

# Understanding Charter School Funding History and the Current Formula

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# What is a New Hampshire charter school?

- ❖ Charter schools are open-enrollment, public schools of choice.
- ❖ They are mission driven and created to fulfill a need.
- ❖ For state authorized charter schools, students may attend any charter school in the state and are not limited by zip code.
- ❖ Charter schools are independent, tuition free.
- ❖ Charter schools are accountable for both academic results and fiscal practices.

# Charter School Authorization

**District Authorized-** This process is used when a town or local district wishes to open a public charter school within the resident district. This avenue affords the town and/or district more control over the charter school.

**State Authorized-** Using this approach the charter school applicant applies directly to the New Hampshire State Board of Education for authorization to open a public charter school. Applications to open a state authorized charter school may be submitted or “sponsored” by local teachers, groups of parents or non-profit entities. (RSA 194-B:3a)

# History of State Authorized Charter School Funding in NH: State Adequacy + Additional Grant

- 2005: \$3,450.00 per student
- 2006: \$3,598.00 per student
- 2007: \$3,706.00 per student
- 2008: \$5,000.00 per student
- 2009: \$5,450.00 per student
- 2010: \$5,450.00 per student
- 2011: \$5,450.00 per student
- 2012: \$5,450.00 per student
- 2013: \$5,498.15 per student
- 2014: \$5,498.30 per student
- 2015: \$5,597.27 per student
- 2016: \$6,597.27 per student
- 2017: \$6,735.82 per student
- 2018: \$7,047.06 per student
- 2019: \$7,188.00 per student
- 2020: \$7,188.00 per student

## Funding Comparison Public Schools in New Hampshire

According to the NH Department of Education, the State Average Cost Per Pupil to educate a child in New Hampshire in 2019 was \$16,346.45.<sup>5</sup>

State Aid Per Pupil Grades K-12	Traditional Public Schools	State Authorized Charter Schools	Locally Authorized Charter Schools
Base Adequacy Aid	<b>\$3,708.78</b>	<b>\$3,708.78</b>	<b>3,708.78</b>
Additional Grant	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,479.22</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Local Tax Dollars Per Pupil Grades K-12</b>	This amount varies <b>Average: \$10,134.80</b> State Average Cost Per Pupil in 2019 was \$16,346.45, approximately 62% of funding comes from Local Taxation. <sup>6</sup>	<b>\$0</b> State-authorized charter schools do not receive local tax dollars.	This amount varies <i>("not less than 80 percent of that district's average cost per pupil"<sup>7</sup> to educate a student after subtracting state adequacy aid.)</i>
<b>Differentiated Aid</b>	<b>per eligible student</b>	<b>per eligible student</b>	<b>per eligible student</b>
FRL	1,854.38	1,854.38	1,854.38
ELL	725.63	725.63	725.63
SPED	1,995.21	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>
3rd Graders Not Proficient in Reading	725.63	725.63	725.63

# New Hampshire Public School Funding- a comparison

5. <https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/in-line-documents/cost-state-average18-19.pdf>

6. <https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/in-line-documents/state-summary18-19.pdf>

# Fiscal Relationship: Traditional Public Schools to Charter Schools (State Authorized)

**Special Education:** Local traditional school district legally and financially responsible for special education students in charter schools.

**Staff:** NH law allows for traditional public school districts and charter schools to enter into agreements regarding sharing of staff.

**Facility:** NH law allows for traditional public school districts and charter schools to enter into agreements regarding use of facilities.

**Tuition Agreements:** NH law allows for traditional public school districts and charter schools to enter into agreements regarding tuition.

# Conclusions and Recommendations

## **Conclusions:**

- Charter schools are underfunded public schools.
- Current model works when law is followed.

## **Recommendations:**

1. Increase State Adequacy Aid for all public schools and maintain the “Additional Grant” for public charter schools.
2. Direct local funding to follow the child as it does in other state funding of charter schools at 80% of the average in district cost per pupil as the law was originally intended.

Questions?

Thank you for your time!