



December 6, 2016

Dear Friends of the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools,

We look forward to seeing many of you at our annual charter school conference this week in Columbus. For the tenth time in our ten-year history, we are bringing together charter school leaders from around Ohio and beyond. We hope to see you on Wednesday and Thursday to celebrate a decade of learning.

Over the last decade, the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools has worked with all of you to shape Ohio's charter school movement. Our collective goals have been to grow and solidify our movement, bring quality educational options to children and families around Ohio, and create a legal landscape that allows charters to prosper at appropriate levels of funding and accountability.

Today, we can celebrate progress toward each goal. Our movement is established, quality charter options grow by the year, and legislative changes have brought facility dollars and other new support for charters while balancing rules to ensure public confidence in our movement.

Of the many ways-both small and large-the Alliance has impacted our charter movement, some of the efforts of which we are most proud include the following :

- Assisting in the drafting and passage of House Bill 2
- Supporting House Bill 64, which increased per pupil funding and created the Community School Classroom Facilities Grant
- Growing the charter school sector, which now serves 125,000 students in Ohio
- Educating our members on issues from data training to legal developments to special education
- Bringing the Ohio charter school family together at our annual conference to discuss policy trends, best practices, and future planning

Reflecting on these accomplishments reminds us of the power of partnerships. All of these achievements were the result of the Alliance working with schools, sponsors, management organizations, and others in our community to further common goals. We have been fortunate to have all of you as partners and supporters.

Despite these efforts, our movement still faces challenges. Chief among them is the need for more funding for charter schools. While our schools achieve remarkable results with current funding levels, we lag far behind our traditional public school peers, forcing charters to operate under more financial pressure than we should, given our critical public mission.

As a membership organization, the Alliance feels these same pressures. We have kept membership fees as low as possible, understanding there are only so many discretionary dollars available to schools and sponsors. Traditionally, we have also had the benefit of financial support from private funders. Changes in funder focus, however, has created challenges for charter membership organizations around the country, including the Alliance.

Our Ohio movement has changed as well. New leaders have emerged, new schools have taken shape, and new legislation had guided our development. If there is one thing that is true about our movement, it is that even more changes are in store in the coming years.

All of these changes have impacted the Alliance. We have attempted to adapt in our fast-moving,

off-changing charter world, and you have seen changes in the Alliance over time. As much as we have tried to adapt, and as much as we believe our work has benefitted the charter movement, the Board of Directors has decided that the Alliance is no longer well-positioned to help lead our movement. While we are exploring options to continue our work in another form, the Alliance will write its final chapter at year end. It is time for us to step aside and allow other valued partners to fill any gap we may leave.

The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools is thankful for your support and friendship, and for the decade we were afforded to make a difference for children and families. Those of us at the Alliance look forward to witnessing your continued success, and the collective success of our Ohio charter family.

Thank you,

Chad A. Readler
Board Chair
Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

