

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is a cyber charter school?

A. A cyber charter school is a public school where students are taught from home through instruction provided via the Internet and a computer. Students may choose between real time instruction and self-paced instruction, depending on their learning needs.

Q. What are the benefits of a cyber charter school?

The creation of charter schools in general, and cyber charters in particular, has challenged the basic assumptions about the design and delivery of a high-quality public school education. Through PA Cyber, children and families aren't required to fit into the rigid structures of a traditional brick-and-mortar school and are given the choice to attend PA Cyber, which offers an unprecedented degree of accessibility, flexibility, and efficiency so that all students have the opportunity to receive a high quality education.

Q. Is there a cost to attend PA Cyber?

A. PA Cyber is a public school so the tuition costs are paid by dollars allocated by the state and district of residence for each child's education.

Q. Who is eligible to enroll in PA Cyber?

A. Any student who is a resident of Pennsylvania.

Q. Is the PA Cyber curriculum accredited?

A. Yes, all PA Cyber curricula are approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Q. How much time is spent doing school work during the day/year?

A. PA Cyber is open all year long, which gives students choices and flexibility. Students in grades K-7 are required to complete 900 hours of instruction and students in grades 8-12 are required to complete 990 hours of instruction. We recommend that approximately one hour be spent on each subject per day, which is about five hours per day. Each student is required to attend school 180 days per year.

Q. How is student progress monitored?

The progress of a student is monitored through the student's Instructional Supervisor (IS) on a weekly basis. The manner in which it is monitored greatly depends on the type of curriculum that is chosen at the time of enrollment, however parents and students may see any grades for work submitted at any time via the Internet.

Q. How is attendance monitored?

A. Attendance is monitored by the student's Instructional Supervisor (IS), a Pennsylvania certified teacher, using an Internet-based system. Reports are frequently generated to determine which students are not meeting the attendance requirements. If a student is not meeting those requirements, then the IS will contact the student and parent immediately to address the situation.

Q. What if I am not computer literate? Can I still participate? Is there support?

A. Students do not need to have extensive knowledge of computers to be successful at PA Cyber. Our trained technical staff has the ability to walk students through problems they may encounter using their new computer. We also provide a step-by-step guide to setting up each student's new computer, as well as a technical "welcome packet." Training on our various programs is also offered throughout the year.

Q. How do students socialize in cyber school?

A. PA Cyber offers various field trip opportunities throughout the year for students, their families and friends. Our students also establish friendships with other PA Cyber students through the Virtual Classroom, participating in Family Link activities and events, joining one of our high school clubs, and taking advantage of PA Cyber++ programs. Many of our students also choose to participate in community sports, clubs and teams in their areas on their own to create lasting friendships in that way.