

## **5171: SELECTION OF SCHOOLS FOR VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL STUDENTS**

The Central Berkshire Regional School Committee (“the Committee”) recognizes the right of a student residing in any of the seven towns that together constitute the Central Berkshire Regional School District (CBRSD) to attend a training school in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in accordance with M.G.L. c. 74, § 7. The Committee also acknowledges the stated interest expressed by representatives of certain of those seven towns for the Committee to designate a “preferred” high school for students residing in that town who seek to take advantage of the right conferred by the aforesaid statute, viz., to attend said high school for the purpose of pursuing a course of study in a Chapter 74-approved program. And the Committee further acknowledges both the oversight by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of Chapter 74- approved programs throughout the Commonwealth, and the standards DESE demands of any program in order for it to receive and retain its chapter 74-approved status.

To accommodate the rights and interests of all the parties mentioned above, including the interest expressed by certain of CBRSD’s seven towns, and to provide high quality Chapter 74 programming to the students residing in CBRSD who seek such programming, the Committee adopts the following as its policy in this regard.

5171.1. General Requirements. A student residing in any of the seven towns that constitute the Central Berkshire Regional School District (CBRSD) who seeks to be admitted to a high school for a chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program may apply to any high school that offers a Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program in which that student is interested. A student’s request for non-resident tuition and transportation under the “Chapter 74 Vocational-Technical Education Tuition and Transportation Option” shall be submitted to the Superintendent of Schools by not later than April 1 for the Superintendent’s consideration based on pertinent criteria, including the availability of the same or substantially similar program at a high school closer to the student’s residence than the one to which admission is being sought. A student’s parent or guardian or a school that has been disapproved for non-resident tuition by the Superintendent may request that the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education review the denial of tuition in accordance with the guidelines cited at Section 5171.5, below.

5171.2. Special Requirements for Residents of Certain Towns. Section 5171.1 notwithstanding, a student residing in a town listed in Section 5171.3, below, who seeks to be admitted to a high school for a specific Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program shall, in addition to applying to any other high school of the student’s choosing that offers the program, apply to the preferred high school for that town as listed in Section 5171.3, below, if that Chapter 74 program is offered at the town’s preferred high school. If the student is accepted into said program at the preferred school for the town in which the student resides, then the student shall attend the preferred high school for that Chapter 74-approved program.

5171.3. Preferred Schools for Certain Towns’ Residents. The preferred vocational-technical schools for specific towns of the CBRSD are:

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>PREFERRED SCHOOL</u>
Cummington	Smith Vocational School, Northampton, MA
Dalton	Pittsfield H.S. or Taconic H.S., Pittsfield, MA
Washington	Pittsfield H.S. or Taconic H.S., Pittsfield, MA

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5171.4. Procedure for Residents of Towns Not Listed in 5171.3. A town that is a constituent part of the CBRSD that is not listed in Section 5171.3, above, shall be deemed for the purposes of this policy to have no preferred vocational-technical school. A student who resides in such a town shall proceed under section 5171.6 of this policy.

5171.5. Student's Non-Acceptance at a Preferred School. If a student residing in a town listed in Section 5171.3, above, who has applied to be admitted to a high school for a specific Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program, is not accepted at the preferred high school for her/his town, or who is wait-listed for admission to that program at the town's preferred high school, but is accepted to another high school for that program, then the non-resident tuition and transportation for the student's attendance at the high school to which she/he has been accepted will be provided in accordance with the policy and process described in the "Guidelines for the Vocational Technical Education Program Non-resident Student Tuition Process Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 74 that is found at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's website,

[http://www.doe.mass.edu/cte/admissions/nonres\\_guidelines.html](http://www.doe.mass.edu/cte/admissions/nonres_guidelines.html)

5171.6. Program Not Offered by Preferred School. If the Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program sought by a student residing in a town listed in Section 5171.3, above, is not offered by the preferred school for that student's town, then said student may apply for admission to the high school that offers the Chapter 74-approved program said student is seeking.

5171.7 Transfer from a Preferred School to Another School. A student who attends a high school for a Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program pursuant to Sections 2 and 3, above, shall not transfer to another high school for a specific Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program without the prior written approval of the Superintendent of Schools of the CBRSD, who may require that the student or her/his parent or guardian, as applicable, provide sufficient documentation, including documentation of sound educational and other pertinent reasons for seeking the transfer, as will enable the Superintendent to make an informed decision.

51718. Effective Date of This Policy. This policy shall be effective for the 2013-2014 school year, and shall apply to any student residing at that time in a town listed in Section 5171.3, above, who seeks to be admitted to a high school for a specific Chapter 74-approved vocational-technical education program, and who first attends said high school in the 2013-14 school year. This policy shall continue in effect in each subsequent school year, unless and until amended or rescinded by the Central Berkshire regional School Committee.

## REFERENCES

MGL C. 74

603 CMR 4.00 *passim*.

Adopted: March 22, 2012

Revised: May 23, 2013