



April 2, 2024

Dear Auditor General DeFoor,

I am writing today to [again](#) bring to your attention serious concerns about Commonwealth Charter Academy and request that you immediately open an audit of the school to help ensure accountability and transparency for CCA's use of tax dollars.

Commonwealth Charter Academy is Pennsylvania's largest cyber charter school, which, according to its [990 form from 2022](#), received \$397 million in revenue, reported \$279 million in expenses, and posted more than \$559 million in total assets.

It has been more than a decade since CCA has been audited by the Auditor General's office. With no state oversight of this organization's spending for so many years, the opportunities for waste, fraud, and abuse are staggering.

And CCA's recent denials of multiple Right-to-Know requests filed by our organization and their assertion that the organization has no records responsive to the requests raise serious concerns about how CCA is both spending and documenting the tax dollars it spends.

[A publicly posted job advertisement](#) for an administrative assistant/receptionist position in the CCA Harrisburg office refers to "fleet vehicles," "family fun fests," "food trucks," a "Marketing team and staff," and more.

These are not expenses that would be typical for a public school district. And because cyber charter schools are funded primarily through the property taxes that school districts raise at the local level, it is reasonable that taxpayers should be able to understand how much tax money a cyber charter school spends on marketing staff, fleet cars, food trucks, fun fests, and more.

I filed three separate Right-to-Know requests seeking information about expenses specific to events, positions, and company assets specifically referenced in the job description. CCA denied all three of these requests, claiming that they had no responsive records.

CCA's assertion that the organization has no responsive records raises enormous red flags about the organization's record keeping and transparency for their spending.

Please find below detailed and linked documents related to the Right-to-Know requests.

[The job advertisement](#) included that the successful applicant would be responsible for the completion of the following task:

Manage and maintain fleet vehicles to include reviewing travel request forms and scheduling vehicles, maintaining gas receipts for vehicle expense reports, tracking keys/credit cards/gas receipts, inspecting vehicles for cleanliness, and scheduling vehicle maintenance services and transporting to service providers as needed.

I filed a Right-to-Know request seeking:

"All documentation related to the lease or purchase of all vehicles by CCA during the 2019-2023 calendar years, including, but not limited to invoices, receipts, and lease agreements."

[CCA denied the request, stating they had no responsive records.](#)

[The job advertisement](#) included that this individual would be responsible for:

- *Providing administrative support for both center and school-wide events such as Family Fun Fests, Graduation, Back-to-School, and the welcoming of new staff to the assigned Family Service Center.*
- *Working independently or closely with other CCAST positions to have events specific to assigned Center to include theme parties, food trucks, or other employee engagement activities.*

I filed a Right-to-Know request with CCA seeking:

- “All documentation related to costs incurred for the following events for the entire CCA organization for the calendar years 2021-2023: Family Fun Fests, Back-to-School, and welcoming of new staff.”
- “All documentation related to costs incurred for theme parties, food trucks and other employee engagement activities for the entire CCA organization for the calendar years 2021-2023.”

[CCA denied the request stating that they had no responsive records.](#)

[The job advertisement](#) states that the individual hired for this position would need to:

Provide support to Marketing team and staff to ensure that all resources are available and ready for upcoming events to include: replenishing collateral material, charging and tracking of all technology including iPads, ordering supplies or food as requested, attending if needed and coordinating all other miscellaneous items for the overall success of the marketing event.

I filed a Right-to-Know request on 1/25/2024 seeking:

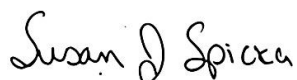
- “Titles of positions of all employees and contractors who are part of the “Marketing team and staff.”
- “Salary, expense and benefit information for all employees and contractors who are part of the “Marketing team and staff.”

[CCA denied the request stating that they had no responsive records.](#)

Pennsylvanians rely on the Auditor General’s office to fight against waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer funding and to ensure that precious school tax dollars are being invested wisely into educating our public school students. I most strongly urge you to immediately open an audit of CCA to help ensure transparency and accountability for how this organization is spending hundreds of millions of tax dollars each year, and specifically to investigate the issues raised in this letter.

I would be happy to discuss this further at your convenience.

Best,



Susan Spicka, Executive Director, Education Voters of PA.