



SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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DISTRICT OFFICE

2579 Interstate Drive, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110
717.657.5100 | F. 717.724.1851 | www.hannasd.org

TO: Families of STSD Students

Surprising Fiscal Impact of PA Cyber Charter School Cost on Susquehanna Township School District Finances and Taxpayers:

Although many PA Cyber Charter Schools market their educational programs as **Tuition Free**, **this could not be further from the truth**. PA Cyber Charter School Tuition Payments are funded through Local PA School District Budgets. In other words, Local Taxpayers (Parents) fund these tuition costs primarily through their payment of real estate and other taxes levied by the School District in which they reside. Unfortunately, these Tuition Payments are clearly excessive and exorbitant due to a flawed Funding Formula mandated by the Commonwealth of PA.

In summary, this faulty PA State Formula requires local school districts like **Susquehanna Township School District (STSD)** to pay PA Cyber Charter Schools at **“Brick & Mortar” Tuition Rate Levels**, when in-fact, Cyber Charter Schools **DO NOT** typically incur **“Brick & Mortar” Educational Program Expenses**. Cost for student transportation, student breakfast and lunch, and school building upkeep and utility services are **NOT** typically incurred by these Outside Non-District Cyber Charter Schools. However, the mandated formula requires that they be paid as if they are incurring such costs.

In response to this unfortunate excess funding of Outside Non-District PA Cyber Charter Schools, studies have shown that PA School Districts that have developed their own In-House Cyber Charter Educational Programs have been able to deliver competitive and successful alternatives at **one-third** the cost they are currently required to pay these Outside Non-District Cyber Charter Schools.

To provide STSD Parents and Taxpayers with more cost-effective Cyber Solutions, STSD has developed two In-House Cyber Programs: 1) HANNA Cyber Academy (HCA) and 2) All-Remote Access (ARA), available for immediate enrollment.

Below is fiscal information on the savings realized by STSD and its Taxpayers when District Parents and Students elect to enroll in STSD’s In-House Cyber School Program instead of Outside Non-District PA Cyber Charter Schools.

Regular Education Per Student Cost:

STSD In-House Cyber School - \$3,672

Outside Non-District PA Cyber Charter School (CCA, PA Cyber, Reach, etc.) - \$11,128

Taxpayer Savings Per Student When Selecting STSD Cyber School - \$7,456

Special Education Per Student Cost:

STSD In-House Cyber School - \$9,330

Outside Non-District PA Cyber Charter School (CCA, PA Cyber, Reach, etc.) - \$28,272

Taxpayer Savings Per Student When Selecting STSD Cyber School - \$18,942

During the 19-20 fiscal year, STSD expended over \$3 million dollars in Outside Non-District Cyber Charter Tuition payments for a total of 259 students. Participation in one of STSD’s In-House Cyber Programs can reduce this expense by two-thirds or to \$990,000, a much more sustainable level.

Please contact STSD Administration with questions regarding this communication. Thank You!