

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS CHARGING TUITION
PART II SURVEY QUESTIONS**

Part II Questions:

1. If you do not charge tuition for out of district students, what are the reasons that resulted in a decision by the district to fully waive tuition?

-For 1 student not charged, both district and parents refused to pay

-Elementary will become "paying" students in high school. Also their families farm and ranch and the border runs through their property - closer to (district) than the N.D. schools."

2. Does the district have tuition issues that are not addressed by the questions in part I?

If so, please identify those issues as specifically as possible and indicate your interest in providing further information.

-Money should not be used to pay tuition for students going into another county when bus goes right by a subdivision. Needs to be an adjustment to the "mandatory" language regarding "from another county" and "closer to another school".

- If schools are within the same county , students should be able to attend school of choice tuition free.

-Student has not been expelled from another district does not overcrowd a classroom and education program would not require hiring of additional staff.

-Tuition is affecting the amount of GTB received by district

-Mandatory tuition to (out-of-county) HS

-Students whose parents live out-of-state and child resides with relative in district and district receives no money.

-Parents who have joint-custody, live in different states and child spends 2 weeks with each one every month.

-Child of teacher living out-of-district.

-District negotiates out-of-state tuition based on actual cost according to district formula

-The primary area of frustration which we discuss on an annual basis is our frustration regarding the implementation of the existing tuition laws. In the ___ districts it is our interpretation that the laws are quite clear and specific. If a district waives tuition for any student, in-state or out-of-state, then the waiver must be equally applied to all students. In ___ we charge tuition to all students who are not residents of our district regardless of the state of residence. However, our interpretation is not shared by our neighbors and presents a source of tension and frustration. It would be helpful if this issue was clarified so all districts clearly understand the interpretation of existing legislation. We believe, as stated, the current legislation is clear and unambiguous. Any waiver must be equally applied to all students. Neither 20-5-320 nor 20-5-321 MCA makes a distinction between in-state or out-of-state which is what we believe the legislature intended. Our interpretation prevents a district from admitting out-of-state students with no tuition and charging in-state students who attend a neighboring district. Thus, protecting Montana taxpayers from paying taxes that are waived for out-of-state residents.

The second issue relates the mandatory attendance agreements, specifically 20-5-321(1)(c). ___ High School is the high school of attendance for two neighboring independent elementary districts. There is no question that when a family has a high school aged child if the parent desire and the conditions of (1)(c) are met, the district of residence will pay tuition for an elementary aged child in the family to attend school at ___ Elementary. However, ___ Middle School also serves as the Middle School for these neighboring districts. Section 1(c) is specific to high school aged students and contains no ambiguity about this issue. On various occasions parents have asked what is the difference between the issue of convenience as it relates to the Middle School and High School. They become extremely frustrated when it is explained that the law is specific to high school aged children. Not only frustrated but they do not understand the logic, or lack thereof, that the legislation does not also apply when a middle school aged sibling must attend school in the ___ district. It would be appropriate if this section of the law was expanded to include siblings of middle school aged children who are required to attend school in a non-resident district.

-Parent placement of child in group home from your county to outside county. Whose liability for payment of education? Not a court order or agency placement.

-Parents not paying discretionary tuition but students are not refused admittance.

-Guardianship (legal work necessary); tuition contracts required, but most parents unable to pay (hardship cases); if you waive for one-you waive for all.

3. Is the issue of tuition currently a matter of discussion before your Board of Trustees?

Yes 18

No 21

If "yes", please briefly describe the concern Trustees may have and how they are attempting to address that concern.

-Survey does not address students from our school who are attending school out-of district. Included is charge of tuition paid by our district.

-Students who live with family who have power of attorney are required to pay tuition. These students probably wouldn't be in school if it weren't for these relatives.

-At recent Board meeting, trustees received information on relationship between tuition and GTB and asked district to reconsider tuition policy. Issue being researched.

-Board chairman signature requested on form and board likes to be informed when students outside the district are being enrolled either my mandatory or discretionary issues.

-Taxation without representation in HS due to SB 422

-Loss of ANB plus tuition appears to exceed amount spent per student.

-No choice due to overcrowding

-District is considering not charging tuition.

-We would like to see the district report the students to the state and have the state handle tuition.

-We have two students attending out-of-county for which mandatory tuition is being paid. We do not want this tuition to become a district responsibility. We would like to see tuition eliminated.

-We are revising our non-resident attendance policy. Because of the year's lag in ANB funding, we are going to charge tuition to offset the cost of educating the student for the year enrolled.

- Issue before the Board only to agree to rate set.
- A fair and equitable method of dealing with North Dakota neighbors and state taxpayers.
- Full tuition payment for all ND students (not just foundation payment) and mandatory reimbursement to Montana
- On going discussion involving boundaries with ____ county and payment of tuition costs.
- Concerns are the mandatory state law requiring acceptance of students from another county and charging tuition to cover these costs - however forces tuition be charged for all students and all students attending high school from outside of the district - just beginning discussions at committee level - no action at this time.
- Maybe they shouldn't be charging at all - bills are sent out to parents but no further action taken to acquire money.
- Seeking legal advice - residency when child lives with parents but guardian is someone else appointed by court.
- Tuition rate - asking other districts what they charge.
- Presently considering raising the rate for 2000-2001 school year.

Other General Comments:

I have read this survey and I am extremely concerned about the attempt to control the tuition issue by state government. I have completed all that I plan to complete. This appears to be another attempt by _____ to abolish local control so that we will be forced to enroll out-of-district students.

If it is not broken don't fix it - and don't break it to in turn say look what "we" did.