



KEITH A. MARTY, Ed.D., Superintendent

Dear Mr. Matthiesen,

I enjoyed our conversation when we recently met. As we discussed, public schools are working to provide many innovative choices for students. Programs including experiential learning, career and technical education programs, project-based learning and personalized programs are already in place in public schools and expanding. Therefore, I am concerned about HB 634 and the expansion of charter schools.

Charter schools will only dilute these innovative programs and all opportunities for students. Charter schools will dilute funding for all schools and spread already tight funding resources even more thin. This will result in less innovative opportunities for students, not more.

There is no need for charter schools in accredited, high-performing districts. When you add choice to a system that's working, you dilute the options for all students. This saturation of the system causes stress on the quality opportunities available for accountable public school districts.

Charter schools in Missouri have a poor record, with less than 50 percent lasting or successful. Millions of dollars have gone into charters, with money lost in poor management and poor results.

There are alternatives to charters, and schools like Parkway are already working to provide those choices to students and parents. We do not need school choice. We need to continue providing more choices for students in already proven, high-performing school districts.

I am available anytime to discuss further or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your service to our community!

Sincerely,

Keith Marty  
Superintendent  
Parkway Schools