

## COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

January 23, 2019

Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School Dr. John Chandler, Chief Executive Officer 630 Park Avenue King of Prussia, PA 19406

Dear Dr. Chandler,

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department) received the charter renewal application of the Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School (PA Virtual) dated September 28, 2015. Based on a thorough review of the charter renewal application and other documentation and the site visit conducted by the Department on November 2, 2016, the Department is renewing the charter of PA Virtual subject to the other information contained in this letter and any areas for correction noted with the Decision to Renew Charter. The renewed charter shall be effective for a term of five years beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2024.

The Department will continue to monitor and examine PA Virtual's operations over its renewed charter term to determine whether it is meeting the terms of its charter, the requirements of the Charter School Law, and other applicable state and federal mandates. By granting a renewed charter, the Department does not waive and expressly reserves the right to notify PA Virtual of any violation of these terms and requirements, and to seek correction of such violation. In addition, the Department does not waive and expressly reserves the right to take action against PA Virtual in the form of charter revocation or nonrenewal for reasons including, but not limited to, those which have been addressed through this charter renewal.

The Department also notes that particular attention will be given to the academic progress of PA Virtual's students through the Department's monitoring of various indicators, including, but not limited to, academic achievement, academic growth, and adjusted cohort graduation rate. More specifically, beginning Fall of 2018, the academic performance of all public schools, including cyber charter schools, are evaluated based on standards for annual meaningful differentiation as identified by Pennsylvania's ESSA State Plan. Each year, the Department will calculate each public school's progress toward meeting or exceeding long-term goals. In addition, a cyber charter school that is identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) will be required to take specific corrective actions. Failure to exit CSI status may serve as a basis for revocation or nonrenewal of the cyber charter's charter.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Dr. Khaleel Desaque by email at RA-edcybers@pa.gov or by telephone at (717) 783-6964.

Sincerely,

Pedro A. Rivera

Secretary of Education

## PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School Renewal Application Charter Renewal Effective: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2024

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## **Decision to Renew Charter**

Pursuant to the Charter School Law (CSL), 24 P.S. §§ 17-1701-A – 17-1751-A, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department) has the authority and responsibility to renew or not renew the charter of a cyber charter school. 24 P.S. § 17-1741-A(a)(3). The Department may decide not to renew a charter based on the criteria set forth in section 1729-A of the CSL, 24 P.S. § 17-1729-A. In addition, a cyber charter school must be in compliance with the material conditions, standards, and procedures contained in the written charter, meet the requirements for student performance set forth in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 4, meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management and audit requirements, be in compliance with the CSL and all other applicable law, provide all material components of each student's education, and maintain the financial ability to provide services.

The Pennsylvania Virtual Charter School (PA Virtual) was granted a charter by the Department for the term of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016. PA Virtual submitted a renewal application to continue operating a cyber charter school and has been permitted to continue to operate its cyber charter school by extension of the previous charter term until such time as the Department completed its review of the renewal application.

Based on a comprehensive review of PA Virtual's operation of its cyber charter school during the charter term of July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016, including the information submitted with the renewal application and the information gathered by the Department during its site visit to PA Virtual on November 2, 2016, and during the time since that site visit, the Department is renewing PA Virtual's charter to operate a cyber charter school. PA Virtual may continue to operate its cyber charter school by extension of the existing charter term, until the commencement of the term of the renewed charter.

The renewed charter shall be effective for a term of five (5) years beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2024.

The Department reserves the right to continue to assess and review PA Virtual's operation of its cyber charter school and to take action to revoke its charter based on any information that was or could have been reviewed prior to this charter renewal or discovered during future or ongoing assessments or reviews. The Department does not waive and expressly reserves the right to notify PA Virtual of any violation and to take action against PA Virtual, if necessary, including revocation or nonrenewal of the charter.

The Department is also providing written notice to PA Virtual of areas of the operation of its cyber charter school that require particular attention and correction. This notice is provided to allow PA Virtual the opportunity to address areas that may not be in compliance with applicable requirements. Failure to address areas identified by the Department may result in additional action by the Department, including revocation of the charter.

Pedro A, Rivera

Secretary of Education

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