



What Determines the Tuition a Town Pays GSA?

Each year Maine's DOE sets the per student tuition that towns must pay GSA, but towns may choose to pay GSA up to 15% more than the state-set tuition when GSA's tuition costs exceed what the state has set. We are requesting an additional 13.9%.

When we speak of *state-set tuition*, we are referring to something called the MAT. Every year, Maine's legislature uses a complicated formula to set a *Maximum Allowable Tuition* (MAT) that high schools (whether public or private) can charge students whose towns do not have their own public high schools. Every town without its own public high school, or without a contractual agreement with another high school, must pay tuition up to the MAT to the high schools their resident students choose to attend. (High schools that receive publicly funded tuition must be non-sectarian, and may be located anywhere in Maine or even in another state.)

In addition to the tuition that towns are required to pay, they must also pay town academies like GSA a 6% Insured Value Factor (IVF). The IVF helps pay for facilities, since town academies can't issue bonds the way public school districts can.

So, the MAT sets a tuition amount *up to which* towns must pay a high school like GSA. But by law, towns may decide to pay GSA as much as 15% more than the MAT. (At least two town academies in Maine have agreements with their towns to pay a tuition higher than the MAT.) The amount over the MAT that we are seeking from towns is about 13.9% higher than the MAT.

You can find the relevant DOE statutes here:

<https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-a/title20-Asec5806.html>