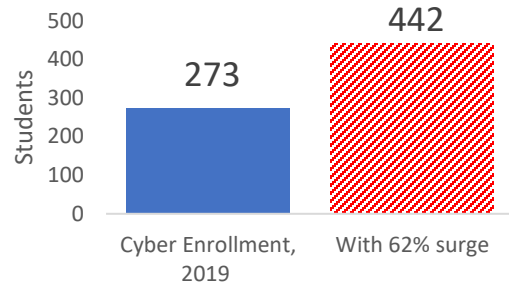


## House District 123 - Representative Tim Twardzik

### Payments to cyber charters up by \$1.6 million in House District 123 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by nearly 3 percent

#### Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 273 students in House District 123 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 442 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in House District 123 will jump by an additional \$1.6 million this year, a shocking 37 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 123 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 2.9 % on average.**

**The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken.** House District 26 school districts currently pay up to \$34,906 in special education tuition and \$12,693 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 123 over \$1.6 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 123 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$752,689
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$944,917
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$1,697,606</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 estimate)