

Dear Chair and Members

Since the pandemic began, one thing has become abundantly clear: New York State public education system is in dire need of reform. Covid-19 has brought our state and New York City to a standstill at an immense cost to our education system. Families with school-age children are affected by household responsibilities, exacerbated by school closures. Amid this outlook, charter schools arise as an oasis in our state public education. I have 2 kids, and I'm fortunate they attend Success Academy Charter Schools.

Even though public charter schools already receive less funding than district schools, Success Academy has equipped all 20,000 students with either Chrome tablets or Chromebooks with all the necessary apps for a fully digital experience. Despite Covid, the quality of teachers and staff has been preserved. They work hard to maintain academic integrity.

Families are reasonably concerned about children, but Charter schools like Success Academy offer an alternative that works. Meanwhile, some elected leaders in Albany refuse to allow any new charter schools to open despite 68,000 students leaving district schools last year and nearly 50,000 kids remaining on charter school waitlists in New York City alone.

This is unacceptable. Our kids and communities deserve better. Together we can protect our children's education. I urge to increase the per-pupil expenditure and eliminate the cap for new charter schools. This will open up new worlds of possibility for thousands of other children in New York State