



## **KEYPORT BOARD OF EDUCATION**

### **Sending/Receiving Petitions Filed by Keyport BOE Against Union Beach, Hazlet, Henry Hudson and Red Bank Regional BOEs – FAQs**

#### **1. What is a sending/receiving relationship between schools?**

Sending-receiving relationships between school districts are governed by statute found in N.J.S.A. 18A:38-8 through 18A:38-24. A sending-receiving relationship has existed between Keyport and Union Beach for many decades. Since at least 1964, Union Beach agreed to send its high school students to Keyport High School, and that relationship has continued to exist since that time. The sending-receiving relationship between Keyport and Union Beach may only be changed by the Commissioner of Education. Union Beach has never asked the Commissioner to change that relationship, and they are legally bound by it.

#### **2. Why did Keyport file a Petition against the Union Beach Board of Education?**

Keyport believes that Union Beach has been violating the sending-receiving relationship for years. Union Beach has opted to use taxpayer dollars to pay tuition to send students who belong at Keyport High School to Hazlet, Henry Hudson, and Red Bank Regional, while most special needs students are sent to Keyport.

#### **3. Why did Keyport file a Petition against Hazlet Township Board of Education, Henry Hudson Regional Board of Education, and Red Bank Regional Board of Education?**

We understand that Hazlet, Henry Hudson, and Red Bank Regional are all aware of the sending-receiving relationship between Keyport and Union Beach. Yet they recruit and accept students from Union Beach, particularly general education students, and accept payment of tuition from Union Beach for those students who should be attending Keyport High School.

#### **4. How many Union Beach students attend Keyport High School?**

Union Beach students have comprised a significant percentage of the total student enrollment at Keyport High School. In recent years, Union Beach has withdrawn significant numbers of general education students from Keyport and educated them elsewhere, particularly at Red Bank Regional, Hazlet, and Henry Hudson.



The number of Union Beach students that attend Keyport High School has been decreasing dramatically over the last several years. In the 2018-2019 school year, **155** Union Beach students attended Keyport H.S. In 2021-2022, only **113.5** Union Beach students attend KHS.

As we are attempting to create our budget for next year, we are challenged both by the loss of Union Beach students and the constantly shifting estimates provided to us by Union Beach. These constantly changing numbers are negatively impacting budgeting. For projected enrollment for 2022-2023, we have not been able to verify any of the numbers they are providing.

2018-2019	155
2019-2020	140
2020-2021	123
2021-2022	113.5
2022-2023*	103 (projected, based on unverified numbers from Union Beach)

**5. What does this loss of Union Beach students mean for the Keyport School District?**

This loss will have negative financial and educational ramifications. The resulting loss of funds and imbalance of the student population will ultimately limit our ability to expand programs and opportunities for the students at Keyport. This will cause a substantial negative impact on the quality of education received by the pupils remaining at Keyport High School, which includes students from Union Beach.

**6. What does this loss of Union Beach students mean for Keyport financially?**

Pursuant to the sending-receiving agreement between Keyport and Union Beach, Union Beach pays tuition for each student sent to Keyport High School. For decades, that tuition makes up a significant portion of the budget used to support education and other programs for all students in the Keyport School District. A significant loss of that tuition negatively impacts the quality of education for all students attending Keyport High School, which includes students from Union Beach.

**7. How much tuition is being lost as a result of Union Beach sending its students to other high schools?**

The Union Beach tuition, by year, is as follows:

2018-2019	\$2,660,272
2019-2020	\$2,628,820



2020-2021	\$2,816,497
2021-2022	\$2,202,721
2022-2023*	\$1,800,000 (projected, based on unverified numbers from Union Beach)

**8. Has Union Beach been withdrawing its special education students as well as general education students to educate them in schools other than Keyport?**

Keyport continues to receive all or nearly all of Union Beach's special education students, while Red Bank Regional, Hazlet, and Henry Hudson accept virtually no special education students from Union Beach.

The intentional and selective withdrawal of students by Union Beach has shifted the balance of students attending Keyport and will create an unwanted unevenness by increasing the percentage of special education students and reducing the percentage of general education students. Keyport strongly believes this imbalance is discriminatory.

**9. What relief does Keyport want?**

Keyport wants to stop Union Beach from continuing to violate the agreement and passing on the increased costs to Keyport residents.

**10. What result is Keyport seeking from the Commissioner of Education?**

Keyport is asking the Commissioner of Education to issue an order:

- Enforcing the existing sending-receiving relationship;
- Stopping Union Beach from violating its sending-receiving relationship with Keyport by educating its students in districts other than Keyport;
- Preventing Union Beach from providing disparate educational opportunities to its special education and general education students;
- Stopping Hazlet, Henry Hudson, and Red Bank Regional from conspiring with Union Beach to receive students who are domiciled in the Borough of Union Beach; and
- Ordering Union Beach, Hazlet, Henry Hudson, and Red Bank Regional to reimburse Keyport for all financial harm plus the attorneys' fees needed to bring the challenge.