

Ten Principles of Support for Cyber Charter Schools

1. All stakeholders involved in education, from parents to teachers to politicians, must make the education of each student in Pennsylvania their highest priority.
2. Pennsylvania parents have the right to public school choice – choosing to enroll their child(ren) in traditional, charter, or cyber charter public schools.
3. Cyber charter schools meet a real and unique need for more than 38,000 K-12 students enrolled across the state.
4. By state law, students are able to attend cyber charter schools for free because tuition is paid by the student's home district. The taxpayer money follows the student using a funding formula mandated by the state.
5. Each cyber charter school must live within its funding total because, unlike traditional school districts, cyber charter schools cannot increase spending and raise local taxes.
6. Although the costs of a high-quality cyber education are not identical to a traditional school, they are comparable.
7. Cyber charter schools educate their students for far less than traditional school districts.
8. When comparing per-student costs, cyber charter schools educate children for approximately 20% less than traditional school districts. On average, traditional schools spend \$14,119 per student while cyber charter schools spend \$11,625 per student. (PA Department of Education website: 2010-2011 Annual Financial Report data)
9. Current pending legislation in Harrisburg would cut funding to cyber charter schools by 20-30% thereby jeopardizing the future of cyber school choice in Pennsylvania. Such funding cuts could reduce the opportunity for thousands of students to attend an online school of their choice and to thrive in a safe, nurturing environment while learning via cutting-edge technology.
10. We support public school choice with fair, appropriate funding to provide an effective education for students enrolled in public cyber charter schools.