



NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Kenneth G. Craw, Ed.D., Superintendent
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MEMO

TO: Board of Education Members
FROM: Kenneth G. Craw, Ed.D.
DATE: November 6, 2025
RE: Special Education Tuition Account

I am writing to inform the Board of Education of an unanticipated overage in the Special Education tuition account for the current 2025-26 fiscal year.

We are projecting an overage of \$792,838 in unbudgeted special education tuition expenses. This variance is the result of two primary factors:

- Unanticipated enrollment changes, including students requiring specialized out-of-district placements upon moving into the district.
- Increased tuition costs for current out-of-district placements, driven by the complexity and intensity of services required to meet student needs.

These factors have collectively increased the financial obligations in the tuition account beyond what was originally budgeted. Please note that the district is legally required to provide the services and supports outlined in each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP), which at times necessitates specialized outplacements to meet student needs.

To address the overage, we are implementing additional internal controls and ongoing monitoring of the Special Education budget. This includes reviewing expenditures in other accounts and evaluating opportunities for cost efficiencies within the current operating budget to mitigate the impact of the overage.

If cost pressures persist and cannot be fully mitigated, we may need to explore additional funding in the form of a supplemental appropriation from the Town. Each month, we will keep the Board apprised of trend data and our mitigation strategies.