

TOWN OF STRATTON – SCHOOL DISTRICT

STRATTON TUITION PAYMENT POLICY

For reference, Vermont State Statute 16 V.S.A. § 821 School district to maintain public elementary schools or pay tuition (this section will reflect the most current version of § 821 and will be updated as necessary):

- (a) *Each school district shall maintain one or more approved schools within the district in which elementary education for its resident students in kindergarten through grade six is provided unless: (1) the electorate authorizes the school board to provide for the elementary education of the students by paying tuition in accordance with law to one or more public elementary schools in one or more school districts;*

For reference, Vermont State Statute 16 V.S.A. § 822 School district to maintain public high schools or pay tuition (this section will reflect the most current version of § 822 and will be updated as necessary):

- (a) *Each school district shall maintain one or more approved high schools in which high school education is provided for its resident students unless: (1) the electorate authorizes the school board to close an existing high school and to provide for the high school education of its students by paying tuition to a public high school, an approved independent high school, or an independent school meeting education quality standards, to be selected by the parents or guardians of the student, within or outside the State;*

The Stratton School Board (“the Board”), as representatives of the Stratton School District, shall provide tuition for students attending grades Pre-Kindergarten - 12 in accordance with Vermont State law following the criteria outlined below:

1. The following policy is in effect and primary. However, the board reserves the right to make case-by-case decisions.
2. Tuition shall only be paid for pupils determined by the WCSU Superintendent to be legal residents of the Stratton School District, as defined by 16 V.S.A. §1075 and the Verification of Student Residency Policy, F13. Exceptions to the school approval requirement shall be made for those cases so determined by the Stratton School Board to be in the best interest of the child.
3. Tuition will be paid only to schools approved by the State Board of Education for the receipt of public tuition payments.

*For Reference: 16 VSA § 821 School district to maintain public elementary schools or pay tuition
General Maintenance of schools: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/fullchapter/16/021>*

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(1) of this section, the electorate of a school district that does not maintain an elementary school may grant general authority to the school board to pay tuition for an elementary student at an approved independent elementary school or an independent school meeting education quality standards pursuant to sections 823 and 828 of this chapter upon notice given by the student’s parent or legal guardian before April 15 for the next academic year.

4. The Board will authorize the following tuition payments, made in United States dollars, as determined in accordance with the Agency of Education’s recommendations. Parents may be responsible for any tuition dollars above and beyond that amount.
 - a. Announced Tuition to public schools
 - b. Sending Town tuition to sending schools (BBA and The Mountain School at Winhall)
 - c. State Average Tuition to all other schools, including approved independent schools
5. Tuition payments will be made as follows:
 - a. Tuition payments will be made to approved receiving schools when preceded by a written application from the student and/or his or her parent or guardian, and the “Affidavit Concerning Pupil Residency.”

The application and affidavit must be submitted to the Stratton School Board within 30 days of notifying the School Board of the intention to enroll your child[ren] in school. The application will then be given to the Superintendent for consideration.

- b. If an eligible pupil became a resident after October 1st, an application for tuition will be considered by the Superintendent and, if approved, payments will be prorated from the date of the pupil's enrollment to the end of the then current school year or to the time legal residency is terminated.
 - c. Tuition shall only be paid to receiving schools that enroll students deemed to be residents of the Stratton School District, and in accordance with a student's Individualized Education Program Team decisions, when applicable. No tuition payment shall be made to any school that discriminates based on special education eligibility, a student impairment or disability or race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender or other protected characteristic.
 - d. Should a parent/guardian own a home in the town of Stratton and claim residency for tuition purposes using that address, a Homestead Declaration must be filed on the first and every subsequent April 15th for every year that residence is primary. If a Homestead Declaration is not filed by April 15th, the parent/guardian must submit another Affidavit of Pupil Residency, along with all supporting documentation, by August 1st of that same year. If this is not completed, the pupil will not be considered a resident for tuition purposes.
- 6. Tuition payments commence after property taxes have been collected. This typically occurs, but is not limited to, September and February respectively.
 - 7. Pre-K Tuition: Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the District shall comply with the prekindergarten education requirements of 16 V.S.A. section 829. Further, to the extent feasible, the District shall extend prekindergarten education payments to resident students enrolled in an approved pre-kindergarten program. Further, the District, to the extent feasible, shall extend the hours of prekindergarten education for all eligible students beyond the 10 hours per week if the approved program in which the eligible resident students are enrolled offers additional weekly hours. The District shall, where feasible, pay up to a total of 35 hours per week for prekindergarten education.
 - 8. All tuition payments for qualified pupils shall be made directly to the approved schools those pupils attend, unless a previous arrangement has been agreed upon with the Board.

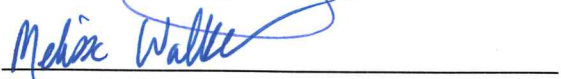
Legal Reference(s): 16 V.S.A. §§821 et seq. (Tuition requirements)
16 V.S.A. §1075 (Legal residence)
Campbell v. Manchester Board, 161 VT 441, 641 A.2d 352 (1994)
Chittenden Town School District v. Department of Education, 169 VT 710, 738 A.2nd 539 (1999)

Cross Reference: Stratton Verification of Student Residency Policy (F13)

Date Reviewed: October 11, 2022
Date Warned: October 20, 2022
Date Adopted: November 1, 2022


Allison S. Young, Chair


Kellie D'Elia-Laskin, Vice-Chair


Melissa Walker, Secretary


Devon Crowther, Director


Claire Sears, Director