



### Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 28, 2019 - REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Category	13. CONSENT AGENDA - GENERAL ACTION ITEMS
Subject	13.3 RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORTING STATEWIDE CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING REFORM
Type	Action (Consent)
Recommended Action	That the Board approves the resolution supporting statewide cyber charter school funding reform.

**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 cyber charter schools for special education students; and

**WHEREAS**, Pennsylvania makes up more than 20 percent of the total cyber charter school student population in America and Pennsylvania school districts will send more than \$500 million in local taxpayer dollars to 14 for profit cyber charter schools that unlike public schools, have no accountability to an elective body nor any taxpayer oversight; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, 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; and

**WHEREAS**, the Radnor Township 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	Total # RTSD cyber charter students	Regular Ed Tuition Paid by the District to Cyber Schools Per Student	Special Ed Tuition Paid by the District to Cyber Schools Per Student	Total Tuition Paid by the District to Cyber Schools
2014-15	9 Reg Ed; 2 Spec Ed	\$14,863.48	\$35,569.51	\$190,046.86
2015-16	10 Reg Ed; 1 Spec Ed	\$16,040.13	\$38,022.91	\$182,384.08
2016-17	7 Reg Ed; 4 Spec Ed	\$15,923.14	\$38,453.85	\$210,036.14
2017-18	10 Reg Ed; 4 Spec Ed	\$16,620.27	\$39,225.69	\$215,708.99

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Radnor Township 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.