

## **Public Charter Schools**

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Fiscal Impact Special Education and Charter School: (Examples, not a full inclusive list)

- If parents enroll an IDEA eligible student in a charter school, the school district in which the child resides is responsible for providing and funding a FAPE. RSA 194-B:11, III. All state adequacy funds (including differentiated aid) tied to that pupil go to the charter school with the following exception. The differentiated aid arising from the student's eligibility for special education, \$1,915.86 annually, goes to the school district. RSA 194-B:11, I(b)(1)(A).
- The overall state and federal funding provided for special education poses challenges for LEA's in meeting their obligation to provide a FAPE to all eligible students with disabilities enrolled in charter schools
- Transportation costs and travel time for school personnel servicing students with disabilities in charter schools, particularly outside of the child's resident LEA boundaries can be quite costly for the school district.
- In most situations it is not possible to send district staff to charter schools and independent consultants or agencies are hired to provide services required in IEP's. Such services can be very costly for a school district.
- Specialized equipment, programs, and technology necessary to implement an IEP for a student at charter schools must be purchased by the LEA. While many of these things can be shared items with other students, the LEA has to duplicate and purchase separately for use in the charter school setting.
- State law allows a school district to provide special education and related services by sending its own employees to a charter school or by paying the charter school to provide these services with staff employed by the charter school. Yet there is no mechanism to ensure that the amount a charter school charges the school district is fair and reasonable for the provision of special education and related services with its own employees. The NHDOE sets approved rates for private special education and related services, including rates for tuition and related services, could similar rates be set for special education services provided by charter schools?

### **Data and Accountability**

- Currently there is a lack of data relative to the costs for providing special education and related services to students with disabilities in charter schools; student outcome data for students with disabilities is problematic
- The charter schools are responsible for general education, yet are not held accountable for student progress as related to students with disabilities. Accountability is problematic; specific data related to student performance of students with disabilities, on factors related to the state performance plan, annual performance reports etc. is not available.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Transportation	\$12,000	\$48,000	\$44,000	\$70,000	TBD
Para Support	\$53,600	\$55,300	\$57,000	\$0	TBD
Services (Special Education and Related Services Combined)	\$15,000	\$18,850	\$63,150	\$30,000	TBD
Total	\$80,600.00	\$122,150.00	\$164,150.00	\$100,000.00	TBD
Number of Students with IEPs enrolled in Charter Schools	5	8	14	7	9 Plus 2 in referral
Average Cost Per Student with an IEP	\$16,120	\$15,268	\$11,725	\$14,285	TBD