



Date: June 27, 2014
VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable David Yost
Ohio Auditor of State
Office of Auditor of State
88 East Broad Street, 5th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear State Auditor Yost:

I am alarmed by the news that has developed over the past few months in regards to the chain of charter schools in Ohio that operate under the Concept Schools name.

Most recently, Ohio Education Association member Matt Blair raised questions to the State Superintendent and the State Board of Education about activities he observed while teaching at a Horizon Science Academy in Dayton, Ohio. In a letter, Blair said that he witnessed unethical behavior such as “officials pulling at-risk students out of class during standardized testing” and “Turkish men who came in on a Saturday to darken ‘in the answers for students who wrote too lightly’ on standardized tests”.

Blair’s allegations first appeared [on the OEA website in December 2013](#). Yet, no real effort appears to have been made to investigate his claims. Earlier this year, a former employee of the Horizon Science Academy Denison Middle School in Cleveland had sent a letter to Auditor Yost asking him to investigate financial data, state testing information and other data related to the chain of schools. After six months of these multiple allegations being levied against these charter schools, it is beyond time for your office to begin investigating them.

I am aware that the Ohio Education Association has called on your office “to act and to conduct a probe worthy of the serious questions that have been raised” earlier this week. I am writing today in support of that request.

I urge you to take action to determine whether these claims were properly investigated, to look into whether unethical behavior continues today, and to make sure that these schools, sponsors, and the Ohio Department of Education are all being held publicly accountable.

It is crucial for these students, their families, and all Ohio taxpayers that we make sure our schools are providing our children with the best education and environment possible to allow them to succeed.

Sincerely,

John Patrick Carney