



Pennsylvania Coalition
of Public Charter Schools

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Friends,

What a whirlwind of a year 2017 was for the Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools! With your help, we connected with thousands of charter supporters throughout the Keystone State, we led legislative efforts to strengthen our community of schools, and we worked harder than ever to empower charter leaders with the tools they need to ensure success for their staff and students.

When I began leading this organization in March 2017, I had a clear vision for the future of PCPCS. I wanted to hear directly from members on what services and support they needed most. I wanted to better connect with business and community leaders. And, I wanted to expand our leadership to include a broad coalition of individuals from across the state.

Today, I am proud to say that many of our goals have been met. As our organization continues to grow, so too does our impact. While we still have work to do, I wanted to share with you our “Top Ten Accomplishments of 2017,” so you can see first-hand the impact that your investment in PCPCS is having across the state and in the lives of children in Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Here’s to a successful 2018!

Best,

Ana Meyers
Executive Director, PCPCS



*Take a look at this
recap of the 10 most
exciting milestones and
accomplishments of
2017!*

NUMBER 10: GOING THE DISTANCE

PCPCS traveled more than 12,000 miles in 2017 meeting with schools and hosting events

From Harrisburg to Exton, Erie to Pittsburgh, Wilkes-Barre to Fogelsville, our team was ON THE ROAD! We met with hundreds of charter school supporters, visited more than 60 schools, and hosted events throughout the Keystone State. All in all, we traveled more than 12,000 miles in 2017.



NUMBER 9: CONNECTING WITH SUPPORTERS ONLINE

PCPCS launched a new website, hired a digital marketing firm, and increased social media use

We know just how important it is for PCPCS to actively engage online. That’s why we invested in a new organizational website to better promote the work of charter schools in Pennsylvania, hired a firm specifically designed to increase our digital engagement, and continued to connect with supporters through social media. We now have more than 5,000 followers on Facebook and have added more than 1,500 emails to our database!

NUMBER 8: LEADING IN THE LEGISLATURE AND ON THE LEGAL FRONT

PCPCS was THE voice for public charter schools in the capitol and fought to defend our rights and promote our values

PCPCS insured that the voices of charter schools were heard throughout the legislature. We fought hard to promote House Bill 97, the charter school reform bill that would provide much-needed updates to our 20-year-old charter law. We successfully removed cuts from the bill and defeated amendments detrimental to charters. We lobbied in support of House Bill 178, which creates Charter Management Organizations. We supported legislation to delay the use of the Keystone Exam as a graduation requirement for another year. We also ensured that new requirements on school board training could be obtained at no cost to the charter school, and gives flexibility in training. We fought to insure greater transparency in the Philadelphia SRC renewal process. Fought for clarification with the truancy law. We filed Petitions for Review with the Commonwealth Court requesting that the Court intervene to direct the PDE and the public school districts to provide the statutorily-mandated withholdings or payments owed to the charter schools for past schools years. We also filed an amicus curie in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in opposition to a restrictive covenant preventing the school district from selling a property to a charter school. We showed up. We met with legislators. We had our voices heard!



NUMBER 7: EXPANDING THE TEAM

Under the leadership of Executive Director Ana Meyers, PCPCS has brought on some great new hires

With the hire of Ana Meyers as the new Executive Director of PCPCS in March, great changes were made to improve the structure of the organization. Earlier this year Brandie Karpew was hired as the Director of Operations and Data Analytics. PCPCS also hired a public relations firm, Steinhauser Strategies. We’re thrilled to continue working with Dennis Gorno, who serves as our lead lobbyist as well as Kevin McKenna, who serves as PCPCS Legal Counsel.

NUMBER 6: GROWING OUR MEMBERSHIP

In 2017, PCPCS has welcomed 20 new member schools to the organization

As the leading organization representing public charter schools, we are excited to continue to grow our membership with the goal of representing all high-quality charter schools - both brick-and-mortar and cyber schools. This year we welcomed 20 new member schools! Thanks to our members for believing in our organization and trusting us to represent you!



NUMBER 5: CONNECTING WITH BUSINESS PARTNERS

PCPCS launched an exciting new “Business Partners Program” to better connect with companies that serve public charters

When polling our members, we learned that there was a desire for more engagement opportunities with businesses that serve public charter schools. We launched the “Business Partners Program,” to identify and promote businesses that specifically cater to charter schools.



NUMBER 4: HOSTING REGIONAL MEMBER EXCHANGES

PCPCS hosted four “Regional Member Exchanges” to connect with school operators and leaders statewide

Connecting with our members is one of the highlights of our work. We hosted four “Regional Member Exchange” events to provide school leaders with the opportunity to connect with one another, learn about our business partnerships, and provide critical feedback to PCPCS on how we can better serve them. These events will continue into the new year!

NUMBER 3: PROVIDING GRASSROOTS TRAINING

By empowering our members through grassroots trainings, we’re ensuring our voices are heard at every level

We understand how important it is to have our voices heard throughout the state. That’s why we hosted two half-day grassroots training events to educate our members on how to be effective charter advocates. These trainings are essential to ensuring that every school leader feels empowered to share their school’s story. We are proud to have offered this important training and hope to do more in 2018.



NUMBER 2: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PA CHARTER SCHOOLS

PCPCS hosted a celebratory press conference to recognize 20 years of public charter schools serving Pennsylvania families

Governor Tom Ridge joined hundreds at the capitol for a press conference and celebration. We had our voices heard inside the capitol and in the media. PCPCS celebrated the establishment of the charter law by recognizing students, parents, educators, and charter operators. We also worked hard to get much-needed updates to this law during the legislative session.

NUMBER 1: REPRESENTING YOU

The highlight of our year was the opportunity to represent YOU - the public charter schools of Pennsylvania!

It is our honor to represent public charter schools in Pennsylvania. We understand that for many families in our state, charter schools are the best option for their child. We celebrate the uniqueness of each charter. We advocate for the autonomy of our schools to provide the best education in the way that works for their students. And, we know that we must continue to defend the outstanding work of our schools.

