



The Academy for Technology & the Classics

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January 23, 2019

Dear Parents and Caregivers of ATC,

The 2019 Legislative Session is underway, and Senate Bill I (SB 1) threatens to undercut New Mexico charter schools and will have a direct negative impact on ATC. I am asking for the ATC community to let the Senate Education Committee and the Santa Fe delegation know that parents should have a choice in where they send their child to school and that the small school allotment should not be removed from the funding formula and an enrollment cap not be imposed.

The proposed legislation would cap the number of students attending charter schools. Currently approximately 26,000 students attend charter schools across New Mexico, the legislation would cap the enrollment to 27,000. Parents like yourself need and deserve a choice in where they send their child to school. People all across Santa Fe make choices “within” the district. Most of the students attending Acequia Madre, Carlos Gilbert, Wood Gormley, and Atalaya are not zoned for those schools, yet parents who can choose to transport their child in hopes of a better education. Parents who depend on school bus transportation do not have this option; however, they do have the option to enter the lottery and attend a charter school because transportation is provided. Having this option is a social justice issue that will be undermined if these parts of Senate Bill 1 are passed.

The other piece to this legislation that threatens ATC is the small school allotment. The per pupil operational allocation for a SFPS student and an ATC student is as follows:

SFPS receives	\$7,808.94 per student
ATC receives	\$7,137.71 per student

ATC receives \$671.23 less per pupil in the 2018- 2019 budget.

If the small school allotment is reduced or eliminated then ATC would receive **\$1,000.41** less than an SFPS student. ATC students and all charter school students deserve at least the same amount of funding as any other student in our city.

I am asking you to call, write, email, or attend a committee meeting to let our representatives know that this is unacceptable. Thousands of students are waiting for an opportunity to attend a charter school. These provisions deny the opportunity to those students. Charters are becoming victims of their own success. Despite the number of charter schools remaining essentially the same over the last 5 years, enrollment has increased dramatically. ATC has a 1000 student waitlist. We could easily have another ATC in Santa Fe and fill it twice.

New Mexico funds students, not district or charter schools. This bill creates two classes of students – students who go to district schools and get more funding, and charter schools students who will get less funding. Small schools need extra support to overcome their lack of economies of scale. Small charter schools are small because their education program mandates, or they lack the facility to grow. Charter schools do not choose to be small to take advantage of the small school allotment.

I have attached the name and contact information for the senators and representatives in Santa Fe. Our students come from all over the city so I am providing you with all of the names. Please take action and let our legislators know that parents deserve a choice in their child's education that doesn't involve paying thousands of dollars to private schools. Please let them know charter school students should be guaranteed at least equal funding.

We support the goals set forth in Senate Bill 1 and its efforts to address Yazzie vs. Martinez. Capping charter school enrollment and eliminating the small school allotment do not address those goals and have a negative impact on ATC, which has been one the most highly effective schools in the state. This bill negatively impacts the very school that serves a high population of at-risk students and is having tremendous success sending first generation students to colleges.

Cultivating Fearless Learners,

Susan Lumley