



Bulletin

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FY2021 Cherry Sheets and Monthly Local Aid Distributions

TO: Municipal, Regional and Charter School District Officials

DATE: June 2020

FROM: Sean Cronin, Senior Deputy Commission, Division of Local Services

SUBJECT: FY2021 Cherry Sheets and Monthly Local Aid Distributions

The Division realizes the importance of local governments having guidance relating to both the FY2021 Cherry Sheet estimates and the basis for the upcoming fiscal year's monthly local aid payment. As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, normal legislative action on the FY2021 state budget has been delayed, and the only budget proposal available is the Governor's. Therefore, DLS is unable to provide cherry sheet estimates at this time.

In regard to monthly aid distributions, after discussion with the Executive Office of Administration & Finance (A&F), DLS will base at least the first two months of FY2021 on the FY2020 cherry sheet estimates for Chapter 70, Unrestricted General Government Aid, State-owned Land and Elderly Exemptions. For the Charter Tuition Reimbursements and School Choice Tuition payments, we will use the final actual payments from FY2020 rather than the cherry sheet estimate, since these programs are based on student enrollment in out-of-district schools or charter schools.

Since the revenue side of the cherry sheet is reflecting FY2020 estimates, we have determined that the assessment programs will also use the FY2020 estimates. The only exception will be for the Charter Tuition assessments and the School Choice Tuition assessments as they relate to the receipt programs described above.

The July payment will be processed and payable on July 31st. If at that time the state budget is not final, the August payment will be made using the same methodology and will be payable on August 31st. We will re-evaluate our methodology as the FY2021 legislative process unfolds.

Questions regarding cherry sheets or distributions should be directed to databank@dor.state.ma.us.