

## **Secondary School Tuition, Room and Board, and Other Expenses**

NEPN/NSBA Code: LB

This policy has been adopted pursuant to 20-A MRS § 5201(4) to clarify the circumstances under which this school administrative unit will pay tuition in accordance with 20-A MRS §§ 5203(4) and 5204(4).

To be eligible for tuition payments, a Proof of Residency Form will be required for each student.

**The Superintendent reserves the right to independently verify the residency of any student.** The parent or guardian with legal custody has the burden of proving residency. If the parent or guardian fails to produce evidence of residency requested by the Superintendent, then the School Committee—on behalf of the taxpayers of the Plantation—may decline to pay tuition and/or room and board for the student(s).

### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, “residency” is defined as actual residence in a home within the municipality of Monhegan Plantation where a person ordinarily and primarily sleeps, has meals, and conducts leisure activities throughout the school year. Ownership or rental of property within Monhegan Plantation alone does not establish residency. A student is eligible for tuition only if that student’s parent(s) or guardian with legal custody lives within Monhegan Plantation for the majority of time during the school year, *and* the student lives with that parent or guardian within the municipality for the majority of time during the school year, except when elsewhere in order to attend high school. Evidence of residency may include address on driver’s license, registration of vehicles, voter registration, where a homestead exemption is claimed, mailing address, legal residence as stated on State and Federal tax returns, and days per week and weeks per year that parent(s) or guardian is domiciled in Monhegan Plantation, but these individual factors will not control if the weight of evidence does not establish residence as defined above.

“Room and board” is defined as meals and a place to live.

### Purpose

The Monhegan School must assure that all students are able to receive a free and appropriate secondary school education. This policy establishes the method by which a student selects a secondary school for grades 9-12 and identifies the amount of the expenses incurred for attending this school that will be paid by the Monhegan School. All students who live with a parent or legal guardian as legal, year round residents of Monhegan Plantation are eligible for the

services described in this policy. Questions about residency eligibility should be directed to the Monhegan Superintendent of Schools.

There is no legal obligation for the Monhegan School to pay room and board costs of a resident secondary student attending school outside of Monhegan Plantation. However, the Monhegan School recognizes that secondary school students and their families may need to pay for room and board to another entity providing room and board services in order for a student to attend secondary school.

It is not the intent of the Monhegan School to reimburse Monhegan residents for the costs of providing room and board for their own children. The Monhegan School will not reimburse a parent/legal guardian under this policy for any costs associated with purchasing, leasing, renting or maintaining a house, condominium or apartment off-island where a student will live with a parent/legal guardian or other care provider for the purpose of attending secondary school. Nor is it the intent of the Monhegan School to reimburse a parent/legal guardian for the costs associated with food, utilities or transportation for a student who is residing with a parent/legal guardian or other care provider off-island for the purpose of attending secondary school.

### Policy

1. The selection of secondary school is the sole responsibility of the student and the student's parents.
  - a. The Monhegan School's teacher, guidance consultant and superintendent shall be available to assist the family in identifying, researching and selecting a secondary school. During the student's 6th, 7th and 8th grade year, the Superintendent and Guidance Consultant will initiate meetings with the parent and child to discuss secondary options and address all questions and issues about secondary placement.
2. The Monhegan School shall annually budget, for the purpose of covering the tuition costs for each student who will be in a state-approved public or private secondary school for the budget year, an amount equal to its best estimate of what the State's Average Per Pupil Tuition Rate for public secondary schools will be for the upcoming school year.
  - a. This amount will be paid directly to the receiving secondary school in no more than eight equal monthly installments.

- b. In the event that the amount budgeted (as specified in item #2 directly above) for tuition does not cover the actual cost, the parent(s) of the student shall be responsible for paying the balance due.
  - c. Any financial aid a student may obtain at a private secondary school will not reduce Monhegan School's obligation under this paragraph.
  - d. In the event that the parent makes an initial deposit to a school for the upcoming year and there remains a balance in that student's tuition account, Monhegan School shall reimburse the parent the deposit in March of the school year for which the deposit was made.
- 3. The decision about where the student shall live while attending the selected secondary school and what arrangements will be made for travel, room and board, and miscellaneous expenses shall be the responsibility of the student and the student's parents. The Monhegan School's personnel shall be available to assist the family in locating persons within a receiving school district who can assist with finding appropriate housing for the student.
- 4. The Monhegan School shall annually budget for the purpose of room and board for each student who will be in secondary school for that school year, a second amount equal to the amount budgeted for tuition (as specified in paragraph #2 above). This amount will be paid directly to a boarding school upon receipt of an official bill from the school or to the individual(s) providing room and board for the student upon receipt of an official bill. This payment will be made in no more than eight equal monthly installments. In no event shall a payment be made directly to a parent for room and board costs.
  - a. In the event that the amount budgeted for these services is less than the actual cost, the parent(s) shall be responsible for paying the balance due.
  - b. In the event that the amount budgeted for these services exceeds the actual cost, the surplus shall be carried forward in the Monhegan School's General Fund Account.
- 5. The Monhegan School shall annually budget for the purpose of the purchase of required textbooks, an amount for each student who will be in secondary school for that school year. This amount will be reimbursed to the parent(s) upon proof of purchase. In the event that the amount budgeted for these services is less than the actual cost, the parent(s) shall be responsible for paying the balance due.

6. Parents are cautioned that there may be secondary education expenses incurred that are not covered by this policy and/or that must be paid before funds can be released by Monhegan School. It is strongly encouraged that parents contact the registrar's offices at the prospective schools and at the school their child will attend to research all financial details.
7. The Monhegan School shall also pay, directly to the receiving secondary school, charges for the purpose of a "debt service factor" that may be assessed by a Maine public high school in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 219 §5805 (4) or an "insured value factor" that may be assessed by a Maine approved private high school in accordance with 20-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 219 §5806. Any applicable debt service factor or insured value factor paid pursuant to this section will not be included in the base tuition factor (in section #2) used to calculate the amount of room and board to be paid as described in section #4 above.

Legal Reference:      20-A M.R.S.A. §5401  
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                              20-A M.R.S.A. §5804  
                              20-A M.R.S.A. §5806  
                              21-A M.R.S.A. §112

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