



March 1, 2024

Dear Missouri Legislator:



We, the undersigned Superintendents representing school districts in Boone County, express our strong opposition to any legislation that expands charter schools in Boone County.



Public schools exist to provide an education for all children. Missourians have watched the broken inefficient charter systems in St. Louis and Kansas City for decades. Before charter schools should be considered for expansion into fully accredited school districts, current charter school laws need to be addressed.



Sturgeon R-V High School

Strong public schools are essential to attracting and retaining a solid employment base, preparing our children to become future community leaders, and for sustaining the quality of life we all appreciate. In Missouri and across the country, you can find examples of what a lack of support for public schools can do to a community. Businesses leave, unemployment rises, real estate values fall, and community livability suffers.

In Boone County, our public schools are the heart of our communities. Strong public schools mean strong, thriving communities. Public schools impact economic growth, workforce development, employment, and populations. Dismantling those structures by introducing charter schools will hurt the very fabric of our communities.



Southern Boone School District

We are asking that you keep public money and support coming to public schools. Our children do not choose their circumstances and we, as public schools, are committed to educating them all. Please let us do that work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Yearwood
Superintendent
Columbia Public Schools

Mr. D. John Downs
Superintendent
Hallsville R-IV School District

Dr. Tim Roth
Superintendent
Southern Boone School District

Dr. Dustin Fanning
Superintendent
Sturgeon R-V School District

Mr. Steve Combs
Superintendent
Harrisburg R-VIII District