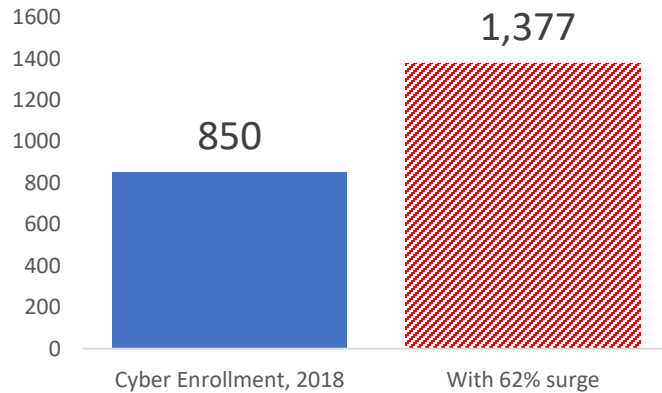


Senate District 19 - Senator Carolyn Comitta

Payments to cyber charters up by \$16.5 million in Senate District 19 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 1.8 percent

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly. Before the pandemic, 1,374 students in Senate District 19 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 2,200 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in Senate District 19 will jump by an additional \$16.5 million this year, a shocking 125 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 19 would have to raise property taxes by 1.89% on average.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Senate District 19 school districts currently pay up to \$42,329 in special education tuition and \$15,809 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 19 over \$18.7 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 22 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$5,349,021
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$13,377,146
Total Savings	\$18,726,167

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)