

Written Testimony to the Joint Legislative Public Hearing
2020-2021 Executive Budget Proposal: Topic Elementary & Secondary Education
Jan. 27, 2021

Dear Committee Chair & Members,

As the parent of two New York City public charter school students of the Bronx, as well as a parent of a child in a District School, it hurts me to know I have to choose two different experiences for my children based on my needs. All three of my children live in the same household, and go to elementary school in the same District, yet one child is allotted more money for their educational experience than the others. As a DOE graduate from Elementary through High School of the same district, still not much has changed. My children attend the same District I grew up in, and I'm here to be a voice for the equity of funding for all of them no matter what school, I choose to place them in.

Two of my children attend Success Academy Bronx 4, an elementary school in the Soundview section of the Bronx, that opened in 2014, serving grades K-4. In these unprecedented times I was at ease to know that my charter choice didn't think twice about being the FIRST to close their schools, in an immediate response to keeping our kids and community safe. The transition from in person to remote learning, has continued to be a well-executed decision that has kept my family and I with a piece of mind.

While I know that my experience has been much more positive than that of many other public school families, the sad part is that many families living in the Bronx and across the city may not have had the same experience. I am incredibly hopeful that we can work together to meet the needs of all our city's students. Never have the inequities of our education system been laid so bare. As a constituent and member of the New York State Charter Parent Council, I ask that you consider a fair and equitable budget that allows me to not choose which child gets more? Would you?

On behalf of all New York City public school parents, whether they are charter parents or district parents, I urge the committee to protect education in the state budget and to ensure that all of our children are valued equally. This is the time to put politics aside and make real, meaningful change for all of our children, maybe some of yours!

Submitted By:
Sabrina Skelton, New York State Charter Parent Council