

## **Margate Board of Education**

### **FAQ**

1. Q: Why do we need to actively market tuition paying students from other areas?  
A: *The Citizen's Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC) of Margate City has recommended it. The LTPC's goal for our city is to maintain a high quality of education to preserve the city as an all year-round community. Accepting tuition students is part of the overall strategy of the LTPC to keep Margate a thriving and growing community.*
  
2. Q: Why reduce the tuition rate?  
A: *Reducing the tuition rate is part of the strategy of the LTPC to attract families to fill vacant classroom seats at no additional financial cost to Margate. The teacher is already in the classroom, the facilities already exist, and so accepting tuition students adds no additional cost to our district.*
  
3. Q: Why not offer a reduced tuition rate for Longport students?  
A. *Longport has a Sending – Receiving Relationship by N.J. statute and the Department of Education sets the tuition by state formula. The Longport Board of Education is charged on a per pupil basis. That cost is represented in their school taxes. The more children in the Margate School system, the less the per pupil cost (PPC) is for Longport.*
  
4. Q: How will students be admitted?  
A. *Students must have and maintain a B average, have no serious discipline record, and be tested by the Child Study Team. No one but the Margate Board of Education controls who is admitted. If the student does not maintain grade and behavior standards, their contract with Margate Schools can be terminated and they would return to their former school district.*
  
5. Q: Will everyone be accepted?  
A: *No, only if there is enough space and students have met with Board of Education approval based on the previously stated criteria: Students must have and maintain a B average, have no serious discipline record, and be tested by the Child Study Team.*

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6. Q: What if a child is consistently disruptive during the school year?  
A: *The contract between the parents and school district can be cancelled on a 30-day written notice.*
7. Q: Will the child automatically come back each year?  
A: *No, everyone will be evaluated on a year-to-year basis.*
8. Q: Will the Margate School District provide transportation?  
A: *No, transportation is the responsibility of the parents.*
9. Q: Is this action necessary?  
A: *Yes, it is a commitment to maintain the integrity of the Margate schools. The LTPC spent one year studying a whole host of issues confronting the city. In a unanimous report they found that the single most important factor in attracting new families to Margate is the quality of education.*
- 10.Q: What advantage is there to this action?  
A: *This action helps to defray costs by filling spare classroom seats and it introduces new families to the schools and community. It may also encourage them to move here. The strategy of the LTPC is the same employed by other New Jersey communities (mostly shore resort towns) who accept tuition students in order to maintain the quality of education for their own children.*
- 11.Q: Has enrollment declined?  
A: *Enrollment has reduced a statistically insignificant rate over several years but not at a level that warrants consideration to close a school at this point in time. Again, this is one of the findings of the LTPC.*
- 12.Q: What is all this I hear about cost per pupil (CPP) and what does it mean to me?  
A: *Cost per pupil is simple mathematics. The State divides the school district budget by the number of students in the district. The more students the district has the less the CPP. The CPP is usually higher in smaller districts especially if the district is committed to the highest standards, quality educational programs, and small class size. The real issue is what we pay in taxes, which are the lowest school taxes, except for Longport, in Atlantic County.*

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- 13.Q: What percentage of cost per pupil is for instruction?  
A: *69% of the total cost is for instruction which includes professional staff, support staff, textbooks, supplies, and other resources.*
- 14.Q: Where does the rest go?  
A: *The cost of maintenance, food service, equipment, crossing guards, community education and recreation, and administration.*
- 15.Q: So what numbers do I look at to decide where we stand?  
A: *School taxes represent 35 cents of every dollar of your taxes. A Margate house assessed at \$500,000 will pay \$1,755 in school taxes, a house assessed at 1.3 million dollars will pay \$4,563 in school taxes and a house assessed at 4.3 million dollars will pay \$15,093 in school taxes. Margate school taxes are the lowest, except for Longport, in Atlantic County. See the attached chart.*
- 16.Q: Do the existing schools stop Margate City from carrying out other plans as called for in the LTPC?  
A: *Absolutely not!*

### ***SUMMARY STATEMENT***

*In a unanimous report, 16 of Margate's best minds met for a year and specifically recommended against a school closing at this time. A school closing now sends the wrong message to families here and to families that may consider moving here. Although the Board of Education will be ready for any eventuality, the first step mandated by the LTPC is bringing in tuition students, a win/win situation for the city, since school costs do NOT increase, while revenue from tuition students benefits us financially.*