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9000 PROGRAMS WITH OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS

9000 PROGRAMS WITH OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS: Transfers of payments to other school districts or to non-public schools for services provided to students residing in the sending city or town.

9100 Tuition to Mass. Schools Tuition or transfer payments to other public school districts in Massachusetts for resident students, Tuition to non member Collaboratives, Tuition to non member Regional School Districts.

9110 School Choice Tuition Transfers made by the state from the sending school district's State Aid to the receiving school district or municipality.

9120 Tuition to Commonwealth Charter Schools Transfers made by the state from the sending school district's State Aid to the Charter School.

9200 Tuition to Out-of-State Schools Tuition or transfer payments to school districts in other states for resident students

9300 Tuition to Non-Public Schools Tuition or transfer payments to non-public schools for resident students

9400 Tuition to Collaboratives Payments of assessments to member Collaboratives for administrative and instructional services in accordance with collaborative agreements.

Regular Education Out of District Tuitions

Currently there are several alternative public school programs available across the commonwealth for students who do not attend the local district. The educational options for students are School Choice program, Charter School Initiatives, Innovation Schools Initiative, and regional agricultural, vocational and technical schools. Below is an overview of the programs in which Lexington resident students have taken advantage of in the past. Due to the small numbers of students who attend these programs, reporting is not provided on a regular basis and is only in this format. Below is a five-year history of the tuition assessments received by the Town of Lexington through the Cherry Sheet.

Innovation Schools¹

In January 2010, Governor Patrick signed education reform legislation forming "The Innovation School" model.² It is projected to be cost-neutral with regard to the longer-term operation of school department. However, the school district must create a new line item appropriation as the tuition is not charged against the Cherry Sheet as other state education initiatives are funded. The Town of Lexington after year one will receive \$6,800 in tuition dollars through Chapter 70 formula calculations. The first year there is not reimbursement. The school department will have to annually budget for these expenses. The Innovation Schools receive their tuition dollars directly from the school district in the form of tuition payments. The tuition payments are not treated as an expense offset like Charter Schools.³

In FY12, we only had one student register and attend one of the state's programs. Since that time the programs have not added any Lexington students.

Cherry Sheet Tuition Assessments:

The Town receives three types of tuition assessment for educating Lexington resident students. These are School Choice, Charter Schools and Essex Agricultural and Technical High School. While these amounts are not

¹ Chapter 12 of the Acts of 2010, An Act Relative to the Achievement Gap, was signed into law on January 18, 2010, and took effect immediately. Among other things, this legislation created a new statute, M.G.L. c. 71, § 92, establishing and governing innovation schools. At its July 21, 2010, meeting, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) adopted new regulations, 603 CMR 48.00, to implement this statute.

² Innovation Schools Statute: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/redesign/innovation/>

³ Innovation Schools FAQ: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&ved=0ahUKewik35WCpOHJAhUEND4KHVDNA-sQFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fredesign%2Finnovation%2Ffaq.docx&usq=AFQjCNGobSW81z4pwiST4nuFSwMRdb4e8g&cad=rja>



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shown or reported in the School Department's appropriation, the Town is responsible for the education of these students. The Schools are required to submit actual enrollment reports to Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in October and March of the current year. These figures are used to calculate tuition rates for the current year. Any changes to enrollment figures and tuition rates will alter a district's remaining assessments.

Cherry Sheet Tuition Assessments	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016
1. Special Education <i>Ch. 71B, ss. 10,12</i>		\$24,112.00	\$24,322.00	\$16,655.00	\$16,976.00	\$18,196.00
2. School Choice Sending Tuition <i>Ch. 76, s. 12B, 1993, Ch. 71</i>	\$7,600.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$16,559.00	\$11,700.00	\$16,859.00
3. Charter School Sending Tuition <i>Ch. 71, s. 89</i>	\$28,047.00		\$33,036.00	\$29,968.00	\$29,526.00	\$15,430.00
4. Essex County Technical Institute Sending Tuition <i>1998, Ch. 300, s. 21</i>	\$12,290.00		\$12,475.00	\$12,553.00	\$-	\$-
	\$47,937.00	\$49,112.00	\$94,833.00	\$75,735.00	\$58,202.00	\$50,485.00

It is unknown at this time what if any impact there will be for the FY17 budget. The school district will not have confirmed FY16 enrollment until mid-January 2016. This section will be updated as information becomes available.

Special Education Assessment

The assessment is to partially reimburse the state for providing special needs education to children enrolled in state hospital schools.

Schools Choice

The school choice program allows parents to send their children to schools in communities other than the city or town in which they reside. Tuition is paid by the sending district to the receiving district. Districts may elect not to enroll school choice students if no space is available.

Students have attended the following school districts, whereby we have received assessments from Hudson Public Schools, Triton Regional High School, and Chelmsford Public Schools.

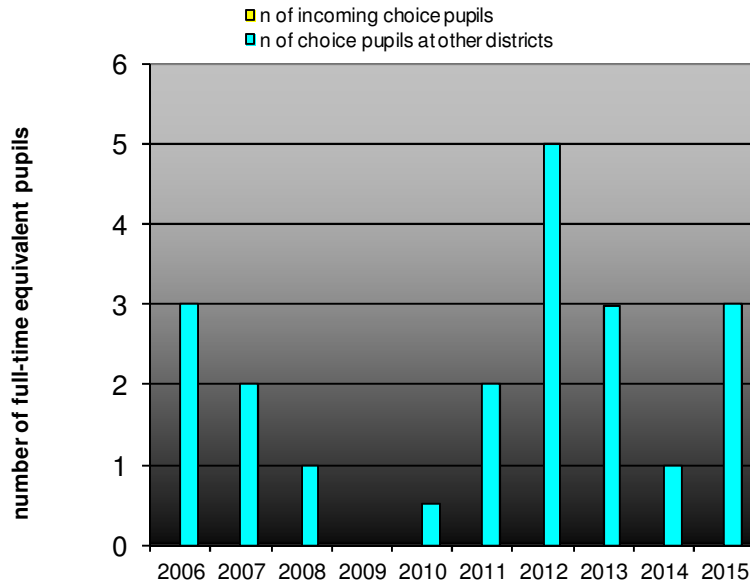
Lexington Public Schools⁴
School Choice Trends in Enrollment and Tuition

FY	--Receiving--		--Sending--	
	FTE		FTE	
	Pupils	Tuition	Pupils	Tuition
2006	0.00	0	3.00	14,536
2007	0.00	0	2.00	9,986
2008	0.00	0	1.00	4,955
2009	0.00	0	0.00	0
2010	0.00	0	0.52	2,600
2011	0.00	0	2.00	10,000
2012	0.00	0	5.00	25,000
2013	0.00	0	2.99	14,950
2014	0.00	0	1.00	5,000
2015	0.00	0	3.00	56,700

⁴ Source: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/schoolchoice/>



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Charter Schools⁵

Charter schools are independent public schools designed to encourage innovative educational practices. Charter schools are funded by tuition charges assessed against the school districts where the students reside. The state provides partial reimbursement to the sending districts for the tuition costs incurred.

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of School Finance

Projected FY16 Charter School Tuition Payments and Reimbursements for Sending Districts (Q1)(f)

DISTRICT PAYMENT					STATE AID TO DISTRICT				NET DISTRICT COST	
LEA	DISTRICT	FTE	LOCAL FOUNDATION TUITION	LOCAL FACILITIES TUITION	LOCAL PAYMENT	100/25/25/25/25 INCREASED TUITION AID	INCREASED AID PRO RATION	FACILITIES AID	TOTAL CHARTER AID	
155	LEXINGTON	1.0	14,537	893	15,430	0	0%	893	893	14,537

Essex Agricultural and Technical High School⁶

The primary purpose of an agricultural high school is to prepare students for occupations or additional education related to agriculture, agriscience, agribusiness, the care and management of animals, horticulture, forestry, and environmental science. While agricultural high schools may offer other forms of vocational-technical education, as defined in M.G.L. c. 74, § 1, they shall avoid duplication of programs offered in vocational schools located within a 20-mile radius of the school. Periodically, students who are interested in programs that are not available at Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School enroll. The district is responsible for tuition and transportation expenses. The Regular Education Transportation Budget is impacted by any student who attends, as transportation is not reimbursed under the Chapter 70 aid on the Cherry Sheet, only tuition.

⁵ Ch. 71, §89, 2004, Ch. 352, §31 and <http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/finance/>

⁶ 1998, Ch. 300, §21 and <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr45.html>



Special Education Out-of-District Budget

Coordinator: Barbara Bennett-Fortier

Students with disabilities ages 2 years and 9 months to 22 who are unable to be educated within the public schools are entitled to a free and appropriate public education. When a student cannot receive appropriate services within LPS, services are provided in other settings including collaborative and private schools. There are associated transportation costs and specialized care for some of our most needy students. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has developed a form of reimbursement, Circuit-breaker, which provides some fiscal support for high cost students.

Tuition is monitored by the Out-of-District Coordinator who reports to the Director of Special Education. As a student's intensive needs become identified and services within the district cannot provide for that student, the Out-of-District Coordinator is contacted to plan for the student's placement in the least restrictive placement/environment.

The Out-of-District Coordinator is the liaison for the student's IEP and provides case management for all aspects of the student's program. Costs are monitored through the Director of Special Education.

The appropriation to the School Department Budget for Tuitions is \$6,506,004 as seen in the expense line table below. This is an increase of \$1,122,806 over the adjusted FY16 budget. The FY16 budget included a reduction to the high risk budget by 50%, which was a \$773,580 reduction in the tuition budget line. This budgeting decision has been reviewed closely. In FY14, the funding returned to the Town was equal to 51.81% of the original High Risk Budget. In FY15, the funding returned to the Town was 5.12% of the original High Risk budget. In FY16, it is anticipated the funding returned to the Town will be approximately 1.07% of the High Risk budget (after reinstating the \$773,580 cut for the analysis). Based on these two most recent years of data, the FY17 budget includes 100% funding of the High Risk budget category.

Line #	Program	FY13 Actual	FY14 Actual	FY15 Actual	FY16 Budget (approved by ATM)	FY16 Budget (adj)	FY17 Request	Change	% Change
41	Tuition	\$ 4,420,666	\$ 4,415,327	\$ 4,736,414	\$4,782,238	\$5,383,198	\$ 6,506,004	\$ 1,122,806	20.86%

Several factors are considered when developing the Tuition budget each year. Some of these important factors are described below:

- Tuition rates for approved special education private day and residential schools are set by the Operational Services Division (OSD) of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Administration and Finance.
- Each year the OSD provides an estimated rate of inflation which is used to project tuition for approved special education private day and residential placements. For FY17 the new rate is 1.83%.
- With the exception of extraordinary relief or other unusual circumstances, private schools may request additional increases in the form of special circumstances or program reconstruction. Private schools must provide the required notice to public schools by the October 1st for the following fiscal year. The State can approve increases anytime during that following fiscal year. In such instances the requested increase is budgeted in the event such should occur.
- Collaborative tuition increases are recommended to the Collaborative Board of Directors based on program costs and budget presentations. The Collaborative Board of Directors is made up of member district Superintendents. For the last several years a 4% increase has been assumed for Collaborative



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tutions. Additionally, a 4% increase has been assumed for OSD approved out-of state private schools as the rate increases are not set by OSD but rather the respective state agency where the school is located.

- Collaborative programs also tuition-in students from non-member districts. Non-member districts pay a higher tuition than member districts.
- The circuit breaker reimbursement amount is always an estimate. The estimate is based on the number of students who are in school until graduation or turn 22 prior to the end of the school year. The estimate reflects actual time spent in the program and tuition paid. Not all student placements meet the circuit breaker threshold for reimbursement. The reimbursement rate, set by DESE, is also variable.

The Tuition budget is set annually by projecting total tuition expenses and settlements then offsetting them by projected Circuit Breaker Reimbursement and LABBB credits (when exercised) as outlined in the detailed table below:

Category	DESE Function Code	FY 16				Projected	
		FY 16 Headcount	FY 16 Budgeted Tuition	Current Headcount	Current Proj Tuition	FY 17 Headcount	FY 17 Tuition
High Risk	9100	2	\$173,499	1	\$38,021	3	\$249,855
	9200	0	\$0	0	\$0	1	\$89,856
	9300	21	\$1,262,393	11	\$823,666	18	\$1,788,592
	9400	2	\$111,268	2	\$121,674	4	\$252,479
High Risk Total		25	\$1,547,160	14	\$983,361	26	\$2,380,782
Short Term	9100	2	\$22,479	2	\$22,479	2	\$23,378
	9300	6	\$68,770	9	\$193,023	6	\$74,365
	9400	2	\$22,428	1	\$14,992	2	\$23,876
Short Term Total		10	\$113,677	12	\$230,495	10	\$121,620
Tuition & Settlements	9100	5	\$323,511	9	\$562,561	8	\$593,564
	9200	2	\$298,085	3	\$304,280	2	\$205,639
	9300	49	\$4,597,163	55	\$5,197,482	49	\$4,483,299
	9400	35	\$1,955,427	37	\$1,846,013	38	\$2,277,388
Tuition & Settlements Total		91	\$7,174,186	104	\$7,910,336	97	\$7,559,891
Grand Total		126	\$8,835,023	130	\$9,124,193	133	\$10,062,292

	FY 16 Headcount	FY 16 Budget	Current Headcount	Current Proj Budget	FY 17 Headcount	Projected FY 17 Tuition
Estimated Tuition	126	\$8,835,023	\$130	\$9,124,193	133	\$10,062,292
Reduction to High Risk		(\$773,580)				
Less LABBB Credit		(\$250,000)		(\$250,000)		(\$250,000)
Less CB Reimbursement		(\$3,029,205)		(\$3,190,110)		(\$3,306,288)
Operating Budget		\$4,782,238		\$5,684,083		\$6,506,004
Operating Budget Adj		\$600,960		\$0		
Adj Operating Budget		\$5,383,198		\$5,684,083		\$6,506,004