



220 Summerdale Ave.
Toledo, OH 43605
419-691-5058
419-691-5044

MEDIA RELEASE

Contact
Matt Zaleski
419-691-5058 / 419-345-5602

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NWOCSC Investigates Threatening TPS Letters Sent to Charter School Parents

(Toledo, OH) --- The Northwest Ohio Charter School Coalition says it has launched an investigation into threatening letters sent to parents of charter school students ordering the parents to appear at a Toledo Public School Attendance Hearing or have their case referred to the Lucas County Juvenile Court.

The NWOCSC became aware of the letters on Tuesday, September 22. The letters sent to the parents alleges that their child is not enrolled in school and that the parent must attend an attendance hearing to show otherwise.

On Wednesday, the NWOCSC launched its own investigation, contacting each charter school in the Toledo area to see if any other parents have received these threatening letters.

Two charter schools, Eagle Academy in East Toledo and Maritime Academy, reported that threatening letters were sent to their parents. Maritime Academy says two parents received letters. Eagle Academy said they have been contacted by one parent who received a letter and a second parent who was receiving "harassing truancy phone calls" from nearby TPS school.

Three other charter schools said they were not aware of any letters sent to their parents, but are double-checking.

Jennifer Millets, a charter school parent, has two children at Maritime Academy. She received a threatening letter for one child who has been enrolled at Maritime Academy for the past three years.

"I don't know why I received this letter," she said. "I was concerned about what they are threatening to do."

Mitchell Bean, Executive Director of Eagle Academy, said one parent received harassing phone calls from a nearby TPS middle school, even after explaining that the child is enrolled at a charter school. Mr. Bean says another parent received a letter, but apparently resolved the matter with TPS and destroyed the letter.

In addition to referring the student's case to Lucas County Juvenile Court, the letter also states that TPS would refer the case to Lucas County Children Services, as well. The letter also states that state support services would be contacted, as well as the Ohio Dept. of Motor Vehicles if the child is of driving age.

In a statement released Wednesday, the NWOCS said:

“While we understand that Toledo Public Schools has a responsibility to make sure all school children are enrolled, however we find threatening letters and repeated phone calls to established charter school parents disturbing. At this point we are simply questioning why this is happening and how many charter school parents have been contacted. We are also questioning why charter school parents need to be contacted at all. TPS should have access to charter school enrollment, and should be able to see where a child is going to school.. Additionally, transcripts for charter school students coming from TPS must be issued by TPS in the first place. How is it then that TPS doesn't know where these students are enrolled?”