

For Immediate Release

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Statement from the Delaware Charter Schools Network on Inclusive School Culture and Safety

Wilmington, DE –

Recently, our community has been filled with fear and uncertainty, as external factors have begun to impact the safety and peace of mind of our students and families. As a network, we understand that our responsibility goes beyond providing quality education—we are also responsible for ensuring that our schools remain sacred spaces where children feel safe, respected, and able to learn without fear or disruption.

The Delaware charter community is comprised of not only 24 charter schools, 19,032 students, over 2,000 staff members, and 200 volunteer board members, but also their families, friends, and the community members they impact. We pride ourselves on including everyone at the table and believe that every person has the right to have a voice, regardless of who they are or where they come from. In other words, we believe every member of the Delaware school community matters—regardless of who they love, how they identify, or their immigration status.

Schools are sacred places. They are not just sensitive environments—they are **sacred**. We must protect the sanctity of all schools and ensure that these spaces remain safe and conducive to learning for all students.

To that end, the Delaware Charter Schools Network (DCSN) collaborates with our community to create and provide essential resources that assist our charter schools in their ongoing efforts to ensure the safety of all students. When families send their children to school, they do so with the belief that these are sacred spaces where their children will be safe. We will continue to work with our school community to protect the sanctity of their school buildings. Ultimately, our focus is on ensuring that children can learn in an environment that supports their growth and safety.

At the end of the day, we care deeply about keeping our community safe, allowing our kids to be kids, and providing them with the opportunity to learn. Families should never have to fear for their children's safety at school, nor should anyone feel unwelcome or unsafe based on external forces that could disrupt their peace of mind. This is not about politics—it's about our schools, children, and providing

every student with the opportunity to learn. Our network is committed to working with our local, state, and federal legislators to ensure that our children are safe, that our families can trust in the safety of their schools, and that our schools continue to be the sacred spaces they were designed to be.

About Public Charter Schools

Public charter schools are independent, public, and tuition-free schools that are given the freedom to be more innovative while being held accountable for advancing student achievement. Since 1996, Delaware has provided parents the opportunity to choose the school that is best for their child(ren). Today, there are 23 charter schools in Delaware, serving over 18,000 students. Four of the [top ten high schools in Delaware](#) as noted by U.S. News and World Report are charter schools. Separate studies by the Center on Reinventing Public Education and Mathematica Policy Research have found that charter school students are more likely to graduate from high school, go on to college, stay in college and have higher earnings in early adulthood.

About the Delaware Charter Schools Network

The Delaware Charter Schools Network is a non-profit organization created in 2001 to support the charter school movement and charter schools in Delaware. The Network educates the public about charter schools, provides assistance to existing Delaware charter schools and those yet to open, and serves as a unified voice for the state's charter schools at the state and national level. For more information, please visit www.decharternetwork.org