

## K-8 Special Education Tuition Guidance

This guidance is utilized to assist districts serving K-8 students with disabilities who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP).

### Regulation:

Per RSMo 167.131, the rate of tuition charged by the serving district is the per pupil cost of maintaining the district's grade level grouping. The cost of maintaining a grade level grouping is determined by the board of education of the serving district but in no case shall it exceed all amounts spent for teachers' wages, incidental purposes, debt service, maintenance and replacements. Districts may use the Tuition Calculation by Grade Level Grouping spreadsheet at <https://dese.mo.gov/financial-admin-services/school-finance/calculation-tools> to calculate the grade level grouping tuition cost.

### MOSIS Reporting:

The serving district reports K-8 students in MOSIS as non-resident students.

### Funding:

Funding is distributed between the K-8 and serving district in the following manner:

- K-8 District: ADA and other data used in the Basic Formula, Classroom Trust Fund, Prop C, Small Schools Grant, Transportation State Aid, Part B Federal Funds, and High Need Fund (HNF) reimbursement for out-of-district tuition costs
- Serving District: IEP Weighting used in the Basic Formula Calculation, Tuition Fees, and High Need Fund (HNF) reimbursement for in-district educational costs

### IEP Services:

The serving district is responsible for providing all IEP services. The serving district can continue with the current IEP established by the K-8 district, or re-evaluate students to determine the necessary IEP services. The K-8 district must be invited to all IEP meetings and the serving district must maintain documentation of the invitation.

### Transportation:

The K-8 district is responsible for transporting students to the serving district. If the serving district adds any type of transportation service as part of an IEP (door-to-door, bus aide, etc.), the serving district is responsible for the service(s) and the cost.

### Tuition Calculation and Invoicing:

The serving district must include special education expenditures in the calculation for the Grade Level Grouping tuition rate. The serving district may charge any amount up to the calculated grade Level Grouping tuition rate. The serving district may not exceed the calculated Grade Level Grouping Tuition rate unless there are K-8 students with disabilities placed in out-of-district placements. The serving district may charge a higher tuition rate for students with disabilities versus students without disabilities, as long as the tuition rate does not exceed the calculated Grade Level Grouping tuition (e.g. Grade Level Grouping Calculation is \$10,000, the district tuition rate for students without disabilities is \$7,500, the district tuition rate for students with disabilities is \$9,500).

### Out-of-District Placements:

In the event students with disabilities are placed outside of the serving district by the IEP team in an out-of-district tuition placement (e.g. private agency placement), the serving district may charge the K-8 district for the out-of-district tuition rate in lieu of the Grade Level Grouping (regular) tuition rate. The serving district must notify the K-8 district of the out-of-district tuition rate at the time of the IEP placement. Only the K-8 district may apply for HNF reimbursement for the out-of-district tuition cost.

High Need Fund (HNF) Reimbursement:

If the serving district has placed the special education student in regular placement at the serving school and is charging the Grade Level Grouping (regular) tuition rate to the K-8 district, the serving district can claim the student for HNF reimbursement since they cannot charge any more tuition to the K-8 district for the student than they do for other special education students served in regular placement at the serving school. This allows the serving district to recoup some of their cost to serve the student above and beyond the tuition they are collecting from the K-8 district. However, if the student is in an out-of-district tuition placement (e.g. private agency placement) arranged by the serving district, then the serving district can charge more tuition to the K-8 district up to the cost of the private agency placement. In this situation, the K-8 district may apply for HNF reimbursement for recover the additional tuition paid to the serving district for the out-of-district tuition cost.