Charter Schools = Choices

Generation after generation the country has changed, yet education remains stagnant across many states. Things have been done one way and, despite current research, many school districts remain resistant to change.

The introduction of public charter schools has garnered support from many parents and educators, while creating hostility for others. As parents, we want what is best for our children at all times. The ability to choose between tuition-free schools means parents gain back control over their children's future. Public charter schools give students and parents the freedom of choice, a right we've all earned.

While public charter schools are still part of the public school system, and therefore follow the same educational standards, they are held to a higher standard overall. A public charter school must not only meet the standards issued by each state, they must also prove their methods successful. Unlike their counterparts, public charter schools can be closed for underachievement. This pressure to help students succeed academically means educators can use any appropriate means necessary to exploit every child's potential.

Innovation is the secret to charter school success. Administrators and teachers are offered more flexibility and creativity in what is taught and how it is taught. This ability to take into account a variety of learning styles and treat each child as an individual is key in helping all children succeed. In areas where there are many charter school options, parents are free to choose an educational institution that best fits the strengths and goals of their child. In contrast, a typical public school's constraints make it impossible to truly individualize education.

Studies show that public charter schools are closing the achievement gap by embracing individuality. The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools reports that in 15 out of 16 independent studies, charter school students did better academically than those in a traditional public school.

What makes public charter schools most controversial is the financial aspect. Public charter schools utilize the same funds as traditional public schools. Some would say a student moving from the traditional school to the charter school is taking money away from traditional schools. This is an accurate assessment of how public charter schools are financed, but why is that a problem? If public funds are being used to provide education, shouldn't parents have a choice in where they are allocated?

In a world where individuality is being applauded and embraced, public charter schools are the only option in public schooling that does the same. Our children deserve to see their own potential achieved and for many in the middle and lower classes, public charter schools are the only logical choice.