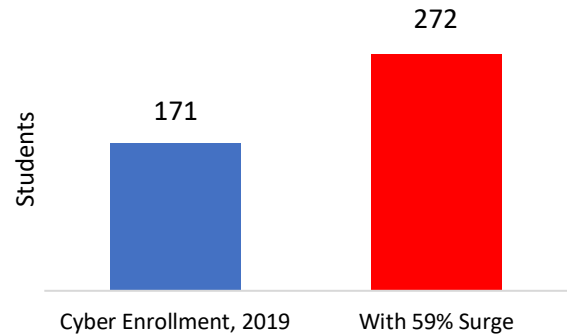


Spring-Ford Area School District

Cyber charter costs up an estimated \$2,309,000 in Spring-Ford Area School District intensifying pressure on property taxes

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 171 students living in the Spring-Ford Area School District were enrolled in cyber charters. Last year cyber enrollment surged by 59% statewide, which translates to a projected 272 District students in cyber charter schools.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment,

cyber tuition costs in Spring-Ford Area jumped by an estimated \$2,309,000 since 2020, a shocking 151% increase paid for by taxpayers in the district.

Rising cyber enrollment inevitably intensifies pressure on local property taxes.

The \$2,309,000 hike in cyber tuition payments is the equivalent of a 2.3% increase in property taxes in the Spring-Ford Area School District.

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Spring-Ford Area currently pays cybers \$36,825 for every special education student and \$13,253 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 \$880,856 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	\$546,031
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$334,825
Total Savings	\$880,856

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)