

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARREN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION No. 12-02-01

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBSTANTIAL CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING
AND ACCOUNTABILITY REFORM BY THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF
THE WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, broad state oversight of public school financing is mandated, similar requirements are not mandated for charter schools to ensure fiscal transparency and accountability

WHEREAS, the current funding formula for charter schools is not linked to actual cost of education for regular and special education incurred by the charter school. It allows charter schools to selectively choose mildly disabled students and charge school districts the average cost of all disabled students. Furthermore, the funding formula for Cyber schools bears no relationship to the actual instructional costs of the distance learning program. The funding formula also ignores the cost of additional state mandates imposed on public schools and additional services provided by public schools;

WHEREAS, students do not leave school districts to attend charter schools in large groups within the same age range and therefore school districts are unable to proportionately reduce their budgets since fixed costs and infrastructure costs remain the same when students opt to enroll in a charter school;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's reimbursement to school districts for students attending charter and cyber charter schools has been completely eliminated in the 2011-2012 budget;

WHEREAS, school district expenditures for students attending charter schools has increased by \$332.5 million, or 112.6%, between 2003-2004 and 2007-2008, and in 2009-2010 school districts paid \$795 million to charter schools. (as cited by East Allegheny School District)

WHEREAS, the Warren County School District's charter school expenditures for the past 5 years reflect extraordinary costs that were borne by its taxpayers as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>District Expenditures</u>	<u>State Reimbursement</u>
2006-07	\$3,054,398.16	\$911,081.21 (received 07-08)
2007-08	\$3,110,994.99	\$933,298.50 (received 08-09)
2008-09	\$2,993,428.32	\$790,021.19 (received 09-10)
2009-10	\$3,066,019.44	\$698,066.19 (received 10-11)
2010-11	\$3,031,010.13	\$0.00 ¹
2011-12	\$3,050,346.71 (Estimated Total for Year)	\$0.00
TOTAL:	\$18,306,197.75	\$3,938,669.12

WHEREAS, the Auditor General of the Commonwealth issued a special report on charter and cyber charter school funding in September 2010 which outlined recommendations for addressing disparities with the Pennsylvania charter school funding formula, specifically advising that the Governor and

Pennsylvania General Assembly, with leadership from PDE and in consultation with impacted charter schools and school districts, should review the current formulas for calculating tuition at charter schools;

WHEREAS, charter schools have a mixed performance record, and cyber charter schools consistently underperform public schools, there are no academic performance targets or required corrective actions when such targets are not met, and charter school operators can be approved or renewed without a track record of academic success;

IN SUMMARY, the core concerns regarding charter schools, including funding, oversight, fiscal transparency and academic accountability, are not being addressed in the current Charter Reform measures being considered, and in fact, the current proposals could make some of these longstanding concerns worse;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Warren County School Board urges its elected officials to support any legislation that relieves the financial burden on school districts created by charter schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Warren County School Board directs its Board President to take immediate action to alert its district's state legislators about its position on this legislation and provide a copy of this resolution to them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Warren County School Board will encourage others including parents and teachers to contact the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support this legislation.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2012.

Signed,

School Board President

Board Secretary

(seal)

¹ For the 2010-11 school year and school years thereafter, the state has terminated all state reimbursement for charter/cyber schools.