

COMMUNITY COLLEGE TUITION - 2490

ABOUT THIS ACCOUNT

Sections 6304 and 6305 of the New York State Education Law require contributions from a student's "home county" for the payment of community college expenses incurred outside of the county.

Community College payments are based on a formula that determines a full-time equivalent (FTE) student chargeback rate for each student, which is billed back to their home county. The rate is established by dividing the local sponsor share by the total number of full-time equivalent students (FTE's) attending the institution from all counties. This is the per capita rate that should be applied to all students regardless of the county of residence. For out-of-state students, this amount is simply added to the student's tuition amount. The chargeback rate itself has an operational and capital component that is influenced by different factors.

The operational rate changes if the size of the community college's budget increases or decreases or the number of students rises or falls significantly. For instance, if the community college's net operating budget increases or the number of students falls, the chargeback rate increases.

Due to its proximity to Albany County, a lot more Albany residents attend Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) in Rensselaer County than any other community college in the New York system. In 2015, HVCC represented approximately 81 percent of Albany County's liability for community college chargebacks. Thus, Albany County's costs are very dependent on enrollment at HVCC and its financial interactions with its sponsor county, Rensselaer. As shown in the table below, the vast majority of Albany County chargebacks go to HVCC.

Community College	Amount	Share
Hudson Valley Community College	\$8,398,146	81%
Schenectady County Community College	\$1,051,475	10%
Fashion Institute of Technology	\$425,424	4%
Columbia Greene County Community College	\$148,919	1%
All Other	\$386,576	4%

A local sponsor share is determined by deducting state aid and student tuition payments from the Community College's net operating budget. The operational chargeback formula has enabled sponsoring counties with community colleges to keep their costs stable while increasing the costs to counties without community colleges. Sponsoring counties may use the community college's fund balance to subsidize their full-time equivalent payment for students. Thus, Albany County's contribution to the operation of HVCC has grown rapidly, while its sponsor's contribution has remained flat for years. Despite this increase in costs, Albany County has no role in either the governance of Hudson Valley Community College or in oversight of its costs or finances.

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County Costs to HVCC vs. Rensselaer County Total Contribution for Community College Tuition		
Period	Albany County Costs*	Rensselaer County Costs
2006-2007	\$6,676,294	\$3,138,900
2007-2008	\$8,380,340	\$3,138,900
2008-2009	\$8,521,742	\$3,138,900
2009-2010	\$8,726,333	\$3,138,900
2010-2011	\$9,023,165	\$3,138,900
2011-2012	\$9,274,781	\$3,138,900
2012-2013	\$8,640,083	\$3,238,900
2013-2014	\$8,790,900	\$3,338,900
2014-2015	\$8,294,254	\$3,591,900
2015-2016	\$8,398,146	\$4,675,900

*Albany County costs represent calendar year.

As can be seen in the above chart, Rensselaer County's contribution has remained virtually unchanged for many years, only increasing slightly in the last few years.

While Rensselaer County's contribution remained essentially capped until 2012, Albany County has seen its costs almost double. In light of this gross inequity, the County Executive has engaged in an exciting partnership with Schenectady County Community College, whereby a satellite campus is housed in the County office building in downtown Albany. Not only is this great for students, who will have closer access to higher education opportunities, but it will provide an influx of college students into downtown Albany. With over 1,000 students taking classes in downtown Albany, the economic impact will be significant. Students will gain valuable skills and downtown restaurants and coffee shops will get an influx of customers.

In 2013, the State enacted Legislation that will reform the community college chargeback formula. If, as promised, the formula will require that sponsoring communities pay their fair share, phased in over 5 years, it will mean that Albany County's costs per student should decrease, while the quality of education will not suffer. This change will take effect starting the Fall Semester of 2016.

		2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2017	2017
A2490 Community College Tuition	Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted	Adopted
Contractual Expenses								
A 2490 44039			\$10,410,541	\$10,600,000	\$10,700,000	\$10,700,000		\$0
Subtotal for: Contractual Expenses			\$10,410,541	\$10,600,000	\$10,700,000	\$10,700,000		\$0
Total Appropriations			\$10,410,541	\$10,600,000	\$10,700,000	\$10,700,000		\$0
Revenue								
Total Revenue			\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
County Share			\$10,410,541	\$10,600,000	\$10,700,000	\$10,700,000		\$0