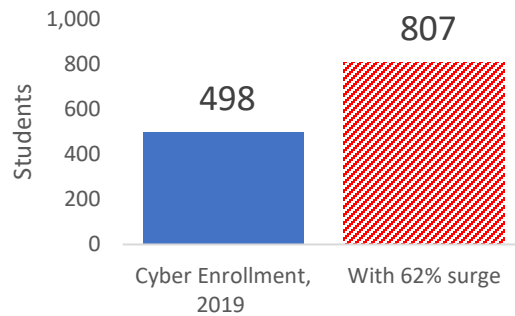


House District 105 - Representative Andrew Lewis

Payments to cyber charters up by \$2.7 million in House District 105 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by nearly 2 percent

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly. Before the pandemic, 498 students in House District 105 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 807 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in House District 105 will jump by an additional \$2.7 million this year, a shocking 36 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 105 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 1.97 % on average.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. House District 26 school districts currently pay up to \$28,427 in special education tuition and \$12,342 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 105 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 105 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$1,094,085
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$132,934
Total Savings	\$1,227,019

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)