

Senate Bill 27 and Cyber Charter Reform Senate Education Committee Executive Summary

Cyber tuition costs have spiraled out of control putting pressure on property taxes in school districts across the state, including the districts represented by the 11 members of the Senate Education Committee. For the Committee:

- Payments to cyber charters rose by \$120 million this year. That’s larger than the total increase in Basic Education Funding for the 2018-19 school year.
- These rising payments inevitably intensify pressure on property taxes that could increase by over 8% for some Committee members to offset the cost.
- Cyber enrollment grew by over 6,300 students this year or more students than total K-12 enrollment in 90% of Pennsylvania’s 500 school districts.

Senator	Increase in payments to cyber charters, 2020-21	Property Tax Increase to cover cyber charter payments	Increase in the Number of Cyber Students, 2020-21	Growth in cyber tuition costs, 2019 to 2021
Scott Martin, <i>Chair</i>	\$9.3M	2.15%	400	91%
John DiSanto	\$10.4M	4.69%	1,008	71%
Carolyn Comitta	\$16.5M	1.89%	527	125%
Tim Kearney	\$14.5M	2.04%	431	132%
Judy Ward	\$9.0M	5.34%	641	58%
Doug Mastriano	\$7.1M	2.90%	608	75%
Jake Corman	\$7.0M	4.34%	380	91%
Ryan Aument	\$8.3M	1.77%	379	91%
Lindsey Williams, <i>Min. Chair</i>	\$17.3M	2.54%	680	83%
Jim Brewster	\$13.6M	8.78%	625	143%
Michele Brooks	\$7.3M	4.14%	668	122%
Committee Total	\$120.3M		6,347	

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)