



*At its heart, local control is about restoring educational decision-making back to the people who are closest to students: teachers, principals, parents, and locally elected school boards.*

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On behalf of over 40 school districts in Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren Counties, the Greater Cincinnati School Advocacy Network is sending our collective support for SB298 that requires online charters to prove they are serving the students for which they receive funds.

A taxpayer in Ohio only needs to spend 30 seconds online to find numerous examples of charter school fraud and mismanagement as a result of inaccurate student attendance reporting. Here are two we found in a quick, simple search:

- June 15, 2015 - Charter School billed state \$1.2 million for no-show students, some in prison or out of state - Patrick O'Donnell, The Plain Dealer, reporting on State Auditor Dave Yost's finding that a Dayton charter school reported 220 students that never existed.
- April 8, 2016 - Another Charter School Scam in Ohio - Diane Ravitch writing about the online charter Provost Academy in Columbus who were funded for 127 students (over \$800,000) that did not exist.

Kyle Serrette, director of Education at the Center for Popular Democracy said it best "Every year, state lawmakers fail to ... take the evidence that (the media) is providing and change that into law that would improve the system." *Akron Beacon Journal, June 3, 2015.*

When the Auditor of State announced in January, 2015 that his surprise visits to 30 charter schools resulted in "unusually high" variances on student head counts, he issued a report recommending that Ohio laws on charter school should be strengthened to reduce overfunding.

Public schools are required to follow stringent reporting requirements in order to receive accurate funding for our students. We support those requirements and appreciate the standard to which we are held accountable. It is time to hold charter schools to the same level of accountability.

#### **HAMILTON COUNTY**

Cincinnati Public Schools, Deer Park Community City Schools, Finneytown Local Schools, Forest Hills Local Schools, Indian Hill School District, Lockland Local Schools, Loveland City Schools, Madeira City Schools, Mariemont City Schools, Mt. Healthy City Schools, North College Hill City Schools, Northwest Local Schools, Norwood City Schools, Oak Hills Local Schools, Princeton City Schools, Reading Community Schools, St. Bernard-EP School District, Southwest Local Schools, Sycamore Community Schools, Three Rivers School District, Winton Woods School District, Wyoming City Schools

#### **BUTLER COUNTY**

Edgewood City Schools, Fairfield City Schools, Hamilton City Schools, Lakota Local Schools, Madison Local Schools, Middletown City Schools, Monroe Local Schools, New Miami Local Schools, Ross Local Schools, Talawanda Schools

#### **CLERMONT COUNTY**

Batavia Local Schools, Bethel-Tate Local Schools, Goshen Local Schools, Milford Exempted Village School District, New Richmond EV School District, West Clermont Local Schools, Williamsburg Local Schools

#### **WARREN COUNTY**

Kings Local Schools, Little Miami Schools, Mason City Schools, Springboro Community Schools