

TUITION EXPENSES FOR WAKEFIELD RESIDENTS

The Wakefield School Board recognizes its duty to “provide, at District expense, elementary and secondary education to all pupils who reside in the district until such time as the pupil has acquired a high school diploma or has reached age 21, whichever occurs first” (RSA 189.1-a). Residency is defined by RSA 193:12. The superintendent shall decide residency issues under this section. If more than one school district is involved in a residency dispute or the parents who live apart cannot agree on the residence of a minor child, the respective superintendents shall jointly make such decision. In those instances, when an agreement cannot be reached in a timely manner, the commissioner of education shall make a determination and such determination shall be final. No school district shall deny a pupil attendance or implementation of an existing individual education plan. A pupil shall remain in attendance in the pupil's current school during the pendency of a determination of residency. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 21-N:11, III any person aggrieved by a determination of the commissioner may appeal such determination to a court of competent jurisdiction.

The Wakefield School District operates public schools within the Villages of Wakefield for kindergarten through eighth grade students. The Wakefield School District does not assume tuition expenses for students in kindergarten through eighth grade enrolled in schools other than the district's schools, except those placed in out-of-district schools by Wakefield student service teams.

In addition, the Wakefield School District contracts with the Rochester School District to provide a secondary education for Wakefield's ninth through twelfth grade students. The Wakefield School District assumes the tuition expense for Wakefield students enrolled at Spaulding High School as well as provides transportation services for the regular school program. The Wakefield School District also assumes tuition expense for ninth through twelfth grade students who are placed in out-of-district schools by Wakefield student service teams.

As a service to secondary students and parents, the Wakefield School District permits secondary education students to attend a public high school or public academy other than Spaulding High School, with the Wakefield School Board approval, except for schools established under RSA 194-B:3 (Charter Schools) outside the authority of the Wakefield School District, and schools established under RSA 194B:3-a. The Wakefield School District assumes the cost of tuition up to, but not exceeding, the Spaulding High School tuition rate for the same year. If the tuition exceeds the Spaulding High School rate, the excess is borne by the student and parents. The district does not provide transportation services to public high schools or public academies other than Spaulding High School, except services mandated by Wakefield student service teams.

The Wakefield School District does not provide any of its funds to schools established under RSA 194B:3 (Charter Schools) outside the authority of the Wakefield School District, and established under RSA 194-B:3-a.

The Wakefield School Board establishes the following procedure for payment of tuition to public high schools and public academies other than Spaulding High School:

Robert DeColfmacker, Chairman
Bob Oullette, Vice Chairman
Sandrea Taliaferro
Mary Collins
Brennan Peaslee

Adopted by the Board: 6 August 2013
Revised by the Board: 3 September 2014
Revised by the Board: 21 September 2016
Revised by the Board: 20 September 2022
Approved by the Board: 18 April 2023
Approved by the Board: 20 August 2024

1. Eighth grade students and secondary students currently attending public schools or public academies other than Spaulding High School and their parents are provided with a copy of the School District's *Tuition* policy by the Superintendent upon request.
2. Secondary students and parents who choose to enroll in public schools or public academies other than Spaulding High School are requested to confirm their school of choice no later than September 10. This is a letter or email of intent to the Wakefield School District expressing interest in attending another high school. Intents should be sent to the Superintendent at the SAU office. All applicants will be placed into a lottery. The lottery is a random drawing of numbers that are drawn at the second school board meeting in September. Each student entered into the pool will be given a number. Said student and family will know the outcome of the lottery by number only at the time of the drawing. Students chosen will be contacted by phone call within 24 hours of the lottery and in writing within 72 hours. This correspondence will come from the SAU office.
3. The first names submitted that meet the maximum number of students that can attend public high schools other than Spaulding for that given year will be considered for Board approval.
4. Students returning to an approved out of district high school need to confirm their acceptance and attendance of said school by October 1st for each following school year.
5. When tuition rates are tentatively set at public schools and public academies in which Wakefield students have chosen to enroll, the Superintendent advises the students and parents of the approximate rates, the portion of the rates which the district will assume (based on the Spaulding High School approximate rate), and the portion of the rates which the student and parent may have to assume.
6. When the actual Spaulding High School tuition rate is finalized, the student and parents will be notified accordingly. Their portion of the tuition is due in full, payable to the Wakefield School District, prior to November 15.
7. Secondary students who wish to enroll in a public school or public academy at a time after the first day of classes may do so at any time, based on the date of entry and the Spaulding High School rate, and approval by the Wakefield School Board.
8. The Wakefield School District pays the tuition directly to the receiving school.

The School Board charges the Superintendent with the responsibility to inform current and potential receiving high school of the district's policy and to advise the schools that the district does not accept financial responsibility for students who do not have approval granted through the *Proof of Residency Form*, which is required to be submitted annually.

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