



Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools

Statement from President and CEO, William J. Sims

Ohio Charter school students currently receive on average one third less than traditional public school students and unfortunately the Governor's budget will slash funding even further. The governor expressed tacit support for charter schools in his state-of-the-state address, but his budget plan reveals a much different view.

The governor wants to take another \$1,400 per pupil away from charter school student's leaving only about half of what a district public school student receives. The funding disparity is grossly disproportional to charter schools that serve high proportions of disadvantaged students. How can any charter school survive with that kind of disparity; let alone aspire to education excellence and responsible fiscal management?

There is a constitutional imperative to provide equal access to a system of common schools throughout the State of Ohio. By any standard the Governor's budget is separate but unequal.

"Separate but equal" was a quietly kept education model for decades in America before morality overcame prejudice. This kind of "separate but unequal" prejudice against charter school students cannot be allowed to prevail.

Why should a public charter school student be worth half of what a district public school student is worth?

There are approximately 82,000 charter school students in Ohio. The parents of these children have made a choice to attend a charter school. If the governor's plan survives the parents choice will be denied and their dreams of a better, safer education will be denied.

A double-digit reduction in the funding of charter schools is crippling. It's a separate but unequal strategy for starving charter schools and their students to a slow death. Charter schools and their students must be funded by the same formula as other public schools and any variance with this basic principle is constitutionally unsound.