

LETTERS

More charter schools are not the answer

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AS THE longest-serving member on the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and one of the Boston Public Schools parents attacked in Lawrence Harmon's "[Roadblock for charter schools](#)" (Op-ed, Oct. 18), I feel compelled to respond.

The board's vote in June to include growth along with MCAS achievement in determining which districts are eligible for additional charter schools justly credits schools for their positive gains and is hardly the radical shift Harmon suggests.

He accurately identifies a problem — charter schools don't want to open in rural or smaller districts that have now been identified as low-performing under the new formula — but he fails to question the schools' reluctance to expand beyond the more lucrative urban markets or populations they prefer. Rather than berating officials and parents who don't agree with him, Harmon ought to share information about districts that are improving while serving all kids.

As an urban parent, I too seek meaningful educational choices for my kids. Instead of seeing more charter schools as the answer, I have joined with other BPS parents from all neighborhoods to focus on improving the system we have, one that serves the vast majority of Boston kids, no matter who they are.

Harneen Chernow