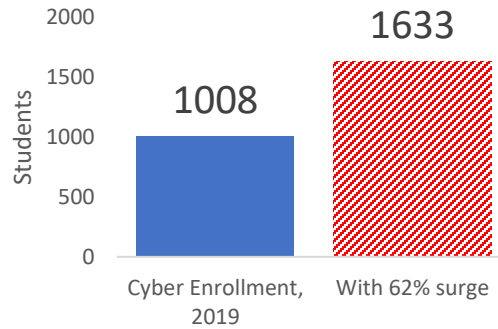


## Senate District 45 - Senator Jim Brewster

### Payments to cyber charters up by \$13.6 million in Senate District 45 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 8 percent

**Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.** Before the pandemic, 1,008 students in Senate District 45 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 45 will jump by an additional \$13.6 million this year, a shocking 143 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 45 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 8.78% on average.**

**The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken.** Senate District 45 school districts currently pay up to \$44,309 in special education tuition and \$14,914 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 45 nearly \$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 45 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$4,898,708
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$4,099,478
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$8,998,186</b>

*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)*