



Media Alert

Duquesne City School District

information@dukesk12.org
412-466-5300

Duquesne City School District Board of Directors Passes Resolution Calling for Charter School Funding Reform

DUQUESNE, PA – March 29, 2022 – At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 29, the Duquesne City School District Board of School Directors unanimously passed a resolution calling for charter school funding reform. The resolution cited the state’s flawed charter school funding formula that has not been updated since 1997 and creates wide discrepancies in the amount of tuition paid by different districts to the same charter school for the same number of students.

These discrepancies in tuition rates for regular education students can vary by almost \$13,000 per student and by \$39,000 per special education student depending on the school district. These sums represent a significant overpayment by school districts throughout the state.

The resolution also cites Governor Wolf’s proposed Charter School Law reform that the administration estimates will save the district \$533,474 per year. The reform will apply a four-tiered special education funding formula to all charter schools and establish a statewide cyber charter tuition rate of \$9,500.

Currently, the Duquesne City School District pays in excess of \$3.7 million in charter and cyber school tuition every year. The district’s annual charter tuition rate is \$15,763.976 per child or \$38,644.69 for a student with special needs.

Dr. William Kerr, Receiver of the Duquesne City School District, said that Pennsylvania’s current charter school law is in need of reform.

Kerr said, “It is important to acknowledge that charter schools are public schools; however, it is also important that an even playing field for student tuition costs be established between charter schools and traditional K-12 school districts. Fiscal accountability for all taxpayer funded schools remains a high priority to protect and safeguard all school operations for equity and excellence.”

“Now more than ever, we need to better understand the politics of education and find reasonable voices of compromise and educational solutions that best serve ALL students”, Kerr added.

For more information, please contact [Sarah McCluan](#) at 412-841-8221.