

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARREN, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION: 17-05-03

A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO CORRECT THE TUITION EXPENSES PAID FOR REGULAR AND SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS 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 LOCAL TAXPAYERS

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, the current charter school payment system causes school districts to overpay for special education costs, with charter schools receiving a \$100 million (and growing) windfall as a result of this broken special education funding system; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth is the sole authorizer of cyber charter schools, yet almost all of the costs for cyber charter schools are unfairly borne by local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the Warren County 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
2012-13	\$642,568	\$433,358	\$1,075,926
2013-14	\$564,903	\$420,483	\$985,386
2014-15	\$854,646	\$437,000	\$1,291,646
2015-16	\$828,631	\$453,045	\$1,281,676
2016-17	\$754,488	\$412,909	\$1,167,397

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Warren County School District Board of School Directors 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 local taxpayers. Omnibus charter school legislation under House Bill 97 fails to establish meaningful change to this payment system.

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

Adopted this 18th day of May, 2017.

ATTEST:

WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Secretary

Board President