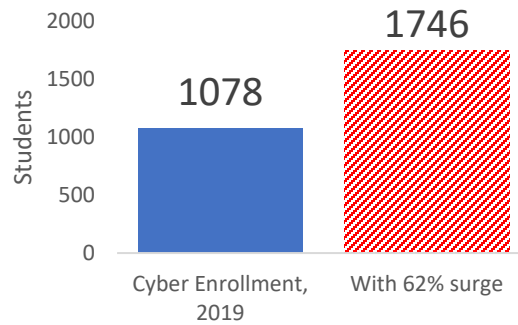


Senate District 50 - Senator Michele Brooks

Payments to cyber charters up by \$7.3 million in Senate District 50 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 4 percent

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly. Before the pandemic, 1,078 students in Senate District 50 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 1,700 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in Senate District 50 will jump by an additional \$7.3 million this year, a shocking 122 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 50 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 4.14% on average.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Senate District 50 school districts currently pay up to \$27,941 in special education tuition and \$13,631 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 50 over \$5 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 50 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$4,131,953
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$888,690
Total Savings	\$5,020,643

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)