

Dear Chester Upland School District Community,

I am writing to share the news that Widener University is transferring ownership and management of WPCS to the Chester Upland School District this summer, as the university and district expand their partnership in new and exciting ways. This change means the school will become part of the district as a public school, and Widener will explore expanding the supplemental support services it provides in classrooms at WPCS as well as to other district schools.

This shift will allow WPCS students to access new benefits that a public school district can provide, such as extra-curricular activities, like sports. In addition, the university will expand generous Widener scholarship opportunities to students and faculty district wide.

While the WPCS name will change (in a process to be determined), the district is not planning any significant program changes for the coming school year. Students should not see any significant changes. We will work closely with WPCS Principal Kareem Goodwin to make sure the transition is smooth, and the experience is positive for students and staff. It is important that all the great work WPCS is doing continues – in the coming school year, and beyond.

As many WPCS employees as possible will stay at the school for the 2022-23 school year, and we are also looking forward to continuing as many of the excellent programs and services as possible that make the school such a warm and positive educational environment. CUSD will work with WPCS to ensure teachers and other staff at WPCS meet Pennsylvania Department of Education requirements. Under state law, WPCS teachers will also become members of the Chester Upland Education Association (teachers' union) when CUSD assumes leadership of the school.

As part of this change, Widener has also announced an exciting and generous expansion of scholarship offers to **all** Chester Upland School District graduates who meet admissions requirements: a minimum \$100,000 over four years for full-time undergraduate study at Widener. The university will also offer scholarships to CUSD teachers and administrators to complete graduate work at the university. Widener is also planning to explore opportunities for broadening the services its university students and staff provide to students in Chester schools, for things like social work and occupational therapy. This is part of the university's commitment to this community.

We are sure that you have many questions about the details of this transition and what it means for the school district. Please visit the [WPCS website](#) to see frequently asked questions and a video. There will also be two information sessions: at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 26 in the WPCS cafeteria, which is also available on Zoom (use link <https://widener.zoom.us/j/6590172147>), or at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 31 in the school gymnasium.

I know that change of any kind can be difficult, and the district wants to make this transition smooth and positive for all involved. We look forward to strengthening the educational experience for students in Chester.

Sincerely,

Dr. Craig Parkinson, Superintendent of Schools, Chester Upland School District