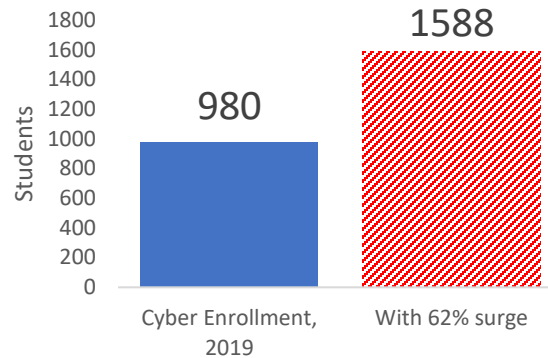


## Senate District 33 - Senator Doug Mastriano

### Payments to cyber charters up by \$7.1 million in Senate District 33 Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 2 percent

**Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.** Before the pandemic, 980 students in Senate District 33 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to nearly 1,600 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in Senate District 33 will jump by an additional \$7.1 million this year, a shocking 75 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 33 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 2.90% on average.**

**The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken.** Senate District 33 school districts currently pay up to \$31,932 in special education tuition and \$12,015 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 33 nearly \$2 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 33 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$1,432,186
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$525,713
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$1,957,899</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)*