

Tuition Overview

All statutory references are to Title 16.

1. What is announced tuition?
 - a. The estimated per pupil cost of educating a student in the upcoming school year - § 826(a).
 - b. Announced tuition is calculated by the school boards of school districts and the boards of trustees of approved independent schools.
 - c. Any change in tuition must be announced to sending districts by January 15. If a new rate is not announced, the rate for the current year is used - § 826(a).
 - d. There are no statutory guidelines nor State Board of Education rules addressing how to calculate announced tuition.
 - e. § 825 (b) states tuition should exceed the per pupil cost of resident students.
 - f. Maximum allowable tuition is calculated the following fall and is based on actual data from the school districts. If the maximum allowable tuition is +/- 3.0% of the announced tuition for that same year, districts reconcile in one manner or another - § 836.
2. What is average announce tuition (AAT)?
 - a. There are two AAT calculated by AOE, AAT for union elementary school districts (grades K-6) and AAT for union high school districts (grades 7-12 or 9-12).

	AAT UESD	AAT UHSD
FY2019	13,910	15,618
FY2020	14,263	15,933
FY2021	14,859	16,233
FY2022	15,513	16,842
FY2023	16,020	17,278

3. School districts are allowed to pay tuition to (§ 828):
 - a. public schools in Vermont or other states,
 - b. approved independent schools in Vermont,
 - c. independent schools meeting education quality standards,
 - d. independent schools in other states or countries approved under their laws,
 - e. a tutorial program approved by the State Board of Education, or
 - f. an approved education program.
4. How much tuition does a school district pay to other districts or schools to educate its resident students? The maximum is dependent on if the tuition is for an elementary or secondary student, although in both instances, the voters can approve to pay a higher amount.
 - a. Elementary student (grades K-6) - § 823:
 - i. full tuition to a public school
 - ii. to an approved independent school, the lesser of:
 1. the AAT for UESDs,
 2. the tuition charged by the approved independent school, or

3. the average of the per pupil tuitions paid for other resident elementary students.
 - b. Secondary students (grades 7-12) - § 824:
 - i. full tuition to a public school,
 - ii. full tuition to an approved independent school functioning as a regional CTE, or
 - iii. full tuition to an approved independent school meeting education quality standards.
 - c. For secondary students, the receiving board may enter into tuition agreements with the boards of sending districts to charge a lower tuition, but that agreement must be offered to all sending districts - § 824(b)(2).
5. Examples of exceptions to the maximum tuition paid (number 4, above).
 - a. Burr & Burton Academy charges a reduced tuition rate to school districts that send most of their students to the Academy. Voters in those districts annually approve the rate which is higher than the AAT for UHSDs.
 - b. Lyndon Institute and St. Johnsbury Academy together function as an approved regional CTE and receive their full tuition rate.
 - c. Thetford Academy is a designated high school for both the Strafford and Thetford school districts. Districts sending students to Thetford Academy pay full tuition due to it being a designated high school (§827).
 - d. The Strafford board may tuition its secondary students to another approved independent school or a public school but will only pay tuition up to the Thetford Academy tuition.
6. Who chooses which school students attend if a district does not operate a school for those grades?
 - a. Elementary students:
 - i. § 821(a)(1) provides the board the decision so send students to one or more public elementary schools in other districts, unless
 - ii. the voters give the board authority to pay tuitions to approved independent schools - § 821(d). Then it is parental choice.
 - b. Secondary students is by parental choice - § 822(a)(1).