

Mountainside School District's Contract with Berkeley Heights School District

Frequently Asked Questions Revised 4/17

1. When and how did Mountainside develop this sending relationship with Berkeley Heights?

Our contract began when the Union County schools were de-regionalized back in the 90's. Prior to 1997, Mountainside students attended Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield. Mountainside's first 10 year contract with Berkeley Heights was from 1997-2006. The contract was renewed in 2007.

2. When does our current Governor Livingston contract with Berkeley Heights expire?

This contract is scheduled to expire in June 30th, 2017.

3. When will negotiations begin on a new contract?

According to the current contract, negotiations should begin no later than July 1, 2014 to consider termination or renewal of this agreement. If either party determines that the negotiations are unsuccessful, it shall notify the other party in writing of its decision to terminate the sending/receiving relationship no later than July 1, 2015. In the absence of any such notice of termination or any written agreement by July 1, 2015 to modify the terms of this agreement, this agreement shall automatically renew for another ten-year term commencing July 1, 2017.

Negotiations begin in the fall of 2014. The Negotiations Committee (consisting of the Business Administrator, Superintendent and 3 Board Members from both Mountainside and Berkeley Heights) has already met several times.

4. If students enter Governor Livingston before the contract expires in 2017, are they grandfathered in for the full four years if the contract is not renewed in 2017?

The contract does not mention this specifically but according to NJ Statute 18A: 38-13.1 ... *Any school district entering into a sending-receiving relationship ... shall remain in the ... relationship for not less than five years. If, after that five year period that ... relationship is severed, any student in the sending district shall be permitted to complete his secondary education within the receiving district.*

5. Has the Mountainside Board of Education had discussions with any other districts about receiving our high school students?

The Mountainside Board of Education is considering all options. They are in the process of hiring a consultant to conduct a feasibility study to objectively determine what these options are for the district.

6. What is our current per pupil cost to attend Governor Livingston High School?

We will pay \$14,835 per pupil for the 2015-16 school year.

7. Have there been any increases in the per pupil costs?

For a detailed explanation, see the Power Point entitled *Berkeley Heights Send/Receive Contract Update* currently on our website and/or the videos of our February 24th and March 18th Board Meetings accessed from our website under the “Board of Education” tab.

8. What if an agreement is not reached by July 1st, 2015?

Due to the limited time frame that remains, we are now focused on extending the deadline of July 1st, 2015, in order to proceed with good faith negotiations.

9. What if no agreement is reached by June, 2017 and we haven't selected an alternative school district?

The state mandates that the current send-receive agreement stays in place (through the expired contract) until another agreement is reached.