



FAIRFIELD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

4840 Fairfield Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

www.fairfieldpaschools.org

Michael P. Adamek
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At the March 25th school board meeting the Fairfield Area School Board voted to support two resolutions for Cyber School funding reform. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is the sole authorizer of cyber charter schools, yet almost all of the costs for cyber charter schools are borne by school districts and local taxpayers; and the current funding formula for cyber charter schools is based on school district expenditures with no relationship to the actual instructional costs of the students attending the charter school. The current cyber charter school funding formula for special education differs from the formula used to calculate school district special education subsidies and is not based on the actual costs of the cyber charter school to meet the needs of their students with disabilities; and the current flawed calculation requires school districts to pay charter schools regardless of the costs of services provided, resulting in the overpayment of district funds to charter schools for special education students.

In 2016-17, school districts spent more than \$463 million in mandatory cyber charter school tuition payments; and the average total cyber charter school tuition payment made by a district was \$926,000 with the average tuition rate for a non-special education student \$11,309. The average tuition rate for special education students attending cyber charter schools was \$24,200 with a maximum rate of \$48,198 per student; and more than 390 school districts in Pennsylvania were forced to pay more than \$20,000 per student for special education students attending cyber charter schools.

The School District's cyber charter school expenditures for the past five years reflect extraordinary costs that were borne by its taxpayers as follows:

Fiscal Year	Regular Ed Tuition Paid by the District to Cyber Schools	Special Ed Tuition Paid by the District to Cyber Schools	Total Tuition Paid by the District to Cyber Schools
2014-15	\$497,079.11	\$55,231.01	\$552,310.12
2015-16	\$545,258.75	\$88,763.05	\$634,021.80
2016-17	\$552,622.35	\$100,006.10	\$652,628.45
2017-18	\$550,478.14	\$54,460.30	\$604,938.44
2018-19	\$346,272.90 BILLED YTD	\$86,638,04 BILLED YTD	\$432,910.94 BILLED YTD

The School Board is urging its elected officials to support legislation that corrects the tuition for regular and special education to cyber charter schools so that it is based on the actual costs of educating their students and relieves the financial burden on school districts and taxpayers.





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Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526 supports school districts that provide their own cyber education programs by removing the financial responsibility for resident students who enroll in cyber charter schools instead of the districts' programs. The Fairfield Area School Board supports Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526 or other efforts to provide a fiscally commonsense approach that will provide savings for school districts operating full-time, online learning programs and are required to make tuition payments for their students to attend cyber charter schools. We are also asking you to please contact our local officials to show your support of the legislation to correct the financial burden put on you, our taxpayers.

Please contact our local representative's (phone call, letter or both):

Governor: Honorable Tom Wolf

Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-2500
Fax: (717) 772-8284

House Representative: Honorable Dan Moul

District
30 West Middle Street
Gettysburg, PA 17325
(717) 334-3010
(866) 646-4915
Fax: (717) 334-8426

Capitol
416 Irvis Office Building
PO Box 202091
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2091
(717) 783-5217
Fax: (717) 772-5499

Senator: Rich Alloway (retired) open seat but please send to:

District 33 Senator
Senate Box 203033
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3033
Room: 172 Main Capitol
(717) 787-4651
FAX: (717) 772-2753

