

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL
Valatie, New York

Information Regarding BOCES Services

The BOCES, or Board of Cooperative Educational Services, is a cooperative of school districts authorized under Section 1950 of Education Law designed to provide shared services to school districts to reduce costs or provide services to schools that would be cost prohibitive to offer in isolation.

With the exception of special education services, school districts receive Shared Services Aid, otherwise known as BOCES Aid, to provide an incentive to participate in cooperative services through the BOCES. The BOCES aid rate changes annually. The actual aid is and is received during the school year following the expenditure.

The school district is eligible to receive High Cost Aid for special education services offered through the BOCES. In general, the district receives about 49% reimbursement for any special education services in excess of about \$24,000 per student annually.

Pursuant to Education Law, the school district must make its intentions known, or subscribe to BOCES services by May 1st each year.

BOCES expenditures generally fit into one of the following categories:

Administration and Capital

There are costs associated with the administration of the BOCES and the rental and maintenance of BOCES facilities. These charges are divided amongst Questar III districts as prescribed by section 1950 of Education Law. This expenditure earns BOCES Aid for the district.

Special Education Services

Certain students have prescriptive educational needs that cannot be fulfilled through the special education programs offered at the local school district. In order to fulfill the requirements of students' Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), districts can enroll students in BOCES programs. The district receives High Cost Aid from the state for these expenditures.

Career and Technical Education

High School juniors and seniors, who are "students in good standing," may participate in the BOCES Occupational Educational/LPN Program at the Columbia-Greene Educational Center. Students are able to participate in a variety of programs, and upon graduation, will earn a certificate in their major area of study as well as a diploma from Ichabod Crane. In addition to Career and Technical Education, the BOCES New Visions enrichment program and the Tech Valley Regional High School are purchased through the BOCES. This expenditure earns BOCES Aid.

District Support

School districts purchase services and programs, to support the efficient operation of the district or to provide educational services. Some examples are listed below.

The following expenditures earn BOCES Aid:

- Participation in the regional Odyssey of the Mind program
- Textbook coordination for non-public school students
- Databases for district libraries
- Purchase of data and Internet services for all district buildings
- Purchase and support of "Finance Manager," the district's payroll, accounts payable and accounting system
- Purchase and support of "STARBASE," the district's student management system for scheduling and maintenance of student records.
- Purchase of technological infrastructure, copiers, network printers and other hardware
- Support for the state data warehouse program
- State aid service
- Coordination of regional workers' compensation and health insurance costs
- Cooperative bidding for cafeteria services
- Staff Development for professional educators
- Online application system for teacher recruitment
- Substitute calling service
- Health and safety services which include an on-site coordinator one day per week, fire code inspections, environmental services, fingerprinting, air monitoring, annual visual inspections, compliance with state and federal fuel tank and OSHA/PESH regulations and inspections of each building's fire alarm system

The following expenditures do not earn BOCES Aid:

- Mandatory school bus driver training (This service earns Transportation Aid.)
- School bus radio system (This service earns Transportation Aid.)
- Drug and alcohol testing for school bus drivers (This service earns Transportation Aid.)
- District share of BOCES targeted Pre-K program at the Primary School
- Internal Audit Service