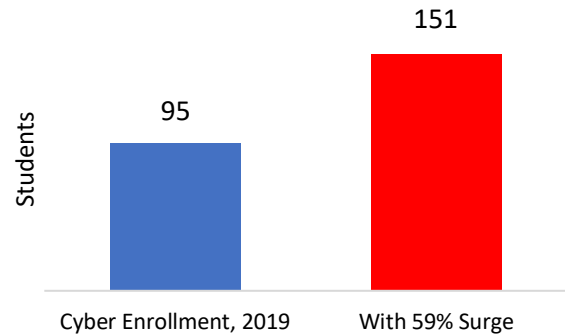


Upper Perkiomen School District

Cyber charter costs up an estimated \$937,000 in Upper Perkiomen School District intensifying pressure on property taxes

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 95 students living in the Upper Perkiomen School District were enrolled in cyber charters. Last year cyber enrollment surged by 59% statewide, which translates to a projected 151 District students in cyber charter schools.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment,

cyber tuition costs in Upper Perkiomen jumped by an estimated \$937,000 since 2020, a shocking 77% increase paid for by taxpayers in the district.

Rising cyber enrollment inevitably intensifies pressure on local property taxes.

The \$937,000 hike in cyber tuition payments is the equivalent of a 2.7% increase in property taxes in the Upper Perkiomen School District.

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Upper Perkiomen currently pays cybers \$28,011 for every special education student and \$13,642 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 \$472,671 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	\$444,177
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$28,494
Total Savings	\$472,671

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)