

Frontier Academy
Inspiring Excellence
since 1997



Dear Parents:

As a charter school parent, you are intimately aware of the value of choice in our public school system. In exercising choice for your child, you have become an important participant in the statewide debate over charter schools – for too long, however, charter parents have been voiceless parents in policy circles. While the Colorado League of Charter Schools and others work at the state capitol on our behalf, the most important charter school supporters are families across the state that have chosen to send their child to a charter school. In conjunction with the League and charter schools across the state, we're urging you make sure your voice is heard when state legislators make decisions that can have a serious impact on your school – the Advocacy Network described below is your best opportunity to do so.

Our school is a member of the Colorado League of Charter Schools. The League is a non-profit membership organization consisting of all of Colorado's charter schools. In addition to other benefits that we receive through membership, we are also represented by legislative advocates at the Capitol. These advocates work with legislators and policy makers to ensure that charter schools receive optimal funding and that public school choice remains open to all students. This spring, the League opposed efforts to give districts more control over charters as well as attempts to reduce the amount of money they receive for buildings. We were pleased that the League was successful in its efforts, but the experience has made us keenly aware of the need to make our voices and opinions heard when these debates occur, as we know they will in the future.

The strongest advocates for charter schools in these and future debates are families that have made the choice to send their children to charters. However, the challenge to date has been connecting you – parents – with good and timely information you can act upon. The League, working with the Coalition for Public School Choice (an informal network of organizations supporting charter schools and other forms of public school choice), has developed a system linking together charter school advocates across the state and connecting them to their local policy-makers. We call this the Advocacy Network.

Frontier Academy is helping the League and the Coalition by sending letters to our families encouraging them to sign up for the Advocacy Network. As part of the Network, you will receive legislative and policy updates from the League, and related advocacy information from the Coalition. When there is a threat to charter schools, you will receive an action alert urging you to contact your legislator, with sample letters and all pertinent contact information. Signing up and participating in the Network will allow your voice to be heard.

(To sign up for the Coalition's Advocacy Network, you can visit <http://www.publicschoolchoice.org> or fill out one of the attached flyers and return it to the League via mail.)

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Janet Rose, Advocacy Associate with the League (303-989-5356 x. 14 or janet@coloradoleague.org). We hope you take advantage of this important opportunity to make your charter voice heard.

Sincerely yours,

Frontier Academy's Executive Committee