**Date Issued: 3/2020**

The mandated tuition contract is an essential document to the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) under the *IDEA* for students who are placed in an approved private school for students with disabilities. Under advisement from our in-house accessibility expert, this document cannot be made fully accessible at this time. The document will be updated when all accessibility issues are resolved. In the meantime, please contact [doe.pssd@doe.nj.gov](mailto:doe.pssd@doe.nj.gov) or call the Division of Finance at (609) 376-3706 for further assistance with this document.

New Jersey State Department of Education

# Mandated “Tuition Contract” (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.5(a)13)

**Only for a pupil placed by a charter school in an**

**Approved private school for students with disabilities**

**(Tuition Paid by a N.J. District of Residence)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **This contract shall be used for both school year and extraordinary services.** | **Select one or both** |
| School year (any time period from July to June) |  |
| Extraordinary Services (any time period from July to June) |  |

**Agreement** dated this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Charter School, in the County of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the State of New Jersey (hereinafter referred to as the “**Charter School**”), the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education, in the County of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the State of New Jersey (hereinafter referred to as the “**District Of Residence**” and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an approved private school for students with disabilities (County, District & School Code\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) in the State of New Jersey (hereinafter referred to as the “**Approved Private School**”).

## ****Witnesseth****

Now, therefore, in consideration of the covenants herein contained, the parties agree as follows:

1. The **district of residence** agrees to purchase from the Approved Private School the educational services described in the pupil’s individualized education program for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a resident pupil from the **district of residence**. **The approved private school** agrees to provide the educational services described in the pupil’s individualized education program to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in accordance with the applicable New Jersey Statutes and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education.
2. This agreement shall be in effect for the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ School Year. The educational services shall commence on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, therefore the total number of billable days will be \_\_\_\_.
3. Under the New Jersey Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program, the **district of residence** shall bill Medicaid for the related services that the **approved private school** provides to pupils pursuant to this **agreement** and in accordance with each pupil’s individualized education program. The **district of residence**, the **charter school** and the **approved private school** agree to comply with all the requirements promulgated by the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education, as applicable.
4. Tuition charges, as a part of this **agreement**, as well as the payment of same shall be made in accordance with the applicable New Jersey Statutes and the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education. Complete 4A for any time period a pupil is enrolled during the July through June school year and, if applicable, 4B for extraordinary services for any time period a pupil is enrolled during the July through June school year.
   1. **July to June school year** - The **district of residence** agrees to pay the **approved private school** each month a tentative tuition charge based upon a per diem rate of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two decimal places) for the total number of days such pupil was enrolled during the month. The per diem rate was determined by dividing the tentative tuition rate for the school year of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the estimated number of days school will be in session, but not less than 180 days (July through June) of \_\_\_\_and rounding to the nearest two decimal places. For July through August, if applicable, such pupil will be enrolled for \_\_\_\_\_\_ days for a total tentative tuition charge of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two decimal places), and/or for September through June, if applicable, such pupil will be enrolled for \_\_\_\_\_\_ days for a total tentative tuition charge of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two decimal places). The July through June total tentative tuition charge will be $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two decimal places). For audit purposes, the number of days the **approved private school** was actually in session from July through June will be used to determine the per diem rate.
   2. **Extraordinary services** - The **district of residence** agrees to pay the **approved private school** each month a tentative tuition charge for extraordinary services based upon a per diem rate of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two decimal places) for the total number of days such pupil was enrolled during the month the service was provided. The per diem rate was determined by dividing the estimated cost of the services for the school year (July through June) of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by the estimated number of days school will be in session (July through June) of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and rounding to the nearest two decimal places. For July through August, if applicable, such pupil will be enrolled for \_\_\_\_\_\_ days for a total tentative tuition charge of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two decimal places), and/or for September through June, if applicable, such pupil will be enrolled for \_\_\_\_\_\_ days for a total tentative tuition charge of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two decimal places). The July through June total tentative tuition charge will be $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (two decimal places). For audit purposes, the number of days the **approved private school** was actually in session from July through June will be used to determine the per diem rate.
   3. **Payment options** – In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(h), the **approved private school** has the option of billing in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(h)3i or N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(h)3ii. The **approved private school** shall use the same option for all students enrolled in the **approved private school**. The option chosen is marked with an “X”:

\_\_\_\_ Option 1. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(h)3i, the **district of residence** shall pay the **approved private school** for the disabled the tentative tuition charge no later than the first day of each month prior to the services being rendered. For a student already enrolled in the **approved private school**, the **district of residence** shall pay the tentative tuition charge by the first day of the second month after services begin. A **district of residence** that fails to pay tuition by the 30th day after services begin may be charged interest by the **approved private school** calculated at the rate of one percent per month on the unpaid balance.

For a student enrolled after the first of the month, the **district of residence** shall pay the tentative tuition charge for the first two months of enrollment no later than 60 days after the first day services begin. Payment in subsequent months is due by the first of each month prior to the services being rendered. A **district of residence** that fails to pay tuition by the 30th day after services begin may be charged interest by the **approved private school** calculated at the rate of one percent per month on the unpaid balance.

\_\_\_\_ Option 2. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(h)3ii, the **district of residence** shall pay the **approved private school** the tentative tuition charge no later than 60 days after the last day of each month in which services were rendered. The **district of residence** that fails to pay tuition by the 60th day after the last day of a month in which services were rendered may be charged interest by the **approved private school** calculated at the rate of one percent per month on the unpaid balance.

1. The **approved private school** agrees to provide the **district of residence** with a monthly tuition bill based on a per diem rate times the number of enrolled days. The **approved private school** agrees to provide the **district of residence** and the **charter school** with a monthly report showing this pupil’s attendance. Monthly tuition bills shall include appropriate pupil identification and the total number of days each pupil was enrolled during the month.
2. The **approved private school** agrees to record this pupil’s attendance in a public school register as required by the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education.
3. In order to verify the certified actual cost per pupil and final tuition rate charged per pupil, the approved private school agrees to have filed with the Department of Education postmarked on or before November 1 the school’s certified audited financial statements prepared in the required form by a registered municipal accountant of New Jersey or a certified public accountant of New Jersey who shall hold an uncancelled registration license as a public school accountant for New Jersey. The school’s certified audited financial statements shall be based on the July 1 to June 30 school year regardless of the fiscal year of the school. (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.10)
4. The annual certified audited financial statements shall reflect a certified actual cost per pupil and a final tuition rate charged per pupil for the July through June school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.1 et seq. If applicable, the school’s certified audited financial statements shall also reflect the certified actual cost for the extraordinary service and the final tuition rate charged for the extraordinary service. The certified actual cost per pupil and a final tuition rate charged per pupil may be based on one tuition rate per school location for the school year or separate tuition rates by class type by school location for the school year, if approved in writing by the Department prior to July 1, 2020, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(b). In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(a)2, if the **approved private school** proposes to charge a final tuition rate in excess of 10 percent of the tentative tuition rate charged, the **approved private school** shall notify each **district of residence** and the Commissioner, or his or her designee, that such increase will be charged and the reason for the increase on or before the applicable dates. The notification shall contain a detailed statement outlining changing costs and/or enrollment, the reasons for the changes, including management’s response to same, and the reason(s) the changes are not offset by decreases in costs. If the **approved private school** fails to comply, the school may only charge a 10 percent increase.
5. If the tentative tuition rate established by this contractual agreement is greater than the final tuition rate charged, the **approved private school** shall return to the **district of residence** the amount by which the tentative tuition charged for this pupil exceeded the final tuition rate charged multiplied by this pupil’s actual average daily enrollment for the July through June school year and, if applicable, for the extraordinary services, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(l). Average daily enrollment means the sum of the days present and absent divided by the number of days the school was actually in session.

In the event it becomes necessary the **approved private school** shall pay the **district of residence** the full amount owed as a result of the school’s certified audited financial statements no later than June 30 of the school year in which the audit is received or no later than 30 days after an appeal on an audit is finally resolved, whichever is applicable in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(l). The **approved private school** has the option to pay such amount or credit such amount in a subsequent tuition bill.

1. If the tentative tuition rate established by this contractual agreement is less than the final tuition rate charged the **approved private school** may charge the **district of residence** all or part of the amount by which the final tuition rate charged multiplied by this pupil’s actual average daily enrollment for the July through June school year, and if applicable for the extraordinary services exceeded the tentative tuition charged for this pupil, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(m). Average daily enrollment means the sum of the days present and absent divided by the number of days the school was actually in session.

In the event it becomes necessary the **district of residence** agrees to pay the **approved private school** the amount owed as a result of an adjustment based upon the school’s certified audited financial statements in accordance with the payment schedule shown below in 10a. Full payment must be made on a mutually agreed upon date during the second school year (in FY 2022-2023) following the year for which the actual cost per student is certified in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-18.3(m).

* 1. The amount owed is to be paid as follows (insert a date between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023):

1. This **agreement** may be terminated by the **approved private school** in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.7(a) or by the **charter school** in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.7(b). The **charter school** shall convene an IEP meeting according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3. Written notice shall be provided to the parent and/or guardian of the affected student pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3. The student may be terminated from the current placement after the **charter school** has provided written notice to the parents according to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3. At or upon the conclusion of the IEP meeting, the **charter school** and the **approved private school** shall mutually agree to a termination date. If the parties cannot mutually agree to a termination date, the contract shall terminate on the 16th day after written notice of termination was provided to the parents pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3 provided, however, that the parents have not exercised their rights to disapprove the termination of the services at the **approved private school**. If the parent(s) and/or guardian (s) exercise their right to disapprove the termination of services at the **approved private school** by requesting mediation or a due process hearing, then the terms and conditions of the contract shall remain in full force and effect, unless the parties otherwise agree or the matter is resolved. The **approved private school** may bill the **district of residence** for the number of enrolled days the student is enrolled after the date of the IEP meeting up to and including the date of termination.

The **approved private school** upon five consecutive daily absences by this pupil agrees to notify the **charter school** and the **district of residence** in writing, so that the **charter school** and the **district of residence** may investigate the enrollment status of this pupil. If the **charter school**, the **district of residence** or the **approved private school** discovers enrollment has ceased due to the actions of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or pupil other than in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.7, the **district of residence** shall be responsible for tuition for the number of enrolled days within the fifteen calendar day notification period after written notification of termination has been given to the **approved private school** and the parent(s)/guardian(s) pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.3. If the **approved private school** does not notify the **charter school** and the **district of residence** upon five consecutive daily absences by this pupil, the **approved private school** waives their right to tuition beyond the five consecutive daily absences, if the pupil does not return.

1. In the event that any dispute arises out of the **agreement** the parties will seek to resolve the dispute as expeditiously as possible. Except as may be set forth herein, the interests of this pupil shall be of the foremost concern in resolving such disputes.
2. In the event the approved status of the **approved private school** is discontinued by the Department of Education this **agreement** shall be terminated. The **district of residence** shall be responsible for tuition for the days the pupil is enrolled.
3. The **approved private school** agrees not to assign the services to be provided under this contract or any portion thereof to any other entity. The language contained in section #16 which is required in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 and N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 which includes the term “subcontractor” does not allow the **approved private school** to assign the services.
4. The **approved private school** as signatory to this contract agrees to operate in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, and rules and regulations including but not limited to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-7.
5. The **sending district** agrees to immediately inform the **approved private school** should it become aware of a change in the student’s school district of residence for school funding purposes.
6. During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:
   1. The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affection or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affection or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, the contractor will ensure that equal employment opportunity is afforded to such applicants in recruitment and employment, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affection or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such equal employment opportunity shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause;
   2. The contractor or subcontractor, where applicable will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affection or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex;
   3. The contractor or subcontractor, will send to each labor union with which it has a collective bargaining agreement a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer advising the labor union of the contractor’s commitments under this chapter and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment;
   4. The contractor or subcontractor where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act;
   5. The contractor or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to meet targeted county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27‑5.2;
   6. The contractor or subcontractor agrees to inform in writing its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, and labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affection or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices;
   7. The contractor or subcontractor agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions;
   8. In conforming with the targeted employment goals, the contractor or subcontractor agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affection or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions;
   9. The contractor shall submit to the public agency, after notification of award but prior to execution of a goods and services contract, one of the following three documents: 1) Letter of Federal Affirmative Action Plan Approval, 2) Certificate of Employee Information Report, and 3) Employee Information Report Form AA302 (electronically provided by the Division and reported to the public agency through the Division’s website at http://111.state.nj.us/treasury/contract\_compliance); and
   10. The contractor and its subcontractor shall furnish such reports or other documents to the Division of Public Contracts Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance as may be requested by the Division from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Division of Public Contracts Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to **N.J.A.C. 17:27-1.1 et seq**.

In witness whereof, the parties have caused this agreement to be duly executed as of this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

## Signatures:

Director, Approved Private School

President of the Board of Education

District of Residence

Secretary of the Board of Education

District of Residence

President, Board of Trustees

Charter School