

Tuition Fund

What is the purpose of the Tuition Fund?

The Tuition Fund is used in limited cases to pay tuition for a student who attends school outside the student's district of residence. Students may be attending under mandatory or discretionary agreements paid by the resident school district. Rates are set under 20-5-323, MCA based on 20% of the per-ANB entitlement for the year of attendance. Special education add-on rates are calculated under ARM 10.16.3818. SB 191, passed in the 2013 legislative session also allows districts to pay for the cost of implementing a resident student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) Funding sources are fund balance reappropriated; direct state aid (for out-of-state tuition), non-levy revenue, and a non-voted district tax levy.

Valid Expenditures:

- For students the trustees have placed in another district
- For students where geographic conditions make it impractical for the student to attend in his own district
- Pay this year's tuition in the next year so have the costs before you budget
- Payment is made the year after the year of attendance:
 - 1st Half by 12/31.
 - 2nd Half by 6/15

Common Coding:

Fund: 113 Elementary Tuition
 Program: 100 Regular Education
 Function: 1000 Instruction
 Object Codes: 560 Tuition

Revenue Source: 1310 Individual Tuition
 1320 School Tuition from Other School District Within the State

Reserve Limit:

- None. Districts usually reappropriate all fund balance to support the budget and allow for expenditures during the year.

History of the Tuition Fund at Gallatin Gateway School:

Year	Funds Reappropriated	District Mill Levy	Adopted Budget	District Mills
15-16	\$852.30	\$0	\$855.00	0
14-15	\$845.61	\$0	\$850.00	0
13-14	\$839.50	\$0	\$845.00	0
12-13	\$832.80	\$0	\$835.00	0
11-12	\$824.52	\$0	\$825.00	0
10-11	\$815.21	\$0	\$815.00	0
09-10	\$802.29	\$0	\$803.00	0

Developing the Budget:

- Fund Balance re-appropriated
 - (Year End Cash Balance)
- +Non-Levy Revenues
 - Interest Earnings
- +Local Levy
 - For geographical barriers approved by County Transportation Committee
 - Agreements/Contracts for Grades 7 and 8 and Kindergarten in elementary districts that don't offer K, 7 and/or 8
 - District placements (ie. IEP requirements)

Other Information:

- Tuition receipts are deposited into the General fund
- DPHHS and Court Placements (including Tribal court) are paid by the state out of county equalization before it is sent to the state
- Pay this year's tuition in the next year so have the costs before you budget

FY 2015-16 Tuition Rates

The maximum regular education tuition rates for attendance during FY 2015-16 are:

- \$534.80** for half-time kindergartners (KH) and Pre-K (PK) students with an IEP
- \$1,069.60** for full-time kindergartners (KF) and students in grades 1-8
- \$1,369.40** for grades 7-8 if the school runs an accredited 7-8 program or junior high
- \$1,369.40** for grades 9-12

The maximum per-ANB rates for FY 2015-16 are:

- \$2,674.00** for half-time kindergartners (KH) and Pre-K (PK) students with an IEP
- \$5,348.00** for full-time kindergartners (KF) and students in grades 1-8
- \$6,847.00** for grades 7-8 if the school runs an accredited 7-8 program or junior high
- \$6,847.00** for grades 9-12

The special education block grant rates for FY 2015-16 are:

- Instructional Block Grant Rate per ANB: **\$151.21**
- Related Services Block Grant Rate per ANB: **\$50.40**

The tuition rates are set in 20-5-323, MCA and 10.10.301, ARM and are based on 20% of the per-ANB rate for the year of attendance. Special education add-on rates are calculated under 10.16.3818, ARM.

20-5-323. Tuition and transportation rates. (1) Except as provided in subsections (2) through (5), whenever a child has approval to attend a school outside of the child's district of residence under the provisions of [20-5-320](#) or [20-5-321](#), the rate of tuition charged for a Montana resident student may not exceed 20% of the per-ANB maximum rate established in [20-9-306](#) for the year of attendance.

(2) The tuition for a child with a disability must be determined under rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction for the calculation of tuition for special education pupils.

(3) The tuition rate for out-of-district placement pursuant to [20-5-321](#)(1)(d) and (1)(e) for a student without disabilities who requires a program with costs that exceed the average district costs must be determined as the actual individual costs of providing that program according to the following:

(a) the district of attendance and the district, person, or entity responsible for the tuition payments shall approve an agreement with the district of attendance for the tuition cost;

(b) for a Montana resident student, 80% of the maximum per-ANB rate established in [20-9-306](#), received in the year for which the tuition charges are calculated, must be subtracted from the per-student program costs for a Montana resident student; and

(c) the maximum tuition rate paid to a district under this section may not exceed \$2,500 per ANB.

(4) When a child attends a public school of another state or province, the amount of daily tuition may not be greater than the average annual cost for each student in the child's district of residence. This calculation for tuition purposes is determined by totaling all of the expenditures for all of the district budgeted funds for the preceding school fiscal year and dividing that amount by the October 1 enrollment in the preceding school fiscal year. For the purposes of this subsection, the following do not apply:

(a) placement of a child with a disability pursuant to Title 20, chapter 7, part 4;

(b) placement made in a state or province with a reciprocal tuition agreement pursuant to [20-5-314](#);

(c) an order issued under Title 40, chapter 4, part 2; or

(d) out-of-state placement by a state agency.

(5) When a child is placed by a state agency in an out-of-state residential facility, the state agency making the placement is responsible for the education costs resulting from the placement.

(6) The amount, if any, charged for transportation may not exceed the lesser of the average transportation cost for each student in the child's district of residence or 35 cents a mile. The average expenditures for the district transportation fund for the preceding school fiscal year must be calculated by dividing the transportation fund expenditures by the October 1 enrollment for the preceding fiscal year.