

EAST RUTHERFORD

Maywood students to begin attending Becton Regional High School this fall

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After nearly two years of discussions, the state has ruled that beginning this fall, Maywood students will attend Becton Regional High School in East Rutherford instead of Hackensack High School.

The decision was made and formally filed by the New Jersey Commissioner of Education earlier this week, but state regulations require a three-day waiting period before the public is notified, according to a statement issued by Superintendents Dario Sforza of Becton and Michael Jordan of Maywood.

The new arrangement calls for Maywood freshmen students to attend Becton this fall.

Despite the proposed switch, all Maywood students already at Hackensack High will be able to finish there and graduate with their classmates. Maywood has about 100 eighth-grade graduates each year.

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According to the press release, the commissioner found that there would be “no substantial negative impact upon severing the sending-receiving relationship between Maywood and Hackensack” and that this will “alleviate the problem of overcrowding at Hackensack High School.”

“It has been a true collaborative effort from all stakeholders and a testament to what can be accomplished when one places the interest and education of students first,” the statement reads.

There will be open house visitations and information sessions for parents and students scheduled in the near future to “allow for a very smooth transition for both districts.”

Both districts approved the plans for this arrangement at their respective Board of Education meetings in July.

Hackensack had been absorbing Maywood's students since 1969 without a formal agreement, Jordan said at that time. When the two districts signed a formal contract in 2010, the tuition was set at \$13,125 per student, with a 2% increase each year.

As the seven-year deal neared expiration, Maywood's intention was to renew the agreement with a lower rate, but it rebuffed Hackensack's offer of a 5% reduction and sought new proposals from Paramus, Dumont, Midland Park and Becton, which serves students of East Rutherford and Carlstadt.

Becton has agreed to a 10-year deal with a starting rate of \$10,500 per student. At year five, tuition will increase 2% each year and cap at \$11,800 per student in the deal's 10th year.

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