

Koy Kunkel_SC

From: applications.administrator@capitol.local
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:37 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-04-22
First Name: Cheryl
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Title: NA
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State: TX
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Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

This comment is in regard to SB 1389 establishing the opportunity for Virtual school for grades 3-12. I am currently a elementary school counselor and have been in this position for 19 years and have a total of 40 years in public education with a total of 31 years as a counselor. More and more I am seeing that the social and emotional skills everyone should have are lacking as students begin school. Students are lacking skills such as empathy, the ability to work with others, problem-solve on their own, carry on a conversation or simple respond when spoken to, the ability to interact appropriately with others and so many other social and emotional skills. Elementary school is where we lay this foundation and help the students in our care develop these skills that will carry them throughout like and hopefully help them be self-sufficient, successful, and to work well with others. I have seen the impact this year that virtual school has had on students socially and emotionally. More students are depressed and feel isolated at the age they need to be interacting with their peers.

While so many students have struggled, I DO NOT believe that students in K-5 should be given the option for virtual school. That includes those that academically may have thrived, but socially and emotionally have not. It is harder to collect the solid data to reflect what I have seen. By allowing this to pass, as a State we are setting our children up for failure which then impacts the future of our State and Nation.

I would be more than happy to discuss my concerns with anyone. I feel a strong sense of responsibility to work with and help my students thrive, but working over a computer does not allow for students to be able to practice, put into action and develop the skills needed for social and emotional learning and development.

Thank you
Cheryl Salmon

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