

The Up-Island Regional School District (UIRSD) consists of three member towns: Aquinnah, Chilmark and West Tisbury. At the West Tisbury Annual Town Meeting of 2004, in response to many questions and concerns about the costs of the Up-Island Regional School District and the Town of West Tisbury's share of these costs, a motion, drafted by Selectman John Early, was passed that called for a tri-town study of the past, present and anticipated future costs of operating the UIRSD and the formula for allocating these costs to the three member towns.

The motion called for a task group to be created with representatives from all three towns. This task group is to retain the services of a qualified consultant who is to collect data relative to the costs of operating the UIRSD, project what costs might be for the member towns in the near future, analyze the data within a variety of scenarios and produce several deliverables. It is the focus and purpose of these several financial analyses to ascertain the apparent equity, or the inequities, in the Regional Agreement's cost allocation formula.

The UIRSD Financial Task Group was formed in August, 2004. Its nine members (three representatives from each of the three member towns) have met regularly since that time to develop detailed requirements for the analysis to be undertaken by an independent financial consultant; evaluate the proposals submitted by candidates; and recommend a candidate to the selectmen of the three towns. Subsequent to the hiring of the consultant, in May 2005, the UIRSD Financial Task Group has overseen the consultant's efforts, provided guidance as needed and reviewed his draft deliverables to ensure that they will satisfy the requirements of the three towns. It is expected that a final report from the consultant will be provided to the three towns in Spring, 2006.