

ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

Our History

Reach Cyber Charter School (Reach) is a PDE approved public school and has been awarded highly regarded accreditation by the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Northwest Accreditation Commission and the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, an action approved by AdvancEd, now known as Cognia. Reach serves students in grades K-12 from across the Commonwealth state, including urban, suburban, and rural communities. Reach was founded during the 2016–2017 school year as a K-9 STEM school and graduated its first class of seniors in 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 1,560 high school students out of 3,400 total enrolled students in grades K-12. Here are some important facts about our program:

- Reach Cyber Charter School has 248 certified/licensed professional staff, where 70 are at the high school level.
- STEM-focused school with virtual and face-to-face project-based learning providing hands-on activities 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 team challenges, day camps for coding, drones, robotics, stream studies, aquaponics, solar-car builds, WeatherSTEM, and Lego product buildsSTEM courses, including but not limited to, “Computer Coding and Building with the Raspberry Pi” and an independent study STEM elective course for students who want to deepen their STEM knowledge in a particular field of study
 - STEM Coaches encourage and support teachers to engage their students in science, technology, engineering, and math as they exist in everyday life - interwoven and integrated into our curriculum



Our Vision

To inspire and nurture future success for all students!

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:

- CEO: [Mrs. Jane Swan](#)
- Lead Principal: [Mrs. LeeAnn Ritchie](#)
- Secondary Principal: [Ms. Christine Miller](#)
- Director of Career Pathways: [Mr. Jordann Smith](#)
- High School Assistant Principal (11&12): [Ms. Alicia Swope](#)
- High School Assistant Principal (10): [Mr. Devin Meza-Rushanan](#)
- High School Assistant Principal (9): [Mr. Michael Hinshaw](#)
- Elementary School Principal: [Mr. Corey Groff](#)
- Director of Special Education: [Mr. Gregory McCurdy](#)
- Director of STEM Education: [Mr. John McMurray](#)
- Director of MTSS: [Mrs. Rachel Graver](#)
- Director of Family Services: [Mrs. Nancy Wagner](#)
- Director of Counseling: [Mrs. Rachel Parker](#)
- Manager of Counseling: [Mr. Erik Wiedman](#)
- High School Counselor (A-C): [Mrs. Rachel Lavelle](#)
- High School Counselor (D-G): [Ms. Natalie Selby](#)
- High School Counselor (H-L): [Mrs. Laura Popovski](#)
- High School Counselor (M-R): [Mrs. Kristen Degilio](#)
- High School Counselor (S-Z): [Mrs. Racquel Rankin](#)
- 12th Grade Counselor (A-L): [Mrs. Susan Jaskewicz](#)
- 12th Grade Counselor (M-Z): [Ms. Jamie Sheets](#)

- Family Mentors assigned to all students by geographic location and responsible for developing strong, positive, and productive relationships with Reach families
- National Junior and Honor Society recognize leaders and promote service to others
- Parent Community Coordinators organize events across the state, providing opportunities for interaction with other families

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
- 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

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: English 11-12, Algebra 1 & 2, Geometry, Precalculus, Biology, Chemistry, Marine Science, Physical Science, American Government, United States History, World History

AP course offerings include: AP Calculus AB & BC, AP English Literature & Composition, AP Art History, AP Spanish, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, AP Human Geography, AP Macro and Micro Economics, AP United States Government and Politics, AP Computer Science

[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 G.P.A. 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 12th grade year, must complete and score Proficient or Advanced on Keystone Assessments in Algebra 1, Biology, and English Literature. 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.

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 67 Pennsylvania counties and is made up of the following:

- White..... 59%
- Black/African American..19%
- Hispanic or Latino..... 13%
- Multiracial..... 7%
- Asian.....<1%
- Am. Indian/Alaskan Hawaiian/
Pac. Islander.....<1%

Plans for Class of 2019	Percentage of Students
Four-year college	34%
Two-year college	24%
Employment	25%
Vocational Training	9%
Military	<1%
Other	7%