

Hello

My name is Stephanie O'Shea and I am the past president of Stamford's Parent Teacher Council. I have lived in Stamford for almost 25 years, and have an 11 year old son at Dolan Middle School. I am writing you to implore you to please put a moratorium on charter schools in CT.

Last year, after the listening all day to the testimony of those against charter schools, the State Board of Education ignore the pleas of its constituents and voted to establish several schools, including The Stamford Charter School of Excellence. This was a slap in the face to those of us who drove up to Hartford to testify against the school and the over 1000 people who signed our petition against it. We are working hard in Stamford everyday to close our achievement gap, and a charter school will not help us in this fight. The charter school will only siphon funds away from the Stamford Public Schools and will not help at all in our overcrowding situation.

It is distressing that the SCSE has already started to solicit applications from the citizens of Stamford, BEFORE they have funding secured and BEFORE they even have a building for the school! They are marketing the school around town, and have people posted information for them on their Facebook pages.

In this challenging budget season at both the state and city level, it is mind-boggling that this issue is even being considered. If the Governor's budget is cutting afterschool programs and summer school, how can he allow that money to be funneled to a school that will house only a little over 150 students?

Please deny the funding to the Stamford Charter School for Excellence, and to all of the charter schools in CT. This model of educating students is greatly flawed-I won't go into all of the ways now, that's for another email! Our students need all of the funding that they can possibly get, as soon as they can get it.

Thank you for your time.
Stephanie O'Shea

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