

Non-Instructional/Business
Operations

Mount Pleasant Cottage School Union Free School District

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR SPECIAL ACT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In 1980, the New York State Legislature passed the Institutional Schools Act, Chapter 563, which mandated that special act public school districts be funded through a rate setting system. Today, Special Act Public Schools receive most of their revenue through student tuition payments. Tuition rates are established annually by the State Education Department in conjunction with the Division of the Budget. The costs and tuition rate of the Special Act Public Schools are not allowed to increase by more than certain fixed percentages.

Tuition is generally paid by the local school districts, Department of Social Services (DSS), Office of Mental Health (OMH), Division of Youth (DFY) or Family Court for each child placed.

If the tuition is paid by the DSS, OMH, DFY or Family Court, the comptroller deducts from state aid due to a local school district an amount equal to the cost of educating the child in the local district.

Other moneys that supplement existing special act program funds include federal aid for children with handicapping conditions and state aid for building and certain transportation costs. Building aid reimburses Special Act Public School Districts for forty-nine percent (49%) of the cost of construction or repair in the year after the costs are incurred.

Although Special Act Public School Districts are organized as Union Free School Districts, they have no qualified voters. Therefore, their budgets are not subject to a vote of the public. All are governed by Boards of Education, usually appointed by the Trustees of the child care agency and the Commissioner of Education.

New York State Constitution
Education Law Articles 33 and 35

Adopted: 7/8/13