

Tuition

Nicole Thuotte – School Finance Specialist
School Elections, Tuition, Impact Aid

Three Types of Tuition

- Student Attendance Agreements (FP-14/14A)
- Day Treatment/Out of State (FP-15)
- In-District Special Education Permissive Tuition Levy
- Juvenile Detention Facilities

Student Attendance Agreements (FP-14)

- Mandatory – 20-5-321, MCA
 - The child resides closer to the school that the child wishes to attend *and* more than 3 miles from the school the child would attend in the resident district *and* the resident district does not provide transportation.
 - The child resides in a location where, because of geographic conditions between the child's home and the school that the child would attend within the district of residence, it is impractical to attend school in the district of residence, *as determined by the county transportation committee based on the following criteria:*
 - The length of time that is in excess of the 1-hour limit for each bus trip for an elementary child;
 - Whether the distance traveled is greater than 40 miles one way from the child's home to school on a dirt road or greater than a total of 60 miles one way from a child's home to school in the district of residence over the shortest passable route; or
 - Whether the condition of the road or existence of a geographic barrier, such as a river or mountain pass, causes a hazard that prevents safe travel between the home and school.

Student Attendance Agreements (FP-14)

- Mandatory
 - The child is a member of a family that is required to send another child outside of the elementary district to attend high school and the child of elementary age may more conveniently attend the elementary district where the high school is located, *provided that the child resides more than 3 miles from an elementary school in the resident district.*
 - The child is under the protective care of a state agency or has been adjudicated to be a youth in need of intervention or a delinquent youth.**
 - The child is required to attend school outside of the district of residence as the result of a placement in foster care or a group home licensed by the state.**

Student Attendance Agreements (FP-14)

- Discretionary – 20-5-320, MCA
 - A child may be enrolled in and attend a school in a Montana school district that is outside of the child’s district of residence or a public school in a district of another state or province that is adjacent to the county of the child’s residence. *The parent or guardian may be charged tuition and may be charged for transportation.*
 - The trustees of a district may approve an attendance agreement for educational program not provided by the resident district, such as kindergarten or grades 7 and 8, *if the trustees agree to the terms and conditions for attendance and any tuition and transportation requirement.*

Tuition Rates for FP-14

- May not exceed 20% of the maximum per-ANB rate for the year of attendance
- Must charge the same for each type of entity (parent, state, district)
- Paid by the entity responsible for tuition:

Parent/Guardian Request:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary - Parent/Guardian requests to enroll student <u>outside</u> district of residence.	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuition Waived <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____		\$ _____ (Parent/Guardian)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory - Elementary student to attend where high school age sibling(s) attends.	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuition Waived <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____		\$ _____ (Parent/Guardian)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Student lives closer to school of choice and at least 3 miles from resident district school AND district of residence provides no bus service or mileage reimbursements.	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuition Waived <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	\$ _____ (District of Residence)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory - Geographic barrier prohibits attendance in District of Residence.	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuition Waived <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	\$ _____ (District of Residence)
State/Court Placement:			
(includes State/Court Foster and State/Court/Parental Group Home placements)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	\$ _____ (State of Montana)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory			
District-to-District Placement:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Discretionary	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuition Waived <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	\$ _____ (District of Residence)

Special Tuition Rates (FP-14A)

- Option A
 - Based on a student's hours of service in the IEP effective during the period of enrollment
 - Minimum of 15 hours per week
 - Ratio of hours to max (30 hours), multiply by maximum regular education tuition rate
- Option B
 - Actual unique costs of services provided to a student
 - Special education and related services, including specialized equipment and supplies
 - Does not include removal of architectural barriers and ordinary special education services (including teacher salary), and common supplies and equipment.

Special Tuition Rates (FP-14A)

- Option C
 - Specialized school district programs
 - Requires OPI approval – even if district to district enrollment
- Payment for Options B and C
 - Actual cost per student, minus:
 - 80% of the maximum ANB for the year of attendance;
 - The Instructional Block Grant; and
 - The Related Services Block Grant (if not in a special education cooperative)\

**May not charge SPED rates to parents

ARM 10.16.3818

Tuition Process

- Student presents to enroll in the District of Choice
- District approves/denies agreement in accordance with district policy
- Approved agreement is sent to the Resident District for approval/acknowledgement (state paid agreements are sent to the OPI first)
- Agreement is returned to the District of Choice

**Must complete the first three in order to be eligible to count the student for ANB

Tuition Payment

- State-paid tuition agreements are paid in the year following attendance (after submission of Days Enrolled in MAEFAIRS)
- District-to-district tuition agreements are paid half by 12/31 and half by 6/15 in the year following attendance
- Parent agreements are paid according to district policy

Notes for State Paid Tuition

- Must have *residential address* of parent/guardian
- If parental rights have been terminated, the name and location of the court that terminated rights
- Group home managers may only sign in place of a parent/guardian – if the student is state or court placed, the agency must sign the agreement
- The agreement must be signed by the District of Choice, sent to the OPI, returned to the District of Choice, then sent to the District of Residence

Notes for State Paid Tuition

- NEW SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
 - Agreements must be submitted to the OPI not later than December 31 following the school year of attendance (was June 30th)
 - Administrative Rule 10.10.301B(8)
 - Allows the OPI to request a supplemental appropriation to ensure that all agreements have the opportunity to be paid.

Day Treatment/Out of State (FP-15)

- Resident students attending public schools out of state at district expense
- Resident students attending day treatment programs under approved individualized education programs at private, non-sectarian schools
- Submit the FP-15, along with tuition bills for individual students (must detail date(s) of attendance and educational costs)
- Paid in the year following attendance

Day Treatment (FP-15)

- The district may not include for the purposes of calculating ANB a student who is placed in a private, non-sectarian day treatment program. For students placed in accordance with the provisions of an IEP, the district may use the tuition fund to pay for educational services and may claim an ANB reimbursement.
- Districts are reimbursed the state portion of the per-ANB entitlement for each student, not to exceed the district's actual payment of tuition and fees for service.

Notes for Day Treatment/Out of State

- NEW SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:
 - Agreements must be submitted to the OPI not later than December 31 following the school year of attendance (was within the school year following attendance)
 - Agreements must be signed by the board chair (same as the FP-14)
 - Administrative Rules 10.10.301C(4)(b) and 10.10.301D(3)

In District Special Education Permissive Tuition Levy

- Allows the district to permissively levy for a portion of special education expenses for resident students:
 - The levy is specific to the expenses for an individual student
 - The expenses must be outlined in the student's IEP
 - Only part of the full cost is paid from the tuition fund – the rest from the general fund (or any other allowable fund)
 - May not be used for general special education costs or to pay cooperative fees (unless they are specific to a student)

In District Special Education Permissive Tuition Levy

- Two methods:
 1. Use actual cost from the preceding year
 2. Estimate cost for the upcoming year
 - Will need to re-run the levy for every student at the end of the year
 - Adjust the next year's levy for the difference if costs were lower than expected (or student leaves during the school year)
 - The OPI recommends getting advice from your auditor about what to include in student costs

IN-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION PERMISSIVE LEVY CALCULATOR

Districts with structure changes should contact the OPI to ensure accuracy of calculations

	Enter LE	LE Name
Elem LE:		
HS LE:		
K12 LE:		

Use this calculator to identify the amount that may be levied from the district's Tuition fund (13). Districts have the option of levying either the estimated cost in the year of enrollment or the actual cost in the year following enrollment. If estimated costs are not realized the district must reduce their levy in the subsequent year. Expenditures from the Tuition and Transportation funds will count toward the district's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) calculation.

*Districts with an approved and accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program or middle school calculate the tuition levy using the high school ANB rate

** Unaccredited 7-8 programs

	Elementary		High School		K-12	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Student's Total SPED Costs K-6 or K-8**						
Student's Total SPED Costs 7-8*						
Student's Total SPED Costs 9-12						
a. SPED Allowable Cost Payment Current Year ANB	-	-	-	-	-	-
b. Federal Allocation AIM October Enrollment	-	-	-	-	-	-
c. Per Student Entitlement	5,348.00 6,847.00	5,444.00 6,970.00	6,847.00	6,970.00	5,348.00 6,847.00	5,444.00 6,970.00
d. Basic Entitlement E	-	-			-	-
Basic Entitlement M	-	-			-	-
Basic Entitlement H			-	-	-	-
Budget Limit ANB E	-	-			-	-
Budget Limit ANB M	-	-			-	-
Budget Limit ANB H					-	-
e. 5 Funding Components Budget Limit ANB	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Amount to Levy						

Adjusting the Next Year's Levy - Visual

- Compare the estimated amount (last year's spreadsheet) to the actual amount (this year's spreadsheet).
- If the levy amount is less than the estimate, must subtract that amount from the total amount to be levied in FY 17.
- If the levy amount is more than the estimate, may add that amount to the total amount to be levied in FY 17.

Juvenile Detention Facilities

- The district may not include for purposes of calculating ANB a student who has been placed in a county or regional detention facility – ARM 10.20.106(5)(b)
 1. The facility may charge the student's district of residence \$20 per day for youth detained more than 9 consecutive days during the prior year.
 2. The calculation must be sent to districts no later than June 30th
 3. Districts must pay the amount to the county treasurer in the county where the facility is located by July 15th
 4. The amount must be funded from the district's tuition fund or impact aid fund 20-9-130, MCA

Questions????

Nicole Thuotte

(406) 444-4524

nthuotte@mt.gov