

Written Testimony  
Senate Education Committee Hearing  
Northern Lebanon School District  
May 30th, 2013

Dear Senators,

My name is Kimberly A. Klick and I would like to share with you the success that my family, and more specifically, my daughter has had with cyber-schooling.

My daughter Cassidy is 10 years old and has attended Commonwealth Connections Academy for her entire schooling history. To be honest, I had never considered enrolling her in any brick-and-mortar school, I had intended on traditionally homeschool her. After researching the requirements and observing some homeschooling families I knew though that that was not the path for her; primarily because I felt too inadequate to be able to plan lessons and coordinate a full complement of educational activities. Commonwealth Connections Academy cyber-charter-school provides the structure, guidance and accountability that I felt we both needed.

Upon enrolling with CCA, it became clear through the enrollment testing that my then 5 year old daughter was more advanced than standard kindergarten curriculum provided for. Her level of placement put her into first grade curriculum from day one. I chose to place her as a kindergarten student completing first grade lessons, primarily because I am overly cautious of asking too much of her, and her not being able to continue at the pace that she had. I am proud to say, though, that five years later she is going strong and carries an "A" average, even now as a fourth grade student completing fifth grade lessons. We both look forward to one day either adjusting her grade level or completing advanced placement courses.

I fully attribute this to the individual learning style of cyber-schooling, which allows my daughter to move at her pace in order to fully understand the concept of each lesson that is being taught. There is never a time that some component of a course is not fully understood. If there is something that she doesn't quite understand, we get to slow down and spend as much time on it as she needs until she fully grasps it. In the reverse situation, if there is something that she finds very easy, we can complete it quickly and perhaps even complete the next lesson in the course, which eliminates any boredom and any unnecessarily lost time. Some of my greatest fears with traditional brick-and-mortar schools have always been that either she would fall behind because she can't be dealt with one-on-one or that she would become bored and "zone" out. Cyber-schooling has prevented both of these things from occurring.

Cyber-school's flexible schedule has also allowed her to participate in extracurricular activities at a more leisurely pace for both her and our family. She is currently taking riding lessons during the "school day", this prevents the late night rush around which often prevents many kids from completing homework and/or getting sufficient hours of sleep, which has been shown to affect the learning process for many children. The flexible schedule also allows us to take advantage

of the many activities that occur within the local community during the day and also as many of the sanctioned field trips that CCA holds that we choose. The ability of my daughter to do these things, I feel, provides her a more rounded education and broader scope of the world at large.

There has never been a time that I regretted the path that we have chosen. I am thankful that this path is available to us and feel that it is critical it continue to be available, not just for us, but to all families here in Northern Lebanon School District and across the state.

Sincerely,  
Kimberly A. Klick