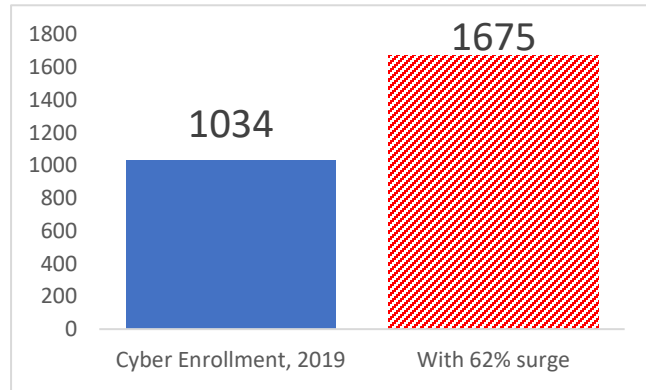


Senate District 30 - Senator Judy Ward

Payments to cyber charters up by \$9 million in Senate District 30 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 5 percent

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly. Before the pandemic, 1,034 students in Senate District 30 district were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 1,600 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in Senate District 30 will jump by an additional \$9.0 million this year, a shocking 59 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 30 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 5.34% on average.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Senate District 30 school districts currently pay up to \$34,131 in special education tuition and \$13,679 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 30 over \$1.9 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 30 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$1,211,148
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$730,753
Total Savings	\$1,941,721

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)