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The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools (OAPCS) President and CEO Dr. Darlene Chambers released the following statement regarding the recent actions of traditional school districts in Ohio invoicing the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for charter school students:

“When a student makes a choice to attend a charter school in Ohio, that student’s per-pupil funds are transferred to the school they enroll in, as Ohio law requires this transfer from state foundation money from the school of record,” said Dr. Chambers. “When funds are transferred by the traditional district, as mandated, those funds are directed to the public charter school which that student attends.”

“The state funding formula for all public school students, including public charter schools, is determined by the Ohio legislature,” Dr. Chambers said. “Charter schools, on average, receive only two-thirds the funding that traditional public schools receive,” she added.

“Further, many traditional school districts in Ohio are sponsors of charter schools in their districts, so those district public charter schools are receiving state foundation dollars for those charter school students.”

Approximately 43 of 65 charter school sponsors in the state are traditional school districts. Youngstown City Schools sponsors one charter school, the Mahoning Valley Opportunity Center.

“Transparency and accountability for charter schools has been addressed through many measures in House Bill 2, which takes effect February 1, 2016,” she noted. “All charter school report card measures are now, and have been, available to the public through the ODE website and are public record,” she said. “In some compliance areas, charter schools already report information exceeding that of traditional school districts, such as attendance tracking,” she said. “Charter schools report monthly attendance, while traditional district schools only provide that data twice a year.”

“The parents of nearly 130,000 students in Ohio have made the choice to send their child to a charter school,” Dr. Chambers noted. “Equitable funding for public charter school students is necessary to provide the quality education they deserve.”

### **About the Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools (OAPCS)**

The Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools is a membership organization that aspires to provide children with greater educational opportunities by improving the quality and fostering the growth of Ohio’s public charter schools. Approximately 125,000 students attend public charter schools in Ohio.