

Contact Milli Bravo
Telephone (302) 778-5999
Email millib@DECharterNetwork.org
Website www.DECharterNetwork.org

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THE DELAWARE CHARTER COMMUNITY WELCOMES CINDY MARTEN

Delaware's charter schools look forward to working with Secretary of Education nominee.

Wilmington, DE, January 15, 2025– The Delaware Charter Community Welcomes the New Secretary of Education Nominee

The long-awaited and highly speculated nomination for Delaware's next Secretary of Education has finally been announced. Governor-elect Matt Meyer has named Ms. Cynthia "Cindy" Marten as his pick to lead our state's education system. Marten has spent over three decades in education, from a classroom teacher to the Deputy Secretary in the U.S. Department of Education under President Joe Biden. She has now been chosen to take on the challenge of leading education efforts here in Delaware.

Marten has shared her commitment to addressing some of the most pressing issues in education: updating our antiquated school funding formula, improving student outcomes, implementing universal Pre-K, and more. As she said, "The status quo is unacceptable, and change is coming."

At the Delaware Charter Schools Network (DCSN), we are encouraged by Marten's agreement that change is needed. We have been fighting for these very changes for the last 30 years, advocating for a more equitable, flexible, and innovative approach to education. For us, it's about making sure all students, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to succeed.

Kendall Massett, Executive Director of DCSN, said, "I have known Governor-elect Meyer for over a decade since his time as a charter public school teacher at Prestige Academy, one of our City of Wilmington charter public schools. As a charter public school teacher, Governor-elect Meyer harnessed the power of autonomy in exchange for accountability to make the changes needed for the children in

his classroom. I know that he believes in the potential of an excellent public school—charter and district—to provide opportunities for all children to succeed in life. As Secretary of Education, the nominee will lead the agency responsible for authorizing 22 out of 24 charter public schools in Delaware. I am confident that, in making this decision, Governor-elect Meyer discussed this, as well as these fundamental beliefs, with his Secretary of Education nominee.”

Our schools are deeply committed to the success of all students. As Edward Emmett, leader of Positive Outcomes Charter School and Board Chair of DCSN, noted, “The Charter Schools Network looks forward to new ideas and energy meeting and working with the nominee for Delaware’s next Secretary of Education. Her experience dealing with the challenges in education on a national level will help us continue our efforts to positively impact the lives of all children in Delaware.”

Dr. Evelyn Edney, Ed.D., School Leader of Early College School @ Delaware State University, shared her enthusiasm about the nomination, saying, "As the President-Elect of the Board of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, I have had the pleasure of meeting many great people while advocating on behalf of education in our country. One of those people is current U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, Cindy Marten. Her story is one of resilience, strength, and grit. She is a champion for all students, and as a charter leader, I know that she will work hard to fight for equitable education for all students in our great state of Delaware, and I am excited to begin working with her! Welcome to Delaware, Secretary Marten!"

As we move forward, we must also recognize the importance of supporting all within the public education system, including charter schools. As the leadership team at Odyssey Charter School stated, “The formula and funding approach in Delaware continues to disproportionately disadvantage charter schools, a critical part of the public education system. As discussions on equitable access and resources progress, we urge the nominee for Secretary of Education to prioritize support for all students, including those in charter schools. We look forward to collaborating with her to address Delaware's educational challenges and ensure success for every student.”

As we welcome Ms. Marten to Delaware, we hope to see continued support for charter schools as we work together to ensure all children in our state have access to the quality education they deserve. We are confident that her leadership, along with Governor-elect Meyer’s vision, will help drive the changes necessary to make education more equitable, accessible, and effective for all Delaware students.

We look forward to working with Secretary Marten as we continue to build a brighter future for Delaware’s students.

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Milli Bravo at (302) 778-5999 or email at millib@DECharterNetwork.org.