

**April 20, 2020**

Barbara Dalio  
Founder and Director  
Dalio Education Initiatives  
1 Glendinning Pl.  
Westport, CT 06880

Dear Barbara and members of the Partnership for CT Board,

I am writing to express my personal appreciation for the great work you, The Partnership for CT, and Dalio Philanthropies are doing on behalf of the students of Connecticut. I, too, have a deep commitment to pursuing greater education equity across our state and am thankful for your leadership in this effort.

Given your dedication to equity for all students, I was disappointed and surprised to hear that the Partnership for CT board has elected to exclude public charter school students from your generous laptop donation program.

By virtue of their state authorization, funding and oversight, Connecticut's 22 charter schools **are public schools**. Furthermore, these schools and their operators are non-profit by law. Our state's charter schools provide quality educational options to more than 10,800 students, more than 65% of which are low income and 80% of which are Black and Brown from low performing districts throughout the state. Ultimately, students that attend charter schools reside in the same neighborhoods, and sometimes in the same households, as traditional public school students. Electing to explicitly disclude these students, which have been identified as often being the most economically disadvantaged in our state, robs them of a truly equitable educational experience through no fault of their own. In layman's terms, this is simply unfair.

Moreover, despite being funded below the foundation amount of the state's Education Cost Sharing Formula - the minimum amount identified by the legislature required to properly educate a child - our state's great charter schools continue to deliver excellent results for kids and are closing the achievement gap in our state. These high-performing and under-funded schools need the support of organizations such as yours to continue serving our state's most underserved communities.

I hope that you and your board will reconsider your choice to exclude public charter school students from your laptop donation program. Many public charter school students lack access to the resources necessary for them to succeed in their educational efforts during these closures. Including these students in your donation program would not only be equitable but would also allow our state's most disadvantaged kids the chance they need to continue to learn and grow during this difficult time.

Respectfully,

Ruben Felipe  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Charter Schools Association