

CYBER CHARTERS ARE AWASH IN EXCESS FUNDING THAT THEY WASTE AND HOARD



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Auditor General Tim DeFoor's recent audit of cyber charter schools documents the following:

- Fund balances of the five cyber charter schools audited increased \$365 million, or 144 percent, from \$254 million as of July 1, 2020, to \$619 million, as of June 30, 2023.
- Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA) lavishes \$400/month fuel stipends on all employees that work full time in a Family Service Center, no matter how far they drive to get to work. CCA also spent nearly \$200 million purchasing and renovating properties during the audit period.
- PA Cyber's unrestricted fund balance of \$217.5 million as of June 30, 2023, was more than its expenditures for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
- Reach Cyber Charter School provided approximately \$4.3 million in gift cards to students and their families during the audit period.

Our own research documents how cyber charters waste millions of tax dollars from school districts on dining, entertainment, advertising and more.

TELL STATE LAWMAKERS TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS AND END CYBER CHARTER WASTE

The tax dollars that cyber charter schools waste and hoard are taken away from school districts that are unconstitutionally underfunded by more than \$4 billion and that lack basic and essential resources that students need to be successful academically. They are taken away from school districts that are forced to raise property taxes year in and year out – so that they can pay cyber charter tuition bills that exceed what these schools actually need to educate students at home on a computer.

The Pennsylvania legislature's continued failure to take action to end the excessive profiteering that is occurring in the cyber charter sector wastes property tax dollars, hurts home and business owners, and puts at risk our public schools' potential to deliver a quality education for all.

The General Assembly and the Governor's office must work together to enact a flat tuition rate of \$8000 for regular education students. This will more closely align district payments to cyber charters with the actual cost of educating a student at home on a computer.

State lawmakers must take action **this year** to ensure that property tax dollars will be invested in educating students. Pennsylvanians cannot afford for this waste to continue.

Scan to send a letter to your state lawmakers and Governor Shapiro urging them to support cyber charter reform as part of the 2025-2026 budget.



* Every single cyber charter in Pennsylvania ranks below state averages in terms of four year cohort graduation rates.

** Data from the PA Future Ready Index.

School	Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate
PA State Average *	87.6%
21st Century Cyber Charter School **	68.1%
Achievement House Cyber Charter School	50.0%
Agora Cyber Charter School	50.6%
Aspira Bilingual Cyber Charter School	61.5%
Central PA Digital Learning	60.0%
Commonwealth Charter Academy	64.3%
Esperanza Academy Cyber Charter School	63.6%
Insight PA Cyber Charter School	68.1%
PA Cyber Charter School	61.0%
Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School	75.6%
PA Distance Learning Center	59.6%
Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School	83.2%
Pennwood Cyber Charter School	N/a
Reach Cyber Charter School	80.0%



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