



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 18, 2013

**STATEMENT OF RECEIVER JOE WATKINS  
REGARDING QUESTIONS ABOUT CHESTER COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL**

I recently asked Robert M. DiOrio, a highly regarded attorney with expertise in education law, to review questions about whether Chester Community Charter School was authorized to operate as a K-8 charter school. Mr. DiOrio read the state auditor general's report and reviewed all relevant records. Today he shared his findings:

**"This transmittal is in response to your recent indication of an inquiry by the Chester Upland Board of School Directors concerning the present legal authorization of the Chester Community Charter School (Charter School).**

**"My review of available records indicates that as a result of a 1997 application pursuant to the Charter School law, Act 22 of 1997, the Charter School was originally authorized by the School Board in 1998, being renewed in 2001, 2006 and 2011.**

**"During this period, the Charter School grew to service grades K-8, the specific details of which obviously were reviewed and approved by the School Board during each renewal process, all of which services have been funded by the District as required by law.**

**"Moreover, as mandated by the Charter School Law, the Charter School has filed annual reports with the Pennsylvania Department of Education disclosing the K-8 services.**

**Accordingly, it should be apparent that the Charter School is authorized to serve grades K-8 until the expiration of the present renewal period."**

Based on Mr. DiOrio's review, I consider the matter closed.

Mr. DiOrio served as the attorney representing the state Department of Education when the District Court appointed me Receiver of the Chester Upland School District last December.

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