

Non-Operating School Districts and Tuitioning out of Students

The following is guidance that is provided by the NYSED on the processes to follow when looking at tuitioning out students leading to a non-operating school district. There of cause other options to consider such as annexation and centralization all of which needs to be discussed and studied in depth by the district(s) along with legal counsel.

Why Do Districts Tuition Students?

- ❖ To provide opportunities for students that is not feasible to offer in their home school district.
- ❖ To reduce cost. The cost of running a high school is the most expensive operation in the K-12 sequence of grades.

Tuitioning Guidelines

- ❖ A meaningful and in depth discussion and study needs to be done by all districts involved.
- ❖ Clear communications to the general public, as well as the staff, is critical as the next step in explaining the rational and impacts.
- ❖ After a public vote, a district can contract for: 1.) All or part of the elementary students 2.) All or some of the 7-12 students for a period of 2-5 years.
- ❖ Contract may be with one or more school districts.

Tuitioning Support

- ❖ Receiving district cannot charge more than the difference between the cost of educating the student and the amount of state aid received for that student
- ❖ Sending district must provide transportation for the tuitioned students

Rights of Teachers in Tuitioning

- ❖ Sending district teachers are considered employees of the receiving district
- ❖ If fewer teachers are needed, teachers cannot bump receiving district teachers
- ❖ If laid off, teachers are placed on a preferred eligible list for 7 years
- ❖ Length of service carries over for salary, sick leave, and other purposes

Components of Tuitioning or Merger Study

- ❖ Enrollment History and Projections
- ❖ Instructional and Extracurricular Program
- ❖ Facilities
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Staffing
- ❖ Finances