

Determination of Tuition Rates to Approved Independent Schools

1. Average announced tuition for union elementary schools and union high schools
 - a. Announced tuition due to AOE by January 15
 - b. Union school districts submit separate tuition rates for elementary and high schools when applicable
 - c. AOE averages rates for union elementary schools and union high schools
2. Elementary tuition – 16 V.S.A. § 823(b)
 - a. *subsec. (b)* – Tuitioning district shall pay the lessor of:
 1. average announced tuition of Vermont union elementary schools;
 2. the tuition charged by the approved independent school; or
 3. the average per-pupil tuition the district pays for its other resident elementary students
 - b. *subsec. (b)* – Voters of the district may authorize payment of a higher amount
3. High school tuition – 16 V.S.A. §§ 824(b), (c)
 - a. *subsec. (b)* – Tuitioning district shall pay the full tuition charged if:
 1. the approved independent school functions as an approved area career technical center (St. Johnsbury Academy and Lyndon Institute), or
 2. an approved independent school meeting education quality standards (Thetford Academy)
 - b. *subsec. (c)* – Tuitioning district shall pay the average announced tuition of Vermont union high schools for other approved independent schools
 - c. *subsec. (c)* – Voters of the district may authorize payment of a higher amount (Burr & Burton Academy)
4. Designation of an approved independent school – 16 V.S.A. §§ 827(a), (b)
 - a. *subsec. (a)* – A district not maintaining a high school may designate up to three approved independent or public high schools to serve as the public high school(s) for the district, if the school board or board of trustees votes to accept the designation
 - b. *subsec. (b)* – An approved independent school shall be considered a public school for purposes of tuition, meaning the designating district will pay the full tuition
5. Exemptions for other public school districts – 16 V.S.A. § 827(e)
 - a. If the Wells School District board approves payment to a nondesignated school, tuition shall not exceed the base education amount
 - b. If the Strafford School District board approves payment to a nondesignated school, tuition shall be as per § 824 but shall not exceed the tuition paid to the designated school