



POTTSVILLE AND ST. CLAIR TUITION AGREEMENT HISTORY

1989 THROUGH 2025

2025

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A SHARED COMMUNITY, A SHARED STORY

- Pottsville and St. Clair have grown together for decades.
- Students learn, play, and perform side by side.
- Our partnership has built more than programs — it has built friendships, families, and traditions.



TOGETHER, WE ARE ROLL TIDE

- United student body — one community, one culture.
- Opportunities expanded through shared programs, athletics, and activities.
- A stronger district, enriched by St. Clair students and families.



INITIAL AGREEMENT – 1989

- **February 28, 1989**, the initial agreement was signed by St. Clair and Pottsville. The contract was approved by Pottsville’s Board of Directors on **March 13, 1989**.

“After careful considerations and due deliberation, St. Clair’s Board of School Directors has determined that the best interests of its resident children of school age and taxpayers would be served by having certain pupils attend the Pottsville Public Schools.”

INITIAL AGREEMENT – 1989

- **Duration: 5 years** (3 years minimum)
- Beginning July 1, 1989, 9-12 grade students would attend PASD

“St. Clair pupils who attend school in Pottsville pursuant to this agreement shall be treated the same as pupils who are Pottsville residents in matter relating to school attendance; student rights, responsibilities and disciplinary standards and procedures; health services; courses of study, subjects of instruction; academic standards, and grading of school work and progress; athletic teams and events, clubs and societies, publications and other extra-curricular activities; and access to textbooks and school supplies, equipment and facilities.”

INITIAL AGREEMENT – 1989

- Tuition was computed using **Section 2561 of the PA Public School Code** with discounts according to the following schedule:
 - **1989-90** 15% of total due for year
 - **1990-91** 10% of total due for year
 - **1991-92** 8% of total due for year
 - **1992-93** 6% of total due for year
 - **1993-94** 4% of total due for year

INITIAL AGREEMENT

1989

- **Tuition is set by the PA Department of Education under Section 2561:**

“(3) High School Tuition Charge. Add the salaries of supervisors, principals, clerks, assistants and teachers employed in the receiving district's high schools, the district's contribution to the retirement fund and social security contribution fund on behalf of teachers, supervisors and principals employed in the district's high schools, the cost of textbooks and supplies of the second class used in the district's high schools incurred for the school year immediately preceding, and divide the sum so obtained by the total number of pupils in average daily membership in the receiving district's high schools during the school year immediately preceding. The quotient so obtained shall be designated as the "instruction cost per high school pupil." Add to the instruction cost per high school pupil the overhead cost per pupil and a rental charge of eighteen dollars (\$18) per pupil for the use of the receiving district's school plant. For the school years 1952-1953 and 1953-1954 only, but not thereafter, deduct from the amount so obtained the per pupil State appropriation on account of high school teaching units. The cost so determined shall be the "tuition charge per high school pupil." Upon the request of the receiving district, the "tuition charge per high school pupil" shall be computed separately for pupils attending junior high school and pupils attending senior high school. ((3) amended July 25, 1963, P.L.281, No.151)”

INITIAL AGREEMENT

1989

VO-TECH

St. Clair students attending Pottsville will be half the tuition rate and St. Clair shall be solely responsible for payment of the Vo-tech tuition charges

SPECIAL ED

“St. Clair shall pay Pottsville full tuition charges for all such pupils.”



SECONDARY AGREEMENT – JULY 1, 1991

“The St. Clair Area School District Board of School Directors and the Pottsville Area School District Board of School Directors, after careful consideration and due deliberation, have **determined that the best interests of their secondary school age children (Grades 9-12) would be served by having a joint secondary education program. Such a program would benefit both students and taxpayers within each respective school district.**”

A photograph of a school building with the word "POTTSVILLE" visible on the facade. The building is a single-story structure with a brick base and a light-colored upper section. There are green bushes in front of the building and a paved area in the foreground.

SECONDARY AGREEMENT – JULY 1, 1991

- **Duration:** 5 years minimum
- **Tuition:** Pottsville calculates budget and each school district shall pay a portion of the budget equal to the percentage its students represent of the entire joint program
- Special Education: **St. Clair shall pay their full contribution for all such pupils**

EXTENSION

OCTOBER 20, 1993

5-YEAR EXTENSION

**THROUGH THE 2000-2001
SCHOOL YEAR**

11 JUNE 2014

St. Clair advised Pottsville in a June 11, 2014 letter that they intend to terminate the Joint Secondary Program Management Agreement between the districts for the 2015-2016 school year.

IN MARCH 2015

In March 2015, after reviewing the feasibility study, Pottsville voted against a proposal to merge the districts.

IN MARCH 2015

Later in March, St. Clair issued an RFP for tuition proposals from other districts.

ST. CLAIR SEEKS TO END AGREEMENT

A photograph of a school building with the word "POTTSVILLE" visible on the facade. The building is a single-story structure with a brick base and a light-colored upper section. There are green bushes in front of the building and a paved area in the foreground.

Another One-Year EXTENSION

- **In April 2015**, Pottsville and St. Clair signed a one-year agreement for the 2015-2016 school year
- **Rate:** \$1,737,440
- **Special Education:** St. Clair would only pay for special education students whose costs exceed \$25,000 and Pottsville would provide them with a retroactive discount on special education costs paid from 2013-2015.

Request for Proposal 2015

- Pottsville responded to the RFP with an initial offer of \$27.4 million for a 10-year contract.
- After discussions, Pottsville revised their offer to a flat \$1.6 million per year, or \$16 million for 10 years





10 YEAR CONTRACT

- **On October 7, 2015**, a new agreement was signed by Pottsville and St. Clair with a duration of 10 years
- **Tuition:** Flat rate of \$1,600,000 beginning in 2016-2017
- Under this contract, **Pottsville did not charge St. Clair a Special Education tuition rate or for facilities costs**, as was done in prior contracts
- **The amount St. Clair paid in 2024-2025 (\$1.6 million) is less than the contract for the 2015-2016 school year (\$1.7 million)**

RECENT EXTENSIONS



The language of the 10-year agreement was extended for the 2026-2027 school year with a slight adjustment to the tuition:

- **2025-26** - \$1.6 million (last year of the 10-year contract)
- **2026-27** - \$1.8 million



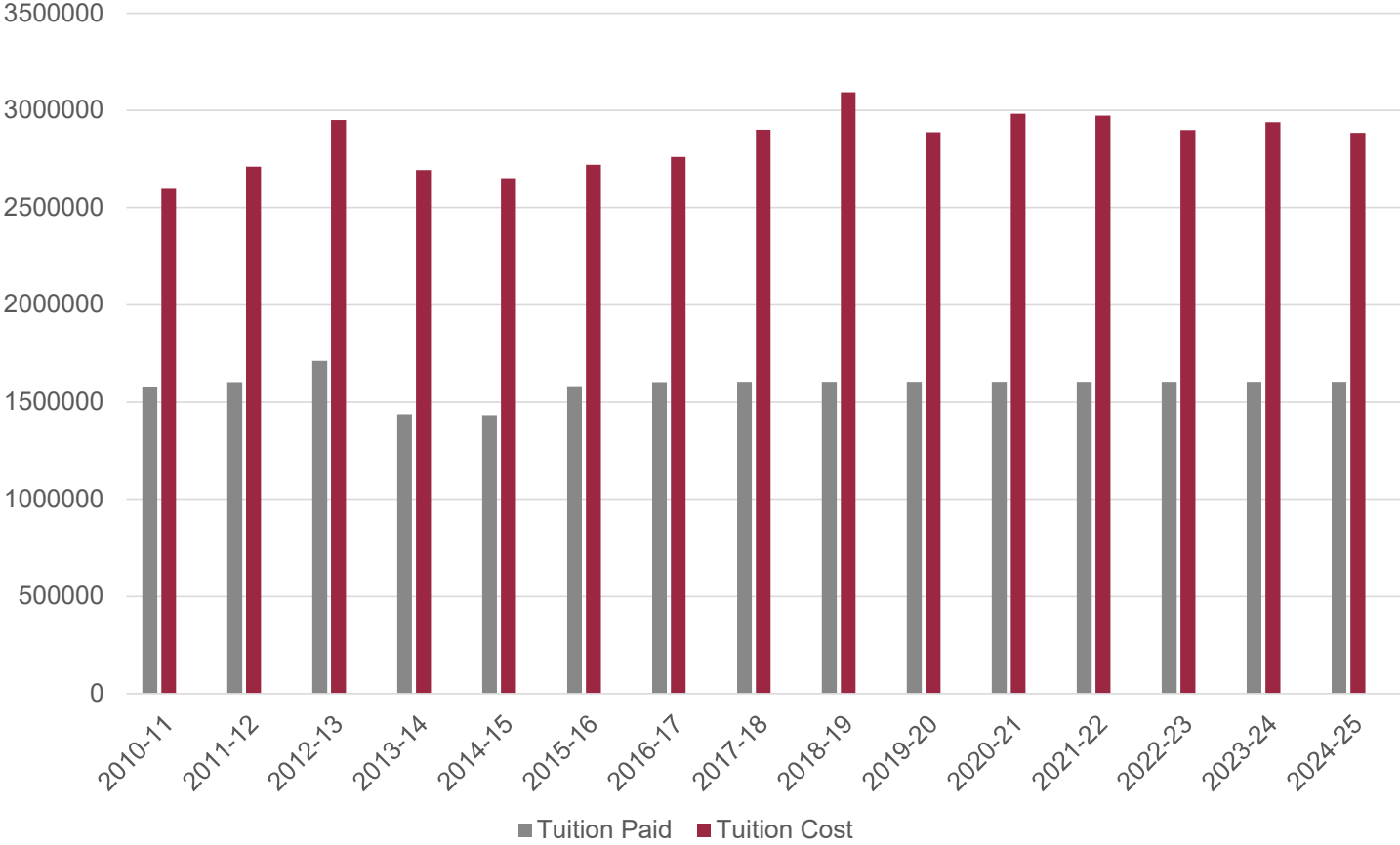
FLAT RATE AGREEMENTS DID NOT CHARGE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION, DESPITE SPECIAL EDUCATION BEING ONE OF THE LEADING COST DRIVERS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS STATEWIDE.

HISTORY OF

THE TUITION GAP

- Over the last 15 years, St. Clair has consistently paid less than Pottsville's actual tuition rate.
- On average:
 - Pottsville's PDE-set tuition rate: ≈ **\$10,000 per student**
 - St. Clair's flat payment: ≈ **\$7,000 per student**
- Result: A gap of ≈ **\$1.2 million** each year between Pottsville's tuition rate and what St. Clair pays.

The Tuition Gap





RECENT EXTENSIONS

In 2024, Pottsville offered three options to St. Clair:

- **Option 1** – Contract language stays the same with a slight increase to tuition for the 2027-2028 school year to \$1.9 million
- **Option 2** – Per-student rate based on student tuition rate set by PDE with a 20-25% discount
- **Option 3** – One additional year at the 2026-2027 rate (\$1.8 million) with a strategic plan to merge by the 2029-30 school year

St. Clair chose Option 1

2024 NEGOTIATION

In the **2024** negotiations, Pottsville made clear the following:

01

PASD is no longer interested in one-year extensions which are not healthy or beneficial to either school or the families we serve; a long-term plan is necessary

02

Our desire to maintain this **35-year** relationship, as evident by two long-term payment options including the possibility of merging

OPPORTUNITIES AT POTTSVILLE

- **13 AP COURSES**
- **DUAL ENROLLMENT:** AT NO COST TO STUDENTS
- **PLANETARIUM & OBSERVATORY:** POTTSVILLE IS ONE OF FOUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE STATE TO HAVE BOTH
- **ACHIEVE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**
- **PIAA ATHLETICS:** BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, BOCCE, CROSS COUNTRY, FOOTBALL, GOLF, SOFTBALL, SOCCER, SWIMMING, TENNIS, TRACK & FIELD, VOLLEYBALL & WRESTLING
- **BAND** (INCLUDING FLAGS AND MAJORETTES) AND CHOIR WITH ADDITIONAL SMALL MUSICAL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES
- **BIG IMPACT GROUP**
- **CHEERLEADING**

OPPORTUNITIES AT POTTSVILLE

- **13 CLUBS** – AID, ALETHEA, ART, ASTRONOMY, INTERACT-KEY CLUB-LEO, ECOLOGY, LIT/ART MAGAZINE, SENIOR MURAL, SADD, SKETCH, STUDENT COUNCIL, TKD AND WORLD LANGUAGES
- **CAREER PROGRAMMING** INCLUDING YES (YOUR EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS) AND MARTZ HALL SERVES AS A HUB FOR COLLEGE & CAREER FAIRS FOR SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
- **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**
- **MATH 24 AND MATH COUNTS**
- **MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS**
- **PUBLICATIONS** – AWARD WINNING YEARBOOK, TIDELINES AND LENGEL LINGO
- **SPELLING BEE**
- **STEM** – INCLUDING ENVIROTHON, K'NEX COMPETITION, WHAT'S SO COOL ABOUT MANUFACTURING AND TECH CLUB
- **TUTORING**
- **YOUTH SUMMIT AND JUNIOR ADVISORY**



St. Clair Issues REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

- **In June 2025**, St. Clair issued a request for tuition proposals from other districts
- **Deadline to respond** is September 2, 2025
- **Pottsville intends to respond to the RFP**
- **Moving forward:** Should St. Clair receive proposals from other schools, their board will then decide where future students will attend high school

COMMUNITY IMPACT

St. Clair Parents & Community

The current contract between
Pottsville and St. Clair expires
at the end of June 2028

If St. Clair area families want
students to continue attending
Pottsville Area High School, they are
encouraged **to reach out to the St.
Clair Board of Education** and voice
their opinion.

St Clair School Board's Next Meeting is September 3, 2025 at 6:00pm



POTTSVILLE'S PRIORITIES

- What is in the best interest of students and taxpayers
- Maintaining civil discourse with St. Clair
 - We will continue to serve St. Clair families until at least the **2027-2028** school year and want all students to know they will always be welcome
- Responding to the **RFP** with a tuition proposal that is fair to both districts and covers the costs to educate students

MORE THAN **NUMBERS**

- While contracts and budgets may change, what remains is the community we've built.
- Students, staff, and families have created lasting bonds.
- Pottsville and St. Clair are part of one school family.





A FUTURE TOGETHER

- We hope our partnership continues for generations to come.
- No matter what, the friendships and family we've created will endure.
- *Because once you're part of the Tide, you're always part of the Tide.*



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THANK YOU