

March 24, 2011

Distinguished Members of the Connecticut Legislature and Guests:

As a parent I had three children which amounts to 39 school years of taxpayer money which would have been allocated had they been in the public schools for all of their kindergarten to 12th grade education. We used exactly four years of taxpayer money for this purpose in public schools and yet I have always been happy to pay taxes as long as it is spent fairly for education of the children from our communities.

I believe that a student should be able to attend any public school which can maximize the learning potential of himself or herself for preparation of life after high school. High school is not what it used to be and society is not what it used to be. Schools must evolve to fit what we will need for the future. The many options that are now available have been wonderful for so many students who have been educated in charter schools so that they can be successful after high school in college, trade schools or on the job.

The school that I am most familiar with is Common Ground High School as I am a part time school nurse there. The unique organic garden that provides some of the homemade food for the students which is prepared in their kitchen has been doing so since the inception of the school in the late 1990's and was years ahead of the national call for changing the food pyramid and providing better and non processed food in a green way to students. The health of the students is a reflection of the fact that they have been well cared for by faculty providing academics and giving direction to the kitchen for a sustainable and green way of living which is at the heart of their philosophy. Indeed, this school has been a decade early in providing and teaching this very important way to live that all of us should be striving for.

The legislature that approved the charter in education did so because this charter school and I hope others that were approved were providing something unique and important in education. Please back up this approval with fair funding in the same manner that magnet schools have been funded so that the charter schools can continue to be successful for our students.

Sincerely,



Inge Osborne
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