

DID YOU KNOW?

1. Cyber charter schools are public schools.

They are tuition-free, publicly funded, non-sectarian, open to all, and must follow the same state and federal regulations as every public school in Pennsylvania.

2. Cyber charter schools are governed by a public Board of Trustees.

Their meetings are open to the public, and board members must follow the PA Ethics Act, file annual Statements of Financial Interests, and comply with the Sunshine Law.

3. Cyber charter schools cannot discriminate in admissions.

They must accept all eligible students regardless of ability, achievement, disability status, or English-language proficiency.

4. Every cyber charter school must renew its charter every five years.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education reviews academics, operations, and financial performance before granting renewal.

5. Cyber charter schools must coordinate statewide, in-person testing for PSSAs and Keystone Exams.

They run multiple testing sites across Pennsylvania to ensure student participation.

6. Cyber charter schools must enforce attendance and manage truancy cases just like every other public school.

Cyber charter schools follow the same state attendance laws and consequences required of all Pennsylvania public schools and must comply with Act 47, which governs statewide attendance and truancy procedures.

7. Cyber charter schools must provide all services required by a student's IEP or 504 plan.

This includes therapies, evaluations, behavioral supports, hearing services, and transition supports — following IDEA and Section 504.

8. Cyber charter schools must provide full English Learner (ESL) services.

They follow PDE's requirements for identification, instruction, accommodations, and progress monitoring.

9. Cyber charter schools provide counseling, mental health support, MTSS/RTI, and college/career readiness services.

These supports mirror services offered in traditional public schools.

10. Cyber charter schools cannot raise local taxes.

They have no taxing authority and rely solely on district pass-through funds and federal dollars.

11. Traditional school districts keep 25-35% of funding even when a student enrolls in a cyber charter school.

They retain this portion because Pennsylvania's formula subtracts certain district costs—such as transportation, debt service, and federal funds—before calculating the tuition reimbursement sent to the cyber charter.

DID YOU KNOW?

12. Cyber charter schools represent only a small percentage of PA education spending.

In 2023-2024, cyber charter schools accounted for just 3.2% of the state's nearly \$40 billion in public education spending.

13. Families may choose a cyber charter school even if their district offers its own cyber program.

PA Charter School Law protects a family's right to the public-school option that best fits their child.

14. Cyber charter school students can participate in district sports and extracurricular activities.

If their cyber charter school doesn't offer an activity, they may join the program in their home district.

15. Cyber charter schools offer pathways to college and careers.

Many provide AP courses, dual enrollment, career programs, and individualized graduation planning.

16. Cyber charter schools serve a wide range of students, including medically fragile and high-needs students.

They ensure access to the full continuum of supports required by state and federal law.

17. Families choose cyber charter schools for many reasons.

Flexibility, safety, medical needs, bullying concerns, advanced coursework, scheduling, and personalized learning are among the most common.

18. Cyber charter schools provide socialization opportunities.

Beyond academics, cyber charter schools offer rich social experiences that build community, confidence, and connection. Students may participate in:

- Camps and hands-on learning days
- Field trips across the state
- Clubs and student organizations
- Special events and meetups

19. Cyber charter school students don't just sit in front of a computer all day.

Cyber charter school students aren't tied to a screen from morning to afternoon—their days are intentionally designed to be flexible, active, and varied. While technology is one of the tools they use, it's not the whole experience. Students follow a balanced schedule that combines engaging live lessons, independent work, and off-screen learning, giving them time to move, think, explore, and apply what they're learning.

20. Cyber charter schools appreciate the new "Eyes On" requirement.

It allows us to engage more intentionally with our students and has strengthened communication and relationships. We're seeing students feel more supported, connected, and known.



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

Thank you!