

**Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526
for School Districts Providing Their Own Cyber Learning Programs
By the Board of Directors of the Owen J. Roberts School District**

WHEREAS, a growing number of school districts across the state are responding to the need to successfully operate high-quality, full-time cyber education programs within their traditional district programs that provide flexibility and personalized options as a choice for students and families; and

WHEREAS, school district cyber programs include rigorous curriculum aligned with the state academic standards and taught by appropriately certified teachers; and school districts can provide their cyber education students with regular and special education instruction and services, tutoring, career counseling and other support as necessary; and

WHEREAS, cyber education programs operated by school districts provide students with a smooth transition to and from the traditional school setting; and give students opportunities to participate in district instructional courses and resources; and students may choose to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, band, music, clubs and social activities such as homecoming and prom; and students may graduate in district ceremonies and receive a district diploma; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is the sole authorizer of cyber charter schools, yet the tuition costs for students attending these schools are borne by school districts and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the majority of cyber schools have consistently placed in the bottom 5% for educational performance in the state; further, graduation rates of cyber charters are consistently and substantially below state average; and

WHEREAS, the current funding formula for cyber charter schools is based on school district expenditures with no relationship to the actual instructional costs for regular and special education instruction and services of the students attending the charter school; and funding of cyber charter schools cost school districts and taxpayers more than \$463 million in 2016-17; and

WHEREAS, school districts that operate high--performing cyber programs can do so at significantly reduced costs as compared to paying tuition to a cyber charter school, enabling them to retain critical funding in the district for the benefit of all students; and

WHEREAS, 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;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Owen J. Roberts 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Owen J. Roberts School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 29th day of April, 2019.

Signed:



Lisa A. Huzzard
School Board President



Jaclin B. Krumrine
School Board Secretary



Resolution Supporting Statewide Cyber Charter School Funding Reform

By the Board of Directors of the Owen J. Roberts School District

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth 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; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, in 2016-17, school districts spent more than \$463 million in mandatory cyber charter school tuition payments; and

WHEREAS, the average total cyber charter school tuition payment made by a district was \$886,246 with the average tuition rate for a non-special education student \$11,671; and

WHEREAS, the average tuition rate for special education students attending cyber charter schools was \$27,004 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; and

WHEREAS, the Owen J Roberts School District's cyber charter school expenditures for the previous four years reflect extraordinary costs that were borne by its taxpayers as follows:

Fiscal Year	Total Tuition Paid by the District to Cyber Schools
2014-15	\$ 820,219.80
2015-16	\$ 956,091.60
2016-17	\$ 976,495.06
2017-18	\$ 792,180.60

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Owen J. Roberts School Board urges 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Owen J. Roberts School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 29th day of April, 2019.

Signed:


Lisa A. Huzzard
School Board President


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