

# History of New Hampshire Cooperative School Districts

RSA 195 passed – 1947

First cooperative formed – 1954

1950's – 4

1960's – 17 (Likely motivated by additional building aid.)

1970's – 4

1980's – 2

1990's – 3

Last one formed – 2005.

None have been formed in the past 20 years. Telling.

Goshen-Lempster disbanded sometime after 2008. Others cooperatives over the years may have disbanded as well.

Surry and Sullivan left Monadnock.

Dublin and Frankestown are considering withdrawal from ConVal.

Today – 53% of NH towns remain independent, 78 years after RSA 195 passed.

Four cooperatives operate only high schools:

John Stark, Pemi-Baker, Souhegan and Winnacunnet

Four others operate only middle school/high school cooperatives.

Only one cooperative – Lafayette, is a K-6 cooperative only.

Are Cooperatives superior delivery models?

Educationally – no evidence, but none formed in past 20 years and 53% of towns still independent 78 year later would seem to indicate no.

Financially (economies of scale) – Independent area districts in the lower Connecticut River Valley operate at about \$800 less per elementary student than area cooperatives. Fall Mountain K-8 schools have gone from \$621 below state average in 2007-2008 to \$4,192 above state average last school year – a swing of \$4,813. With approximately 900 elementary students, that's \$3,772,800 annually over state average today and \$4,331,700 annually over our 2007-2008 baseline.

# Single Town District

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
Town A	<b>\$4,000,000</b> District approved - all taxes assessed to town.	<b>\$3,800,000</b> Expenditures all for the exclusive benefit of town students.	<b>\$200,000</b> All returned to town taxpayers. (Any deficit all assessed to town taxpayers.)

# Cooperative Multi-Town District

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>
Town A	\$4,000,000	\$3,800,000	\$200,000
Town B	\$2,000,000	\$2,200,000	(\$200,000)
Town C	\$7,000,000	\$6,600,000	\$400,000
Town D	\$1,000,000	\$1,100,000	(\$100,000)
Town E	\$6,000,000	\$5,800,000	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,000,000</b>	<b>\$19,500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
	District approved - all taxes assessed to towns. One or more towns may have voted no. Division of budget is formula based.	Expenditures will not align with budgeted amounts by town.	Surplus/deficit not returned/assessed as incurred. Distribution is formula based. All towns will receive a share of the surplus.

# 2023-2024 School Year

<b>Town or District</b>	<b>EquVal per Student</b>	<b>Cost per Elementary Student</b>
Fall Mountain	\$1,389,768	\$26,299
Acworth	\$1,880,606	-
Alstead	\$1,582,859	-
Charlestown	\$869,584	-
Langdon	\$1,589,470	-
Walpole	\$1,976,006	-
<b>NH State Average</b>	<b>\$2,082,222</b>	<b>\$22,107</b>
Chesterfield	\$2,277,863	\$24,143
Westmoreland	\$1,604,233	\$21,827
Hinsdale	\$1,024,933	\$24,852
Winchester	\$1,076,501	\$23,651
Marlow	\$1,273,595	\$19,626

## Elementary Cost per Student

2023-2024

(Lower Connecticut River Valley Districts)

Marlow	\$19,626
<b>Monadnock</b>	<b>\$21,413</b>
Westmoreland	\$21,827
State Average	\$22,107
Lempster	\$22,495
Keene	\$22,876
<b>Jaffrey-Rindge</b>	<b>\$23,091</b>
Winchester	\$23,651
<b>Hillsboro-Deering</b>	<b>\$24,037</b>
Chesterfield	\$24,143
Marlboro	\$24,212
Claremont	\$24,302
Hinsdale	\$24,852
Newport	\$26,039
<b>Fall Mountain</b>	<b>\$26,299</b>
Unity	\$27,287
<b>Con Val</b>	<b>\$28,008</b>

Cooperative Districts appear in bold

## Elementary Cost per Student

2007-2008

(Lower Connecticut River Valley Districts)

Unity	\$9,668
<b>Jaffrey-Rindge</b>	<b>\$10,432</b>
<b>Fall Mountain</b>	<b>\$10,886</b>
Westmoreland	\$11,024
<b>State Average</b>	<b>\$11,507</b>
Claremont	\$11,523
Winchester	\$11,724
Hinsdale	\$11,847
Chesterfield	\$12,180
<b>Hillsboro-Deering</b>	<b>\$12,343</b>
Newport	\$12,407
<b>Goshen-Lempster</b>	<b>\$12,896</b>
<b>Monadnock</b>	<b>\$13,219</b>
<b>Con Val</b>	<b>\$13,487</b>
Marlboro	\$13,658
Keene	\$15,320
Marlow	\$19,849

Cooperative Districts appear in bold

# Fall Mountain Regional School District

24/25 Budget Including Warrant Articles 2-7

**\$37,134,277**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Average Daily Membership</b>	<b>ADM %</b>	<b>Local and State Ed Tax</b>	<b>Property Taxes per Student</b>
Acworth	98.92	7.17%	\$1,857,705	\$18,780
Alstead	186.30	13.50%	\$3,124,373	\$16,771
Charlestown	631.17	45.74%	\$8,268,485	\$13,100
Langdon	72.15	5.23%	\$1,426,477	\$19,771
Walpole	391.29	28.36%	\$8,314,445	\$21,249
<b>FM District</b>	<b>1379.83</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$22,991,485</b>	<b>\$16,663</b>

# The Alternative Path to Withdrawal

**195:16-a Increase or Decrease in Grades.** – Any cooperative school district may amend its existing arrangement or articles of agreement to increase or decrease the grades for which the cooperative school district provides education. If the cooperative district was organized pursuant to RSA 195:18, it shall proceed by amendment of its articles of agreement. The cooperative school board shall cease responsibility for the excluded school grades as of the date specified in the amended articles of agreement or the existing arrangement.

**Source.** 1963, 258:13. 1996, 158:9. 1997, 320:3, eff. Aug. 22, 1997.

**Note:** Our articles of agreement require a 2/3 vote for any change, so that's the bar we'd have to meet. Additionally, this has to go on the school warrant. While it could be by petition, good luck getting 2/3 of the vote. We'd need the school board to place it there and support it. Finally, we would need to amend the high school apportionment formula, as the current one can't be administered as is after the change. This would all have to be one warrant article. In all, it may be a heavy lift. Without school board support, it will almost surely fail. It can have a forward effective date to provide time to prepare. Perhaps two full school years after passage. The upside is that this approach requires no formal study as it does not require State Board approval.

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**“The State is the great fiction through which everyone endeavours to live at the expense of everyone else.”**

**Frederic Bastiat**

