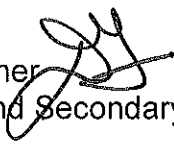


State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

To: Superintendents of Schools, Charter and State School Directors, School Fiscal Officers

From: Deborah A. Gist, Commissioner 
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Date: May 27, 2011

Re: Local Aid Payments for Public Schools of Choice

This memorandum is issued in accordance with the Commissioner's authority "to interpret school law," (R.I.G.L. § 16-60-9 (viii)) as well as the Commissioner's authority "to require the observance of all laws relating to elementary and secondary education" as provided in RIGL § 16-60-6 (9) (viii) and R.I.G.L. § 16-60-6 (9) (vii). The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance concerning the interpretation of the language in R.I.G.L. 16-7.2-5 related to the procedures charter schools and the two state schools, William M Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School (Davies) and the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center (MET) charge for students enrolled in their schools in a manner consistent with the law. Please note that the Rhode Island School for the Deaf is funded outside of the funding formula and has a separate mechanism for tuition payments. The processes outlined here are consistent with the current practice that freezes state aid at the end of each legislative session, except for potential mid-year adjustments as outlined in RIGL 16-7.2-5(a), and local tuition updates made quarterly to charter schools based on actual enrollment.

Local tuitions to public schools of choice are determined through a process set forth in RIGL 16-7.2-5(a). The local property tax appropriation for education aid will be determined annually for each LEA based on the Uniform Chart of Accounts. The value of the local property tax appropriation shall be divided by the total resident average daily membership of that LEA, including out-placed students, to determine the local per pupil appropriation for education aid. This shall act as the charter and state school local tuition amount and is subject to the transition plan described in RIGL 16-7.2-7.

Local tuitions must be paid quarterly in August, October, January, and April as stated in RIGL 16-7.2-5(b), and public schools of choice will use 25% of the annual tuition rate provide by RIDE for each quarter's invoices. Each quarter's tuition will be updated based on actual enrollment on the first day of each quarter (August 15th, October 1st, January

1st, and April 1st), with a payment due date 30 days from the invoice date. Failure of LEAs to pay local tuitions within this 30 day timeframe will result in a warning from the director of the public school of choice. The Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education shall be provided with a copy of any such correspondence. If the LEA fails to make its payments within 90 days of receipt the original invoice date, the Commissioner shall withhold state education aid pursuant to RIGL 16-5-30 and RIGL 16-7-31 in the amount of the delinquency. Please refer to the following table for the suggested timeline for these actions:

Quarter	Invoice Date	Due Date/Warning Letter Issued	Notify RIDE of Lack of Payment	Aid Withheld
1	August 15 th	September 15 th	October 15 th	November 15 th
2	October 1 st	October 31 st	November 30 th	December 31 st
3	January 1 st	January 31 st	February 28 th	March 31 st
4	April 1 st	April 30 th	May 31 st	June 30 th