

Traditional public schools given more financial advantages than charters

Aug. 9, 2013 | 2 Comments

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Recommend 0

A A

FILED UNDER

Opinion
[Letters To The Editor](#)
[City-County Council](#)
[Greg Ballard](#)

Indianapolis City-County Council member Brian Mahern's Aug. 6 letter reflects a deep misunderstanding of school finance, tax policy and our education system. Mahern asserts that "mayoral charter schools such as Christel House also receive a local-taxpayer-funded subsidy not enjoyed by IPS schools." This couldn't be further from the truth.

Here are the facts: While charter schools and district schools receive similar amounts of per-pupil funding from the state, only district schools receive local property tax revenue. For example, Indianapolis Public Schools received more than \$105 million in 2012 property taxes to pay for transportation and facilities costs. In comparison, charter schools receive none of these dollars – meaning that students and families lack access to equitable transportation and facilities funding.

Mahern believes that "if the competition model for publicly funded schools has any chance of working in Indianapolis, this disparate treatment must stop immediately." I wholeheartedly agree. This is why I strongly support equitable funding for charter schools. Specifically, an additional \$3,500 in transportation and facilities funding for every charter school student in Marion County would close the funding gap.

Given the already wide funding disparities for charter schools, Mayor Greg Ballard has continued Democratic Mayor Bart Peterson's policy of not charging an oversight fee to mayor-sponsored charter schools. In fact, when Mahern introduced a resolution in March requiring the mayor to charge an authorizing fee, the Council's Community Affairs Committee, a majority of which is comprised of Democrats, unanimously rejected his proposal.

Keeping funds at the classroom level is good policy. First, a 3 percent fee would take approximately \$2 million from classrooms. Second, it ensures that the public can trust that decisions by the mayor to open and close schools are not influenced by the amount of money flowing to the Mayor's Office from authorizing fees.

We must move beyond these tired arguments and focus on school quality over school type. My sincere hope is that Mahern will abandon his ill-advised policy position, stop focusing on political gain over

ADVERTISEMENT

Most Popular | Most Commented | More Headlines

- 1 [Indianapolis woman raped repeatedly while kept at Far Southside apartment](#)
- 2 [Indianapolis' killing zones: In 6 small spots, sudden, violent death is part of residents' everyday life](#)
- 3 [Chicks on the Right: Here's what real feminism looks like](#)
- 4 [Bob Kravitz: Colts WR T.Y. Hilton's game continues to glitter in preseason opener](#)
- 5 [5 things we learned from the Colts' preseason opener](#)

Most Viewed

ADVERTISEMENT

sound policy, and choose to work collaboratively to improve our education system.

John Mutz

chairman, Indianapolis Charter School Board

former Indiana lieutenant governor

View Comments (2) | Share your thoughts »

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

[Obamacare not good enough for Congress](#)

[Mass transit cost greatly underestimated](#)

[No safe way to have guns at home](#)

[Mitch Daniels tried to censor professor](#)

[Pressure intensifies for 2 local high school freshmen...](#)

[Is It the End of Stainless Steel?](#)
(Oven Info)

SPONSORED LINKS

[Graduate Schools That Don't Require The GMAT](#) (Education Portal)

[Amish Mafia Star Gets Prison Time for Injuring State...](#) (E! Online)

[Rita Moreno: Banished from Hollywood for Refusing to...](#) (Makers)

[Best Looking Female Athletes in Bikinis](#) (Rant Sports)

[Heather McDonald talk about her boys teachers](#) (Mommalogues)

[Hot Pictures of Olympic Soccer Player Kaylyn Kyle](#) (Rant Sports)

[?]

ARCHIVES

View the last seven days

[Yesterday, Aug. 11](#)

[Saturday, Aug. 10](#)

[Friday, Aug. 09](#)

[Thursday, Aug. 08](#)

[Wednesday, Aug. 07](#)

[Tuesday, Aug. 06](#)

[Monday, Aug. 05](#)

See our [paid archives](#) for news older than a week.

PHOTO GALLERIES

[SEE MORE PHOTOS](#)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER & FACEBOOK

IndyStar's Headlines are now available on Facebook and Twitter. Don't miss a single headline!

RETRO INDY

[SEE MORE RETRO INDY](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

NEWS

Cori Faklaris
Politics blog
Communities
Crime & Courts
Politics & Gov
Education
RetroIndy
Indy911
Indy Crime Watchers
Weather

THINGS TO DO

Out to Eat
The Adventuress
Music & Nightlife
The Arts
Movies & TV
Travel
Comics
Crosswords
Sudoku

SPORTS

Bob Kravitz
Colts
Pacers
Hoosiers
Boilers
Bulldogs
Colleges
Motor Sports
High Schools
Scores & Stats

OBITUARIES

Search Obituaries
Memoriams

BUSINESS

Retail & Real Estate
Technology
Gas Prices
Markets
Top Workplaces
Special Publications

LIFE

Indy's FruGal
Cathy Kightlinger
Food & Drink
Home & Garden
Health & Fitness
Faith & Values
Let It Out
Celebrations

OPINION

Editorials
Right Alternative
Letters
Matthew Tully
Erika D. Smith
Gary Varvel
Dan Carpenter
Russ Pulliam
Commentary

HELP

Advertiser info
Place an Ad
Contact Us
Staff List
Archives
Page reprints

FOLLOW US

Twitter
Facebook
iPhone
Android
RSS
E-mail Alerts

[News](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars for Sale](#) | [Homes for Sale](#) | [Apartments for Rent](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Shopping](#)

GANNETT

Copyright © 2013 www.indystar.com. All rights reserved.

Users of this site agree to the [Terms of Service](#), [Privacy Notice/Your California Privacy Rights](#), and [Ad Choices](#)