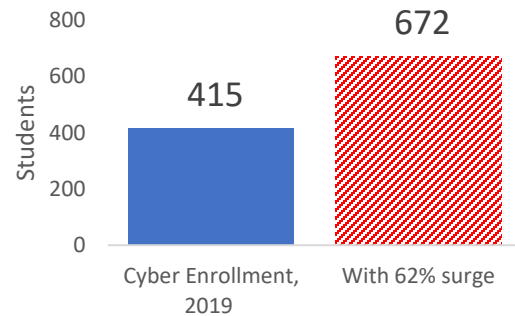


House District 98 - Representative David Hickernell

Payments to cyber charters up by \$3.9 million in House District 98 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 1 percent

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 415 students in House District 98 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 672 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in House District 98 will jump by an additional \$3.9 million this year, a shocking 60 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 98 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 1.55 % on average.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. House District 26 school districts currently pay up to \$34,185 in special education tuition and \$12,342 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 98 over \$1.3 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 98 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$1,206,667
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$96,385
Total Savings	\$1,303,051

Sources: Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (for cyber tuition expense increases and property tax estimates) and PDE (for enrollment, tuition rates, and savings estimate)