

Pittsfield School District

Open Enrollment - Community FAQ

Does Open Enrollment mean families lose choice today?

No. Pittsfield families already have multiple educational pathways, charter schools, Education Freedom Accounts, homeschooling, private schools, and best-interest placements.

Does Open Enrollment mean families can't send their students to other schools?

No. In New Hampshire, families may choose public, charter, private, or homeschool options. A **yes** vote simply means taxpayers are **not responsible for the tuition of open-enrollment students**. This article applies **only** to Open Enrollment.

How is Open Enrollment tuition calculated?

Tuition is based on the districtwide average cost of education, not just the high school cost. For Pittsfield, the FY25 districtwide average is \$23,797.60, and the **minimum** tuition rate is 80% of that amount, **\$19,038.08** per student.

FY25 Average Cost of Education Pittsfield:

Elementary: \$28,199.29

Middle School: \$21,874.33

High School: \$19,133.60

Districtwide Average (All Grades): \$23,797.60

Open Enrollment Tuition: \$19,038.08 (minimum)

What is the cost to the tax payer if the Open Enrollment Article does not pass?

This cost would vary depending on the number of students enrolling in *Open Enrollment Schools* outside of Pittsfield and the average cost of education in Pittsfield.

In the 25-26 school year, if 10 students enrolled in an Open Enrollment school, the cost to the tax payer would be: \$190,380 or 3.9% of the current budget.

What happens with special education?

The resident district retains full responsibility for special education services, including IEP compliance and transportation, even when a student attends school elsewhere.

Why is local control part of the discussion?

Historically, tuition agreements required school board and voter approval. Open Enrollment changes how and when tuition obligations are created, which has implications for local budgeting and governance.

What happens next?

The Warrant Article will be presented at Deliberative Session and be on the ballot for public vote in March.