



Good afternoon to the members of the House and Senate Education Committees. Insight PA Cyber Charter School appreciates the opportunity to join the discussion on the proposed regulations for charter schools.

Insight PA Cyber Charter School serves over 4,000 students across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania providing an individualized, career focused education for our students. We employ over 300 extremely talented and dedicated professionals who work with our students and their families every day. Our mission is to enable, inspire and prepare students to achieve the highest levels of academic standards so they make a powerful contribution in their communities.

There are three areas I would like to speak to regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Proposed Rulemaking #6-349 relating to charter and cyber charter schools, and they include regulations related to (1) the charter school application, (2) the random selection policy for cyber charter schools, and (3) the redirection process.

§713.3 Contents of Cyber Charter School Application

I believe this proposed regulation does set a floor for expectations, but I have concerns about inconsistencies that provide no ceiling for what is required in the application. A standard application that applies to all charter school applicants such as a universal application provides applicants with a set of consistent expectations which serves public school students as well as the taxpayers.

§713.5 Random Selection Policies for a Cyber Charter School

The proposed regulations assume that a cyber charter school can accommodate an unlimited number of students. In order to serve our students well, Cyber charter schools focus on creating effective teacher/student ratios and ensuring students have the necessary materials and supplies for engaged learning. Cyber charter schools Boards of Trustees should make these determinations in the best interest of students.

§713.8 Redirection Process

The proposed regulations don't provide enough clarity to correct the issues with the current process. I recommend that the Department amend this section to clarify that school districts must submit accurate 363 forms with only those deductions that are authorized by law.

I want to also state my opposition to bypassing the legislative process where the General Assembly is charged with the work of making amendments to the Charter School Law, which is a process that ensures all citizens voices are heard through their elected officials. Thank you again for inviting me to today's hearing regarding on Charter regulations. I look forward to being a part of today's discussions.

Sincerely,

Eileen Cannistraci

Chief Executive Officer

Insight PA Cyber Charter School