

# CYBER CHARTER SCHOOLS

## **SUPPORTING ALL STUDENTS THROUGHOUT PENNSYLVANIA**

Since the passage of Charter School Law in 1997, both brick and mortar and Cyber Charter Schools have been at the forefront of educationally innovation programs improving academic outcomes for all students across Pennsylvania. Through continuous research and refinement, pilot programs, and partnerships with local school districts; charter schools and Cyber Charter Schools continue to help shape the future of education throughout the Commonwealth leading Pennsylvania to become one of the best educational systems in the nation.



Pennsylvania Coalition  
of Public Charter Schools

## CYBER CHARTER SCHOOLS SAVE SCHOOL DISTRICTS MONEY

Cyber Charter Schools save school districts money! For every student that attends a Cyber Charter School, school districts have additional money to support the students that remain within their brick and mortar buildings. On average, Cyber Charter Schools receive just 72% of per pupil allotment for each student. School districts keep the remaining 28% that they can use for payments on debt, adult education programs, pre-K programs, transportation costs, and building and ground maintenance.

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## CYBER SCHOOLS SUPPORT BRICK AND MORTAR KIDS

Students who remain within their brick and mortar school are benefited by their peers attending a Cyber Charter School. Not only does the School District have more money to spend per pupil, but Cyber Charter Schools serve as a model for innovative virtual education opportunities. Many school districts have started their own cyber programs based on the success of Cyber Charter Schools.

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## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL STUDENTS

Zip codes should not restrict a student's educational opportunities. Cyber Charter Schools provide equal access to high quality teachers, resources, and opportunities regardless of a student's zip code.

## CYBER SCHOOLS PROVIDE EQUAL SUPPORTS TO ALL STUDENTS REGARDLESS OF INCOME

Pennsylvania's current funding formula rewards students in wealthy districts over students in poorer school districts providing more educational opportunities to students in wealthy districts. Cyber Charter Schools level the playing field, providing all students with access to high quality resources, certified teachers, and opportunities for engagement regardless of their parents' income.

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## CYBER SCHOOLS SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Cyber Schools support all types of learners from advanced education students to students with high levels of special education needs. Cyber Schools partner with special education providers, therapists, etc. to support the needs of all learners.

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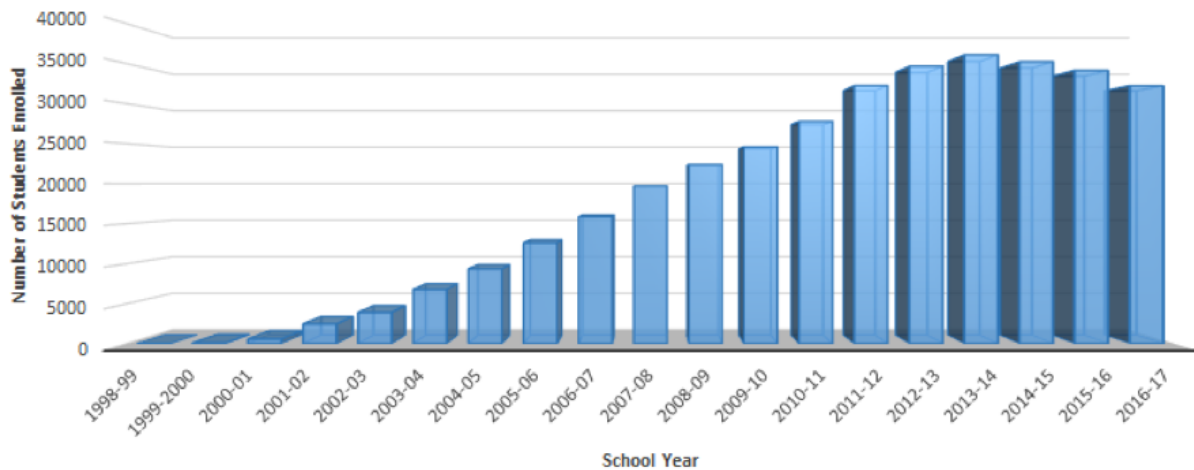
## EDUCATING THE PUBLIC

Cyber Charter Schools are funded by tax payer dollars. Cyber Charter Schools are committed to ensuring that all parents in Pennsylvania are aware of their choices in public education. Through radio and television advertising, public outreach, social media campaigns, and word of mouth activities, Cyber Charter Schools work to ensure that all parents understand the cyber model and are aware of the opportunities available for every child.

## CONTINUED GROWTH

In 1998, the first Cyber Charter School opened in Pennsylvania with 10 students. Now, there are 15 Cyber Charter Schools, expanding opportunities and addressing specific student needs across the commonwealth.

**Cyber Charter School Enrollment**



## WHO ARE CYBER STUDENTS?

Cyber Schools support students and families in every county and in all school districts. Their populations range from struggling learners to academically advanced students. In many cases, Cyber Schools support a disproportionate number of students with disabilities, students from low income families and students who receive English Language Learners Support.

## STUDENT NEEDS CHANGE

As students develop academically, psychologically and socially, their individual needs change. While many students will remain in their Cyber Charter School from Kindergarten through graduation, many students will move in and out of Cyber Charter Schools, brick and mortar charter schools, their local public schools, and even private schools to best meet their individual needs. As such, it is vital to provide equal funding to ensure all students have high quality supports regardless of their choice of school.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The leadership of Cyber Charter Schools, their faculty, staff and parents continue to collaborate toward advancing opportunities to enhance student outcomes across the commonwealth. As new methods of student assessment and school accountability are developed, the Cyber Charter Schools will continue to address all students individual needs to support educational advancement across the commonwealth.

## WHO ARE CYBER SCHOOL GRADUATES?

Cyber Charter School graduates are already making strong contributions to our communities. Many of our graduates attend top-tier colleges and universities, are active in the US armed forces, or are actively contributing to their communities through careers and volunteerism.



# WHY PARENTS CHOOSE CYBER CHARTER SCHOOLS

Here are just a few reasons parents continue to choose Cyber Charter Schools for their children:

*"PA Virtual Charter School gives you the ability to work at your own pace — working ahead of grade level or going slower if needed."*

— Wendy Booth, PA Virtual Charter School parent

*"Agora gives students with special needs chances they would not have anywhere else. Agora allows our son to be the very best student he knows he can be."*

— Agora Cyber Charter School, special education parent

*"I chose a cyber option for my son because I was looking for a safe option given the current standing of our local choices and life in the streets. I was looking to limit distractions and make sure he was not going to get lost in the system. We wanted him to have the opportunity to demonstrate his potential. ECCS has met our families needs and that is why we chose a cyber education option."*

— Esperanza Cyber Charter School parent

*"I believe children can best learn in an environment where they are encouraged, feel safe, and can learn at their own pace, their own way."*

— Sharon Ruth, PA Virtual Charter School parent

*"My children continue to excel. They are developing a 'love of learning,' not just a head full of facts. My children are mature beyond their years, well socialized across all age groups and have a confidence I do not see in many traditionally schooled children."*

— Anne Marie Coryell, PA Virtual Charter School parent

*"I love that I can have my kids at home with me, learning and instilling my values in them".*

— Sharon Ruth, PA Virtual Charter School parent

*"We completely love everything about PA Distance Learning! My daughter has learned so much already that SHE reads ME bedtime stories now! I think she's already doing math better than I ever have in my life. We love that she isn't sitting in a room with 30 kids getting talked at for 8 hours, then coming home with 2 hours of homework. She also has the best first grade teacher ever. She is so sweet, and so patient and understanding with all of them! We could sing her praises all day!"*

— Kim, PA Distance Learning parent

*"My autistic son was being mistreated in public school by the teachers and principal and PA Cyber has helped him more than words can express. He loves the teaching videos and field trips and going to his art reach classes. My second son went to a Catholic school and will be joining his big brother with PA Cyber because he sees how happy his brother is!"*

— PA Cyber parent

*"We chose a cyber charter school because of the flexibility it allows our family to have. We go at our child's pace."*

— BreeAnn, Reach Cyber Charter parent

*"We love the flexibility. The teachers are so supportive and are able to cater to each child's individuality."*

— Jane Clements, Commonwealth Charter Academy parent



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