

**Policy**

The intent of this policy is to implement a procedure for the payment of tuition for middle and high school students (grades 7-12) as authorized by 16 V.S.A., Section 822 (1).

Any resident student may apply each year for tuition payment under this policy by filing an application as provided herein with the Vernon School Board. Application shall be made on the prescribed form and shall be signed by the student and his/her parent or legal guardian. In the event a guardian signs the application, a copy of the guardian's appointment must accompany the application.

Each application must be completed in full and must be submitted to the Vernon School Board no later than April 15 preceding the proposed date of enrollment. Each complete application shall be reviewed by the School Board at a public meeting to determine whether the application satisfies the criteria set forth below. If the Board determines by majority vote that the application does not satisfy the criteria set below, it will so notify the applicant in writing, by June 30, setting forth the reason for the denial. Applications submitted after April 15 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Board.

The applicant may then request a hearing before the Vernon School Board. At such hearing, the applicant shall be permitted to introduce evidence as to whether the application satisfies the criteria set forth below. Based upon the application and such additional evidence, the Board shall then determine by majority vote whether the criteria are satisfied. If it finds that the criteria are satisfied, it shall cause tuition payments to be made in the manner set forth below.

Any applicant whose application is denied following the hearing before the Vernon School Board may then appeal to the State Board of Education as provided in 16 V.S.A., Section 828.

Any resident of the Town of Vernon is eligible to apply provided that he/she has been accepted for enrollment in any public or private school approved by the State Board of Education in Vermont or, if located in another state, approved by comparable authority.

For students attending a public or private non-sectarian school in Vermont or another state, the amount of tuition assistance available under this policy shall be the amount of the tuition charged by such school, not to exceed the average announced tuition for Vermont middle or high schools for the year of attendance.

Tuition shall not, however, be paid to any parochial middle or high school, or public school within the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union offering seventh and eighth grade education; i.e., Putney, Dummerston and Guilford. A parochial school is defined as a school owned, maintained and supported by a religious sect or organization, which includes in its curriculum courses related to its sectarian religious beliefs.

Payments shall be made by the Vernon School District only after applications have been approved by the Vernon School Board. Payments shall be made on a semester basis, payable to the educational institution upon receipt by the Vernon School Board of the appropriate tuition bill. The amount of tuition to be paid reflects the average announced tuition for Vermont middle or high schools as stated by the Vermont Department of Education. For the purpose of the foregoing sentence, tuition shall not include any separately stated fees or charges nor shall there be paid any amounts for tutors or other direct or indirect instruction, room, board, student expenses, textbooks or equipment.

This policy may be terminated at any time by the vote of the Vernon Town School Board. However, the effective date of such termination shall be set in such a manner that will enable any student currently enrolled in another school to complete his/her secondary education at the school. This proviso assumes satisfactory student performance.

Any refunds of tuition payable for any reason shall be paid to the Vernon Town School District in proportion to the town's contribution to the tuition payments from which the refund is calculated.

**Date Warned:** August 5, 2011  
**Date Adopted:** August 15, 2011  
**Legal References:**  
**Cross References:**