



Dear Jerry,

On Wednesday, June 4, [House Bill 1500](#) passed the PA House with bipartisan support and now it's headed to the Senate!

This bill would save school districts hundreds of millions of dollars, increase accountability and transparency for cyber charter schools, and help ensure that public funds are used to support students—not wasted on bloated advertising budgets or packed into bank accounts.

This is an all hands on deck moment. Pennsylvanians need to send a strong message to our state senators that we expect them to take action to support the reforms in HB 1500. Our communities cannot afford another year of waiting for these reforms.

[Click here](#) to send a message to your state senator and urge them to support HB1500.

To learn more about HB1500, scroll to the bottom of this email—we've included a bill summary and a detailed breakdown of HB1500.

If you would like to be part of our Rapid Response Team that will be taking actions during the month of June to support cyber charter reform, [please click HERE and fill out this form.](#) We will be in touch!

Thank you for your support in helping to advance meaningful cyber charter reform in Pennsylvania!



TELL YOUR
PA SENATOR TO
vote YES on
HB1500



Highlights from House Bill 1500. ([Click HERE for a more detailed summary.](#))

Financial Accountability

- Establishes a statewide regular education tuition rate of \$8000 per student and aligns special education tuition with actual costs using the same calculation that is used to fund school districts.
- Limits cybers' unassigned fund balances to 12% of their annual operating budget (***already a requirement for school districts***) and requires that unassigned fund balances in excess of this amount be returned to school districts. Unassigned fund balances may not be used to pay bonuses or transferred to a cyber charter foundation.
- Ensures that districts will no longer pay tuition for students who do not live in their districts (or even in Pennsylvania) through clarification of residency verification.
- Requires cyber charters to have one administrative office. Cybers are prohibited from owning or having a financial interest in other offices and facilities without seeking an amendment to their charter and receiving approval from the department. (NOTE: This addresses concerns from the [Auditor General's report](#) regarding the appropriateness of enormous expenditures on real estate and whether they align with the online platform unique to cyber charter schools, and ultimately, the intent of the Charter School Law).
- Revenue generated from the rent, lease or sale of charter-owned property shall be paid annually to school districts.

Transparency

- Requires all public school entities to report total expenditures for paid media and sponsorships of public events. The department will publicly post this information.

- Requires cybers to submit a report to the department that will be posted publicly that includes: a list of entities providing financing for capital projects, all expenditures for educational management service providers, the annual budget of the cybers, and data that validates student wellness checks.

Academic Accountability

- Requires that cyber charters notify families when their schools are designated low-achieving schools (***already a requirement for school districts***).
- Establishes enrollment parameters for cyber charter schools that are designated for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI). These are schools that face the most significant challenges related to academic achievement, student growth, graduation rate, and other academic indicators. Any cyber charter with the CSI designation may not expand its enrollment beyond a 5% increase.

Additional measures

- Enacts a moratorium on new cyber charter schools in PA through the 2029-2030 school year.
- Clarifies language to ensure that cyber students will be seen on a camera once per week for a wellness check and requires cybers to provide documentation of their compliance with this requirement.
- Clarifies the powers of the department and issues related to cyber charter applications, renewals, and amendments to allow for these processes to work more effectively and smoothly going forward.

[Click here to tell your PA senators to vote YES on](#)

HB 1500



donate today

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