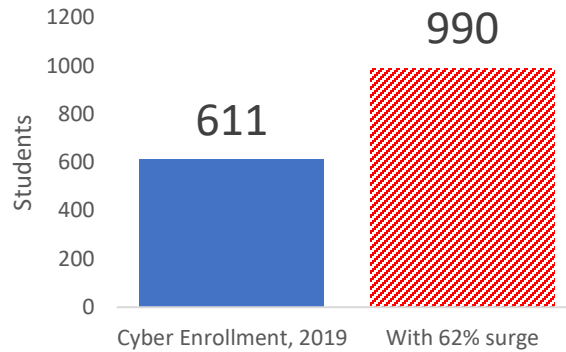


Senate District 36 - Senator Ryan Aument

Payments to cyber charters up by \$8.3 million in Senate District 36 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 1.5 percent

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly. Before the pandemic, 611 students in Senate District 36 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to nearly 1,000 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in Senate District 36 will jump by an additional \$8.3 million this year, a shocking 91 percent increase** over the comparable tuition expense in 2019.

Rising cyber enrollment intensifies pressure on local property taxes. To cover this new cost, **Senate District 36 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 1.77% on average.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Senate District 36 school districts currently pay up to \$32,850 in special education tuition and \$15,076 for other students. That is significantly more than the actual costs of providing an online education and is a boon to cyber charter operators.

SB 27 will save Senate District 36 over \$1.7 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.

SB 27 Reforms	Senate District 36 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$1,616,959
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$120,446
Total Savings	\$1,737,404

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)