

# MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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School Committee Meeting  
September 8, 2009

School Choice

# 1. The Law

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- Section 61 of the Education Reform Act of 1993 and St. 1993, c.151, sec.41, amended the Massachusetts school choice law, G.L. C76, &12B
- Presumption all MA school districts will admit non-resident students under the school choice program.
- Withdrawal program can only occur when a school committee has held a public hearing on this issue, followed by a school committee resolution to withdraw the town from the school choice program.

# 1. The Law (continued)

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- Vote must be taken prior to June first and any decision to withdraw from the school choice program will be effective only for the following school year.
  - The resolution to withdraw from the school choice program must contain the reason for the withdrawal
  - Resolution must be filed with the Department of Education.
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# 2. Attendance

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In certain situations parents may choose to enroll children in public schools outside of their home district.

- Inter-district school choice program
- Charter schools
- Vocational technical schools
- METCO
- Massachusetts Academy of Math and Science at WPI
- Parents may also choose to educate their children in non-public settings through private schools or home schooling.

# 3. School Choice

## Facts:

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- School Districts with space.
  - Selection must be free from any form of discrimination.
  - Parents of children must approach districts who are enrolled in Choice and submit applications to receiving districts.
  - If a district is enrolled and more students apply than there are seats, the district will hold a lottery to select which students will be admitted.
  - The sibling of a child currently attending school in another district under school choice will receive preference in the admissions lottery.
  - Once a child is accepted into another district under school choice, he or she is entitled to attend that district's schools until high school graduation and does not have to reapply.
  - Transportation is not provided.

# 4. Entry Levels

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## Options:

1. Evaluate anticipated class size grade level in May
2. Kindergarten
3. Grade One
4. Grade Six
5. Grade 9

# 5. Tuition

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- School choice charges are assessed against sending districts and handled automatically through adjustments to the quarterly local aide distribution.
- Per pupil tuition rates are based on 75% of the districts' per pupil costs for the prior fiscal year up to a limit of \$5,000.
- Allowable expenditures from tuition include any expenditure for staff, materials, equipment, or services that directly enhance the quality of a district's education program and benefit students who currently attend a district's schools.

# 6. Special Education

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- Student with an Individual Education Plan (SPED) a special education increment augments that tuition. The amount of the increment is determined by applying annual cost rates to the specific services cited in a pupil's individual education plan. These costs are generated from the same template as is used in the "circuit breaker" program for high-cost pupils.
- When transportation is required by IEP, sending district must pay the full costs

# 7. Statewide Data FY 2009

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- 157 Receiving school districts
- 267 Sending school districts
- 11,300 full-time equivalent pupils participating in School Choice
- Total tuition amounting to net \$65,529,337.

# 8. Milton's Participation

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- FY 2008 one Milton student attended outside district (\$5,000)
- FY 1997 one Milton student attended outside district (\$3,995)

# Interdistrict School Choice in Massachusetts FY07

