

CHESTER CELEBRATES A DECADE OF ONLINE ED.

• MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS LEARNING ONLINE AT CYBER SCHOOL

A decade ago, the concept of a “School Without Walls” became a reality in the Chester Area School District with the creation of the Chester Cyber School.

Chester Cyber School allowed students from Hutterite colonies, who previously ended formal education at the 8th grade, the opportunity to receive a high school education.

“Time and place take on new meaning when students have the flexibility to complete assignments at any time of the day and from any location,” Superintendent Heath Larson said. “While the delivery method may be flexible, our curriculum aligns with the rigorous standards and is facilitated by South Dakota certified instructors.”

The program evolved in 2009, as Chester united with High Plains Alternative School to offer on-site education to students who would

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*Heath Larson
Chester Area School District Superintendent*

succeed in a more individualized setting. In 2010, the online offering expanded further, becoming a provider for South Dakota Virtual School and allowing students from any district in the state to take classes from the highly qualified Chester Online Learning teachers.

Currently, Chester’s online learning program has thirteen staff members for the Chester Cyber School, High Plains Alternative School, and the South Dakota Virtual School.

Eight colonies and 75 students enrolled during the first year of existence and has grown to 22 colonies with 208 students enrolled in 2014.

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