

FACILITIES FUNDING

POLICY COMPONENT

STATE POLICY DESCRIPTION

Per-Pupil Charter School Facilities Funding

POLICY: Pennsylvania provides charter schools with reimbursement for the costs of leasing a building or portions of buildings. The reimbursable rental charge is the lesser of either:

- The annual rent or
- A charter school's total enrollment times \$164 for elementary schools, \$220 for secondary schools, or \$270 for area vocational-technical schools.

CITATION: Title 24 Penn. Stat. Educ. § 25-2574.3

IMPACT: In 2023-24, Pennsylvania provided \$164 per pupil in facilities funding to charter schools. 30% of the state's charter schools received this funding.

State Charter School Facility Grant Programs

None.

State Public School Capital Funding Grant Programs

None.

ACCESS TO LOCAL ASSETS

POLICY COMPONENT

STATE POLICY DESCRIPTION

Access to Local District Tax Base for Facilities Dollars

None.

Access to Underutilized District Buildings

POLICY: Pennsylvania allows a charter school to be housed in public school buildings, a leased facility, or a privately-owned building. However, there is no statutory requirement that a local school district make available to a charter school any unused or underutilized local school district buildings.

CITATION: Title 24 Penn. Stat. Educ. § 17-1715 A (9)

IMPACT: Between 15% and 20% of charter schools in Pennsylvania are in district buildings.

FINANCING SUPPORT

POLICY COMPONENT

STATE POLICY DESCRIPTION

State Charter School Loan Programs

None.

State Credit Enhancement with Public Funding

None.

State Credit Enhancement with State Credit

None.

Access to Tax Exempt Financing

POLICY: Pennsylvania provides that charter schools may apply for tax-exempt financing through the State Public School Building Authority.

IMPACT: 42.5% of charter schools in Pennsylvania have accessed tax-exempt financing, totaling \$1,641,876,680 in financing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Pennsylvania offers limited options for charter school facilities support.

Pennsylvania's facilities policies can be improved by providing:

- More robust facilities funding,
- Access to local assets, and
- Financing support.