

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Our History

Reach Cyber Charter School is AdvancED accredited as partnered through Connections Education and a PDE approved public school serving students in grades K-11 from across the state. Our students come from urban, suburban, and rural communities. The school was founded during the 2016–2017 school year as a K-9 STEM school. The school's first 12th grade class will graduate in June 2019.

Our Mission

Reach Cyber Charter School's mission is to help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards through a uniquely individualized learning program, through flexible pacing and 21st Century Learning including STEM opportunities.

OUR PROGRAM

Reach Cyber Charter School includes a four-year comprehensive high school program with 600 high school students out of 1,900 total enrolled students in grades K-11. Here are some important facts about our program:

- Reach Cyber Charter School is accredited by AdvancED as partnered through Connections Education.
- The school has 75 certified/licensed professional staff, where 24 are at the high school level.
- Flexible pacing options offered:
 - **Traditional** – Students take a full course load in the fall and spring sessions and do not attend school during the summer.
 - **Year Round** – This option provides students with more time for other activities or time to concentrate on a smaller number of classes, while still enabling them to complete a full course load by the end of the year by participating in summer coursework.



**REACH CYBER
CHARTER
SCHOOL**

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

Principal: [Jane Swan](#)

High School Assistant Principal (9-11): [Michael Hinshaw](#)

Middle School Assistant Principal (6-8): [Nancy Wagner](#)

Elementary Assistant Principal (K-5): [LeeAnn Ritchie](#)

Manager of Special Education: [Jennifer Berry-Propst](#)

Manager of Counseling: [Rachel Parker](#)

High School Counselor (A-K): [Rachel Lavelle](#)

High School Counselor (L-Z): [Erik Wiedman](#)

STEM Education Manager: [John McMurray](#)

- **Accelerated** (high school only) – Students attend three sessions full-time to complete more courses during a school year. This pace can be utilized for early graduation goals or to take advantage of more Advanced Placement (AP) and/or elective options.
- National Honor Society recognizes leaders and promotes service to others.
- STEM focused lesson activities (virtual and face-to-face) provide hands-on learning in a collaborative environment.
 - **Partnerships** with STEM-centered institutions and organizations give our students opportunities to build, design, and collaborate with others across the state.
 - **STEM oriented extra-curricular** activities such as day camps for coding, drones, robotics, stream studies, aquaponics, solar-car builds, WeatherSTEM, and Lego product builds.
 - **Independent study** STEM elective course for students who want to deepen their STEM knowledge in a particular field of study
 - **School Counselors** use a digital subscription to STEMJOBS and use lessons to connect interests & learning to STEM related careers.
 - **STEM day camps** across the state for all students throughout the school year.

COURSE OFFERINGS

Reach Cyber Charter School’s core curriculum is geared toward preparing students for college and beyond. Students have access to Honors, College Preparatory, and Basic programs.

Honors course offerings include: Algebra I & II, American Government, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English 9-11, Geometry, Marine Science, Physical Science, Pre-Calculus, U.S. History, and World History.

AP course offerings include: Algebra I & II, American Government, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English 9-11, Geometry, Marine Science, Physical Science, Pre-Calculus, U.S. History, and World History.

[Please view all of our high school courses](#)

GRADING SCALE

Student transcripts reflect weighted grades if the student took Honors or Advanced Placement courses. The numerical grading scale is as follows:

Grade	Numerical Percentage	Non-Weighted	Weighted (Honors)	Weighted (AP)
A+	98–100	4.00	4.50	5.00
A	92–97	4.00	4.50	5.00
A-	90–91	3.67	4.17	4.67
B+	88–89	3.33	3.83	4.33
B	82–87	3.00	3.50	4.00
B-	80–81	2.67	3.17	3.67
C+	78–79	2.33	2.83	3.33
C	72–77	2.00	2.50	3.00
C-	70–71	1.67	2.17	2.67
D+	68–69	1.33	1.83	2.33
D	62–67	1.00	1.50	2.00
D-	60–61	0.67	1.17	1.67
F	0–59	0.00	0.00	0.00

Class rank is calculated twice each year, at the conclusion of each semester. Class rank is based upon the student’s cumulative weighted GPA for all high school courses, including transfer courses.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Reach operates on a semester system utilizing Carnegie units. One semester class equals one-half of a high school credit. Students who have taken high school level courses while in middle school may have been granted high school credit. The typical course load is six classes per semester.

21 Carnegie units of credit are required for graduation. Specific requirements include:

Area/Subjects	# Units for Graduation
Language Arts	4
Mathematics	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Arts and/or Humanities	2
Health and P.E.	1
Additional courses*	5
Total	21

*Additional courses are from those listed approved for credit toward graduation by the school

Transcript Abbreviations

- CO** Course completed
- EN** Scheduled in section
- IP** Active in section
- PC** Student has completed course and teacher is finishing grading
- WF** Failing grade at time of withdrawal from course
- WP** Passing grade at time of withdrawal from course

TESTING

Reach adheres to all state testing requirements and additionally encourages students to take the appropriate college entrance and preparatory exams necessary for reaching their personal and academic goals.

Required State Testing:

Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based criterion-referenced assessment used to measure a student’s attainment of the academic standards while also determining the degree to which school programs enable students to attain proficiency of the standards. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 3 through 8 is assessed in English Language Arts and Math. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 4 and 8 is also assessed in Science. The PSSA exams will be given according to the calendar determined by the Department of Education; generally in April & May.

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. These exams include items written to the Assessment Anchors/Eligible Content aligned to the Pennsylvania Academic Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts and to the enhanced Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Science. All students, by their 11th grade year, must complete and score Proficient or Advanced on Keystone Assessments in Algebra 1, Biology, and English Literature or complete a Project Based Assessment in all 3 subjects. Students who have completed courses for which a Keystone Exam is assigned must take the corresponding Keystone Exam. Spring testing is generally offered in May and the summer testing is generally offered in July and August.

HIGH SCHOOL VIRTUAL VISITATION

College representatives are invited to connect with our students through web conferencing technology. Two weeks’ notice is greatly appreciated so that we have time to notify students. For more information about setting up a web conference session, please contact Rachel Parker at rparker@reach.connectionsacademy.org.



SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

- Reach Cyber Charter School’s population of students extends across 66 Pennsylvania counties and is made up of the following (percentages (%)):

White	58.1
Black/African American	21.1
Hispanic	13.2
Multiple	6.7
Asian	0.5
Am. Indian/Alaskan	0.4
Hawaiian/Pac. Islander	0.1

- 0.2% are English Language Learners