



**Statement by Dr. David Clark, CEO, Chester Community Charter
School
Chester, PA – September 1, 2015**

Charter Schools in Chester Upland Get Less, Do More

The [Chester Community Charter School \(CCCS\)](#) shares in the financial pain of the Chester Upland School District. The financial crisis now facing the District has meant CCCS has been completely unfunded by both the District and the Commonwealth, since June 25th. In fact, CCCS has not been paid by the District, since March 19th, despite the legal requirement that the District pay the school each month. CCCS opened its doors to its students, yesterday, for the start of the 2015-2016 school year, in spite of the lack of funding.

It is unfair and inaccurate for the Receiver to characterize the Chester Upland School District's financial woes as a result of charter school payments.

While charters educate more than 60 percent of the District's students, they only receive 45 percent of the District's funding. In fact, based on the amended recovery plan filed by District's Receiver last week, the District plans to spend a total of \$23,645 per student in District-operated schools, as opposed to the \$16,782 total funding per student received by charter schools.

It is also inaccurate for the Receiver to imply that its schools are more greatly impacted by this crisis than the charters because the District continues to receive local tax revenue, which it has not shared with the charters.

Prior to July 1st, when the new fiscal year began, CCCS was already owed more than \$5 million in statutory funding from the District, all of which remains unpaid to date.

The fact that the District and the Commonwealth have both failed to make statutory payments to charters in July and August, and are now poised to miss the September payment, has made the impact on the charter schools far greater. Charter schools in the District will be owed more than \$20 million by September 5th.

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Despite many decades of financial distress, the majority of which were spent under state control, CCCS remains committed to educating the students of Chester. CCCS is ready and willing to provide assistance to the District and would welcome the opportunity to work together.

CCCS regrets the situation, but the charter schools are not part of the problem, they are part of the solution. Charters are providing a better education with less funding. Their continued operation in an unfunded state clearly demonstrates their commitment to the students of Chester.

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