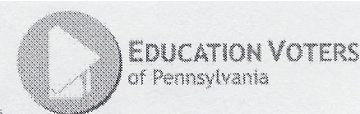


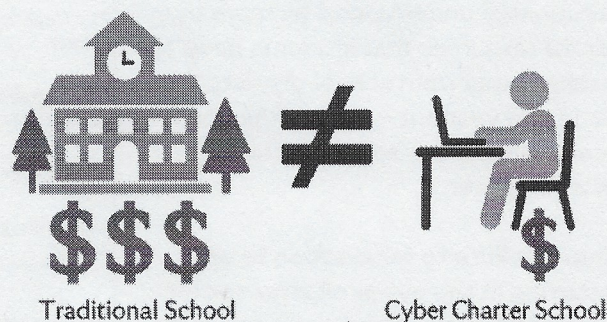
## TELL PA LAWMAKERS TO PROTECT TAXPAYERS AND END CYBER CHARTER WASTE



Pennsylvania has 14 cyber charter schools. These are privately-operated public schools that are granted a charter and authorized to operate by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Any student can attend any cyber charter school no matter what school district they live in. School districts are required by state law to make tuition payments for students who live in their districts and enroll in cyber charter schools. These tuition payments total more than \$1 billion annually and are made up primarily of property tax dollars that are collected at the local level in each district.

The state sets charter school tuition rates for each district that are based on the cost of educating students in their home school districts' buildings. For the 2024-2025 school year, tuition for regular education ranges from \$7,659-\$28,959 per student. Special education tuition ranges from \$18,627-\$93,019 per student, regardless of the cost of services the student requires.

These equivalent tuition rates may seem sensible at first glance, but operationally, they do not add up. Cyber charter schools educate students who are at home on a computer, not in a brick-and-mortar school. Cyber charter schools do not need to employ security or maintenance/custodial staff or heat, cool, and maintain school district facilities and grounds. **Cyber charters' operational and overhead costs come nowhere close to those of traditional public schools – yet they are funded as though the costs are the same.**



Because cyber charter tuition payments are not based on the actual, lower cost of online education, school districts end up paying far more than what cyber charters need to educate a student.

Right to Know requests and a recent state audit show that cyber charters are hoarding hundreds of millions tax dollars from school districts in bank accounts at the same time they are spending millions on items unrelated to educating children, including dining, entertainment, expensive advertising campaigns, lavish contracts with for-profit management services, extensive real estate acquisitions, and more.

**These are expenditures made by a cyber charter using taxpayer dollars.**

- Dining
- Wineries and breweries
- Professional sports tickets
- Catering orders
- Vehicle purchases
- Advertising and promotion
- A platinum corporate membership to the Hill Society and
- Much more!!!

