



**Resolution Supporting Statewide Cyber Charter School Funding Reform**  
**Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526**  
**By the Board of School Directors of the Bellefonte Area 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**, Bellefonte Area School District through their cyber education program, BeLA (Bellefonte e-Learning Academy) provides students with a smooth transition to and from the traditional school setting, gives students opportunities to participate in district instructional courses and resources, enables students to participate in extracurricular activities such as athletics, band, music, clubs, and social activities, and provides students the opportunity to graduate in district ceremonies and receive a district diploma; and

**WHEREAS**, the learning opportunities provided through BeLA are open to students in grades 3-12 and provide for rigorous curriculum aligned to the State Standards and relevant learning in regular and special education with the support of a district cyber learning coordinator, state certified teachers, and coupled with access to counseling services, tutoring, career counseling, and other support services as needed; 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 Commonwealth is the sole authorizer of cyber charter schools, yet the tuition costs for students attending these schools are borne by school districts and their local taxpayers; 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 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**, the Bellefonte Area 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
2014-15	\$425,143.55	\$242,964.02	\$668,107.57
2015-16	\$444,870.23	\$275,992.86	\$720,863.09
2016-17	\$447,046.50	\$331,886.34	\$778,932.84
2017-18	\$398,296.16	\$368,276.86	\$766,573.02
2018-19	\$290,494.32	\$291,619.24	\$582,113.56

**WHEREAS**, school districts that operate high-performing cyber programs similar to BeLA 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

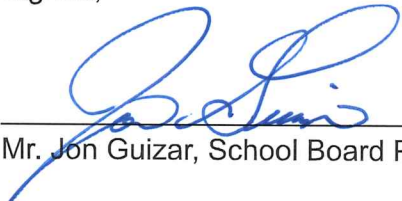
**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 34 and House Bill 526 supports school districts that provide their own cyber education programs by removing the financial responsibility for resident students who enroll in cyber charter schools instead of the districts' programs;


**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Bellefonte Area School District 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 student 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 Bellefonte Area School District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2019.

Signed,

  
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 Mr. Jon Guizar, School Board President

  
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 Board Secretary