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## SENATOR ROSEMARY BROWN

Pennsylvania's 40th District  
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## Efforts for Charter and Cyber Charter School Reform: Protecting Taxpayers and Creating Fairness Across All Public Schools

By Senator Rosemary Brown

As your state senator, one of my ongoing priorities has been ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly and effectively within our public education system. I've spent years working to advance common-sense reforms to the way Pennsylvania funds charter and cyber charter schools—because while school choice is important, so are fairness and fiscal responsibility.

In 2022, I was honored to receive the Champion of Education Award from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association for my leadership and commitment to turning this issue into real, actionable legislation. That recognition reflects my longstanding efforts to bring greater balance and sustainability to a funding system that needs to be rightsized.

**We've made meaningful progress:**

**Cyber Charter Reimbursement** – A key element of the 2023–24 state budget included \$100 million in cyber charter reimbursements for school districts to help offset rising costs.

**Special Education Formula Reform** – Beginning January 1 of this year, we implemented a formula change that is expected to reduce cyber charter special education costs by approximately \$190 million annually.

These changes are already helping nearly every school district in Pennsylvania by reducing the financial burden placed on them when a student with special education needs leaves for a charter or cyber charter school.

**Ethics and Transparency Standards** – We strengthened ethics rules by requiring cyber charter administrators and trustees to file financial disclosure statements and abide by stricter conflict of interest standards.

**Ending Misleading Advertising** – We also prohibited the misleading use of the term “free” in cyber charter advertisements and now require detailed reporting of advertising and sponsorship expenditures.

In addition to these reforms, I've authored legislation that directs the same principles of the special education funding formula currently used for school districts to all local education agencies, including charter and cyber charter schools. This approach promotes equity and predictability in special education funding for all schools.

These are important steps forward—but the work isn't done. I remain committed and I support school choice, but it must be paired with fairness and fiscal responsibility. I'll continue to lead on this issue in Harrisburg, and I look forward to working with educators, families, and fellow lawmakers to keep moving in the right direction.



June 22, 2022

**Brown Recognized with Champion of Public Education Award  
by the Pennsylvania School Board Association**



## How Funds Support Plainfield Township

Host Community Spotlight 2024

Funding from the host agreement provides the municipality opportunities to support special projects, capital projects, and more.

In 2024, WM's tipping fees provided the following:

**\$1/ton = \$693,756**

Infused into the General Fund in 2024

**\$1.65/ton = \$1,150,664**

Infused into the Host/Capital Improvement Budget

**\$0.45/ton = \$313,817**

Transferred into the Municipal Trust Fund

Total Received From  
Landfill Operations in 2024 **\$2,158,238**

## Did you know?

Landfills in Pennsylvania are required to provide at least \$1<sup>ton</sup> to a Host Community. Since 2005, Host Municipality Benefits have totaled \$32,336,987.95 to Plainfield Township. These benefits are the sum of \$3.10 per ton of waste disposed at Grand Central.



Want to Learn More? Check out our new video →

## Grand Landfill Community Investment

A look back at 2024 and the investments made to help the Slate Belt thrive:

- In 2024, the Facility Cooperation Agreement provided Pen Argyl Borough with \$903,204.95 (\$1.30 per ton).
  - These funds were used for community improvements and to match grants that help fund street improvements.
- Pen Argyl Borough residents received free trash and recycling collection and disposal worth an estimated value of \$713,340 (1,321 households<sup>1</sup>).
- In 2024, the Neighboring Municipality Agreement provided Wind Gap Borough with \$836,846.47 (\$1.20 per ton).
  - A portion of this funding supported the paving of Constitution Avenue and Oak Street.
- Wind Gap Borough residents received free trash and recycling collection and disposal worth an estimated value of \$659,340 (1,221 households<sup>1</sup>).



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## Contributions At a Glance

Local Non-Profit  
Charitable Donations in 2024 **\$102,585**

Since 2020 WM provided \$510,185 in charitable donations to local non-profits.

\$146,464.48 voluntarily contributed to Northampton County Recycling and Sustainability fund to offset the costs for electronic recycling and household hazardous waste event.

## Calendar of Events

RSVP for Tours: [afors1@wm.com](mailto:afors1@wm.com)

<b>APR 16</b>	Sustainability Tour 5:00pm	<b>APR 07</b>	Bird Walk 11:30am   Ed. Center
<b>JUN 16</b>	Talking Trash Tour 5:00pm	<b>APR 18</b>	Count The Butterflies Walk 5:00pm   Ed. Center
<b>SEPT 27</b>	Chili Cookoff + Tours 11:00am-2:00pm	<b>OCT 11</b>	Migration Walk 11:30am-12:30pm   Ed. Center
<b>NOV 01</b>	E-Waste Collection 9:00am   Main Office Lot 2	<b>NOV 13</b>	Sustainability Tour 5:00pm