



Northern York County School District

650 South Baltimore Street
Dillsburg, PA 17019
Telephone (717) 432-8691 ♦ Fax (717) 432-1421

Mr. Steve Kirkpatrick
Superintendent

Mr. Jason R. Beals
Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Jason A. Young
Business Manager

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Dear Washington Township families:

Since February 5, 2021, the Northern York County School District (Northern York) has published a proposed joint transition plan for Washington Township families on our website. This plan was carefully crafted to give as much flexibility as possible to Washington Township families, while simultaneously ensuring current Northern York taxpayers would not assume additional tax burden as a result of the transition. The proposed joint transition plan anticipated an agreement of the Dover Area School District (Dover). Unfortunately, Northern York has been informed that Dover is unwilling to enter into such an agreement.

What happened?

The story is simple. In November of 2014, during the litigation to create the Washington Township Independent School District and transfer it to Northern York, Dover represented to the Court of Common Pleas of York County that there are “no debts or obligations of Dover which shall be assumed by Northern [York],” if the transfer were to occur. That representation was confirmed in an Order of the York County Court of Common Pleas and has never been appealed or challenged by Dover. Nevertheless, now that the appellate courts have ordered the transfer of Washington Township, Dover has decided to reverse its position and has insisted that the residents and taxpayers of Northern York assume part of its debt. In short, Dover wants the taxpayers of Northern York, which will now include the residents of Washington Township, to help them pay for their building projects.

While Dover’s position was unacceptable to us, the Board of Northern York attempted to forge an acceptable compromise of the dispute. After two negotiation meetings between representatives of Northern York and Dover, the Dover Board of Directors rejected Northern York’s final proposal for a global joint transition plan in a letter dated April 6, 2021. The Northern proposal mirrored the proposed transition plan to provide a revenue stream to Dover. Dover refused to accept the proposal, and therefore, has rejected the proposed joint transition plan.

Because Dover has elected to walk away from its representations to the York County Court of Common Pleas, and with the debt question now returning to that Court for a hearing, Northern York has no choice but to revise our proposed transition plan for Washington Township families.

What follows is Northern York’s revised and final transition plan for Washington Township students and families.

Please note that the Board of Northern York will annually renew this plan, to assess its effectiveness and its cost, and reserves the right to make appropriate modifications for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

1. All Washington Township students entering grades K – 9 at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year will attend Northern York schools (exceptions: cyber charter, non-public school, and home school students and students in approved outside placements).

2. Washington Township students entering grades 10 – 12 at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year may apply to Dover as tuition students. Please note that the decision to accept or reject tuition students is entirely within the discretion of the Board of Dover. If Dover accepts them, Northern York will pay to Dover the regular tuition rate for those students to attend Dover.
3. For Washington Township households with multiple-school age children, if the eldest child is entering grades 10 – 12 at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year and is accepted by Dover as a tuition student, younger children in that household may also apply to attend Dover schools as tuition students until the eldest child graduates. If Dover accepts them as tuition students, Northern York will pay to Dover the regular tuition rate for those students to attend Dover. The decision to accept or reject Washington Township students as tuition students rests solely with Dover.

(If the younger school-age child is also at the high school—entering grades 10 or 11—at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, and is accepted by Dover as a tuition student, he or she may stay and finish at Dover High School after the older child graduates.)

4. Transportation to and from school will not be provided by Northern York for students who are accepted by Dover to attend Dover schools as tuition students. Transportation for tuition students will be the responsibility of those students’ parents/guardians (exception: approved special education placements).
5. All Washington Township students previously enrolled at York County School of Technology (YCST) that wish to matriculate through there may apply to YCST as tuition students. If YCST accepts them, Northern York will pay their tuition. The decision to accept or reject Washington Township students as tuition students at YCST rests solely with YCST.
6. Once a Washington Township student transitions to Northern schools, that transition is final. After June 20, 2024, Northern York will no longer pay Dover for tuition students from Washington Township.

The window for Washington Township families to register with Northern York is now open. For next steps, please refer to the letter and registration instructions that were mailed to you on March 29 and are also posted on our Washington Township Transition webpage (<https://www.northernpolarbears.com/Page/14167>).

We recognize the difficulty of the process getting to this point and moving forward from here. Please know that we are in this with you, willing to support you, and excited to welcome you into the Northern York school community.

Yours in education,



Steve Kirkpatrick
Superintendent of Schools

skirkpatrick@northernnyork.org
717.432.8691 Ext. 1104