

# REVIEW OF HOW TO WRITE A LEGISLATOR

- 1) Keep it Simple
- 2) Keep it Short
- 3) Keep it Positive

Attached is a sample letter that may help give ideas on how a letter can look. The cover letter will also be available on KHA's web site within a week. Just go to [www.kingstonhill.org](http://www.kingstonhill.org) and click on "For Parents".

You may also want to check out [www.richarterschools.com](http://www.richarterschools.com) where the League of Charter Schools has set up an **e-mail advocacy program** where you can e-mail all the key legislators quickly and easily. Just click on the red charter school advocacy tab at the top and it will guide you on how to "*contact legislators*" via e-mail.

KHA would love to see some of the letters that families are sending out to legislators. You may send copies to the main office so that we can keep a copy for display. We will also send copies of all letters written by KHA families to the key legislators.

## **IMPORTANT FACTS TO INFORM LEGISLATORS ABOUT CHARTER SCHOOLS**

- Charter schools **allow for public choice** under Rhode Island state law. As a taxpayer and parent you are in the best position to decide the type of education that your child needs.
- One part of the mission of Kingston Hill Academy is to work with students at her/his own **individual developmental level**. KHA provides Individual Learning Plans for all students that teachers, families, administrators, and students help plan.
- KHA **includes students with special needs** into the general education curriculum. Through small groups, individualized instructors, after school tutoring, and collaboration amongst staff, students with special needs or academic deficits are taught in the least restrictive environment. (also see section in attached editorial for more information).

## **For Families that Have Children with Special Learning Needs**

If your child has an IEP, had an IEP but was exited from services at KHA, or you think might have an IEP if they did not receive the type of services that KHA provides, please send a one-page copy of your child's success story at KHA that includes the following. We will be collecting these "success stories" so that we can inform legislators, school committee members, and the department of education about our innovative and highly effective inclusive program at KHA.

- Your child's experience in a previous placement (if applicable).
- Your child's experience and progress at KHA.
- The type of specialized services that KHA provides in KHA's general education program (after school tutoring, collaboration of staff, inclusion, small groups for reading/math, etc.)
- What you feel your child's progress might have been or special education experience in another setting if they did not attend KHA.

## **FOR ALL FAMILIES PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING**

- ✓ Why you chose KHA.
- ✓ Your child's experience and progress at KHA.
- ✓ The type of specialized services that KHA provides in KHA's general education program (after school tutoring, collaboration of staff, Spanish instruction, inclusion, small groups for reading/math, etc.)
- ✓ Address letter to either: To Whom it May Concern, Rhode Island State Legislature, or Rhode Island Department of Education.