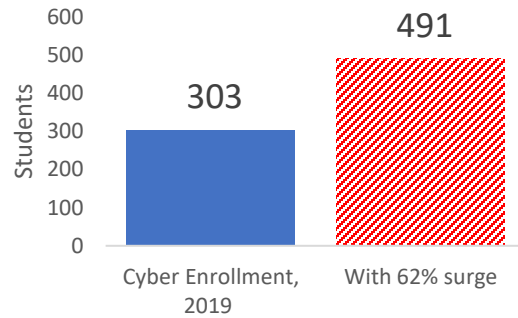


## House District 128 - Representative Mark Gillen

### Payments to cyber charters up by \$2.7 million in House District 128 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 1 percent

#### Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 303 students in House District 128 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 491 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in House District 128 will jump by an additional \$2.7 million this year, a shocking 56 percent increase** over the comparable tuition expense in 2019.

Rising cyber enrollment intensifies pressure on local property taxes. To cover this new cost, **House District 128 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 1.1 % on average.**

**The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken.** House District 26 school districts currently pay up to \$32,637 in special education tuition and \$14,269 for other students. That is significantly more than the actual costs of providing an online education and is a boon to cyber charter operators.

**HB 272 will save House District 128 over \$1.2 million by bringing charter school tuition in line with payments to other public schools.** The bill standardizes cyber charter tuition at \$9,500 and requires charter schools to use the same criteria as all public schools to calculate special education tuition.

HB 272 Reforms	House District 128 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$1,168,426
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$60,065
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$1,228,491</b>

*Sources: Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (for cyber tuition expense increases and property tax estimates) and PDE (for enrollment, tuition rates, and savings estimates)*