

PUBLIC CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL FINANCIAL

MYTH

VS

FACT

Cyber charter schools are not required to publicly report their finances and are not subject to audits.

Cyber charter schools in Pennsylvania are required to adhere to the same financial reporting and auditing as school districts. They are required to conduct yearly independent audits and are subject to audits by the PA Auditor General. Source: Charter School Law

Cyber charter schools spend unnecessary money on advertising.

Pennsylvania's Charter School Law requires cyber charter schools to inform families of their existence, so parents and students statewide know their public school options. Because their community spans 67 counties, not just one district, cyber charters must communicate broadly. They also must ensure that students experiencing homelessness know they can enroll under the federal McKinney-Vento Act. Reaching families who are mobile or unstably housed requires statewide outreach, making paid advertising the most practical way to ensure every family receives the information they are legally entitled to know.

Cyber charter schools drain money from school districts.

Cyber charter schools do not take money from districts—the funding simply follows the student to the public school their family chooses. Districts also keep 25–35% of per-pupil funding because costs like transportation, debt service, and federal funds are excluded from cyber tuition. As a result, districts retain a substantial portion of funding even after a student enrolls elsewhere. Since cyber charter families pay the same local, state, and federal taxes as all traditional brick and mortar public-school families, their children are just as entitled to access the public school that best meets their needs.



REACH
CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL
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Cyber charter schools are the biggest financial burden on school districts.

Districts face several built-in financial pressures, led by rapidly rising pension obligations, which consume a large share of their budgets. Many districts are also adding to their own fund balances, reflecting dollars they retain rather than spend on students. Beyond that, districts must maintain aging buildings, cover increasing salaries and healthcare costs, and manage routine operations like transportation, debt service, and central office functions. On average, cyber charter tuition represents only 3.2% of a district's total budget.

Cyber charter schools target districts with high tuition rates.

Cyber charter schools serve many students from districts where families are desperate for school choice options and are searching for an alternative that better fits their child's needs. These districts often have higher tuition rates because the state directs additional funding to them in an effort to strengthen student services and supports. Neither the circumstances that lead families to seek other public-school options, nor the spending levels that drive tuition rates, are determined or controlled by cyber charter schools.



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For more information about Reach Cyber Charter School, please visit: reachcyber.org or email: outreach@reachcyber.org.
Thank you!