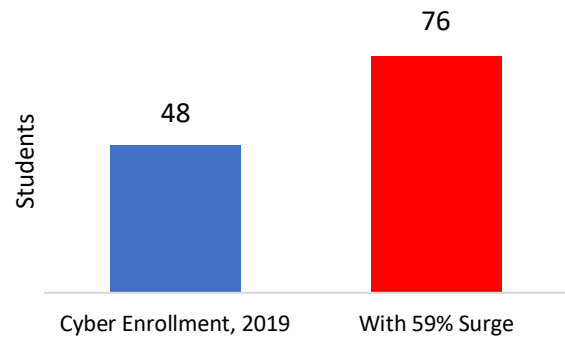


Unionville-Chadds Ford School District

Cyber charter costs up an estimated \$1,199,000 in Unionville-Chadds Ford School District intensifying pressure on property taxes

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 48 students living in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District were enrolled in cyber charters. Last year cyber enrollment surged by 59% statewide, which translates to a projected 76 District students in cyber charter schools.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment,

cyber tuition costs in Unionville-Chadds Ford jumped by an estimated \$1,199,000 since 2020, a shocking 134% increase paid for by taxpayers in the district.

Rising cyber enrollment inevitably intensifies pressure on local property taxes. **The \$1,199,000 hike in cyber tuition payments is the equivalent of a 1.9% increase in property taxes in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Unionville-Chadds Ford currently pays cybers \$36,881 for every special education student and \$15,354 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 and SB 27 will save local taxpayers \$470,823 by bringing charter school tuition more in line with actual costs. The bill standardizes cyber charter tuition at \$9,500 and requires charter schools to use the same criteria as every other public school to calculate special education tuition.

HB272/SB 27 Reforms	Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$470,660
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$163
Total Savings	\$470,823

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)