

Rosenberg Corey

From: Angela Schwartz <aschwartz@bakercharters.org>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2018 1:00 PM
To: SED Exhibits
Subject: testimony

Hello!

I wanted to quickly voice my view in support of doing whatever possible to allow students who are enrolled in online schools to be able to participate in extracurricular activities at their home brick and mortar schools. Although our online school does an amazing job of meeting individual needs, we are not able to provide excellent social interactions, group work, band, arts, and sports needs, the way a community brick and mortar can.

As a group of educators and leaders hoping to build the best and brightest future for our youth, it is our duty to work together, and by all means possible support the students in getting a variety of experiences that meet the needs of the whole child.

I have an example from this year that broke my heart.

A student of mine has a debilitating medical condition which has caused her to need what our school can provide. She loves it. The disappointing part is that she attempted to stay in band at her home school, and the home school would not allow it. Her family has financial difficulties because of medical bills, and struggles to pay for private lessons. Also this student would love to be in band with her friends. To me, this was heart breaking and a travesty. Why not work together for this student? Why not help her academically meet her needs, and allow her the joy and enrichment of her local school band? To me this is a no brainer.

All of our students are here at our school for reasons important to them. It is the duty of our school system to support them as much as we can, with the various opportunities for joy and enrichment. We need to work together.

I hope this is relevant to your discussions today.

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