

Dummer-Berlin AREA Withdrawal Study Report

Withdrawing District: Dummer School District

Grades: Seven through Twelve

Date of Withdrawal from the AREA : On March 12, 2007, Dummer residents will be asked if they choose to withdraw from their current AREA agreement with Berlin based on a recommendation from the Dummer-Berlin AREA Withdrawal Committee's findings. The withdrawal would be effective on July 1, 2008, at which time the Dummer School District will continue its responsibility to provide an education for its students by finding alternate school districts willing to enter into a Tuition Contract with Dummer. The Berlin School District will no longer be solely responsible for the education of the Dummer seven through twelve students after this date.

Liability of Dummer District to Berlin-Share of Outstanding Indebtedness: The law is clear that a district choosing to withdraw from an AREA agreement retains its fiscal responsibility for any debt incurred by the receiving district. Although the Dummer School District did not directly incur this debt, it must make restitution for any loss revenue the receiving district would be eligible for. The Berlin School District currently has two outstanding bonds that are eligible for State Building Aid at a rate of 45% of total project cost. The Junior High Construction project obtained two separate bonds for their project that will be fully paid during fiscal year 2013. If Dummer chooses to withdraw from the AREA agreement, State Building Aid decreases to 40% with Dummer being responsible for the difference. The revenue that will be lost from the withdrawal would be \$20,000 annually for the next five years. The Dummer School District will be responsible for costs related to Special Education Services for their students.

Analysis of the Financial and Educational Consequences of the Withdrawal

The Educational Consequences for this withdrawal will be that students of Dummer in grades 7 through 12 will be allowed to attend schools of their and their parents' choice. Students may also be impacted as to the vocational offerings that they will be offered due to the fact that Berlin is the closest area vocational setting for high school students.

Manner on which Dummer shall provide for the Education of their Students: The Dummer School District will enter into multiple tuition agreements for the education of its students for grades seven through twelve with surrounding school districts. The districts will include but not be limited to the Berlin, Groveton and Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative School Districts. The Dummer School District will present a tuition contract that will be brought forward to the voters at the Annual District meeting in March of 2007 for approval. The contract will spell out the terms of the agreement along with the tuition responsibility. Currently the tuition rates for the following districts are:

Tuition Rates (06-07)	<u>Berlin</u>	<u>GRS Coop</u>	<u>Groveton</u>
Jr. High (7-8)	\$ 8,464	\$ 8,634	\$ 9,965
High (9-12)	\$ 8,414	\$ 9,259	\$ 9,555
Tuition Rates (07-08)			
Jr. High (7-8)	\$ 8,835	\$ 9,483	Rate Unavailable
High (9-12)	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,524	Rate Unavailable

Modifications of the AREA Agreement: The AREA agreement with the Berlin School District will be dissolved if this report is accepted by the New Hampshire State Board of Education and the governing body of the Town of Dummer, the voters, approve of this report and its findings, at the annual School District meeting in March of 2007.

Other matters considered appropriate to include in the withdrawal plan: This study was necessitated by a vote of the citizens of Dummer during their March 13, 2006 School District Meeting to undertake a study of the feasibility and suitability of a withdrawal from the AREA agreement between Dummer and Berlin. The reason for this study and determination is to give the parents of Dummer students' choice as to their child's school placement for grades seven through twelve.