

§2413-A. Funding for public charter schools authorized by the commission

Beginning with fiscal year 2015-16, this section applies to public charter schools authorized by the commission. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

1. Pupil count. Students enrolled in and attending public charter schools must be reported to the department, for attendance and funding purposes, as provided in section 15683-B, subsection 2 and department rules amended or adopted pursuant to this chapter. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

2. Revenue provisions. State allocation funds follow each student to the public charter school attended by the student.

A. For each public charter school, the total allocation must be determined as follows.

(1) The total allocation must be calculated pursuant to section 15683-B, based on the student's grade level and adjusted as appropriate for economically disadvantaged students and English learners pursuant to section 15675, subsections 1 and 2. Debt service and capital outlays may not be included in the calculation of these allocations. The department shall adopt rules governing how to calculate per-pupil allocations, including those for targeted funds for assessment, technology and kindergarten to grade 2 programs.

(2) For students attending public charter schools, the payments for public charter schools must be made pursuant to section 15683-B, subsection 6.

(3) For transportation expenses, the transportation operating allocation must be the statewide per-pupil essential programs and services transportation operating allocation multiplied by pupil counts determined under section 15683-B, subsection 2, paragraph A multiplied by the percentage established by the commission for the public charter school based on the cost of transportation services provided by the public charter school to the student, but not to exceed 100%.

(4) The department shall pay to the public charter school any additional allocation assigned to the public charter school for gifted and talented students pursuant to section 15681-A, subsection 5 in the year in which the allocation is assigned. [PL 2019, c. 398, §14 (AMD).]

B. The following provisions govern special education funding.

(1) For each enrolled special education student, a public charter school must receive the average additional allocation calculated by the department under section 15681-A, subsection 2 for its special education students. These allocations must be paid on the same basis as the per-pupil allocations for operating funds.

(2) The department shall pay directly to a public charter school any federal or state aid attributable to a student with a disability attending the public charter school in proportion to the level of services for the student with a disability that the public charter school provides directly or indirectly.

(3) The department shall pay to a public charter school any additional allocation assigned to the public charter school because of a high-cost in-district special education placement in accordance with section 15681-A, subsection 2, paragraph B in the year in which the allocation is assigned as an adjustment to the public charter school's state contribution.

(4) The department shall pay to a public charter school any additional allocation assigned to the school administrative unit because of a high-cost out-of-district special education placement in accordance with section 15681-A, subsection 2, paragraph C in the year in which the allocation is assigned. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

C. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the State shall send applicable federal funds directly to public charter schools attended by eligible students. Public charter schools with students eligible for funds under Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Section 6301 et seq. must receive and use these funds in accordance with federal and state law. During the first year of operation, a public charter school must receive Title I funds on the basis of an estimated enrollment of eligible students, as determined by its authorizer. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

D. A public charter school may receive gifts and grants from private sources in any manner that is available to a school administrative unit. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

E. A public charter school may not levy taxes or issue bonds secured by tax revenues. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

F. Any money received by a public charter school from any source and remaining in the school's accounts at the end of any budget year remains in the school's accounts for use by the school during subsequent budget years and may not revert to the authorizer or to the State. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

G. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit any person or organization from providing funding or other assistance for the establishment or operation of a public charter school. The governing board of a public charter school may accept gifts, donations or grants of any kind made to the school and expend or use such gifts, donations or grants in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the donor except that a gift, donation or grant may not be accepted if subject to a condition that is contrary to any provision of law or term of the charter contract. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

H. A public charter school may receive payment pursuant to paragraph A for students residing in the unorganized territory based on the state average EPS per-pupil rate as defined in section 15672, subsection 7-A. A special education student residing in the unorganized territory must be treated the same as a resident student from a school administrative unit for special education costs pursuant to paragraph B. The responsibility for providing a free, appropriate public education for a special education student passes to the charter school in which the student enrolls. As with other resident school administrative units in accordance with section 15681-A, subsection 2, paragraph B, the department shall pay for high-cost in-district students. [PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 398, §14 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 2015, c. 54, §5 (NEW). PL 2019, c. 398, §14 (AMD).

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