



AVERAGE TUITION AMONG UTAH'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The average tuition rate is only important because affordability for low-income families is important.

FACT: THE AVERAGE AFFORDABLE TUITION AMONG UTAH'S PRIVATE SCHOOLS IS \$4,519.97

Why is the average tuition rate such an important number? It's important because affordability is important. A low-income family could conceivably qualify for the highest voucher supplement (\$3,000) but not be able to afford a particular private school (such as one costing \$35,000 annually).

To address this concern, the Sutherland Institute surveyed Utah's private schools. Using the private school directory in the Institute's Utah school information database (www.utahschools.org), combined with the State Office of Education's private school list, Sutherland found 88 schools that currently fit HB 148's standard for participation in the school

voucher program. Of this number, the Institute received tuition figures from 64 schools. These respondent schools have a total enrollment of 13,840 students, and annual tuition charges ranging from \$1,600 to \$52,200.

Tuition is measured in several ways among private schools. For instance, many private schools charge multiple rates. This can make the numbers confusing. So let's make it as simple as can be under the circumstances.

As you can see in the chart to the left, most average annual tuition rates are skewed toward the lower ranges of the graph. You also can see that there are a few "unaffordable" outliers on the graph. Those are the schools that make it hard to get to a real snapshot of average tuition costs – they raise the average disproportionately. But, if we remove those few expensive schools we get a more realistic picture of average tuition costs. In fact, removing the outliers above the \$10,000 mark leaves 90.6% of the sample intact and yields a more realistic average annual tuition of \$4,519.97.

In the end, an average tuition cost of \$4,519.97 is in the range of affordability for even the lowest-income voucher family. Thus, tuition becomes affordable at nearly eighty percent (80%) of Utah's private schools.

Tuition Rate Distribution

