



NH Department of Education

**Bureau of
School Facilities**

Program: **Charter School Lease Aid**

Handouts prepared by New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED) – 3 pages, including cover.

1. Charter School Lease Aid Program Summary
2. FY24 and FY25 Lease Aid Payments

Questions:

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Charter School Lease Aid Summary

Contact:

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Laws/Rules: RSA 198:15-hh; Rules Ed 323

What is Lease Aid?

Lease Aid is a state grant program that provides funds used to support Chartered Public Schools in meeting the costs of leasing permanent space in a building not owned by the Chartered Public School. Lease Aid grants may equal up to 30% of the annual lease payment. However, Lease Aid grants are capped at \$50,000 per year per school. Chartered Public Schools that own their own building(s) are not eligible to participate in the Lease Aid program.

Funding Source: Education Trust Fund

History:

The Lease Aid program was created in law in 2003. Funded for the first time in FY20.

Fiscal Year	Lease Aid Appropriation	Number of Charter Schools Requesting Aid	Total Lease Amount Eligible	Total Grant Amount Based on RSA 198:15-hh ¹	Payment Prorated	Shortage
FY20	\$200,000	20	\$2,521,890	\$452,206	44%	-\$252,206
FY21	\$500,000	16	\$2,520,235	\$382,205	100%	\$0
FY22	\$500,000	16	\$2,750,106	\$555,315	90%	-\$55,315
FY23	\$500,000	17	\$4,215,934	\$645,132	78%	-\$145,132
FY24	\$850,000	16	\$2,870,041	\$576,627	0%	\$0
FY25	\$850,000	15	\$3,220,869	\$521,462	0%	\$0

1. Grant amount equals 30% of the eligible lease amount, not to exceed the cap amount in RSA 198:15-hh. In FY20 & FY21 the cap amount was \$30,000 per school. Subsequently, the law changed and the cap amount was increased to \$50,000 per school for FY22 and thereafter.

Other notes:

It is estimated the Lease Aid program requests from Chartered Public Schools will increase from \$521,462 in FY25 to between \$650,000 and \$1,000,000 in FY26. Complete applications are due to NHED by September 1, 2025.

In FY25, there were 7 charter schools that owned their buildings, as well as 1 online charter school (Virtual Learning Academy Charter School). There were an additional 2 schools that purchased their buildings partway through the year, thereby making them eligible for a partial award encompassing only the months that were leased. There were 24 charter schools that leased, including the 2 schools that only leased for part of the year.



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Charter School Name	Dist ID	FY24		FY25		
		Eligible Annual Lease Amount	Grant Amount ⁵ (prior to proration; min: 30% or 50k)	Eligible Annual Lease Amount	Grant Amount ⁶ (prior to proration; min: 30% or 50k)	Reason No Lease Aid Was Granted in FY25
Academy for Science and Design Charter School	725	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No lease
Arts Academy of NH	702	\$ 182,923.10	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 199,552.56	\$ 50,000.00	
Benjamin Franklin Academy Chartered Public School	455	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Did not apply
Coastal Waters Charter School	Closed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	School closed FY24
Compass Classical Academy Charter School	743	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No lease
CSI Charter School	723	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Did not apply
Gate City Charter School For the Arts	742	\$ 162,784.00	\$ 48,835.20	\$ 264,139.00	\$ 50,000.00	
Gathering Waters Charter School	750	\$ 198,240.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 385,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	
Great Bay Charter School	709	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Did not apply
Heartwood Public Charter School	718	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No lease
Kreiva Academy Public Charter School	708	\$ 287,250.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 295,867.56	\$ 50,000.00	
LEAF Charter School	Closed	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	School closed FY24
Ledyard Charter School	719	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No lease
Lionheart Classical Academy	722	\$ 305,728.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 342,230.13	\$ 50,000.00	
Making Community Connections Charter School (Monadnock)	733	\$ 87,440.28	\$ 26,232.08	\$ 89,165.39	\$ 26,749.62	
MicroSociety Academy Charter School Foundation	744	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No lease
Mill Falls Charter School	729	\$ 94,248.00	\$ 28,274.40	\$ 105,894.00	\$ 31,768.20	
Mountain Village Charter School	704	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Incomplete Application
Next Charter School	740	\$ 24,756.02	\$ 7,649.61	\$ 26,263.67	\$ 7,879.10	
North Country Charter Academy	703	\$ 48,554.55	\$ 14,566.37	\$ 49,842.92	\$ 14,952.88	
Northeast Woodland Chartered Public School	716	\$ 63,431.00	\$ 19,029.30	\$ 60,727.85	\$ 18,218.35	
Polaris Charter School	735	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No lease
River View Chartered Public School	724	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Did not apply
Robert Frost Charter School	737	\$ 45,600.00	\$ 13,680.00	\$ 49,824.00	\$ 14,947.20	
Seacoast Charter School	705	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No lease
Seacoast Classical Academy	730			\$ 714,696.00	\$ 50,000.00	
Spark Academy of Advanced Technologies	714	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Did not apply
Strong Foundations Charter School	721	\$ 420,432.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 420,432.00	\$ 50,000.00	
Surry Village Charter School	717	\$ 61,200.00	\$ 18,360.00	\$ -	\$ -	Did not apply
Synergy Academy	732	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Incomplete Application
The Birches Academy	731	\$ 276,499.36	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 23,154.01	\$ 6,946.20	
The Founders Academy Charter School	741	\$ 185,662.60	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 194,079.66	\$ 50,000.00	
Virtual Learning Academy Charter School	727	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	No lease
Windham Academy Public Charter School	712	\$ 425,291.67	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	Incomplete Application
TOTALS:		\$ 2,870,040.58	\$ 576,626.96	\$ 3,220,868.75	\$ 521,461.55	

1. FY20 - \$200,000 appropriation, lease aid payments prorated 44.23%
2. FY21 - \$500,000 appropriation, full lease aid payments made
3. FY22 - \$500,000 appropriation, lease aid payments prorated 90.04%
4. FY23 - \$500,000 appropriation, lease aid payments prorated 77.50%
5. FY24 - \$850,000 appropriation, full lease payments made
6. FY24 - \$850,000 appropriation, full lease payments made