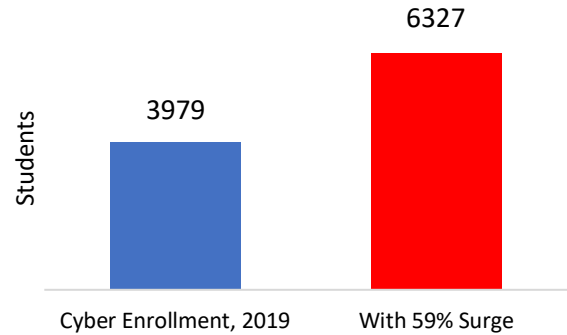


Chester-Upland School District

Cyber charter costs up an estimated \$283,000 in Chester-Upland School District intensifying pressure on property taxes

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 3979 students living in the Chester-Upland School District were enrolled in cyber charters. Last year cyber enrollment surged by 59% statewide, which translates to a projected 6327 District students in cyber charter schools.



Rising cyber enrollment inevitably intensifies pressure on local property taxes. **The \$283,000 hike in cyber tuition payments is the equivalent of a 4.8% increase in property taxes in the Chester-Upland School District.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Chester-Upland currently pays cybers \$43,588 for every special education student and \$10,195 for other students. That is significantly more than the actual costs of providing an online education and is a boon to cyber charter operators.

HB 272 and SB 27 will save local taxpayers \$5,283,898 by bringing charter school tuition more in line with actual costs. The bill standardizes cyber charter tuition at \$9,500 and requires charter schools to use the same criteria as every other public school to calculate special education tuition.

| HB272/SB 27 Reforms | Savings |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500 | \$5,283,898 |
| Special Education Tuition Reform | |
| Total Savings | \$5,283,898 |

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)