



Pennsylvania Department of the

# AUDITOR GENERAL

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## News for Immediate Release

Feb. 19, 2020

### Auditor General DePasquale Completes Audit of I-LEAD Charter School in Berks County

**HARRISBURG** – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today released the results of his performance audit of the I-LEAD charter school in Reading, Berks County.

“I take very seriously the responsibility for auditing all schools because I want every student to get the best education possible in a safe learning environment,” DePasquale said. “This was my team’s first audit of I-LEAD Charter School and I appreciate the cooperation from school officials.”

Auditors found that I-LEAD failed to conduct all required fire and safety drills over the course of two school years.

“State law does not afford schools any exceptions when it comes to conducting fire drills,” DePasquale said. “My report includes three recommendations for better compliance with the law and I am pleased that school leaders agree that there is room for improvement.”

The I-LEAD charter school, which serves approximately 400 students in grades 9 to 12, receives approximately \$5.4 million in taxpayer funding annually from the Reading School District.

I-LEAD is currently operating under the charter that expired June 30, 2019, while it awaits action from the district on its application for renewal.

“Pennsylvania has the worst charter school law in the nation,” DePasquale said. “Until the General Assembly acts to fix that, I will continue to conduct audits that hold all schools accountable to the students and taxpayers they serve.”

Review the [I-LEAD Charter School performance audit](#) and learn more about the Department of the Auditor General online at [www.PaAuditor.gov](http://www.PaAuditor.gov).

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#### Academic Information

School audit reports include academic information as reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Education. The following provides a comparison academic performance of students at I-LEAD Charter School and the [Reading School District](#) based on comparable years in the most recent audits.

##### 2015-2016 – School Performance Profile (SPP) Scores

I-LEAD Charter 32.5 vs. Reading SD 49.6

##### 2015-2016 - Keystone Exam Scores

*(Percentage of students scoring as proficient or advanced)*

English: I-LEAD Charter 9.5 % vs. Reading SD 61.7%

Math: I-LEAD Charter 7.7% vs. Reading SD 51%

##### 2015-2016 - Graduation Rate *(Statewide average = 88.8%)*

I-LEAD Charter 51.2% vs. Reading SD 69.9%