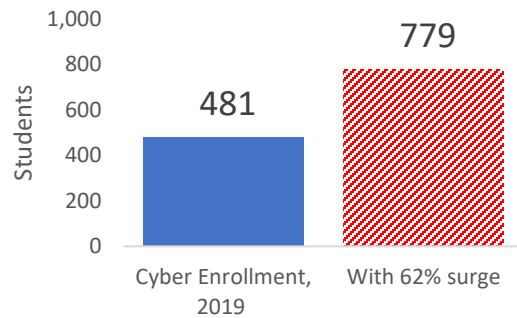


House District 163 - Representative Mike Zabell

Payments to cyber charters up by \$7.2 million in House District 163 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 3 percent

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly. Before the pandemic, 481 students in House District 163 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 779 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in House District 163 will jump by an additional \$7.2 million this year, a shocking 95 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 163 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 3.25 % on average.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. House District 26 school districts currently pay up to \$33,909 in special education tuition and \$12,057 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 163 over \$3.3 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 163 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$1,607,807
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$1,746,396
Total Savings	\$3,354,203

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)