

**Resolution Calling For Reform of
the Commonwealth's Charter and Cyber Charter School Funding Formula
By the Board of Directors of the Northern Lehigh School District**

WHEREAS, the current state funding formula for regular and special education in charter and cyber charter schools bears no relationship to the actual instructional costs incurred by the charter schools, and

WHEREAS, the charter and cyber charter school funding formula in the Public School Code is based on the sending school district's prior year budgeted expenditures per average daily membership minus certain budgeted expenditures of the district of residence including nonpublic school programs and student transportation services, rather than the charter or cyber charter school's actual costs to educate the student; and

WHEREAS, the charter and cyber charter school funding formula for special education differs from the formula used to calculate school district special education subsidies and again is based on the student's district of residence's special education expenditures for the prior school year; and

WHEREAS, the state's flawed charter school funding formula is costing taxpayers hundreds of millions in additional tax dollars, as Pennsylvania's school districts are facing unprecedented economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth's reimbursement to school districts for students attending charter schools was completely eliminated beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, and such funding was not restored under the 2012-13 state budget for K-12 education; and

WHEREAS, since the Commonwealth discontinued even partial reimbursement for charter schools costs to school districts, now 100 percent of the burden of charter school tuition falls to local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh School District's charter and cyber charter school expenditures for the past five years reflect extraordinary costs that were borne by its taxpayers as follows:

School Year	Charter School Expenditures	State Reimbursement to District	Number of Students
2008-09	266,315.80	39,338.63	27
2009-10	346,207.39	61,453.89	39
2010-11	464,494.67	80,889.29	51
2011-12	428,706.13	0.00	49
2012-13	451,154.73	0.00	52
Total:	1,956,878.72	181,681.81	

WHEREAS, school districts are required to pay charter and cyber charter schools for their employer pension contribution as part of the charter school funding formula; however, the state also reimburses charter schools for up to 50 percent of their pension contribution, thus allowing charter and cyber charter schools to receive payment for the same costs twice; and

WHEREAS, this pension "double-dip" is unnecessarily costing school district taxpayers an additional \$50 million each year, especially during a time when individual taxpayers cannot afford overpayments due to simple policy flaws.

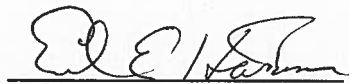
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Lehigh School Board urges its district's state legislators to support legislation to correct the tuition and pension payment inequities under the current charter school funding formula so that the funding received by the charter school reflects the true cost of educating the child, thus relieving the financial burden charter schools place on school districts and ensuring that local taxpayers are not overpaying for the services these schools provide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this district also urges the General Assembly to correct the flawed funding formula for charter schools as part of larger reforms needed to address appropriate mechanisms for authorization, oversight, and intervention to remedy various funding and governance concerns, as well as to establish and maintain financial and academic accountability.

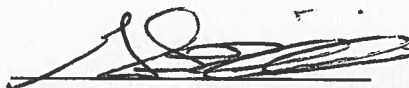
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be posted on the district's website and submitted to the elected state senators and representatives of the Northern Lehigh School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 8th day of April, 2013.

Signed,



School Board President



Board Secretary

(seal)