



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

January 25, 2024

Mr. Marc LeBlond
Pennwood Cyber Charter School
258 Brentwood Drive
Cogan Station, PA 17728
Marc.leblond@trincoll.edu

SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL AND E-MAIL

Dear Mr. LeBlond,

Thank you again for submitting the application for Pennwood Cyber Charter School. After reviewing the most recent application, it is the decision of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to grant your application. The signed decision is enclosed.

Also enclosed is a copy of the charter to be signed by all members of Pennwood Cyber Charter School's Board of Trustees. After all signatures have been affixed, please return the charter to Randy Seely, rseely@pa.gov. Upon receipt, I will sign the charter and you will be sent a copy of the fully executed charter.

If you have any questions, please contact Randy Seely at 717-705-0353 or rseely@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Mumin", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Khalid Mumin, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education

Enclosures


Decision to Grant Application

Pursuant to the Charter School Law (CSL), 24 P.S. §§ 17-1701 *et seq.*, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department) has the authority and responsibility to receive, review, and act on application for the establishment of a cyber charter school. 24 P.S. §17-1741-A(a)(1). A cyber charter school applicant must submit its application to the Department by October 1 of the school year preceding the school year in which the applicant proposes to commence operation. 24 P.S. § 17-1745-A(d). After submission of an application, the Department is required to hold at least one public hearing and grant or deny the application within 120 days of its receipt. 24 P.S. § 17-1745-A(e).

Pennwood Cyber Charter School (Pennwood) submitted its initial application (Initial Application) on September 26, 2022, to establish a cyber charter school. After a review of the Initial Application, and a public hearing, the Department denied Pennwood's Application by written decision issued January 13, 2023. Pursuant to section 1743-A(g) of the CSL, 24 P.S. § 17-1745-A(g), Pennwood revised and resubmitted its application (Revised Application) to the Department on March 17, 2023. After a review of the Revised Application, the Department denied Pennwood's Revised Application by written decision issued May 16, 2023. Pennwood submitted a new application (Application) to the Department on September 27, 2023.

After a review of the Application, and a public hearing held November 14, 2023, the Department has made the determination to grant Pennwood's Application. Therefore, Pennwood is authorized to operate as a cyber charter school pursuant to a charter that shall be for a term of five (5) years, beginning July 1, 2024, and ending June 20, 2029.

During its charter term, the Department will review, *inter alia*, Pennwood's curriculum, EL program, compliance with Safe Schools requirements, professional development and induction programs, finances, and general compliance with the CSL. The Department expects Pennwood to take additional action and for the review to include the following: (1) demonstration of additional standards alignment for courses where alignment was not provided in the Application; (2) an EL plan for administering instruments in person to newly enrolling ELs and alignment of its Cornerstone or Keystone curriculum to the current WIDA 2020 ELDS; (3) demonstration of compliance with all Safe Schools requirements and regulations; (4) adoption of a Professional Development plan that includes all required trainings and meets all current regulations; (5) adoption of a two-year Induction Plan that includes all required trainings and meets all current regulations; and, (6) budgets and financial statements with supporting documentation that evidence reasonable budget estimates and actual financial activity, independent of the support of Pearson Virtual Schools USA.



Khalid Mumin, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education

January 25, 2024

Date Mailed