

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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F.Y.I. ✓
Asa Gordon, Deputy Commissioner

Education

Harrison B. Wetherill, Jr., Asst.

Attorney General

Payment of State Aid for Vocational Education

You have asked whether state aid for operation of vocational programs and for construction of vocational facilities must be paid directly to the vocational regions. The answer is no.

20 M.R.S.A. § 2356-A(j)(C)(5-6) provides as follows:

"(5) The cooperative board shall, forthwith upon the adoption of a budget, compute the share to be paid by each municipality within the region and shall notify the school officials to include said share in the administrative unit's annual school budget.

"(6) The school officials shall place on the school payroll for payment the first of each month a sum equivalent to 1/12 of the municipality's share of the cooperative school budget as adopted."

Further, under 20 M.R.S.A. § 3713(1)(D), the operating costs of vocational education programs along with costs of elementary, secondary and special education programs are to be used in the computation of aid to each unit.

It is apparent from the above provisions that the share of vocational education costs allotted to each local unit within a region is to become part of that unit's school budget and is to be paid by the unit to the vocational region. In turn, the vocational costs which become part of each local unit's school budget are used in the computation of state aid to that unit.

20 M.R.S.A. § 3712(8) states that "school aid payments shall be made directly to the treasurer of each administrative unit." Whether a cooperative region comes within the definition of an administrative unit or not is not determinative of your particular question. Section 3712(8) only refers to administrative units to whom state aid payments are determined to be due under other statutory provisions and, as discussed above, provisions of Title 20 other than § 3712(8) indicate a legislative intent that state aid payments not be made directly to vocational regions but rather that they be routed through the local units making up the region as part of the individual budgets of those local units.

HBWJr/mf