

March 9, 2020

Pedro Rivera
Pennsylvania Secretary of Education
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dr. Sherri Smith
Division of Charter Schools
Pennsylvania Department of Education
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Mr. Secretary and Dr. Smith,

In light of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) public health concern that is currently impacting portions of the United States and Pennsylvania, we would like to offer support, including professional development and consultation to any public school entity that may wish to provide online cyber education to their respective students.

The situation with the Coronavirus is rapidly evolving. We recognize that this emergent situation poses real challenges that stress the ability for students, faculty, staff and families to focus on work and studies. Implementing a full scale cyber education model requires extensive planning and preparation regardless of the length of time it may be offered. In addition, providing a high quality program with a continuation of supports comes with real and meaningful challenges including both logistic and financial considerations. We believe that the thoughtful and prudent approach is to strategically plan for the possibility of a remote school learning option with time for students, staff and families to plan for the successful implementation of an online educational environment. It is our hope that as we all work together toward supporting all public school students, we will have another safe and successful school year.

It is our goal to work in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and our public school colleagues to develop and implement opportunities to learn best practices in the area of cyber education which will allow for the continuation of schooling for students of all ages and academic abilities.

We look forward to collaborating with the Department to support our colleagues across all public school entities.

Sincerely,

Kim McCully, CEO
21st Century Cyber Charter School

Don Asplen, CEO
Achievement House Cyber Charter School

Dr. Mike Conti, Ed.D., CEO
Agora Cyber Charter School

Andrea Kirwin, Superintendent
ASPIRA of PA

Malynda Maurer, CEO
Central PA Digital Learning Foundation

Maurice "Reese" Flurie, III, Ed.D., CEO
Commonwealth Charter Academy

Jon Marsh, CEO
Esperanza Cyber Charter School

Eileen Cannistraci, CEO
Insight PA Cyber Charter School

Brian Hayden, CEO
PA Cyber Charter School

Patricia Rossetti, CEO
PA Distance Learning Charter School

Dr. James Hanak, CEO
PA Leadership Charter School

Dr. John Chandler, CEO
PA Virtual Charter School

Jane Swan, CEO
Reach Cyber Charter School

Patty Leighow, CEO
SusQ-Cyber Charter School