

MAYWOOD

Here's why Maywood will send its students to Becton instead of Hackensack High School

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Maywood high school students will have four years to phase out of Hackensack High School and into Henry P. Becton Regional High School in East Rutherford.

The process will begin in September, when current Maywood eighth-graders will be the first to attend Becton as freshmen, according to a March 7 joint announcement by the superintendents of the two districts.

On Saturday, Maywood Superintendent Michael Jordan and Becton Superintendent Dario Sforza announced that on March 2, New Jersey Commissioner of Education Lamont Repollet ruled that Maywood would be allowed to leave its long-standing send/receive relationship with Hackensack High School and begin to send its students to Becton.

The state commissioner's ruling details will not be made public until Tuesday, according to a Department of Education spokesman. However, the school officials said the commissioner "synopsis" states there would be "no substantial negative impact upon severing the sending-receiving relationship" between Maywood and Hackensack.

"The withdrawal of Maywood students will alleviate the problem of overcrowding at Hackensack High School, which appears likely to improve educational opportunities for the remaining students, while having little or no negative financial or racial impact on the district," the joint announcement attributes to Repollet.

"Any students currently at Hackensack High School will stay at Hackensack through graduation," Jordan said.

The Saturday announcement says the two districts are planning dates and times for open house visits and information sessions for parents and students.

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Maywood has been sending its high school students to Hackensack since 1969. Hackensack also receives students from South Hackensack and Rochelle Park.

The two districts signed a seven-year send/receive contract in 2010 with a per-pupil tuition of \$13,125 and a 2% yearly increase. In January 2018, Maywood paid Hackensack's school district \$14,781 per student, or \$3.7 million for 249 students. It rejected a three-year contract proposed by Hackensack of \$15,076 per student the first year and a 5% increase the second.

Maywood asked for new proposals from Paramus, Dumont, Midland Park and Becton. Maywood eventually agreed to a 10-year contract with Becton at \$10,500 per student, with a 2% increase for the fifth contract year and a cap of \$11,800 by the 10th year. Becton now has students from East Rutherford and Carlstadt.

"The contract was devised as a part of the documents that had to be submitted to the state for review during the feasibility study," Jordan said Monday. "It will now be ratified as the commissioner has made his ruling."

Maywood's petition to terminate its agreement with Hackensack estimated the district's savings at nearly \$1 million annually.

Maywood Schools Business Administrator Jennifer Pfohl said Tuesday that 10-month per-pupil tuition for Maywood students attending Hackensack High School is now \$14,041.

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