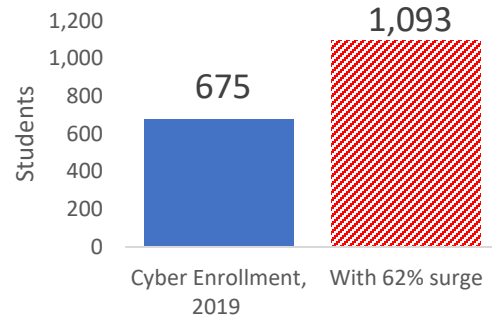


## House District 115 - Representative Maureen Madden

### Payments to cyber charters up by \$13.0 million in House District 115 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 4 percent

#### Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 675 students in House District 115 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 1,093 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in House District 115 will jump by an additional \$13.0 million this year, a shocking 92 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 115 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 4.35 % on average.**

**The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken.** House District 26 school districts currently pay up to \$37,830 in special education tuition and \$15,731 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 115 over \$5.3 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 115 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$5,251,077
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$85,303
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$5,336,380</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)*