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TO: School Committee
FROM: Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent / Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
DATE: April 1, 2024
RE: School Choice Discussion

We look forward to discussing the Massachusetts Inter-District School Choice program with the School Committee on Monday, April 1, 2024. The previous materials including memos, presentations and Q & A responses have been provided as back-up. There are numerous links to various topics within the previously submitted materials.

Public Presentation on Inter-District School Choice to School Committee

April 1, 2024



Agenda

- Review of School Choice Program
- DESE Cost Calculator
- Q & A from the Jan 8th School Committee meeting
- School Choice Calendar & Next Steps
- Helpful links

Review of the School Choice Program

- The inter-district school choice program under G.L. c. 76, § 12B, allows families to enroll their children in schools in communities other than the city or town in which they reside.
- All Massachusetts school district are required to accept the inter-district School Choice program unless they vote to opt out by June 1st
- On an annual basis, school districts may opt-out completely or opt-in on a limited basis determined by the School Committee by school, grade, and number of available spaces.

Program Administration

- If a district accepts School Choice students, they are responsible for communicating this to prospective parents/students
- If a limited number of seats are available and more students are interested than available seats, the school district must select students on a random basis without discrimination
- Receiving Districts must notify both DESE and the Sending Districts of enrolled students
- The school choice tuition for students is \$5,000 per student
- For a student with an individualized education plan (IEP), a special education increment is added to the tuition rate that the receiving district is paid based on the special education increment claim filled by the receiving district
- **School Choice students who require an out-of-district placement: The receiving district pays the tuition and is reimbursed for the full cost by the sending district after filing a special education increment claim; the sending district can claim circuit breaker reimbursement.**

Non-Discrimination Requirement

- *“...no school committee shall discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need or academic performance or proficiency in the English language.”*

Rights and Responsibilities of Accepted Students

- Once enrolled in a “*receiving district*”, a School Choice student has the right to continue attendance through grade graduation
- School Choice students have the same rights to all educational and co-curricular programs as resident students under the same terms and conditions.
- Receiving Districts are not required to provide School Choice students with transportation.
- **When transportation services are required by a student's IEP, the sending district must pay the full cost.**

DESE Cost Calculator

FY23 SCHOOL CHOICE SPED INCREMENT										Cost Share Agency:	Cost Share %	Total Cost Share %
LEA:	# Joint Responsibility (2nd Lea):									DCF	0.00%	
Lookup a Placement:										2nd Lea	0.00%	
SASID	Placement #	Last Name	First Name	DOB	In or Out District					0.00%		
0	0				In District					0.00%	0.00%	
Buttons for All Claims			Add a New Student	Save & Update	Delete a Placement	Print All Claims	Print Current Claim					
Buttons for Out District Claims			OSD Listing	LEA/Collab Listing	Authorization for	Clear Out District	Calculate row 62/ 63					

1. IN DISTRICT

Must select a placement type.

Data must be entered in highlighted yellow cell if

Days in cycle: 0

Clear Data Below

Program Type:	In District	Start	End	Total Days	FY23 RATE	36 Week Program			Extended School Year			Total
Placement Type:				0		Service Delivery Group Type	Hours Per Cycle	Cost	Service Delivery Group	Hours Per Cycle	Cost	
Specialty Consultation Services (Doctorate level)					128.10			0.00				0.00
General Education Services					0			0.00				0.00
Special Education Teaching Services (Certified teachers only)					67.60			0.00				0.00
Additional Special Education Teaching Services and/or Consultation					67.60			0.00				0.00
Related Services (Certified or licensed providers only):												
Consultation (by service providers listed in this category)					77.16			0.00				0.00
Occupational Therapy					77.16			0.00				0.00
Speech and Language Therapy/Audiology					77.16			0.00				0.00
Orientation & Mobility					77.16			0.00				0.00
Physical Therapy					77.16			0.00				0.00
Counseling					77.16			0.00				0.00
Specialized Health Care Services (RN or LPN):												
Nursing Services					51.42			0.00				0.00
Individualized Services Associated with Special Health Care Needs					51.42			0.00				0.00
Other Specialized Services Provided by Professional Staff:												
Consultation (by service providers listed in this category incl. BCBA)					82.17			0.00				0.00
Adaptive Physical Education					82.17			0.00				0.00
Recreation Therapy					82.17			0.00				0.00
Vision Training					82.17			0.00				0.00
Interpretation for the Deaf or Hard of Hearing					82.17			0.00				0.00
Music Therapy					82.17			0.00				0.00
Home School Facilitator (BCBA)					82.17			0.00				0.00
Specialized Services Provided by Staff Who Have Received Specialized Training:												
Applied Behavior Analysis					32.64			0.00				0.00
COTA, PTA, SLA					32.64			0.00				0.00
Job Coach					32.64			0.00				0.00
Work Experience Assistant					32.64			0.00				0.00
Instruction on the use of Specialized Equipment					32.64			0.00				0.00
Services Provided by Non-professional Staff:												
Personal Care Assistant or Certified Nursing Assistant					24.40			0.00				0.00
Teaching Assistant					24.40			0.00				0.00
Aide					24.40			0.00				0.00
Specialized Materials/Equipment (Documented on Student's IEP)								0.00				0.00
						36wk Prog Total:		0	Summer Total:		0	0



School Choice - School Committee discussions & Next Steps

- January 8, 2024 - School Choice Discussion with School Committee
- February 8, 2024 - School Choice Discussion with School Committee
- February 8, 2024 - NPS high level Enrollment projection overview
- February 26, 2024 - Demographic and Enrollment Presentation
- February 26, 2024 - School Committee Workshop on School Choice
- March 4, 2024 - Perkins Eastman Facility presentation
- April 1, 2024 - School Choice Discussion with School Committee
- April 23, 2024 - Public Hearing on School Choice
- May 6, 2024 - School Committee Vote on School Choice



School Committee School Choice Q&A

- Link above is provided from the questions from the School Committee

Other helpful links/information:

[DESE - Inter-District School Choice Program](#)

[Advisory on Inter-District School Choice Pursuant to G.L. c. 76, §12B](#)

[Advisory Memorandum on Financial Administration of the School Choice Program](#)

[DESE: Choosing a School: A Family Guide to Educational Options in Massachusetts](#)

[DESE School Choice FAQ's.docx](#)

[School Choice MGL's.docx](#)

[School Choice Program Administration Webinar October 2023.pptx](#)

