



Highville Charter School · Highville Change Academy

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Janet Brown-Clayton
Executive Director

Appropriations Committee Testimony
SUPPORT: Executive Budget Charter School Per Pupil Increase
Tuesday, March 9, 2021

My name is Janet Brown-Clayton and I'm the Executive Director for Highville Charter School in New Haven. I'm a life-long learner, a public school teacher, and administrator for 36 of my 38 years in my chosen profession. However, I've gained a new education as the administrator of a charter school.

It is very disconcerting and, frankly, disheartening to witness the gross inequity in funding that exist between public schools and charter school. Yet, we teach the same children, from the same dirge, the same priority districts, the same socioeconomic strata, and the same needs as their peers in public schools.

Yet, we are expected to meet the same, and in some cases exceed the achievement goals of our peers, essentially expecting us to spin gold from straw

While I don't think there is intentionality ascribed to this practice, it further perpetuates the line of demarcation that exist between the public charter and public school sectors..

We elect officials with the hopes that they will be the voice that speaks to our concerns from a position of impact. Having stated that, it is vitally important to address this chiasmic divide, especially in the face of the impact the pandemic has had on education for ALL of our children.

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