

WALLINGFORD  SWARTHMORE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

200 SOUTH PROVIDENCE ROAD, WALLINGFORD, PENNSYLVANIA 19086-6334
 PHONE (610) 892-3470 X 1301 FAX (610) 892-3497

**Resolution by the Board of Directors of the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
 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 per student with no relationship to the actual instructional costs of a student attending the cyber 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 cyber charter schools a set tuition regardless of the extent and costs of special education services provided, resulting in the significant 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 nearly \$500 million in local taxpayer dollars to cyber charter schools that unlike public schools, have no appropriate or relevant funding formula, accountability to an elective body, nor any taxpayer oversight; and

WHEREAS, in 2016-17, the average total cyber charter school tuitions paid by a school district was \$926,000 with the average tuition rate for a regular education student \$11,309; and

WHEREAS, per a 2018 Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators survey, the average cost for a full functioning cyber school option offered at the district level is \$5,000 for a regular education student, creating a variance of \$6,309 per regular education student from the current cyber charter tuition method.

WHEREAS, in 2016-17, the average tuition rate for a special education student attending a cyber-charter school was \$24,200 with a maximum rate of \$48,198; 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 Wallingford-Swarthmore School District's cyber charter school expenditures for the past four school years reflect disproportionate 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
2014-2015	\$141,037	\$89,806	\$230,843
2015-2016	\$185,368	\$158,050	\$343,418
2016-2017	\$163,677	\$222,491	\$386,168
2017-2018	\$204,630	\$189,845	\$394,475
2018-2019 *	\$243,520	\$120,131	\$363,651

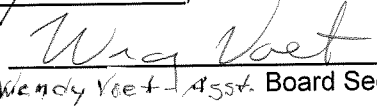
* = (as of 05/16/2019)

WHEREAS, the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District current 2018-2019 cyber charter regular education tuition rate is \$14,395 and the 2018-2019 cyber charter special education tuition rate is \$36,587.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wallingford-Swarthmore School Board urges its elected officials to support legislation that corrects the tuitions for regular and special education students in non-District cyber charter schools so that it is based on the actual costs of educating students in these settings and relieves this undue financial burden on school districts and local taxpayers.

Adopted this 28th day of MAY, 2019.

Signed, 
 Dr. Marilyn Huff, Board President


 Wendy Voet, Asst. Board Secretary