

Greenfield Public Schools

Susan D. Hollins, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Each Child's Success is Our Mission

May 15, 2013

To: Mayor William Martin
Greenfield Town Council
Ways and Means Committee

From: Liz Gilman

Cc: Superintendent Hollins

Re: Special Education Tuition Prepayment

Attached is a listing of our request for prepayments for FY14 special education tuitions. We agree with your suggestion that prepayment is a viable way to offset an impending and likely critical shortfall in the school system's budget for 2013-2014.

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71 section 71D allows prepayment of tuition as follows:

"A school committee of any city, town, or regional school district may authorize the prepayment of tuition for a period not exceeding three months to any approved private school or approved program source which a student is attending under the provisions of chapter seventy-one B, and the city, town or regional school district treasurer shall be required to approve and pay such monies in accordance with the authorization of the school committee".

The prepayment of FY14 special education tuitions conforms to state law. This will address the shortfall between the state circuit breaker funding and the FY 14 general fund appropriation for special education tuitions. We recommend and request prepayment funding be transferred to the school committee appropriation in Fiscal Year 2013 for processing the prepayment of tuition this June 2013.

Thank you, Mayor. This is a workable approach to school budgeting.

