) and ask for materials to start your school's parent advocacy group.

Parents, teachers, administrators – it will take all of us to win this fight. But together, we can preserve choice for all parents, and give Ohio's children the educational options they deserve.

For more information about how you can help, call OAPCS at 614-744-2266