

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**March 8, 2023**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Education to which was referred HB 275-LOCAL, relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.**

**WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	<b>Education</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 275-LOCAL</b>
Title:	<b>relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.</b>
Date:	<b>March 8, 2023</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>Regular Calendar</b>
Recommendation:	<b>WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION</b>

**Statement in support of Ought to Pass with Amendment:** This bill, as amended, would allow parents to enroll students in a tuition school approved by the local school board whose tuition cost is above the district's established tuition cost per pupil. Within this provision, the local board may require the parent to pay the tuition cost difference to a school whose tuition is above the sending school's cap, as long as at least one other board-approved option is available that is free, without a cost to the parent. In the Upper Valley alone, Lyme, Croydon, Monroe, Landaff, Piermont, and Bath pay tuition for middle school level or secondary tuition students. Local school boards may create tuition contracts with other schools, public or private, provided the school's tuition rate falls within the sending school's approved tuition program. A district's tuition program that involves multiple receiving tuition school contracts, may include an approved receiving school that exceeds the funding cap as long as one other board approved school that provides all the necessary requirements for the opportunity for an adequate education is available to the student at no cost. With this policy and provision in place, there is no discrimination; every student has the opportunity to receive the opportunity for an adequate education, without having to pay tuition. The New Hampshire tuition program has been in place for years, and with this successful program, parents of students in small K-8 schools currently have the opportunity to choose which surrounding schools they'd like their students to attend. To make such a decision, parents must consider: availability of academic programming, offered special education services, co-curricular activities, proximity to parents' daily job/work, needed transportation, career technical education offerings at the receiving school, graduation rates, and more. Parents strongly consider moving into tuition option communities when locating and choosing a place to live.

Amendment: 2023-0839h

Rep. Rick Ladd

**Statement in support of Inexpedient to Legislate:** This bill enables local school boards to approve, among the list of schools available for tuition purposes, schools whose costs per pupil is above the determined and approved tuition costs set by the local school board. This requires parents who choose a school with higher tuition rates than the approved list to pay the cost difference. This arrangement discriminates against the parents who are unable to pay the additional amount for certain schools. In addition, the state has a constitutional duty to provide an opportunity for a free and adequate education for every child through the public schools. In this bill, there is no requirement for the school board to provide full tuition for a public school option. Parents should be guaranteed a public school option without any additional payment. This bill needs more work to ensure equity and accessibility for all students.

Amendment:

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

Rep. Linda Tanner

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

Education

**HB 275-LOCAL**, relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.

### **WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**

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Original: House Clerk

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Amendment to HB 275-LOCAL

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

2

3 1 Change of School or Assignment; School Tuition Program. Amend RSA 193:3, VI to read as  
4 follows:

5 VI. If there is no public school for the child's grade in the resident district, the school board  
6 may contract with another public school in another school district or with any private school that has  
7 been approved as a school tuition program by the school board, and may raise and appropriate  
8 money for the purposes of the contract, if the school district decides it is in the best interest of the  
9 pupil. The district may either assign all children to schools that have been approved as a school  
10 tuition program, or allow each child's parent to choose a school from among schools that have been  
11 approved as a school tuition program. ***To enroll a child in a tuition school approved by the  
12 local school board whose tuition cost is above the district's established tuition cost per  
13 pupil as determined and approved by the board, the local board may require the parent to  
14 pay the tuition cost difference as long as at least one option does not require additional  
15 tuition payment from the parent.***

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 275-LOCAL**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.

**DATE:** March 8, 2023

**LOB ROOM:** 207

**MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT**

Moved by Rep. Ladd Seconded by Rep. O. Ford AM Vote: 10-10

Amendment # 2023-0839h

Moved by Rep. Ladd Seconded by Rep. O. Ford Vote: 10-10

**MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

Moved by Rep. Tanner Seconded by Rep. Luneau Vote: 10-10

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Arlene Quaratiello, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # HB 275

BILL TITLE: ... School Tuition Paid by Parents

DATE: 3/8/23

LOB ROOM: 205-207

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP/A       ITL       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)       Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_
- Interim Study (2nd year)      (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Fadd      Seconded by Rep. Ford      Vote: 10-10

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP       OTP/A       ITL       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)       Adoption of Amendment # 0839h
- Interim Study (2nd year)      (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Fadd      Seconded by Rep. Ford      Vote: 10-10

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP       OTP/A       ITL       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)       Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_
- Interim Study (2nd year)      (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Tanner      Seconded by Rep. Luneau      Vote: 10-10

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP       OTP/A       ITL       Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)       Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_
- Interim Study (2nd year)      (if offered)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSENT CALENDAR:    \_\_\_ YES    \_\_\_ NO

Minority Report?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No    If yes, author, Rep: \_\_\_\_\_    Motion \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted:



2023 SESSION

Education

Bill #: HB 275 Motion: ~~amend~~ adopt AM #: 2023 0839h Exec Session Date: 3/8/23

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman	10		
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman	1		
Lekas, Alicia D.	2		
Ford, Oliver J. Clerk	3		
Belcher, Mike S.	4		
Drye, Margaret M.	5		
McDonnell, Valerie E.	6		
Noble, Kristin	7		
Peternel, Katy	8		
Quaratiello, Arlene	9		
Myler, Mel		1	
Cornell, Patricia		2	
Tanner, Linda L.		3	
Luneau, David J.		4	
Ellison, Arthur S.		5	
Woodcock, Stephen L.		6	
Hall, Muriel C.		7	
Balboni, Peggy		8	
S Cascadden, Corinne E.		9	
Damon, Hope		10	
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	10	10	





2023 SESSION

Education

Bill #: HB 275 Motion: OTP AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 3/8/23

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman	10		
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman	1		
Lekas, Alicia D.	2		
Ford, Oliver J. Clerk	3		
Belcher, Mike S.	4		
Drye, Margaret M.	5		
McDonnell, Valerie E.	6		
Noble, Kristin	7		
Peternel, Katy	8		
Quaratiello, Arlene	9		
Myler, Mel		1	
Cornell, Patricia		2	
Tanner, Linda L.		3	
Luneau, David J.		4	
Ellison, Arthur S.		5	
Woodcock, Stephen L.		6	
Hall, Muriel C.		7	
Balboni, Peggy		8	
S Cascadden, Corinne E.		9	
Damon, Hope		10	
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	10	10	



2023 SESSION

Education

Bill #: 275 Motion: 15L AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 3/8/23

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman		10	
Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman		1	
Lekas, Alicia D.		2	
Ford, Oliver J. Clerk		3	
Belcher, Mike S.		4	
Drye, Margaret M.		5	
McDonnell, Valerie E.		6	
Noble, Kristin		7	
Peternel, Katy		8	
Quaratiello, Arlene		9	
Myler, Mel	1		
Cornell, Patricia	2		
Tanner, Linda L.	3		
Luneau, David J.	4		
Ellison, Arthur S.	5		
Woodcock, Stephen L.	6		
Hall, Muriel C.	7		
Balboni, Peggy	8		
S Cascadden, Corinne E.	9		
Damon, Hope	10		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	10	10	

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6 may contract with another public school in another school district or with any private school that has  
7 been approved as a school tuition program by the school board, and may raise and appropriate  
8 money for the purposes of the contract, if the school district decides it is in the best interest of the  
9 pupil. The district may either assign all children to schools that have been approved as a school  
10 tuition program, or allow each child's parent to choose a school from among schools that have been  
11 approved as a school tuition program. *To enroll a child in a tuition school approved by the  
12 local school board whose tuition cost is above the district's established tuition cost per  
13 pupil as determined and approved by the board, the local board may require the parent to  
14 pay the tuition cost difference as long as at least one option does not require additional  
15 tuition payment from the parent.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 275-LOCAL

**BILL TITLE:** relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.

**DATE:** February 10, 2023

**LOB ROOM:** 205-207                      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 1:00 pm

**Time Adjourned:** 1:35 pm

**Committee Members:** Reps. Ladd, Cordelli, O.Ford, Helcher, Drye, McDonnell, Noble, Peternel, Myler, Cornell, Tanner, Ellison, Woodcock, Hall, Balboni, Cascadden and Damon

**Bill Sponsors:**

**Rep. Ladd**

**Rep. Coulon**

**Rep. Moffett**

**Rep. A. Lekas**

**Rep. Soti**

**Rep. Hobson**

**Sen. Ward**

**Sen. Avard**

**TESTIMONY**

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**\*Rep. Ladd - Prime Sponsor**

- Described how the current tuition cap can limit choices for high school, explained the process.
- School Districts use in tuitions, students for high school, and offered to put into law the option of sharing the tuition by allowing parents to pay the difference between the tuition and a tuition cap.

**\*Rep. Matt Coulon**

- Supports
- Provides much needed clarification to a district he represents that has no high school.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rep. Margaret Drye, Clerk**



# House Remote Testify

## Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB275 on 2023-02-10

Support: 8 Oppose: 70 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

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<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Damon, Claudia	Concord, NH cordsdamon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/5/2023 9:36 PM
Coon, Kate	Peterborough, NH kate2coon@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	Yes	2/5/2023 10:13 PM
Alexander, Christine	Cornish, NH calex8@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 9:18 AM
Jones, Andrew	Pembroke, NH arj11718@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 10:37 AM
Devore, Gary	Pembroke, NH torin_asheron@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 10:51 AM
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/6/2023 11:13 AM
Straiton, Marie	Pembroke, NH m.straiton@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 11:22 AM
HALLOCK, LINDA	Cornish, NH lindash@mail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 11:29 AM
Koch, Helmut	Concord, NH helmut.koch.2001@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 11:53 AM
Spielman, Kathy Sue	Durham, NH jspielman@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 11:56 AM
Satterfield, Peter	Pembroke, NH psatterfield@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 11:57 AM
Keeler, Margaret	New London, NH peg5keeler@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 12:05 PM
Raspiller, Cindy	Mont Vernon, NH raspicl@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 2:00 PM

Brown, Howard	Mont Vernon, NH hobro39@hotmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 2:03 PM
Moore, Susan	Franconia, NH susan.moore.franconia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 2:55 PM
Ward, Senator Ruth	Stoddard, NH Ruth.Ward@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/6/2023 3:16 PM
Torpey, Jeanne	Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 3:20 PM
Bissex, Hannah	Rindge, NH hannahinrindge@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 3:30 PM
Merlone, Lynn	Rindge, NH prulone@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 3:31 PM
Thomas, A	Rindge, NH annekerosie@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 3:31 PM
Hershey, Jane	Rindge, NH janelhershey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 3:31 PM
Martin, Patricia	Rindge, NH pmartin2894@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 3:31 PM
Wessels, Susan	RINDGE, NH slwessels2010@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 3:31 PM
Hamer, Gary	Manchester, NH grhamer@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 7:00 PM
Parshall, Lucius	Marlborough, NH lucius.parshall@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 7:46 PM
Meuse, David	Portsmouth, NH David.Meuse@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Rockingham 37	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 7:59 PM
TOWNSEND, CHARLES	Canaan, NH chucktownsend@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/6/2023 8:22 PM
Smith, Sara	Pembroke, NH sara.rose.ssmith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/6/2023 9:12 PM
Bishop, Nancy	Plaistow, NH nanbis71@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 12:08 AM
Campbell, Karen	Epsom, NH klynncampbell50@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 7:39 AM
Spier, Carry	Nashua 03064, NH carry.spier@hotmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 7:49 AM

Corell, Elizabeth	Concord, NH Elizabeth.j.corell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 8:54 AM
Medeiros, Jesse	Plainfield, NH bgtrck458@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/7/2023 9:40 AM
Taylor, Frances	Holderness, NH egg lady5@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 9:55 AM
Redmond-Scura, Maureen	Concord, NH mscurea@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 10:17 AM
Phillips, Margery	Hanover, NH Margeryphillips@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 10:20 AM
Walker, Deborah Klein	Meredith, NH deb.publichealth@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 10:53 AM
Wikstrom, Kathleen	Exeter, NH kjkwikstrom@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/7/2023 12:20 PM
Karney, Stephen	Amherst, NH stephenakarney@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/7/2023 12:32 PM
Black, William	Hanover, NH billblacknh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 3:15 PM
Richman, Susan	Durham, NH susan7richman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 4:11 PM
DeMark, Richard	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 6:50 PM
DeMark, Harriet	Meredith, NH demarknh114@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 6:50 PM
Koch, Laurie	Concord, NH kochlj@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 7:01 PM
Anderson, Sarah-Elizabeth	Concord, NH sarah_elizabeth@mac.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 9:49 PM
Schuett, Dianne	Pembroke, NH dianne.schuett@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself and my constituents	Oppose	No	No	2/7/2023 11:45 PM
Laker-Phelps, Gail	Chichester, NH lpsart@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/8/2023 4:52 PM
Almy, Susan	Lebanon, NH susan.almy@comcast.net8	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/8/2023 4:53 PM
Lane, Connie	Concord, NH connie.lane@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Constitutents	Oppose	No	No	2/8/2023 6:43 PM



Brennan, Nancy	Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/8/2023 9:14 PM
Keegan, John	Boscawen, NH peoresnada@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/8/2023 10:05 PM
Timmons, Gloria	Nashua, NH ldygt@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/8/2023 10:24 PM
Gathright, Jahmar	NASHUA, NH gathrightjahmar@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/8/2023 10:52 PM
Ealy, Elven	Litchfield, NH r_ealy@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/8/2023 11:06 PM
MacGregor, Leslie	Grantham, NH lsmacgregor@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/9/2023 8:16 AM
Doherty, David	Pembroke, NH, NH ddoherty0845@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/9/2023 8:36 AM
Lamphier, Regan	Nashua, NH reganburkelamphier@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/9/2023 8:54 AM
Rettew, Annie	Concord, NH abrettew@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/9/2023 10:09 AM
Nelson, Deborah	Hanover, NH dbaconnelson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/9/2023 12:20 PM
Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/9/2023 2:02 PM
Fudge, Kim Marie	NORTH CONWAY, NH kimfudge20@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/9/2023 2:47 PM
Perencevich, Ruth	Concord, NH rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/9/2023 9:15 PM
Billingham, Carla	Salem, NH billingham2@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/9/2023 10:26 PM
Istel, Claudia	Acworth, NH cistel79@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 3:34 AM
Chase, Karen	Hanover, NH kpchase@verizon.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 6:47 AM
morgan, meredith	hanover, NH meredithm@kahres.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 7:25 AM
Martin, Lucretia	Hanover, NH Lucretia.L.Martin@Dartmouth.EDU	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 7:28 AM

Lutes, Carolyn	Hanover, NH clutes1108@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 7:29 AM
Caudill Slosberg, Margaret	Hanover, NH margaretcs08@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 7:36 AM
Miles, Nancy	Hanover, NH nmiles3342@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 9:22 AM
Ufford, Letitia	Hanover, NH letitia.ufford@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 10:09 AM
Burton, Mary	Hanover, NH maryburton@earthlink.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 10:10 AM
Wilke, Mary	CONCORD, NH wilke.mary@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 10:33 AM
Racusin, Sharon	Hanover, NH sdracusin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 11:38 AM
Rand, Cindy	Hanover, NH cynthiarand@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 11:54 AM
LaMontagne, Jessica	Dover, NH finnlamontagne@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 2:25 PM
Powell, Margaret	Hanover, NH mepbox1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/10/2023 8:56 PM
Shea, Katherine	Goffstown, NH klynshea4618@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/10/2023 11:44 PM

Marie Straiton

Describe definition of obscene!

Sara Smith

\*\*\*\*\*

Margery Phillips

I oppose this bill

Daniel Richardson

Parent paying the cost differential is reasonable and fair to parents and school district.

Kim Marie Fudge

Please see my email to the committee.

Sharon Racusin

No taxpayer \$ for any private education.



Dear Colleagues,

HB 275 provides much needed clarification on an issue important to my constituents in Piermont, New Hampshire. Piermont has no high school therefore students residing there have historically had the ability to choose which surrounding schools they'd like to attend. However, after a tuition cap was set in the early 2000's, students in Piermont saw their high school choices begin to plummet<sup>1</sup> as prices began to eclipse their cap.

Even though surrounding towns' policies allow a parent to pay a tuition overage<sup>2</sup>, as HB 275 would solidify, the Piermont School Board and SAU 23 superintendent have claimed that it violates New Hampshire law. I've heard first hand from parents in Piermont who feel intimidated and obstructed by the actions of SAU 23, wanting only the option to pay the difference in tuition for the education which best suits their students.

HB 275 would establish statutory language which supports harmonious local customs and it's in this interest that I ask you to consider voting OTP.

Thank You For Your Time!

Matt Coulon

State Rep for Grafton 5

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<sup>1</sup> Piermont students have lost access to St. Johnsbury Academy, Thetford Academy, Mascoma and Hanover High.

<sup>2</sup>  high school tuition policy.pdf

Sending Resident School District  
Could be any grade level configuration



The sending district identifies and contracts with receiving schools for student education in grades not offered in the resident school. The resident board approves these tuition schools



Tuition Agreement Contract Signed by sending and receiving school districts/ schools  
NOTE: The resident district may tuition to multiple public or private districts/schools "provided that the primary or anchor tuition school accepts all tuition grades and meets minimum public school approval standards + guaranteed placement for all students.



Considerations in Selecting Receiving School  
Academic Programming  
Performance Outcomes – Statewide Assessment  
Graduation Rates  
Special Education  
Cocurricular Activities  
Transportation  
Career Technical Education  
Tuition Cost



Example of Tuition Cost				
Tuition Cap	Tuition Sch A	Tuition Sch B	Tuition Sch C	Tuition Sch D
\$19,758	\$18,500	\$19,100	\$19,758	\$20,800

# Tuition increase limits available high schools

By PATRICK ADRIAN

Valley News Correspondent

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PIERMONT — Families are losing at least one option for high school under the current tuition cap in the Piermont School Board's school choice policy.

St. Johnsbury Academy, a (*independent*), private high school (*academy*) in St. Johnsbury, Vt. currently enrolls "three or four" of Piermont's students, and another Piermont student had hoped to enroll this fall, according to SAU 23 Superintendent Laurie Melanson. (*since this article has been resolved for the year*)

But St. Johnsbury announced that its tuition will increase this coming fall to \$20,855, which exceeds Piermont's tuition maximum by approximately 8%.

Board members discussed pursuing a policy revision at their meeting on June 6 but decided to hold off on a decision until receiving information about other schools' tuition costs.

"It's not a closed issue," Piermont School Board Chairman Glen Meder said. "It's something that we can continue to review down the line or put to a public vote at a district meeting."

Piermont's tuition formula is established in a district policy that the board could only change through a formal policy revision process.

Piermont, a small district of 83 students in K-12, is one of four New Hampshire )districts in the Upper Valley, along with Cornish, Lyme and Croydon, (*Monroe, Landaff and Bath*) to pay tuition for secondary school.

Piermont's secondary school program offers a choice of three neighboring public high schools, Piermont's designated "receiving schools:" Woodsville High School; Oxbow High School in Bradford, Vt.; and Rivendell Academy in Orford. (**students enrolled in St. Johnsbury remain this year**)

The Piermont School Board also may create tuition contracts with other schools, public or private, provided the school's tuition rate falls within Piermont's funding cap, which is set at "the average of the three (receiving) schools plus 18%."

Currently that tuition cap equals \$19,758.

Piermont's tuition policy, created 17 years ago, prohibits the board from contracting with schools whose tuition exceeds the district's cap. (*Sending School Board has approved all tuition schools; however, the cap now restricts... based upon policy that follows*)

The policy does permit the board, "at its discretion," to exceed the tuition limit for students who were enrolled prior to the tuition hike.

According to Meder, Piermont will continue paying tuition for the students currently attending St. Johnsbury Academy. However, a 10th-grade student who had hoped to transfer next year to St.

Johnsbury will not be allowed to do so, because of Piermont's inability to create an enrollment contract for the student.

Many New Hampshire districts with school choice, including Croydon and Cornish, will split the tuition burden with a student's family when a school exceeds the sending district's maximum allowance. In these situations, the sending district will pay the tuition up to its cap (which is typically the tuition rate of the district's primary receiving school system). The student's family is required to pay the remainder.

The Piermont School Board explored changing its policy to allow families to pay the tuition difference, but attorneys consulted by the school district warned that changing the policy could result in the district legally having to reimburse families who, under the current policy, had to pay full tuition to those same schools.

While New Hampshire law does not prohibit districts from splitting the tuition costs with parents, so long as the district provides at least one fully-funded education option, attorneys said that changing to a policy of paying a tuition for families that the district previously denied to other families could raise legal questions about fairness and equality, Meder explained.

"The lawyers we spoke to all agreed it is a liability," Meder said. "I can only speak for myself, but it's not my place to put the public into a liability situation."

Meder said the town could choose to change the policy by adding it to the school warrant in March for a vote, which he would prefer to having the board decide for the town.

The School Board also wants to research tuition rate changes at other schools to determine whether to recommend increasing Piermont's tuition cap. The town voters would need to approve an increase, which could be held either at next year's annual district meeting in March or in a special meeting authorized by the School Board.

Piermont's next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 16.

*Patrick Adrian can be reached at [pfadrian25@gmail.com](mailto:pfadrian25@gmail.com).*

#### **RSA 194:23 Definition of High School. -**

II. In this section, " public academy " means an independent school which contracts with one or more school districts to provide education services to such districts in compliance with RSA 194:23. All contracts between a public academy and a school district shall be subject to approval by the state board of education. In this section, " independent school " means a school which is governed by a board of trustees or other officials who are not publicly elected. An independent school shall not include a chartered public school established under RSA 194-B.

HB 275-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0156

10/08

HOUSE BILL            **275-LOCAL**

AN ACT                relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Ladd, Graf. 5; Rep. Coulon, Graf. 5; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 4; Rep. A. Lekas, Hills. 38; Rep. Soti, Rock. 35; Rep. Hobson, Rock. 14; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Avard, Dist 12

COMMITTEE:          Education

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ANALYSIS

This bill allows a pupil's parents to pay the difference between a receiving school tuition cost and the sending district tuition cap in a school tuition program.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Three*

AN ACT relative to schools approved for a school tuition program by a school board.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Change of School or Assignment; School Tuition Program. Amend RSA 193:3, VI to read as  
2 follows:

3 VI. If there is no public school for the child's grade in the resident district, the school board  
4 may contract with another public school in another school district or with any private school that has  
5 been approved as a school tuition program by the school board, and may raise and appropriate  
6 money for the purposes of the contract, if the school district decides it is in the best interest of the  
7 pupil. The district may either assign all children to schools that have been approved as a school  
8 tuition program, or allow each child's parent to choose a school from among schools that have been  
9 approved as a school tuition program. ***To enroll a child in a tuition school approved by the***  
10 ***local school board whose tuition cost is above the district's established tuition cost per***  
11 ***pupil as determined and approved by the board, the local board may require the parent to***  
12 ***pay the tuition cost difference.***

13 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.