

# MCA School District



**Charter Cyber Costs  
July, 2024**

# Rising costs

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**In 2023-2024 our district paid \$1,357,847 towards cyber education.**

The cost of charter school districts continue to grow. Since 2007-08, cyber charter tuition costs have continued to grow by \$1.4 billion, or 229.5% while charter enrollments have only increased by 112.9%

(Source [www.pacharterchange.org](http://www.pacharterchange.org))

# Per student costs to our district for students to attend **OUTSIDE** cyber school

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***\*\*\* Students can attend TELA at a fraction of the cost to our district and taxpayers vs. students attending outside cyber charter schools.***

Regular education student cost to attend OUTSIDE cyber =  
Approx **\$8,214**

Special education student cost to attend OUTSIDE cyber =  
Approx **\$20,678**

- ***Did you know this is an additional cost to our district?***

# Different Funding Systems

## School Districts

Funding is based on the Special Education Funding Formula that differentiates students into three cost tiers according to their level of educational need.

## Charter Schools

Funding is based on a “one-size-fits-all” calculation that assumes 16% each school district’s students receive special education services.

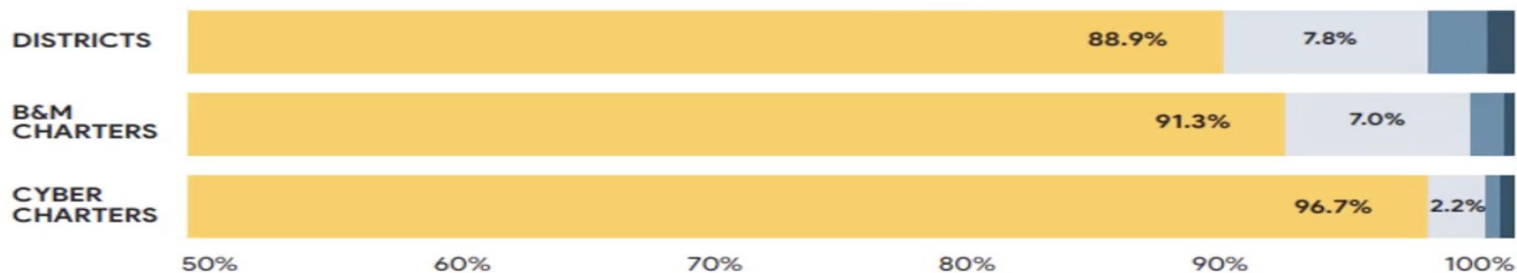
**In 2014, the Special Education Funding Commission recommended applying the same formula to charters and districts. Charter schools successfully lobbied to be exempted.**

Source: Education Voters of Pennsylvania

# \$185 million in overpayments to charters in 2020-2021

There are far fewer students with high-cost special education needs attending charters than there would be if charters enrolled the same proportion of students in each tier as school districts. Cyber charters enroll very few students with disabilities who require higher-cost services compared to school districts.

PERCENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS IN EACH TIER BY SCHOOL TYPE  
PENNSYLVANIA 2020 - 2021



2020 - 2021 Cyber Charter Graduation Rates from PDE	4 Year Cohort	6 Year Cohort	21-22 ELA PSSA % Proficient/Advanced	21-22 MATH PSSA % Proficient/Advanced	21-22 Science PSSA % Proficient/Advanced
School	Grad Rate	Grad Rate			
21st Century Cyber CS	69.39%	69.10%	50.20	20.00	38.70
ASPIRA Bilingual Cyber CS	69.70%	76.19%	7.30	2.10	3.50
Achievement House CS	49.37%	57.69%	36.80	6.40	21.20
Agora Cyber CS	50.66%	58.25%	28.60	6.40	32.50
Central PA Digital Lrng Found. CS	56.25%	68.00%	35.00	10.30	47.40
Commonwealth Charter Acad. CS	58.65%	66.62%	11.60	4.60	11.90
Esperanza Cyber CS	43.82%	66.10%	12.20	2.10	16.60
Insight PA Cyber CS	41.36%	32.73%	22.40	4.60	22.40
PA Cyber CS	57.37%	62.27%	29.50	12.40	27.20
PA Distance Learning CS	54.95%	58.82%	25.20	4.90	26.00
PA Leadership CS	76.55%	86.01%	43.30	23.60	48.60
PA Virtual CS	81.77%	84.82%	37.60	16.70	39.10
Reach Cyber CS	84.52%	76.67%	28.10	7.60	26.60
Susq-Cyber CS	57.50%	38.10%	***	***	***
Statewide Average for All Charter Schools, School Districts and CTCs	87.36%	89.86%	54.10	35.70	54.40

Source data from PA Department of Education (excel)

[2020-2021 Pennsylvania 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rates \(Excel\)](#)

[2020-2021 Pennsylvania 6-Year Cohort Graduation Rates \(Excel\)](#)

Future Ready PA Index : <https://futurereadypa.org/Search/Charter>

Entries in red are 20% points or more below statewide average

\*\*\* Insufficient Sample Size

# MCA CYBER BUDGET NUMBERS

2018-2019: TELA \$104,472 + Outside Cyber (89 students) \$838,522 = **\$942,994**

2019-2020: TELA (45 students) \$109,390 + Outside Cyber (67 students) \$723,313 =  
**\$833,303**

2020-2021: TELA (30 students) \$50,852 + Outside Cyber (88 students) \$1,126,854 = Current  
**\$1,177,706**

2021-2022: TELA (63 Full time, 5 Part time students) + Outside Cyber (75 students) =  
**\$1,168,596.76**

2022-2023: TELA (74 Full time, 7 Part time students) \$152,755 + Outside Cyber (70 students)  
\$951,761 = Total cost **\$1,104,516**

2023-2024: TELA (98 Students) Cost \$332,605 + Outside Cyber (82 students) **\$1,025,242 =**  
**Total Cost \$1,357,847**

**NOTES:**  
*TELA = Tornado eLearning Academy*

# Thinking about Cyber Education for your child?

- Tornado eLearning Academy is your best option!
- Why? Will graduate with MCA diploma, will have access to our prom, graduation, activities, athletics, extracurriculars, guidance and support staff, etc.
- ***TELA can provide the same virtual education as any outside cyber school!!***





# MORE INFORMATION

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- Please contact the elementary or high school main office for more information on our MCA's online cyber school called Tornado eLearning Academy (TELA.)
- We are encouraging all outside cyber school students to return to MCA or TELA.
- Educational pamphlet:

<http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/district-cyber-school-collaterals.pdf>

# We can offer a better cyber education with TELA!

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- Contact us for more information!
- 570 339 1500



The image shows a Facebook post from the Mount Carmel Area School District. The post features a circular logo for the Tornado Learning Academy (TELA) overlaid on a photograph of a young woman with long brown hair sitting at a desk, reading a book. The desk also has a laptop and several books. The post text states that the district is prepared to provide an excellent education in a safe environment, either in school or at home. At the bottom of the post, there is a 'Learn More' button, the URL [mca.k12.pa.us/TELA](http://mca.k12.pa.us/TELA), and a share count of 710 Shares.

**Mount Carmel Area School District**  
19 hrs · 🌐

Mount Carmel Area School District is prepared to give your child an excellent education in a safe environment — in school or at home.

**MOUNT CARMEL AREA  
TORNADO LEARNING ACADEMY**

[mca.k12.pa.us/TELA](http://mca.k12.pa.us/TELA)  
**[www.mca.k12.pa.us/TELA](http://www.mca.k12.pa.us/TELA)**

[Learn More](#)

👍❤️ 1935

710 Shares