

November 6th.

Let me know if there is a certain day / time that they are interested in.

Thank you,
Sheri

[Quoted text hidden]

Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>
To: Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>

Tue, Oct 21, 2025 at 1:52 PM

Hi Sheri,

Can we add Thursday, 10/30 at 9:30 and Tuesday, 11/4 at 9:30?

Suzy

[Quoted text hidden]

Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>
To: Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>

Tue, Oct 21, 2025 at 2:31 PM

Yes, will do! Thank you!

[Quoted text hidden]

Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>
To: Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>

Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 11:48 AM

thank you!

[Quoted text hidden]



Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>

FHS Tours

8 messages

Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at
11:10 AM

To: Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>

Hi Sheri,

Is it possible to push the 10/30 Tour to 10:30? One of our School Committee members isn't available until 1030. Please advise.

Also, I wanted to confirm that we have 11/6 at 530 confirmed for Aldo Petronio, Dr. Bailey, Jesse Ellis and Ebony McGlynn.

Thanks.

--

Suzy Nunes-Bilhete
Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent of Schools
Acushnet Public Schools
T. 508-998-0260 ext.3101

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Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>Wed, Oct 29, 2025 at 3:02
PM

To: Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>

Hi Sheri,

I am just following up on my email from yesterday. Please let me know if we are OK to proceed with the tour tomorrow at 10:30.

Thanks,
Suzy
[Quoted text hidden]

Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>Wed, Oct 29, 2025 at 3:29
PM

To: Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>, Tara Kohler <tkohler@fairhavenps.net>, akulak@fairhavenps.net

Hi Sheri,

I am just copying Tara and Andy on this email in case you are out of office. We plan to be at FHS tomorrow morning for 10:30 (instead of 9:30). It will be Aldo Petronio, Dr. Bailey, Jesse Ellis and Ebony

McGlynn.

I then have 11/6 at 5:30 on our calendar with Aldo, Dr. Bailey, Jesse Ellis, Melissa Cordeira, and Ron Houde attending.

Thank you.

Suzy

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>
To: Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 8:15 AM

Good Morning Susana,
Confirmed. Superintendent Kohler and Principal Kulak will be leading the tour today.

Also confirmed for 11/6 at 5:30.

Thanks

Sheri

On Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 11:10AM Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>
To: Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 8:31 AM

Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>
To: Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 11:29 AM

Hi!

Just following up regarding Tuesday, 11/4. Do you still need this day / time?
Or is it just 11/6 at 5:30?

Thanks!!

[Quoted text hidden]

Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at
11:41 AM

To: Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>
Cc: Paula Bailey <paulabailey@acushnetschools.us>

Hi Sheri,

No, our school committee members are not available to attend on 11/4. Between today's tour and the 11/6 tour we should have our bases covered. Please confirm that Tara and Andy are aware of the upcoming date/time.

Thank you.

Suzy

[Quoted text hidden]

Sheri Souza <ssouza@fairhavenps.net>

Thu, Oct 30, 2025 at 11:42 AM

To: Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>

Thank you!

Confirmed.

[Quoted text hidden]



Tara Kohler <tkohler@fairhavenps.net>

High School Agreement -- Proposed Tuition and Transportation Terms

Paula Bailey <paulabailey@acushnetschools.us>

Tue, Nov 11, 2025 at 1:00 PM

To: Tara Kohler <tkohler@fairhavenps.net>

Cc: Ronald Houde <ronaldhoude@acushnetschools.us>, Susana Nunes-Bilhete <susananunesbilhete@acushnetschools.us>

Dear Tara,

Thank you for your continued interest in continuing to develop a high school agreement with Acushnet Public Schools, and thank you for taking the time to offer our administrators and School Committee members tours of your campus. The visits were informative and very much appreciated as we work to evaluate the best fit for our students and community.

We are addressing many elements regarding these contracts, but as we prepare for our next School Committee meeting, we would like to understand where you stand regarding these two proposed terms:

Tuition/Funding Basis

We will offer 70% of the Acushnet Chapter 70 "High School" (Column 6) funding rate from the DESE foundation page of the annual Chapter 70 final budget report. This represents exactly what the Chapter 70 formula calculates for Acushnet students. The other 30% will be applied toward transportation.

Transportation

Acushnet will assume all busing costs within the Town. We will need to discuss transportation logistics – whether Acushnet will transport from Pope Park or another agreed-upon location, or if partner districts would instead come to Acushnet to pick up their students.

We would appreciate it if you could share how you feel about these terms NO LATER than 12 Noon, Friday, November 14, 2005. Our School Committee may plan to discuss these options during our next School Committee meeting next week.

Additionally, please confirm whether your district's stance remains that you wish to remain as one of the existing districts -- along with New Bedford. When we met, you stated that if our district were to consider adding other districts (in addition to New Bedford), you preferred that we went with the other district(s). Our district would like to know if you still feel this way or if you would be open to Acushnet contracting with multiple districts regarding high school tuition agreements.

Thank you again for your time, collaboration, and willingness to engage in this process. We look forward to

your feedback and to continuing these productive discussions.

Best regards,

Paula

Acushnet Public Schools

708 Middle Road, Acushnet MA 02743



Dr. Paula J. Bailey

Superintendent

paulabailey@acushnetschools.us
(508) 998-0260 option 5

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- **Tuition Shortfall:** Acushnet pays \$12,500 per student but receives only \$11,714, causing budget deficits and teacher layoffs.
- **Equitable Rates Needed:** Fairhaven's proposed rates of \$8,200–\$8,400 are too low; actual costs around \$16,500 per student must be covered.
- **Negotiation Timeline:** Decision targeted by December 9, with a possibility of extending the current agreement for a year.
- **Ongoing Communication:** Both sides stress transparency and consistent messaging to families to prevent misunderstandings about school choice.
- **Community Focus:** Leaders emphasize preserving the long history and relationships between Acushnet and Fairhaven beyond just finances.
- **Planning Stability:** Preference for five to six-year agreements to support long-term planning, flexibility in timeline to be maintained.

Notes

Tuition Agreement Negotiation

The core issue is that the current tuition agreement results in Acushnet paying more per high school student than it receives in Chapter 70 funding, prompting a need for a fair and sustainable new formula.

- **Acushnet currently pays approximately \$12,500 per high school student, while receiving \$11,714 in Chapter 70 funds for FY26, creating a budget shortfall that has led to layoffs of over a dozen teachers in recent years (05:00)**
 - This discrepancy is driven largely by rising costs such as health insurance, which inflate the per pupil expenditure without directly benefiting student services.
 - Superintendent Paula Bailey emphasized the need to develop a new, equitable tuition formula after decades of outdated agreements that capped increases at 4% per year.
 - The existing multiplier (1.09 for high school tuition) was historically set to reflect higher costs at the high school level, but the cap froze it below current expenses.
 - Tara Kohler noted that the Chapter 70 allocation is only a portion of actual costs, which include transportation and capital expenses borne by Fairhaven.
- **Fairhaven's school committee expressed that the proposed lower tuition rates near \$8,200 to \$8,400 are too low and would unfairly require Fairhaven taxpayers to subsidize Acushnet's students, given their own budget constraints (22:00)**

- Brian Monroe stressed that the per pupil expenditure in Fairhaven is roughly \$16,500, and that any agreement must align with actual education costs to avoid burdening their taxpayers.
- Both parties acknowledged financial pressures but agreed that Fairhaven cannot accept rates that do not cover their costs without risking layoffs or other cuts.
- Nicole from Fairhaven highlighted the challenge of bridging the large financial gap between the current payments and the proposed reductions.
- There was agreement that neither side intends to be contentious but rather seeks a workable compromise.
- **Both sides underscored the importance of maintaining a respectful and collaborative relationship, with transparency to avoid misunderstandings and rumors about school choice options or agreements with other districts (30:00)**
 - Acushnet and Fairhaven leaders committed to consistent messaging to families and staff, avoiding speculation about agreements with other schools such as Old Rochester.
 - Brian Monroe emphasized that Fairhaven values its long-standing relationship with Acushnet and wants to continue it, while also needing clarity on competing options.
 - Tara Kohler highlighted the unique community feeling among Acushnet and Fairhaven students that is worth preserving beyond financial considerations.
- **The negotiation timeline targets a decision by December 9, with a proposal to possibly extend the current agreement for one year to allow more time for deliberation and narrowing the list of interested districts from four to fewer (35:00)**
 - Fairhaven's committee aims to meet on December 10 but is open to moving their meeting up to December 3 to align with Acushnet's schedule.
 - Both parties agreed to attempt to schedule additional meetings before these deadlines to finalize terms.
 - Acushnet's committee will receive updates from negotiations with other districts at a meeting on Thursday prior to these deadlines.
 - Brian Monroe committed to bringing all concerns and proposals back to his committee for comprehensive discussion and a vote.

Financial Context and Cost Drivers

The financial gap in the agreement is largely due to rising operational costs and complex funding structures that neither side fully controls.

- **Health insurance and transportation costs are major drivers pushing Acushnet's actual per pupil expenditure beyond Chapter 70 funding allocations (07:30)**
 - Transportation costs for students attending schools outside Acushnet are estimated to reach about **\$500,000** next year, a significant unrecouped expense.
 - Fairhaven noted that capital costs such as a recent \$2 million turf field and roof replacements add to their financial burden but are not directly funded through tuition.
 - Tara Kohler clarified that state funding formulas and net school spending calculations do not capture capital or certain operational expenses, complicating fair cost allocation.
- **Chapter 70 funding represents only part of the education funding picture, with towns required to contribute additional funds to meet net school spending requirements (24:00)**
 - Both districts pay beyond Chapter 70, but the required town contributions vary and affect negotiations on tuition rates.
 - Fairhaven's per pupil expenditure of **approximately \$16,500** includes these town contributions and higher costs for high school students.
 - The existing tuition agreements were partially designed to cap costs for predictability, but this has created funding gaps over time.

Multi-District Competition and Agreement Scope

Negotiations involve four potential districts, but there is concern that including multiple schools reduces predictability and complicates planning.

- **Four districts, including Fairhaven, New Bedford, Old Rochester, and a fourth, remain on the table for agreements; narrowing the list is desired to improve negotiation clarity (43:00)**
 - Nicole from Fairhaven expressed preference for focusing negotiations with fewer districts to facilitate progress and good faith.
 - Brian Monroe explained that an agreement including multiple schools, especially with different profiles like New Bedford's large urban district and Old Rochester, challenges predictability in enrollment and staffing.
 - Fairhaven's committee is cautious about agreements that allow choice between multiple high schools, as this reduces their ability to plan effectively year-to-year.
- **Length of the agreement term is under discussion, with five to six years favored over short two to three year agreements for stability (51:30)**

- Brian stressed that short agreements hinder long-term planning, which is critical for high school staffing and budgeting.
- Paula Bailey noted that while some committee members prefer five to six year terms, the final agreement length remains negotiable depending on what all districts find acceptable.
- Both parties agreed to approach the timeline flexibly to balance stability and responsiveness to changing circumstances.

Community and Relationship Considerations

Beyond financials, maintaining a positive community relationship and honoring historical ties is a key priority for both districts.

- **Both Acushnet and Fairhaven leaders highlighted the century-long relationship and community integration of students across districts as a valuable asset** (53:00)
 - Tara Kohler emphasized the inclusive culture at Fairhaven High School where Acushnet students participate fully as part of the community.
 - Brian Monroe expressed hope that future negotiations will strengthen cooperation rather than create division or mistrust.
 - Both sides agreed to avoid public disputes and focus on collaborative problem-solving for mutual benefit.
- **There is sensitivity around rumors and messaging related to potential school choice changes, with a joint request to maintain consistent communication to families and staff** (58:00)
 - Both districts clarified that no decisions have been made regarding excluding or favoring any school, countering inaccurate messages circulating in communities.
 - Tara and Brian committed to correcting misinformation when encountered and emphasized that decisions will be made transparently in public forums.

Next Steps and Decision-Making Process

The committees will continue discussions with a goal of reaching a feasible agreement that balances financial realities with community needs.

- **Fairhaven plans to hold a school committee meeting December 3 or 10 to discuss and vote on a final proposal based on updated negotiations** (47:00)
 - Brian Monroe committed to polling his committee to try to meet earlier on December 3 to align with Acushnet's schedule.

- Acushnet will hold a public meeting on December 9 to vote on agreements after receiving feedback from all districts, including Fairhaven.
- Both parties agreed to continue open lines of communication and share written proposals promptly to facilitate informed decisions.
- **There is openness to extending the current agreement for one year with minor tweaks if more time is needed to finalize terms (40:00)**
 - This extension would prevent disruption and provide breathing room for negotiations without forcing rushed decisions.
 - Both sides view this as a contingency option to maintain stability while working toward a long-term solution.
- **Leadership from both districts pledged to improve communication, avoid contentious public exchanges, and elevate the quality of discussions moving forward (53:00)**
 - Paula Bailey and Brian Monroe agreed to actively discourage divisive rhetoric and promote mutual respect.
 - Tara Kohler acknowledged the challenges but reaffirmed commitment to treating Acushnet students well and preserving the partnership.
- **Brian Monroe offered to provide timely written feedback from Fairhaven's committee on acceptable financial terms to Acushnet to facilitate transparency before formal votes (58:00)**
 - This approach aims to keep both sides aligned and reduce surprises at public meetings.
 - Both committees agreed to prioritize constructive dialogue over entrenched positions.

Action items

Susana Nunes-Bilhete

- Communicate to other districts individually the position and updates from Fairhaven to keep negotiation transparent and ahead of December 9 meeting (57:54)
- Ensure consistent, aligned messaging between districts regarding negotiations and school options to families and staff (59:46)
- Facilitate ongoing direct communication channels with Fairhaven representatives to promptly address questions and updates (01:04:34)

Brian Monroe

- Schedule and hold a Fairhaven school committee meeting prior to December 10 (preferably December 3) to discuss and vote on tuition agreement options (41:58)

- Provide feedback to Acushnet regarding what tuition figure is acceptable to Fairhaven committee after internal discussion (01:04:14)
- Address misinformation within Fairhaven community proactively to maintain positive relations and clarify ongoing negotiations (59:10)

Tara Kohler

- Communicate with Fairhaven committee about district's financial position and concerns to prepare for negotiations (12:27)
- Collaborate with Susana and Brian to align messaging and future negotiation steps (59:46)

Paula Bailey

- Provide Fairhaven with transparent financial data and rationale behind proposed tuition calculations (56:56)
- Coordinate with business manager Aldo Petronio to support financial discussions and break-even analysis explanation (56:56)

Dear FHS Families,

We want to take a moment to update you on an important topic that has caused some confusion and concern among students and families.

As you may know, our school district currently has a tuition agreement with the Acushnet School Committee, which allows high school students from Acushnet to attend Fairhaven High School (FHS). They also have the choice of attending New Bedford High School, Old Colony Voc-Tech, or Bristol County Agricultural High School. In addition, students can apply to a variety of other schools through Interdistrict School Choice.

This summer, we were invited to present at the Acushnet School Committee meeting on August 25, 2025, along with three other high schools. Each school shared information about their programs and what they offer students. The Acushnet School Committee is now reviewing these presentations to decide which school(s) they will continue tuition agreements with in the future.

We are aware that this has created concerns and uncertainty for students and families, and we want to be very clear: We value our relationship with Acushnet families and students, and we are doing everything we can to keep that relationship going strong for years to come.

Please be assured, if your student currently attends FHS and lives in Acushnet, they will not lose their spot. Even if the tuition agreement changes, any current Acushnet student enrolled at FHS will be able to stay through graduation. Your child's education and future at FHS are secure.

We also want to share some exciting news about the strength of our school and district: The Fairhaven Public Schools recently earned District Accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges—this shows that our academics, teachers, and student support are strong. FHS was also named one of the "Most Admired School Districts" by the Education Magazine, a great honor that reflects the hard work of our staff and students. Additionally, FHS was named a "School of Recognition" by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and also received the Access Award for providing all students with access to Advanced Placement courses for grades 9-12.

We are proud to have Acushnet students as part of our FHS community. Your children bring energy, creativity, and dedication to our school, and we consider them part of the fabric of our high school.

We are committed to offering a high-quality, stable, and supportive education to every student. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out. Thank you for your continued support.

Remember, we are all FHS Blue Devils!

AMENDMENT
To
ACUSHNET TUITIONED STUDENTS AGREEMENT

This Amendment to the Agreement between the Fairhaven School Committee (hereinafter referred to as “Fairhaven”) and the Acushnet School Committee (hereinafter referred to as “Acushnet”) originally dated August 5, 2014, as amended by an addendum dated September 10, 2014 (referred to as “Addendum”) (collectively hereinafter referred to as “Agreement”) is made this 3rd day of December, 2025.

WHEREAS, Fairhaven and Acushnet entered into the Agreement pursuant to 76 MGL 12, allowing children residing in Acushnet to attend Fairhaven High School upon terms as negotiated between the Parties; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to extend the terms of said Agreement in part, and amend said Agreement in part;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. The first sentence of Paragraph 5 of said Agreement is amended to state: “The renewal term of this Agreement is for one (1) year, commencing the beginning of School Year 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.” The final sentence of that Paragraph is deleted.
2. The second paragraph of Paragraph 1 of the Addendum requiring Acushnet to pay for a school adjustment counselor is deleted.
3. The third paragraph of Paragraph 5 of the Agreement is deleted.
4. Paragraph 2 of the Agreement is amended to read as follows: For the 2026-2027 school year, the regular education tuition to be charged by Fairhaven to Acushnet shall equal but shall not exceed the Preliminary School Choice Rate calculated and posted by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the 2026-2027 school year.
5. A new Paragraph 14(g) shall state: In the event that Acushnet School Committee elects to commence negotiations with Fairhaven to continue the Agreement between the Parties beyond this extension, any negotiated agreement will supersede these provisions.
6. The remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect. In the event of any inconsistency between the Agreement and this Amendment, the terms of this Amendment shall prevail.

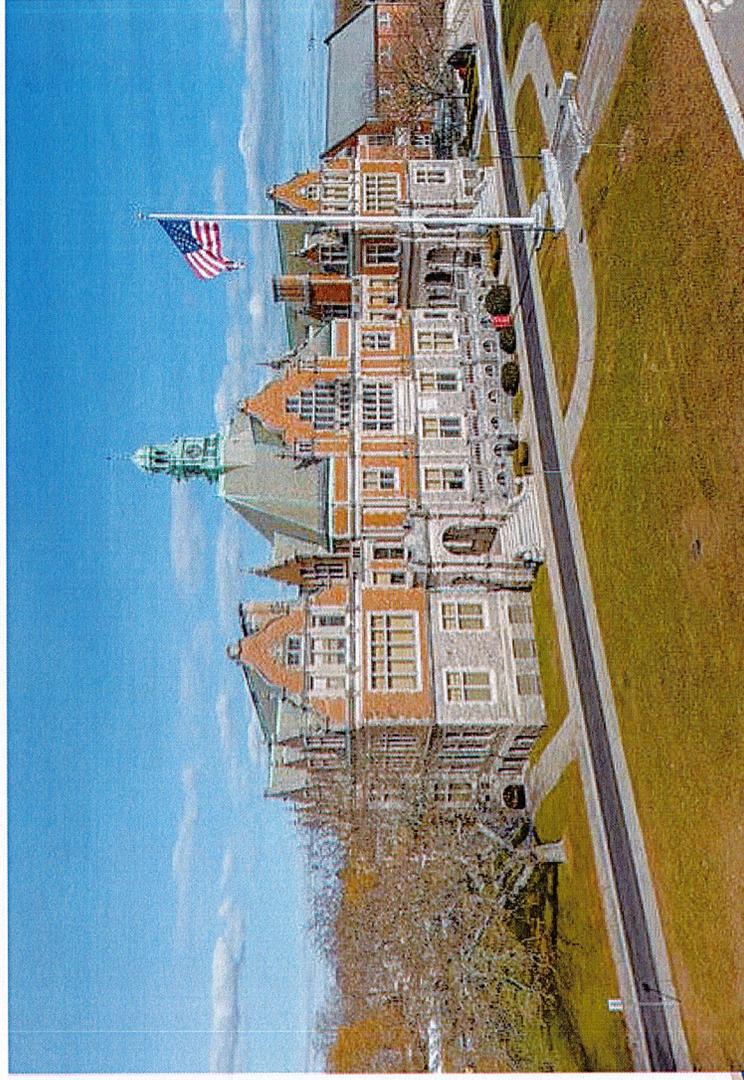
DATED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

ACUSHNET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

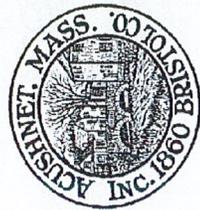
Update regarding Acushnet Tuition Agreement

Presented to the Fairhaven School Committee



December 3, 2025

Acushnet's perspective for exploring other schools



TOWN OF ACUSHNET SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Mr. Ronald Houde, Chair
Mrs. Melissa Cordeira, Vice Chair
TEL. 508-998-0260 FAX 508-998-0262

From their Website in a FAQ for families.

Both ORR and Apponequet have approached Acushnet about establishing new partnerships. Because Acushnet does not operate its own high school, the district is legally required to maintain at least one active agreement – but historically, the district has prioritized offering choice so families can select the school that best fits their student's needs.

3. Why is this review necessary?

Acushnet currently pays more in high school tuition per student than the amount of Chapter 70 state aid the district receives for those same students. This imbalance puts pressure on the town's education budget and complicates long-term planning. The School Committee aims to secure future agreements that are both educationally strong and financially responsible.



Acushnet's Guiding Principles as presented at their 11/20/2025 School Committee Meeting

Framing the Conversation

Guiding Principles to be used by Acushnet School Committee when determining which High School(s) to partner with.

- Students First
- Transparency
- Quality
- Sustainable, Fair Tuition Agreements



Students First

100 years of partnership with Acushnet

For last decade, Acushnet has made up a quarter to a third of our High School

Currently have 150 students at FHS from Acushnet



ACUSHNET-FAIRHAVEN

AF
BASKETBALL



THE OFFICIAL HOME OF

ACUSHNET-FAIRHAVEN BASKETBALL LEAGUE

WWW.ACUSHNETFAIRHAVENBASKETBALL.COM



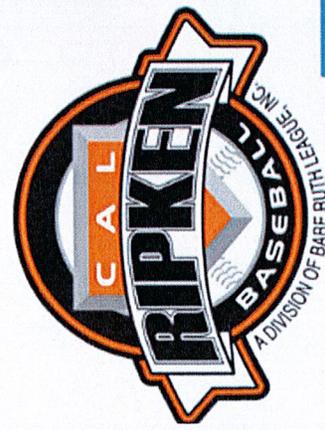


ACUSHNET
FAIRHAVEN
BASKETBALL

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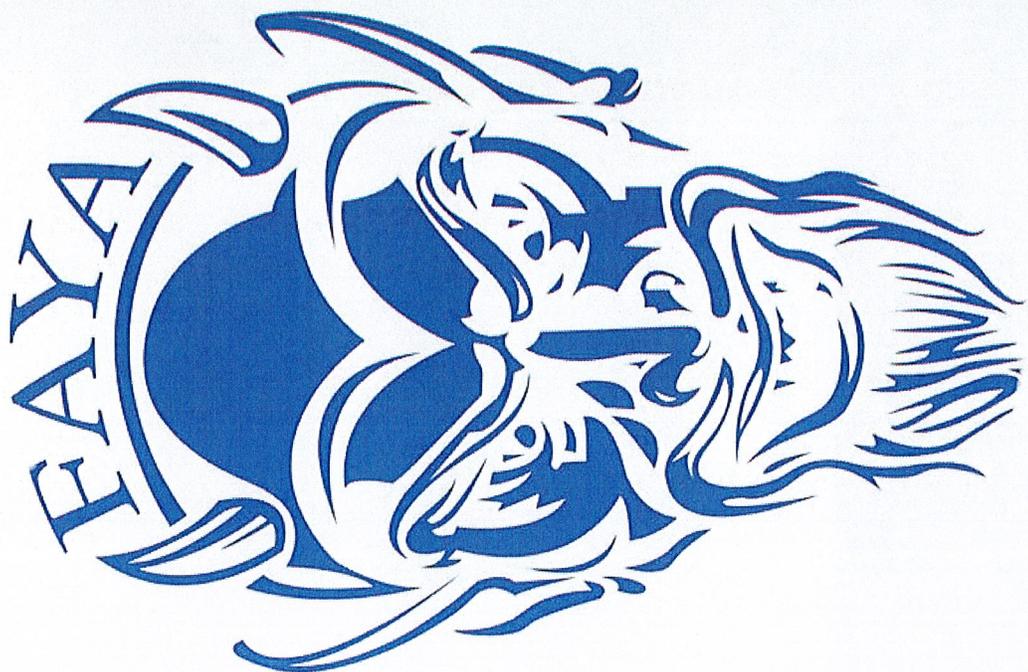
FAIRHAVEN ACUSHNET



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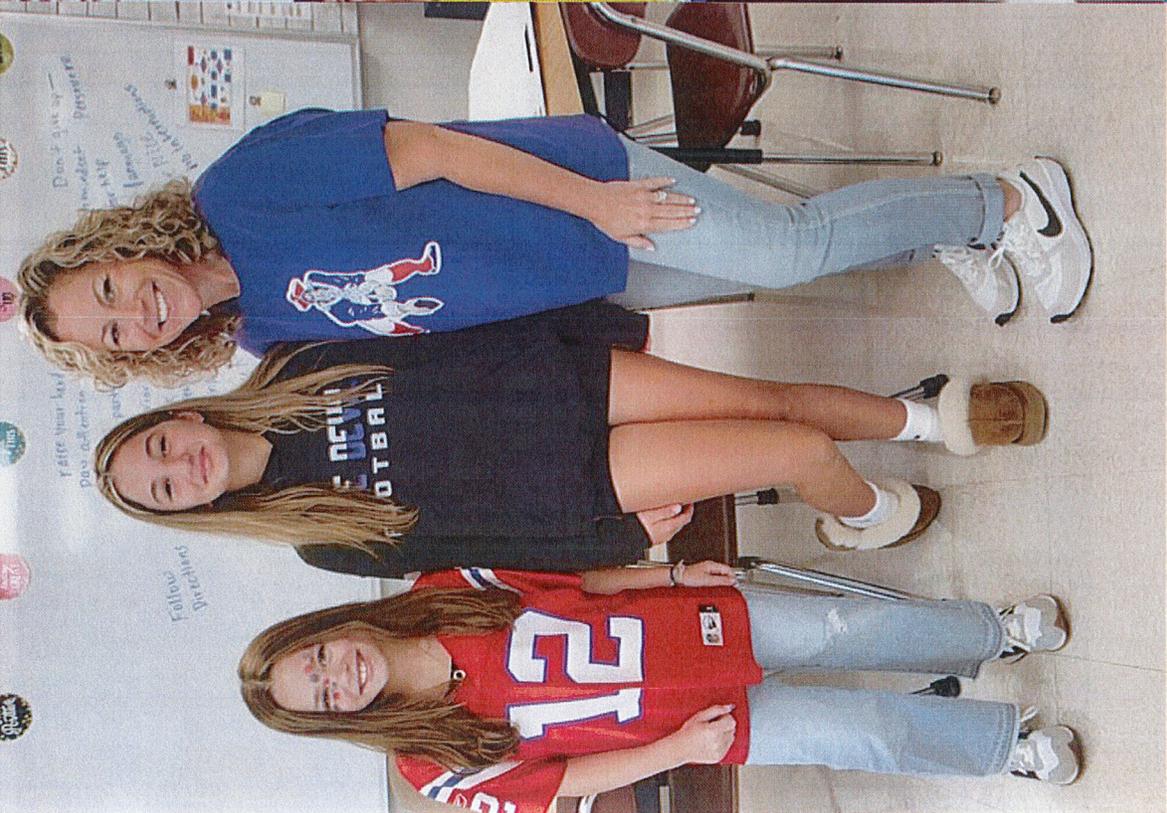
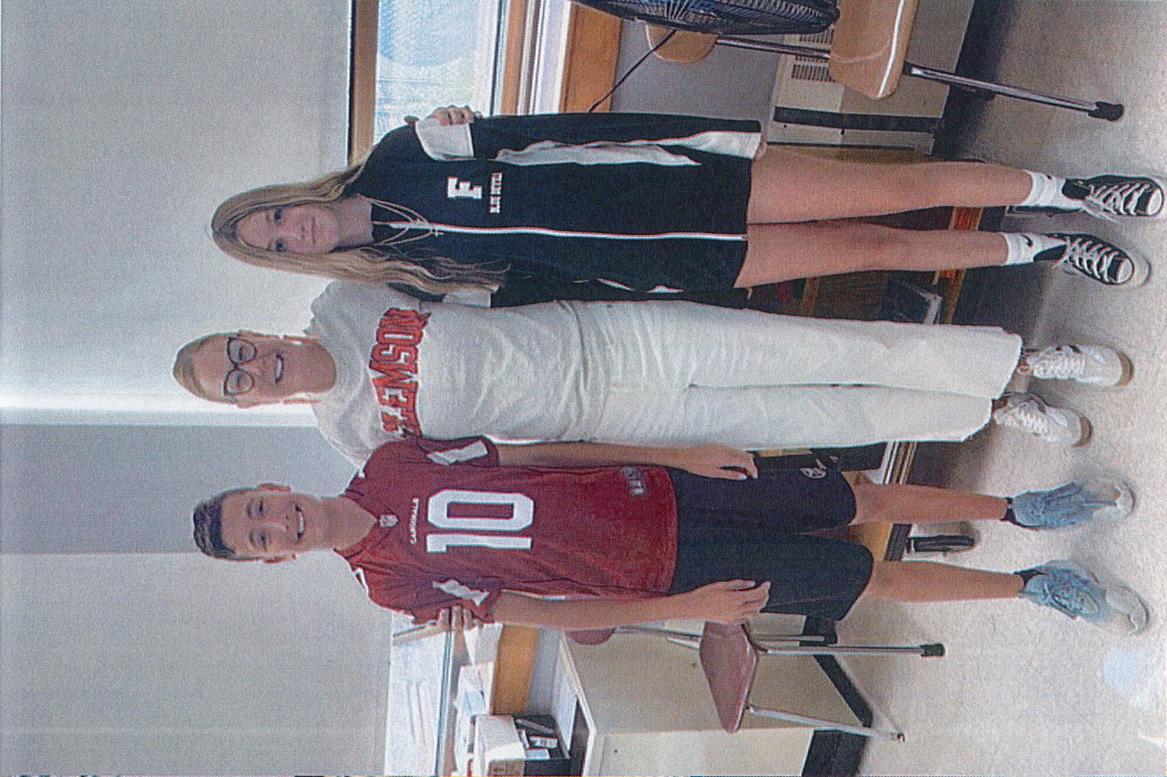
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Supported:

SouthCoast Cancer
Center with Pink Out

Friends of Jack with
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Transparency

See Timeline



Quality





ACCREDITED
NEASC
ACCREDITED

Sustainable, Fair Tuition Agreements



October 21, 2025 Meeting with Acushnet

First time we were presented with a financial proposal.

Asked to consider accepting 71% of “Chapter 70 Column 6” of Foundation Formula Spreadsheet, resulting in a new tuition rate of approximately \$8,500 per student.

Asked us to consider ways to also help with transportation and to remove the .4 Adjustment Counselor from the current contract

Email Correspondence from Acushnet Superintendent November 11, 2025

Tuition/Funding Basis

We will offer 70% of the Acushnet Chapter 70 “High School” (Column 6) funding rate from the DESE foundation page of the annual Chapter 70 final budget report. This represents exactly what the Chapter 70 formula calculates for Acushnet students. The other 30% will be applied toward transportation.

Transportation

Acushnet will assume all busing costs within the Town. We will need to discuss transportation logistics – whether Acushnet will transport from Pope Park or another agreed-upon location, or if partner districts would instead come to Acushnet to pick up their students.

We would appreciate it if you could share how you feel about these terms NO LATER than 12 Noon, Friday, November 14, 2005. Our School Committee may plan to discuss these options during our next School Committee meeting next week.

Meeting with School Committee Representatives November 19, 2025

Requested we meet earlier than our scheduled December 10, 2025 meeting so that they can have idea of counter offers for their December 9, 2025 School Committee meeting.

Mr. Monroe agreed.

Our meeting was rescheduled for December 3, 2025.

Fairhaven Public Schools Position on Acushnet Public Schools Proposals

We believe that the proposals and requests from the Acushnet Public Schools are both unfair and unfounded.

History of Tuition Agreements between FPS and APS

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES

ACUSHNET TUITION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 21, 2003

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Gagne, Mr. Tillett

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Mr. Gonsalves

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Ansay, Mr. Tripp

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Devine, Mr. DeGennaro, Mr. Martin,
Atty. Crotty

Meeting called to order at 4:08 p.m.

Dr. Devine stated that the Acushnet School Committee desires to have the Acushnet Tuition Agreement extended and settled by December 2003 prior to students making application to schools. He added that Acushnet provides transportation, and Fairhaven would have to provide the same opportunities, facilities, and staff, even if students from Acushnet weren't attending. The Acushnet School Committee has instructed Dr. Devine to convey that the contract be similar to that of New Bedford. He added that most Acushnet students go to New Bedford High School, but Fairhaven has become more popular in recent years. Due to past practice by Superintendent Bernard Roderick, New Bedford sets their tuition rate and then Fairhaven follows.

Dr. Devine stated that he had been authorized by his School Committee to negotiate a contract that mirrored that of New Bedford. This year New Bedford received a 3% increase in the tuition charged to Acushnet. He further stated that if a mutually agreed upon figure was not completed the Acushnet School Committee was prepared to send all students to New Bedford.

Dr. Devine asked for the Committee to get together and give him a number. Dr. Devine will bring it to his School Committee. He added they will not change their stance, and Fairhaven has a good system and they're lucky to be able to provide that opportunity for their youngsters.

Mr. Martin, expressed his opinion; to take in as many students as is feasible, doesn't incur added costs. They need to "piggy back" on existing services. The School Department does have an incentive to take Acushnet students. He added that less revenue to the Town will have to come from somewhere and the largest department is the school. Fairhaven has always had an agreement (verbal) to accept students. This current School Committee must decide in terms of community service and financial acceptability.

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
ACUSHNET TUITION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2003
PAGE TWO

The school department caucused. The Agreement mentions that the base is locked in, but the rate increase needs to be negotiated. New Bedford renegotiates in April 2005 for FY '06; 2005-06. The Fairhaven School Committee wants a one-year deal to coincide with New Bedford and then reset the rate for 2005-2006. The Fairhaven School Committee wants to institute a cap on the number of students it will accept per year, and wants to know how many students are applying between December and March with an April 1st final deadline. The freshman class would be limited to 25 students, but Fairhaven could agree to increase that number to exceed 25 freshmen if they could make accommodations. An increase of 3.5% for 04-05 (one year) for FY '05 is desired. The parties must agree to meet prior to next April 2004 to negotiate for 2005-06.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D.
Secretary to the Committee

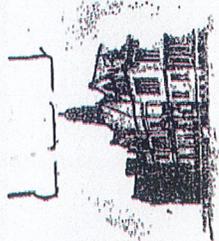


Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Ralph W. Tripp, III
Assistant Superintendent
Special Education/Pupil Services

Paul B. Kitchen
Business Administrator

A.J.G.
Exc. 1



Office of the Superintendent
FAIRHAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

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Fairhaven, MA 02719
Phone: 508-979-4000, Fax: 508-979-4149
TTY: 508-992-8542

Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Ralph W. Tripp, III
Assistant Superintendent
Special Education/Pupil Services



Office of the Superintendent
FAIRHAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

128 Washington Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719
Phone: 508-979-4000, Fax: 508-979-4149
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CONFIDENTIAL

TO: Fairhaven School Committee

FROM: Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D., Superintendent

DATE: March 29, 2005

SUBJECT: Acushnet Tuition Agreement

CONFIDENTIAL

TO: School Committee

FROM: Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D., Superintendent

DATE: January 25, 2005

SUBJECT: Acushnet Tuition Update

The following is the result of meetings/discussions that I have had, since last fall, with members of the New Bedford School Department.

On Thursday, January 20, 2005, at a meeting with two Acushnet School Committee members and Coral Grout, Superintendent, discussions took place with regard to a four-year agreement, from 2005-06 to 2008-09.

The New Bedford Public Schools agreed to not access the 3% increase for the year to come. Acushnet sided financial hardship for the 2005-06 year. However, New Bedford will be making the 9% high school cost adjustment, as outlined in my previous memorandum this coming year.

Over the next three years, the 9% adjustment, as well as 3% annual increases, will be accessed. This will result in the New Bedford Public Schools realizing the same revenue at the end of four years. They will be providing me with back up calculations.

The Acushnet School Committee, most likely, will be taking action at their next meeting.

kyg

Tuition Proposal

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Special Needs</u>
FY'06	\$6,973*	\$14,625
FY'07	\$7,447	\$15,063
FY'08	\$7,950	\$15,666

*This formula took the previous base of \$6,291, multiplied the figure by 9% (increase percentage cost of high school students' education over K-8 student cost), then multiplied by a 3% increase for a current year increase.

I am awaiting correspondence from the Acushnet School Committee and seek direction from this Committee relative to its agreement or non-agreement to assess Acushnet the same tuition rates as the New Bedford Public Schools. The enclosed memorandum points out that the new rate reflects a substantial increase, etc.



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Robert N. Baldwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Kathryn R. Levine
Special Education Director

Paul B. Kitchen
Business Administrator

October 22, 2007

Mrs. Kristin Flynn
Acushnet Public Schools
708 Middle Road
Suite 1
Acushnet, MA 02743

Dear Kristin,

I have enclosed the tuition statement for the first half of 2007-2008 Academic Year for the Town of Acushnet. The statement reflects the enrollment of One Hundred and One students, as well as, eleven special education students at a tuition rate of \$7,950.00 and \$15,666.00, respectively. The enrollment figures reflect the October reporting of Acushnet student enrollment.

If you have any questions regarding this statement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

Paul B. Kitchen
Business Administrator
Fairhaven Public Schools

- The last time tuition was close to \$8,200 per student was FY2008
- 17 years ago



Recent Tuition Agreements

February 2012 Contract for 5 Years

School Year	Regular Ed Tuition	Special Ed Tuition
SY 12-13	\$9,609	\$21,319
SY 13-14	\$9,897.14	\$21,958
SY 14-15	\$10,194.05	\$22,616.74
SY 15-16	\$10,499.88	\$23,295.24
SY 16-17	\$10,814.87	\$23,994.10



2014 Agreement

Kept Tuition from FY 14 the exact same for FY 15

Added the value of a 0.4 counselor

Then, in September 2014 created an addendum allowing Acushnet to provide a 0.4 counselor

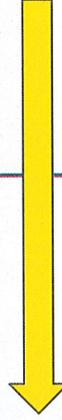


	Old 2012 Agreement	New 2014 Agreement
SY 14-15	\$10,194.05	\$9,897*
SY 15-16	\$10,499.88	\$9,996
SY 16-17	\$10,814.87	\$10,041.52
SY 17-18		\$10,293.76
SY 18-19		\$10,236.84
SY 19-20		\$10,369.17
SY 20-21		\$10,656.97
SY 21-22		\$10,752.09
SY 22-23		\$11,182.18**
SY 23-24		\$11,629.47**
SY 24-25		\$12,094.65**
SY 25-26		\$12,578.44**

*new agreement kept rate the same as previous year and added the 0.4 counselor.

In FY17 - The calculation to determine the cost of tuition would be based on the School Choice Tuition Rate as calculated by DESE

** the 4% cap took was first implemented in FY23 and has been in use each year since.



Standard Times Article - September 15, 2014

NEWS

With more students destined for the district, Acushnet locks in deal with Fairhaven

SIMÓN RIOS

Sept. 15, 2014, 12:00 a.m. ET



ACUSHNET — With a sharp increase in the number of Acushnet students entering Fairhaven High School, the two districts signed an agreement officials say will lower costs and sustain the flow of students.

"This allows us to have long-term sustainability with both communities," said Dr. Robert Baldwin, Fairhaven's superintendent.

The town doesn't have its own high school and the number of Acushnet students opting for Fairhaven High School has more than doubled in the last five years, reversing a long trend of enrollment at New Bedford High School. The increase has been rapid — out of 670 total students at Fairhaven High School, Baldwin said 230 are from Acushnet, more than



Standard Times Article - September 15, 2014

The 12-year agreement revises the fee structure for students entering the high school. Previously set to increase annually by 3 percent, the new contract sets tuition at \$9,897 for the current school year and \$9,996 next year. The rate is calculated using the state's School Choice rates, which are based on districts' per-pupil costs. The fee cannot decrease from the previous year's charge, nor can it increase by more than 4 percent from one year to the next.



Standard Times Article - September 15, 2014

Acushnet School Committee Vice Chairman John Howcroft said at a recent committee meeting that the district would save \$2.5 million over 12 years as a result of the new deal with Fairhaven. But Howcroft later backed off from a hard estimate.

"We're going to have substantial savings, but it's a hard figure (to estimate)," Howcroft said.

"Also part of the agreement is the spirit of cooperation. It's a regionalization of resources."



Standard Times Article - September 15, 2014

Acushnet Superintendent Stephen Donovan said it's almost impossible to know exactly how much savings will result.

"It will obviously be favorable, though that remains to be seen," he said.

He said the savings will amount to roughly \$100,000 the first year, but that's minus the cost of a school adjustment counselor that Acushnet will fund as part of the agreement.

Donovan said the tuition structure will shift over the next six years to mimic the district's arrangement with New Bedford, which is in the middle of a 20-year agreement.

The new deal is more equitable and less arbitrary, he said, based on "the true cost" of tuition.



Our Research

Review all former agreements

Review all notes and bills from archives

Review all Foundation Formula information for both districts

Review School Choice Tuition rates and formulas

Discuss concerns with various “experts” in the field, including:

Roger Hatch, School Finance Consultant for M.A.S.S.

Rob O'Donnell, Director of School Finance DESE

Patrick Tutwiler, Secretary of Education

Tom Moreau, Assistant Secretary of Education- specializing in School Finance

APS Tuition Calculations as Presented November 20, 2025

Tuition Calculations - SY 2025/2026

HS	Pupil #	Tuition Rate	Total Tuition Paid	Tuition		Transportation
				Ch. 70 Funding FY25 \$11,714	APS Tuition Payments vs. Chap. 70 Funding	
FHS	152	12,578	\$1,911,856	\$1,780,528	\$(131,328)	\$232,515
NBHS	22	12,853	\$282,766	\$257,708	\$(25,058)	\$46,506
Total					\$(156,386)	\$279,018

FPS Tuition Calculations Response FY26 Required Net School Spending

Tuition					
High School	Pupil #	Tuition Rate FY26	Total Tuition Paid by APS FY26	FY26 Required Net School Spending Per Pupil* \$14,810.50	APS Tuition Payments v. Required Net School Spending Per Pupil*
CHS	152	\$12,578	\$1,911,856	\$2,251,196	\$339,340
JBHS	22	\$12,853	\$282,766	\$325,831	\$43,065
JRR	12	\$5,000	\$60,000	\$177,726	\$117,726
Total:					\$500,131

FPS Tuition Calculations Response FY24 Actual Per Pupil Expenditure

		Tuition			
High School	Pupil #	Tuition Rate FY24	Total Tuition Paid by APS FY24	FY24 Per Pupil Expenditure \$16,083	APS Tuition Payments v. Required Net School Spending Per Pupil*
FHS	199	\$11,629.47	\$2,314,264.53	\$3,200,517	\$886,252.47

Other important factors:

In December of 2024, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to increase tuition to Virtual Schools to \$13,366 effective FY26.



Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools: Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Tuition Adjustment for Inflation

English

To: Superintendents, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual School Leaders, School Business Officials
From: Robert O'Donnell, Director of School Finance
Date: March 6, 2025

At its December 17, 2024 meeting, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to amend the certificates of the Greater Commonwealth Virtual School and TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School to specify a tuition rate¹ of \$13,114 per pupil, effective for fiscal year 2026, with \$75 retained by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) for program administration.

Additionally, during the meeting, the Board voted to delegate to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (Commissioner) authority to adjust the tuition rate for fiscal year 2026 to reflect the annual Chapter 70 inflationary adjustment and amend their certificates accordingly. The tuition rate approved by the Board and adjusted by the Commissioner for Commonwealth of Massachusetts Virtual Schools (CMVSs) is in effect for the entire fiscal year and does not change over the course of the year.

This memorandum informs the CMVSs and sending districts about the Commissioner's adjustment in the tuition rate for fiscal year 2026. In fiscal year 2026, each CMVS will receive \$13,291 per pupil; sending districts will be charged a total of \$13,366 per pupil. These final tuition rates for fiscal year 2026 reflect the annual inflationary adjustment in Chapter 70 of 1.93 percent.²

The Department calculated the final CMVS tuition rate of \$13,366 for fiscal year 2026 as follows.

- To determine the base rate for CMVS tuition in fiscal year 2026, the Department begins with the tuition rate of \$13,114 the Board granted and subtracts the \$75 administrative fee. The base rate is \$13,039.
- To determine the inflationary adjustment, the Department multiplies the base tuition rate of \$13,039 by the Chapter 70 inflation rate of 1.93 percent. The inflationary adjustment is \$252.
- To determine the adjusted base rate for CMVS tuition in fiscal year 2026, the Department adds inflationary adjustment of \$252 to the base rate of \$13,039. The adjusted base rate for CMVS tuition in fiscal year 2026 is \$13,291, which is the amount these CMVSs will receive per pupil.
- To determine the final CMVS tuition rate for fiscal year 2026, the Department adds the administrative fee of \$75 to the adjusted base rate. The final CMVS tuition rate for fiscal year 2026 is \$13,366, which is the amount sending districts will be charged per pupil for students attending a CMVS.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alison Bagg, Director, Office of Charter Schools and School Redesign (781-338-3218) or Rob O'Donnell, Director, Office of School Finance (781-338-6512).



Counter Proposal Discussion

