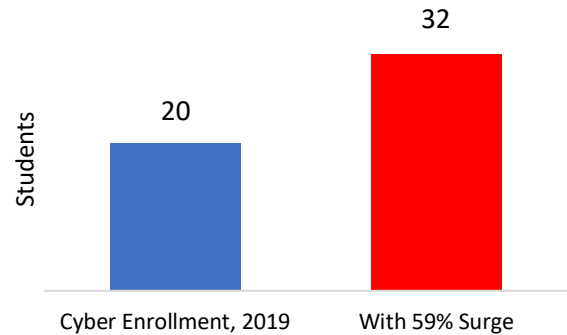


Wallingford-Swarthmore School District

Cyber charter costs up an estimated \$1,405,000 in Wallingford-Swarthmore School District intensifying pressure on property taxes

Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.

Before the pandemic, 20 students living in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District were enrolled in cyber charters. Last year cyber enrollment surged by 59% statewide, which translates to a projected 32 District students in cyber charter schools.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment,

cyber tuition costs in Wallingford-Swarthmore jumped by an estimated \$1,405,000 since 2020, a shocking 299% increase paid for by taxpayers in the district.

Rising cyber enrollment inevitably intensifies pressure on local property taxes. **The \$1,405,000 hike in cyber tuition payments is the equivalent of a 2.3% increase in property taxes in the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District.**

The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken. Wallingford-Swarthmore currently pays cybers \$38,715 for every special education student and \$14,953 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 \$328,405 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	\$314,813
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$13,592
Total Savings	\$328,405

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)