

I am writing in as a concerned mother of two children who attend private school and I strongly oppose SB 223. There is a reason that private schools exist on their own without having any affiliation with ODE or public schools, parents want a choice! Private schools existed before public schools even began. Over time parents have been the driving force behind specialized education for their children. Public school expectations and curriculum is not always what is best for all children. This last year has proven what many parents have known for quite some time, that the public school system is failing our children. After many years of watching all my children struggle through the public school curriculum, large class sizes and lack of individualization we found ourselves desiring a better learning environment for our children. Our daughter with high medical needs would possibly need more attention than the public schools could provide. We have decided to make financial sacrifices so that we could enroll our children in a smaller private school setting that provided different curriculum and learning styles. My children have thrived in this environment. SB 223 would essentially require private schools to conform to public schools. This would completely defeat the purpose for why private schools exist. There is no basis for such a law. According to the National Center for Education Statistics private schools have continually achieved higher test score outcomes than public schools. Private schools do not need any help from ODE to insure that they are meeting requirements. Public and private schools should remain separate as a way to provide a wonderful variety of learning opportunities for all children in our state. Please oppose SB 223 for the sake of my children's future. For goodness sake, after this horrible year can you just leave us one freedom? Please please oppose this. -Sincerely, A tired Mom