

**From:** [Liz Kiggins](#)  
**To:** [SPCSA Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for tomorrow's meeting - against a distance learning mandate  
**Date:** Thursday, August 13, 2020 10:09:10 PM

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Dear Nevada State Public Charter School Authority,

I am writing from Washoe County where the number of active COVID cases is the lowest it has been since the beginning of July. In addition, you will note that the peak in new COVID cases has occurred and the curve has been steadily declining since late July. I truly hope that this board reviews and takes seriously the almost twenty hours of public board meetings that our Washoe County School District had in their decision to open our public elementary schools full time and middle/high schools in hybrid. All evidence points to a safe and successful return of students in Washoe County. Charter schools should not be discriminated against while public schools in Washoe County have the opportunity to go back to in person instruction.

Our charter school has developed a robust and flexible hybrid plan that is capable of easily converting to meet the demands of shifts in the Covid-19 climate here in Washoe County. It adheres very closely to all guidelines set forth by Governor Sisolak and has been completely engaged in the ever changing Covid climate. Hours and hours of plans for a safe and effective learning model/schedule have been spent by our wonderful admin and teachers. To make a last minute distance learning mandate changing those plans would not only cause an enormous amount of work for our school, but on a personal level, I would now have to explain to my children why all their friends in public school get to return while they have to distance learn.

I also must advocate for my youngest son who has severe special needs. He is unable to learn via distance learning. Mandating distance learning in our area discriminates against children like my son where incredible measures have been taken to open safely within the Covid climate. How is it that public schools in our area have been approved by the State to open and provide services but charter schools are not safe to open? This is a double standard and I implore you to recognize how important it is for our children to go back to school in person or on a hybrid model in Washoe County.

Thank you,  
Liz Kiggins