Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School FAST FACTS

- The PA Cyber Charter funding formula is not in line with other states where funding comes from the state.

  - Colorado – funds full-time online schools at a state determined per pupil level
  - Florida – funds online schools only after successful student course completion
  - Nevada – funds online schools and traditional schools equally
  - Michigan – funds online schools and traditional schools equally
  - Ohio – funds online schools and traditional schools equally; online schools receive no local funding

- PDE presently does not investigate, and does not have the expertise or manpower to investigate tuition errors for residency, attendance, special education and eligibility. It is left up to the sending public school to "sue" for withheld subsidy to prove the error. Cyber charters ARE NOT accurate with attendance because they lose funds for lower attendance.

- There is no relationship between actual costs of cyber charter education and the money they receive from school districts. Cyber charter schools do not budget based on appropriate expenditures. They budget based on revenue. In other words, the revenue stream is guaranteed and can be spent whether needed or not. There is no accountability to a board that can levy taxes, is representative of the community needs, or can influence revenue.

- No cyber charter schools are making No Child Left Behind Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Why must school districts send money to failing schools when their own are making AYP?

- Most students who return to school districts from cyber charters arrive extremely far behind, often right before PSSA, and might have been given a special education label when they left without one. There is an over-identification of special education funding. Cyber charters have no limit to receive special ed funding as public schools do. All special education students receive nearly double regular education rate, regardless of disability.

- The profit margin for the "for profit" cyber management companies is taxpayer money. This is money not going to educate students, it is for shareholders. As an example, Agora Cyber receives six times the actual costs of providing <u>the same</u> service at a local public school. The profit goes to advertising and management. There is no limit to what can be paid to management companies.

- The Pennsylvania Department of Education's own data reports that charter schools spend more than twice that which district-run schools spend on administration.

- Cyber charter teachers ARE NOT subject to the same Act 82 Educator Effectiveness accountability regulations as school district teachers.

Please review the attached comparison between Agora Cyber Charter and a public school cyber program.

What's the Difference in Quality between Agora and Quakertown's Elementary Cyber Programs?

The numerical statistics below were obtained from the PA Department of Education on the following website:
http://paayp.emetric.net/

School Information	Agora	QCSD
What curriculum is used for kindergarten through fifth grade?	k12	k12
What does the K12 curriculum cost the taxpayers in Quakertown per student?	About $12,000	About $2,000
How does school enrollment affect the taxpayers of the community?	Costs 6x Higher	1/6 the Cost
Does the K-5 school offer after school activities in Quakertown?	No	Yes
Does the K-5 school offer band for students?	No	Yes
Does the K-5 school offer chorus for students?	No	Yes
Did the K-5 schools make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2005-2006?	No	Yes
Did the K-5 schools make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2006-2007?	No	Yes
Did the K-5 schools make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2007-2008?	No	Yes
Did the K-5 schools make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2008-2009?	No	Yes
Did the K-5 schools make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2009-2010?	No	Yes
Did the K-5 schools make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2010-2011?	No	Yes
Did the K-5 schools make Adequate Yearly Progress in 2011-2012?	No	Yes
Where are the teachers located?	Somewhere in the United States	Quakertown, PA
Can the students meet with the teacher in person?	Only Online	Yes
What is the **average class size** as of October 2012?	70-100 Students[1]	2-5 students
What was the **graduation rate** for 2011-2012?	49.33%	90.79%
What was the district's **attendance rate** for 2011-2012?	Not published by PDE	95.62%
What percent of 'Economically Disadvantaged' students met state targets?	45.18%	84.13%
Are teachers required to be Pennsylvania certified to teach at the school?	No	Yes
Must teachers take part in the Department of Ed's supervision and evaluation process?	No	Yes
How much taxpayer money was spent on **marketing, and not students**, by the 'parent company' or entire school district in 2010? (Most recent data available)	$26.5 Million[1]	$0

All parents want a quality education for their child. Each child deserves a quality education. As part of the Quakertown Community School District's Elementary Cyber Program, we can offer students **the exact same curriculum** through K12, with local, PA certified, highly qualified teachers. Students can also take part in specials at the school (library, art, etc.), PTO events, family fun nights, field trips, assemblies, band, chorus, meet with their teachers face to face, etc., **all while completing their elementary cyber program fully online from home.** Are you aware that *Agora is in "Corrective Action II – Third Year" because of poor performance*? Do you know that *all QCSD elementary schools have made AYP every year*? The difference in school quality is clear. Make the change today!

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[1] *Profits and Questions at Online Charter Schools*, **The Wall Street Journal**, Published: December 12, 2011, Page 6 of 7. To review this article about Agora Cyber School, visit the following website: goo.gl/zG4HJ. *(Shorted Web Address provided)*