



Tuition Program Recommendation



Superintendent Goal 4 - Develop the Warren Township
Schools tuition program.

Summary of Work

- Conducted research of comparable programs (school choice, public school tuition, private school tuition)
- Surveyed staff
- Discussed with WHRHS superintendent
- Discussed cost/benefits

Key Findings

- NJDOE school choice would limit revenue-producing capability.
- There are two districts with similar programs to what we envision for out-of-district students at full tuition.
- Many districts incentivize staff members to enroll their children at reduced tuition.

Key Findings

- A survey of 54 staff members with school-aged children suggests that without significant financial incentives, staff members are unlikely to enroll their children in the Warren Township Schools as tuition-paying students.

Key Findings

	Unlikely	Likely
100% tuition	100%	0%
75% tuition	100%	0%
50% tuition	90%	10%
25% tuition	67%	33%
0% tuition	53%	47%

Key Findings

- Tuition costs at public schools are entirely up to the local district's discretion. In Warren Township, the tuition is typically set to match the the New Jersey Department of Education's certified costs per pupil from two years prior.

	Elementary School	Middle School
Gill St. Bernards	\$24,700 (K) \$28,300 (1-2) \$30,000 (3-4) \$33,700 (5)	\$33,700
Kent Place	\$31,940 (K) \$33,700 (1-5)	\$40,450
Newark Academy	N/A	\$39,350
Pingry	\$33,748	\$38,428
Rutgers Prep	\$20,750 (K) \$30,400 (1-4) \$32,500 (5)	\$32,500 (6-7) \$37,300 (8)
Average Private School Tuition	\$27,785 (K) \$31,547 (1-2) \$31,962 (3-4) \$33,412 (5)	\$36,886 (6-7) \$37,846 (8)

	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Haddonfield Schools	\$11,763	\$12,000 (new) \$10,500 (returning)	
Warren Township	\$15,348 (K) \$17,325 (1-5)	\$17,752 (6-8)	
Watchung Hills Regional High School	N/A	N/A	\$15,800
Woodstown-Pilesgrove			\$8,323

Recommendations

- Do not participate in New Jersey's interdistrict school choice program.
- Offer a limited tuition-based program option beginning in September 2018. Utilize lessons learned during the 18-19 school year to ramp up recruitment for 19-20.

Recommendations

- Establish competitive general education tuition rates that generate revenue while encouraging families to choose Warren Township Schools.
 - \$12,000 - Grades K-5
 - \$14,000 - Grades 6-8

Recommendations

- Allow employees to enroll their children at a reduced tuition rate of \$4,000 for the 18-19 school year to seed the program.
- Continue to explore a formal matriculation agreement with Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Implications

- Tuition-paying students become students of the Warren Township Schools by all official measures including accountability.
- There will be necessary start-up costs and some drain on administrative resources.

Implications

- With Board approval, work will need to begin immediately to establish an application process.
 - Whether the Board supports the employee incentive will drive whether the focus is on 18-19 or 19-20.

Evaluation

- Evidence of success will be the enrollment of tuition-paying students.
- Growth of the program can be embedded in future superintendent merit goals if the viability of the program is established.
- The program should be self-sustaining (minimally) with revenues fully supporting costs.

