

Prior to this year, I had never considered enrolling my daughter in online charter school, since she had always been happy in her neighborhood school. However the realities of the pandemic brought us to the conclusion that the well thought out and stable nature of the charter school would suit her better than the frequent changes she would see as her school learned how to do distance learning.

What surprised us is how well the online charter school fit her. She has blossomed this year. She is not only doing well in her classes (including the higher grade level math class that is easily accommodated in online school), she is also able to adjust her schedule to have better blocks of time for hands on science exploration, reading, creative writing, learning a musical instrument and online socializing. She is loving her new school and wants to continue next year.

We are fortunate that our online charter school is sponsored by our district, so we can make our decision based on what our daughter needs. Unfortunately, there are other families who have made similar discoveries, or would like to try online schools who are unable to do so.

The pandemic has caused many families to reconsider what their child needs in a school. Some have developed a new appreciation for their neighborhood schools, but some have realized that the neighborhood school is not the best environment for their child. Every child deserves their best chance at a successful and happy school experience.

The 3% cap was originally intended to prevent profiteering from taking advantage of families who didn't understand this new and unusual type of school. However, the past year has caused us all to spend a lot more time thinking about how our children attend school. What we have learned is that there is a greater need for online charter schools than was originally thought.

I urge you to repeal the cap.