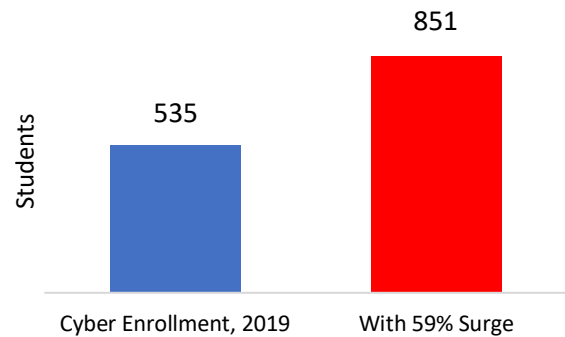


## Downingtown Area School District

### Cyber charter costs up an estimated \$811,000 in Downingtown Area School District intensifying pressure on property taxes

**Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.**

Before the pandemic, 535 students living in the Downingtown Area School District were enrolled in cyber charters. Last year cyber enrollment surged by 59% statewide, which translates to a projected 851 District students in cyber charter schools.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment,

**cyber tuition costs in Downingtown Area jumped by an estimated \$811,000 since 2020, a shocking 47% increase** paid for by taxpayers in the district.

Rising cyber enrollment inevitably intensifies pressure on local property taxes. **The \$811,000 hike in cyber tuition payments is the equivalent of a 0.4% increase in property taxes in the Downingtown Area School District.**

**The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken.**

Downingtown Area currently pays cybers \$26,228 for every special education student and \$12,167 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 \$931,047 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	\$480,514
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$450,534
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$931,047</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)*