

Characteristic	Homeschool	Cyber Charter School	BEW - Micro School	Traditional Brick & Mortar School
Student progresses at his own pace. Curriculum content is individualized for each student.	yes	Yes - a little bit, but not much	In addition to individualized pacing, the educator spends time every two weeks checking student pace on formative assessments, projects, and written communications. Adjustments are made in a timely way and involve a certified educator looking at multiple data points.	Somewhat – based on teacher resources. For example students with IEP’s receive more targeted pacing.
Curriculum level matches student’s ability & meets state level expectations	yes	yes	Curriculum is also aligned to the national Common Core Standards adopted in 2010 by a significant majority of states: http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states Students will be prepared to national assessments which promise to be more rigorous with higher level thinking skills than current state level assessments – including the PSSA’s. New national tests will be norm referenced and most similar to the MCAS (Massachusetts performance assessment).	Somewhat – based on teacher resources. For example students with IEP’s receive more targeted pacing. PA is one of the state to adopt Common Core Standards with implementation plans in the next two years (source PDE)
Student receives individualized, 1-on-1 instruction Student may ask questions of teachers as they arise either virtually or face to face. Student has face-to-face & virtual interactions with other students	yes, through academic co-ops, clubs, teams, field trips, extra-curricular activities, and college classes for older students. Depends on activities	yes, through all the things homeschoolers experience, plus monthly field trips. Some cybers offer blended activities, where the teachers meet face-to-face with the students weekly, twice a week, or biweekly.	BEW MicroSchool teacher time comparison with traditional “Brick & Mortar” http://www.byrneeducationalworks.org/tsc.html BEW MicroSchool Monthly Student Learning Support http://www.byrneeducationalworks.org/msls.html In addition, BEW MicroSchool plans to provide monthly field trips for all students and parents. All BEW Students will be connected through either EPIC or Blackboard technology to provide virtual forums for dialogue, discussion, or debate.	Somewhat – based on teacher resources. Some classrooms, especially at the younger ages or if a teacher has a cluster of IEP students, may have additional teacher aides or certified Special Education Teachers.
Cost	Varies a lot, from less than \$100 to several thousand dollars Plus property tax based on location.	Property tax based on location	Negotiable based on family economics. With states like PA moving towards vouchers, cost will be more standardized. Until legislation is enacted: Negotiable tuition + Property tax based on location	Property tax based on location.
Family is required to submit paperwork showing learning has occurred.	Act 88 requirements	Act 88 requirement plus those of school	Act 88 requirements	Act 88 requirement plus those of school
When and where does school occur?	Anytime and anywhere it’s convenient for the student and family.	Anytime and anywhere it’s convenient for the student and family.	BEW MicroSchool Weekly Educator Support http://www.byrneeducationalworks.org/wes.html BEW MicroSchool Monthly Student Learning Support http://www.byrneeducationalworks.org/msls.html	In a building Monday-Friday, during a fixed time, roughly 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.
What is the yearly schedule?	Determined by family	PA DOE requirement of 180 days	BEW MicroSchool Educators are available 218 days a year - Tuesday thru Saturday. BEW MicroSchool Educators are not available during holidays and the months of June and December.	PA DOE requirement of 180 days