

A group of children are snowboarding on a snowy slope. In the foreground, a young boy in a blue beanie and dark jacket is smiling and pointing towards the camera while snowboarding. Behind him, several other children in colorful winter gear are also snowboarding. The background shows a wooden fence, a road with a car, and distant mountains under a cloudy sky.

Washington Central

Unified Union School District

2021

Annual Report
to the **Community**



Scenes from our report include pre-Covid days (without masks), but most show students these days, all masked up and ready to learn.



A Message from the School Board

We all need each other. Every one of us counts. Not a single one of us is expendable. If there is any grand lesson to be drawn from the past 10 months of Vermont's state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this has to be it.

We need each other, not only to keep ourselves safe, healthy, and able to go about our work to the greatest extent possible, but also to accomplish anything that is good and lasting.

In both of these senses we may take pride in our schools and in those who keep them running. Teachers, staff, and administrators have toiled selflessly and under intense pressure to keep our seven schools operating as usual, including a new, wholly-online school conjured up out of thin air, in order to serve the 10,000 people of our district by educating our 1400-plus children.

Great as their achievement is, however, it would never have been possible without the backing they receive from our fellow citizens. Parents, neighbors, even residents who have no direct contact with our schools have all been doing their part to keep our schools and our children safe. Your school district board extends to you our most heartfelt thanks for your vital contribution.

"Every mask worn in public, every personal sacrifice of longed-for social contact, every careful gesture of consideration for the welfare of others has contributed to our greater well-being."

The pandemic casts a long, dark shadow all by itself, yet we are also looking ahead to the conditions we expect our schools to confront in the future. Several trends cause us concern. Our student numbers continue to decline. The incidence of children needing special attention and support at school simply in order to function continues to rise. The broader economy appears to be stagnating. More and more of our people seem barely able to hold on to what they have, let alone to gain ground. Other levels of government

are apparently hitting the limits of their willingness to support public education. Like the pandemic, these trends are beyond our control. But as with the pandemic, we have it in our power to adapt.

The budget we are proposing for the 2021-22 school year is a first move in a multiyear approach to adjusting our public education system to the realities we face. Whether constraints tighten or ease their grip, we intend to be prepared. Our 2021-22 budget is down overall by 1% from this year. Education spending, top line of the multi-story fraction that determines our education tax rate, is set to decrease by 1.3%.

It is hard to overemphasize how rare and difficult it is to carry out intelligent budget cuts in a large, complex organization. One double-edged silver lining to the pandemic has been a sharp increase in retirements and other voluntary departures. This allows us to erase positions next year without either laying people off or curtailing educational opportunities for our students.

We owe much of this turn towards budgetary realism to our new superintendent, Bryan Olkowski, who could scarcely have come on board at a harder time for him, or at a better time for us.

Even though our proposed budget is down overall by 1%, and in the numerator of the tax formula by 1.3%, the fraction's denominators – equalized pupils, property and income yield – are also declining. Lower denominators mean higher tax rates. The last denominator, the common level of appraisal, which differs by town, can also have a more or less dramatic effect on changes in tax rates.

Our tax burden may not be decreasing overall the way our budget is. We still aim to protect our taxpayers as much as we can, just as we protect our children and safeguard the high quality of their education. For in time, we shall be needing our children too – needing their talent, their skill, their devotion – as fully realized as we can help them become.



Sincerely,
Scott Thompson
WCUUSD BOARD CHAIR

From the Superintendent



Greetings. I am honored to be writing my first Report to the Community as Superintendent of the Washington Central Unified Union School District. My family and I have enjoyed a warm welcome to Central Vermont, and we are slowly getting to know the area as we explore our new surroundings and all that Vermont has to offer.

On more than a few occasions I have joked that I started my first year as superintendent in a newly-consolidated, unified school district, and immediately had to figure out how to re-open six schools in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. Just another day in the life of a superintendent. Fortunately, I quickly realized I had an outstanding administrative and teaching staff that was willing to put in long hours, sacrificing much of their summer, to help get our schools ready for fall instruction. I cannot tell you how proud I am of everyone, and how much it pleases me that Washington Central was one of only five districts in the state to return to full time, in-person instruction five days a week pre-kindergarten to grade 8, including a remote learning option for families who felt more comfortable keeping their children at home. I still shake my head in awe at how much our teachers and administrators accomplished in a short couple of months.

Covid-19 Leads to New Opportunities

As I write this report, I am happy to say that our schools are strong and that learning is taking place despite the distractions caused by frequent hand washing, social distancing, and other measures we have had to put in place to keep everyone healthy and safe. We moved much of our fall instruction outdoors and used this learning opportunity to connect classroom learning to nature and the environment around them. At the same time, many of our behavioral challenges began to fade as students came together in support of one another, indicating there are clearly other ways to engage students who struggle with an in-class learning environment. What could have been written off as a year of sacrifice and loss is now beginning to look like a year of growth and opportunity. Leave it to students to find the silver lining in anything.

In non-pandemic news, our school district has continued

this year to look for new ways to improve learning through self-examination, and to provide all students access to a high-quality curriculum across the district. We continually ask ourselves What are we doing well? What could we do better? In the coming months, we will conduct a curriculum management review to identify how we can improve our offerings while ensuring that all students have access to the tools and curriculum they need to meet Vermont's proficiency standards. This will build on the fine work that's already been done to establish our core academic and transferable skills standards and proficiencies.

Planning for the Future

We will also be implementing a new strategic planning process this spring to determine how we should move forward as a unified district during the next three to five years. As part of this process, we will be looking for feedback from our various communities on what they believe should be district priorities as we work to increase our capacity to educate all students in all six of our schools to the highest standards. Once we have identified what our priorities are, we will develop and implement a strategic plan that will allow us to better allocate and align district resources to achieve those objectives. By implementing a strategic plan and measuring its progress against specific timelines and milestones, we will be well on our way to providing the best possible education to every student in our district.

In closing, I want to thank our entire community of learners: our administrators, teachers, aides, maintenance staff, kitchen staff, paras and, most important, our students. As part of my entry plan from last summer, I intend to meet with as many of you as possible over the coming year to better understand what you do, what your concerns are, and to hear your thoughts on how we can improve. I look forward to all of those meetings.

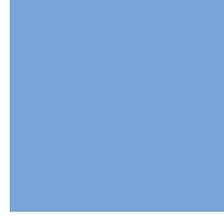
I reserve my final thanks and highest praise to our parents and caregivers. Thanks to your patience and understanding and the sacrifices you have been willing to make for your children, we have managed to remain open for full time, in-person instruction since reopening last September. An incredible feat given the circumstances. Pandemic and other distractions aside, I could not be more grateful for the opportunity you have given me to lead this district into the future. Thank you.



Sincerely,

Bryan Olkowski

WCUUSD SUPERINTENDENT



“I cannot tell you how proud I am of everyone, and how much it pleases me that Washington Central was one of only five districts in the state to return to full-time, in-person instruction five days a week, for pre-kindergarten to grade 8.”



Curriculum Update

Our director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, Jennifer Miller-Arsenault, continues to lead the implementation of our proficiency-based learning system. Our Student Learning Outcomes, adopted in May 2016 by the school board, clarify our expectations for students across the school system and are at the heart of our teaching and learning practices.

This year, the importance of transferable skills has never been more important or apparent. The transferable skills are the skills and behaviors that our students need in order to be successful learners in school and for their entire lives. At Washington Central, those transferable skills include: creative and practical problem solving; effective and expressive communication; engaged citizenship; working independently and collaboratively; informed, integrated, and critical thinking; and self-awareness and self-direction.

Since last March when we entered a statewide period of school dismissal, our teachers have worked tirelessly to meet our students' needs, prioritizing academic expectations, emphasizing social emotional learning, and strengthening partnerships with caregivers. We asked for feedback from students and families about what did and didn't work for them last spring regarding remote schooling, and we worked hard this summer and fall to create a robust educational experience for our students while enacting all of the health and safety protocols during this global pandemic. We are so proud of our school community for coming together in service to our students, and we are grateful for their continued trust and support.

The curriculum office continues to support Vermont's universal pre-kindergarten law, Act 166, to provide access to high quality education for three- and four-year-olds. In addition to our own outstanding pre-kindergarten programs, our Act 166 partners offer wonderful educational opportunities for our youngest students. Enrollment in both public and private pre-kindergarten programs is lower than in past years, due primarily to the pandemic. We look forward to a return to more normal learning conditions when the pandemic is behind us.



Special Services

Kelly Bushey oversees the implementation of services for approximately 240 students with disabilities from ages 3 to 22. Since last March, this has been no easy feat! Through our Special Services Office we provide leadership to special educators and related service providers across the district to ensure we continue to provide a free and appropriate public education to all of our students during periods of remote learning. We stay abreast of all guidance from the Agency of Education by attending frequent meetings with the Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators, the Agency of Education, and legal counsel; and we meet regularly with our special educators to update them on changes and expectations in order to keep everyone in alignment with the regulations and to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our students.

Over the past year we have been building our internal capacity to support our most vulnerable students. We have worked with the Education Support Professional (ESP) Educators Association to develop roles for personal care attendants and behavioral interventionists, and have collaborated with our new school social worker, Jamie Spector, to develop training for these roles to reduce the number of contracts we have with outside providers. There are several benefits to this:

- 1 We're developing staff to better serve students.
- 2 We're building our internal capacity.
- 3 We will reduce our costs for contracted services.
- 4 We will take advantage of a recent increase in Medicaid revenue (which in turn supports regular education programs and allows us to reduce the overall costs to taxpayers).

We have also been collaborating with our ESP staff to develop a supervision and evaluation process that will be rolled out at the start of the next school year. As Director of Special Services, Kelly meets regularly with members of the ESP to create rubrics and a process to support them in their growth and development as professionals. She also serves as our Title IX coordinator, overseeing the implementation of this newly-required policy, and provides oversight and guidance for the district's Hazing Harassment and Bullying policy.

Berlin Elementary School



What a year it has been. I would first like to say thank you to the entire Berlin community for supporting our reopening efforts this past fall. Your patience and willingness to take on all of the challenges related to a safe return to school were very much appreciated.

I am so proud to be part of a district that was able to open its doors to all students in September and sustain a strong, daily educational program for its kids. Our staff and students kept safety guidance and procedures at the forefront and, because of that, we were able to create and maintain a safe learning environment. There is nothing better than giving students the opportunity to come to their school building to take advantage of the learning experiences it provides. I want to thank every one of our students for working hard, being safe, respectful, and ready! I also want to thank each of our staff members for their perseverance and teamwork throughout this year. Their dedication to our students and to our district is unparalleled. And finally, I want to thank our families for the outpouring of support they've given us throughout the school year. We can't thank you enough for your patience and understanding.

At Berlin Elementary, our curriculum programs align with Common Core standards, National Standards, and Next Generation Science standards. We use a whole child approach in supporting students' academic, physical, behavioral, social, and emotional needs. Staff are committed to communication, collaboration, role modeling, commitment to success with high expectations, and accepting responsibility for all students!

This year we had to restructure and rethink how to continue providing learning progress for students in different learning modalities. We are

continuing to implement a new math program that aligns our instruction in grades K-6. We have worked to align our science instruction with inquiry-based and hands-on experiences for students. We have 1:1 laptop Chromebooks that students use for researching, writing and typing, and assessments. And we introduced a new learning management system that allows students to access their assignments and material online. Because of this, we'll be prepared to return to a remote learning environment if it becomes necessary.

In addition to our focus on academic outcomes for all students, Berlin also promotes positive behavior and character development. We utilize the PBIS approach, which recognizes students for good choices and meeting behavior expectations. We celebrate at monthly assemblies, (this year via Zoom!). We conduct fun school spirit events and recognize individual students for going above and beyond. On any given day you may see students celebrating their success with events like crazy hair day, costume day, or mustache day! Students also earn the Principal's Challenge, which has (unfortunately for me!) included "pie the principal," "tape the principal to the wall" (always a crowd favorite), the jelly bean challenge, and the egg smash challenge.

At Berlin Elementary, we are also very mindful of trauma informed practices. We work hard to understand the hardships and challenges our students and their families face and we make every effort to provide a supportive environment to meet their sometimes challenging needs. This often leads to non-traditional approaches to learning, discipline, and support.

Berlin Elementary is an amazing community of learners, and we greatly appreciate the care, respect, and support afforded to us by the entire Berlin community. Together, it is our privilege and pleasure to prepare your children for a successful future.

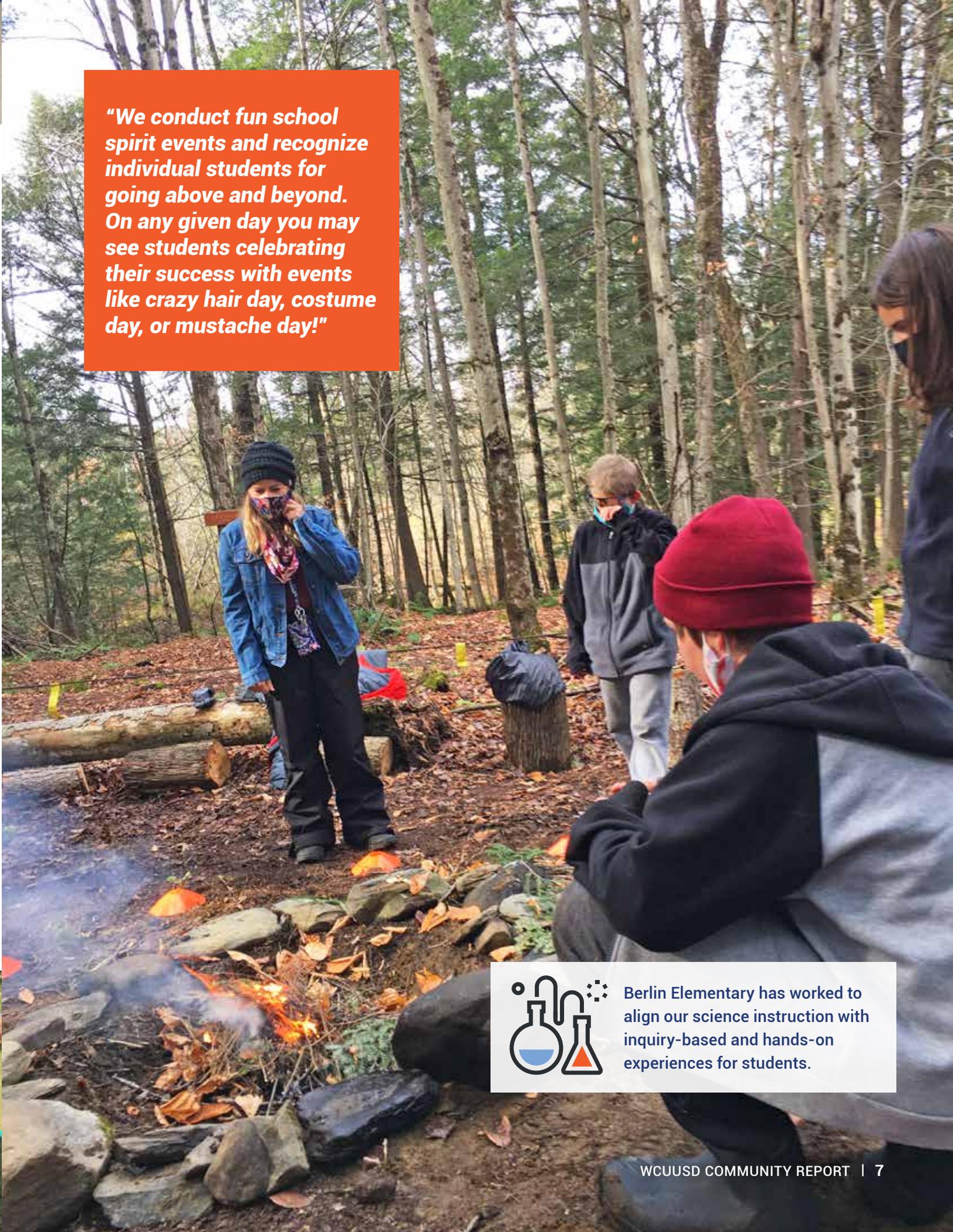


Aaron Boynton

PRINCIPAL



“We conduct fun school spirit events and recognize individual students for going above and beyond. On any given day you may see students celebrating their success with events like crazy hair day, costume day, or mustache day!”



Berlin Elementary has worked to align our science instruction with inquiry-based and hands-on experiences for students.

Calais Elementary School



Our Own Vermont Teacher of the Year

As welcome positive news, we learned that our fourth grade teacher, Kate Robb, was named the UVM Elementary Educator of the Year for Washington Central. Kate brings such energy and excitement to her class, and we couldn't be more proud and happy for her. The mission of the Vermont Teacher of the Year Program is to promote the teaching profession and recognize educators who are modeling exemplary teaching practices in Vermont's schools. We are so fortunate to have Kate on our team.

"We moved many of our classrooms and activities outdoors, allowing students to make connections to nature from what they were learning in class."



I'm feeling both grateful and fortunate to be writing my sixth principal's report for Calais Elementary School. Having grown up in Calais and attended the Calais schools, it is such a privilege for me now to be giving something back to this amazing community.

As we all know, this has been a challenging year for students, families, teachers, and support staff. We had to figure out how to teach and learn remotely at a moment's notice last spring, not to mention the burden that was placed on parents and caregivers who suddenly had to juggle work, childcare, internet issues and more, with little time to plan and little guidance – at least at the start. I was so grateful then, and remain so grateful now, for your patience, understanding, empathy, and resiliency. You remind me, every day, why I am so fortunate to serve as your principal.

Despite the challenges and difficulties we've faced over the past nine months, I have to say we settled in to a rhythm and routine of learning that, in its own way, has turned out to be a unique opportunity for our students.

We moved many of our classrooms and activities outdoors, allowing students to make connections to nature from what they were learning in class. At the same time, we continued in our efforts to align our K-6 math curriculum and made progress in identifying students who need additional supports and in finding ways to meet those needs, both academically and behaviorally. We introduced a new, online Learning Management System, which has been of significant help to students and families who've opted to learn remotely, and we continued our

work on trauma-informed practices.

We also welcomed a new teacher on board this fall. James "Jimmy" Warden took over our fifth grade class and has settled in nicely. Jimmy brings so much to Calais, with strengths in math, science, writing, and technology. He's also an athlete with years of experience coaching. The kids call him Mr. Dubs (Mr. W).

One unfortunate consequence of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic was our need to put drama, music, our artist in residence program, and other extracurricular activities on temporary hold this year. However, I believe the outdoor activities and events we were able to engage in helped to mitigate this loss. Believe me, we are all looking forward to that day when we can rip off our masks and return to our traditional CES activities (Music Day, Gifts for Giving, Winter Wellness, and more!).

We will get through this challenging time, and we will all be stronger and perhaps more appreciative of what we have once the pandemic is in our rear view mirrors. In the meantime, it remains a pleasure and privilege for me to serve the students, families, and greater Calais community here at Calais Elementary School. I am grateful for your support, understanding, and encouragement, and I look forward to better days ahead.



Cat Fair
PRINCIPAL

Activities Over the Past Year



Made progress identifying students who need additional supports and finding ways to support them



Introduced a new, online Learning Management System



Continued in our efforts to align our K-6 math curriculum



Many extracurricular activities have been put on hold this year, but student have spent plenty of time outdoors.



Doty Memorial School



When I had my daughter, my mother passed on a parenting philosophy she had learned when she had my older brother. And that philosophy was simply this: children need three things in equal doses: love, food, and discipline. Here at Doty, we follow that same philosophy, with some slight modifications.



LOVE – This fall, more than ever, our focus at Doty is making sure that our students feel both safe and loved. Research shows that students learn best when they are taught by teachers that they know care about them as

individuals. Throughout the period of remote learning last spring, our focus was on maintaining relationships and contact with our students and families. Our primary goal was to ensure that no student, or family, felt isolated or forgotten. At Doty our goal is that our students know they are loved and cared about, even when they are not in our building.

When students returned this fall, our focus was on rebuilding our classroom communities. Our students had been away for six months, and coming back was stressful for them. By creating warm, welcoming communities, we were able to create safe spaces for students. When students feel safe, they are available for learning. At Doty we are firm in our belief that we need to nurture both our students' hearts and their minds.



FOOD – The “food” of school is the learning opportunities we provide students. During the period of remote learning last spring, our teachers explored all the ways children learn. Students were encouraged to be naturalists

in their own backyards, to build forts, to experiment with cooking new and different foods. Students were encouraged to explore topics they were interested in and present their learning to their peers.

Once back, our teachers provided learning opportunities that were flexible and engaging, in part because our students returned to us in very different places. Our goal was not to worry about where students “should” be at any given moment at time but rather to know where they are at any given moment. We are looking for growth, not for students to be marching lockstep with a set of standards. This year that is especially true. At Doty we are striving to serve our students with engaging learning opportunities that push them to grow from whatever, and wherever, their starting point is.



DISCIPLINE – The word “discipline” comes from Latin, and it means instruction or knowledge. When we think of discipline here, that is what we are thinking. We are in the business of raising whole people here at

Doty. It is just as important for us to teach our students how to navigate their worlds as it is that we teach them how to read. We weave social/emotional learning opportunities throughout the day. How do you handle frustration when things get difficult? How do you deal with arguments with friends? How do you express what you need when you are upset? Kids aren't born knowing how to manage all of the feelings they will have. At Doty we recognize this and work with all sides of our students, not just the academic.

In many ways, being the principal of a small school like Doty is a lot like being a mom. My Doty family, the students, the staff, the families, and the community have been through the wringer this year. As “mom,” my heart has ached for my Doty family during these stressful times. However, I have seen and been part of so much that makes me endlessly proud of them. There is strength and caring here and everyone continues to show itself in so many ways. Our students are playing, smiling, and learning. They are showing each other kindness, caring, and acceptance. Surrounded by uncertainty, the Doty family is strong and facing it together.

Despite the pandemic and the challenges it has presented, I am proud of our achievements and of the way all of us – our staff, students, parents, and caregivers – have continued to pursue our educational goals. We remain committed to ensuring that all students at Doty are loved, fed meaningful learning opportunities, and taught how to navigate their worlds. It is an honor for me to serve this community. It is a pleasure to be in the Doty family.



Thank you for sharing your students with us,

Gillian Fuqua

PRINCIPAL

“Throughout the period of remote learning last spring, our focus was on maintaining relationships and contact with our students and families. Our primary goal was to ensure that no student, or family, felt isolated or forgotten.”



Pandemic Adjustments



During at-home learning, we encouraged kids to explore and be naturalists in their own backyards.



This year we're focusing on growth while maintaining our commitment to improving learning outcomes.



East Montpelier Elementary School



Some Popular Programs Continue



Educating Children Outdoors



EMES Book Club



Student Leadership



Nature Journaling

Greetings from East Montpelier Elementary School!

Each year I spend at EMES, I am immensely proud of our school and our community for a multitude of reasons, but none of them can compare to the pride and gratitude I feel this year as I begin my second decade at EMES.

I have felt nothing short of awe at the commitment of our staff, students, and families as we've embarked on these uncharted waters of schooling during a pandemic. We successfully made it to the holidays with our school doors open to in-person learning every day. Back in September, many wondered how long we would be able to stay open...would it be the end of October? Surely, we would be closed long before Thanksgiving. With Herculean efforts on the part of each and every individual, we have been able to educate our students fully in person since day one.

The EMES mission couldn't ring more true than it did in 2020: "The purpose of our school is to teach all children to become competent, caring citizens and life-long learners through a challenging and relevant curriculum." While we saw some regression this fall due to remote learning in the spring, students and teachers have worked diligently to fill in the gaps and continue our rigorous learning trajectory. Using beginning of the year assessment data in reading and math, teachers set achievement goals for their students for the end of the year. In addition, we have calibrated our writing scoring, and word study and phonics instruction have been going strong. Students and teachers are learning to use new technologies to enhance their learning whether in person or remote, and all students Pre-K through Grade 6 now have 1:1 devices.

Despite the pandemic and having to put a number of special EMES traditions on hold, we have been able to continue with

Educating Children Outdoors, EMES Book Club, Student Leadership, and Nature Journaling. Students are spending more time outdoors as all PE lessons take place on the rec fields, and each of our 11 classrooms has an outdoor classroom space to learn from. We are also very excited about the recent addition of a skating rink for East Montpelier families and students to enjoy.

Although 2020 has been a challenging and in many ways exhausting year, there are so many silver linings that we can all be proud of. Our students have been more respectful and responsible than ever, our office discipline referral numbers are way down, students are learning to care for one another in new ways, and we're all learning that sitting at desks in rows isn't the worst thing to happen to any of us.

While we look forward to the days when we can all join together again for special celebrations, or even recess, we are so thankful for all the ways that we are able to learn new things this year, and are especially grateful just to be in this beautiful school building together. I could not be more proud and honored to serve in this community as I am today.

Thank you, all, for your continued support and hard work to ensure that our school and all those within it stay healthy and are able to learn.



Alicia Lyford
PRINCIPAL



“Our students have been more respectful and responsible than ever, our office discipline referral numbers are way down, and students are learning to care for one another in new ways.”



Though we weren't sure how long it would last at the beginning of the school year, we have been able to educate our students fully in person since day one.

Rumney Memorial School



I hope that as you read this report, you and those around you are healthy and doing well. Admittedly, 2020 was filled with lots of unexpected challenges. Fortunately, we have a resilient community of students, families, and staff and we continue to learn and grow through all that we face.

Early in 2020 we had the opportunity to continue our Winter Wellness Program! Students were able to choose a fun and engaging wellness activity (ice skating, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, gymnastics, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu) to learn more about wellness while also strengthening and creating new relationships across our school.

Shortly after returning from the February/March break we transitioned to remote learning. Very quickly our students (supported by their families) and staff learned about a variety of learning platforms to continue important teaching and learning via lessons and activities that were posted on Seesaw and Google Classroom, meetings/check-ins/support via Zoom and Google Meets, and a variety of literacy and math applications to practice skills. Our teachers engaged in regular discussion and planning with grade-level peers from across the district, and were able to prioritize outcomes that would be most important for our students through the remainder of the year. We learned a lot about what internet access and bandwidth across Middlesex looks like, and we did our best to find workarounds to support all of our learners using a variety of media. The task was daunting, but I am so thankful for the persistence and adaptability of our staff to support students and families in the best ways we could.

Probably the biggest challenge was missing “our kids” at school! Relationships are so important in supporting the social, emotional, and academic growth of learners; to that end, we made some adjustments to our end of year festivities to celebrate and recognize our students. The majority of our staff participated in car parades to greet our students - we were so happy and thankful to see smiles and friendly faces to keep Rumney School Spirit alive! We were also able to hold our sixth grade celebration, moving it outdoors with masks and social distancing. We wished our students the best as they transitioned to U-32 in Covid-style and new traditions were born.

Over the summer our facility saw many improvements. Major summer projects included a new roof on our gym, the replacement of our sidewalk (which we have already seen huge improvements without frost heaving this winter), and the completion of the acoustics project in our cafeteria/gym space. Although the health

and safety restrictions of the 20/21 school year have not allowed us to enjoy the improved acoustics of the

gym much yet, we look forward to our students experiencing quieter lunches, concerts, and athletic events in the future.

The return of our students to in-person learning was a breath of fresh air. We started teaching new routines of mask wearing, frequent hand washing, and social distancing to keep our school community safe and healthy right off the bat. For the most part, students have done an amazing job keeping our school safe! School staff members work tremendously hard every single year, and 2020 taught us a lot about our practices, new technologies, and interacting with kids remotely.

Even through the challenges, however, there have also been many celebrations! One of the greatest shifts in our practice has been the amount of time that our students have spent outdoors. We received a very generous community donation that led to the creation of outdoor spaces for each of our classrooms. We have embraced both outdoor learning and learning while outside and both have been received positively by students and staff. We are hoping for a mild winter to maximize our outdoor time.

In addition to students accessing instruction in their classroom, we have both literacy and math intervention/enrichment blocks built into our schedules to support the needs of students in our classrooms as we focus on improving student achievement despite the pandemic. We are in our second school year implementing the Ready Classroom/Math curriculum across all grades and use of the associated diagnostic assessment to target specific skill areas to support learning.

We have learned so much since the writing of last year’s report and still have a lot more to learn. We are fortunate to have incredible partners in this journey and privilege of teaching students and helping them to grow. We are filled with gratitude for the support from families and community members.



Sincerely,

Casey Provost

PRINCIPAL



“We received a very generous community donation that led to the creation of outdoor spaces for each of our classrooms. We have embraced both outdoor learning and learning while outside and both have been received positively by students and staff.”

What's New?



We installed a new roof on our gym, replaced the sidewalk, and improved the acoustics in our cafeteria/gym.



We all learned new technologies to keep students and teachers connected.



U-32 Middle and High School

As we bid farewell to 2020 and approach the final semester of the 2020-21 school year, I am more pleased than I thought I would be to report that, largely, all is well at U-32 Middle and High School. I know very few of us were sorry to see the end of 2020, but we have much to be proud of, and still more to be thankful for.

Despite the challenges and logistics imposed by the global pandemic, we have managed to maintain in-person learning for 7th- and 8th-grade families who want it, and a hybrid-remote style format for those who feel safer learning from home, and for the upper grades. It's been an interesting experiment to be sure, but it is working and I am grateful.

Thanks to the caring and supportive actions of so many people, parents especially, we have weathered this unprecedented challenge and somehow managed to carry on with the business of teaching and preparing our students for life after graduation. An enormous amount of credit goes to our students, who have shown an understanding, resiliency, and compassion that's far beyond their years. I am reminded again and again how much we have to learn from them. And I'd also like to thank the community members, board members, and others throughout our five towns who've volunteered to help make this year as positive an experience as possible. We have seen what we are capable of as a community, and it has been heartening.

In spite of this challenging year, we were able to implement our new Canvas Learning Management system. Students and teachers are using Canvas to house all student work in one location, making it easier for them to organize their day and their workload. We were also able to complete construction on our new track, which will be ready for use this spring.

Moving to a remote learning platform, as we did on very little notice last spring, and working through the kinks of our hybrid learning model this year has shown us first hand the importance of our transferable skills and of developing them more fully with our students. Working independently, self awareness and self direction, creative and practical problem solving, and effective communication have been valuable tools for students this year, and they will serve our students well as they transition from high school to college or a career.

Along those lines, our faculty and staff have continued to implement our proficiency-based learning, assessment, and

graduation system over the past year. With each passing month, I feel more and more confident that students are truly learning the essential academic subjects they are being taught and the transferable skills they will need to graduate. We will continue to work toward developing proficiency-based strategies and curriculum in order to provide the best education possible for our young people.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to the class of 2020 back in June, but it certainly wasn't the send-off any of us would have hoped for or imagined. This class was special to me because they were the first class of students who I shepherded from 7th grade to graduation. Of one thing I am certain: they will be stronger and more resilient because of what they went through. They lost their prom. They lost their spring sports season. They lost so much of what defines the senior experience at U-32. But maybe, as they enter a fragmented world dealing with issues of

"I am confident in our ability to see this pandemic through and to gain a great deal of knowledge, wisdom, and appreciation for what we have and who we are because of it."

race, poverty and disease, they will have a better understanding of what it feels like to go without; and through that experience, become more empathetic and compassionate citizens. I have nothing but faith in them.

As for the end of the year: we are still waiting to see how the pandemic plays out. As I write this report, the first vaccines are making their way into Vermont, but it may still be months before the numbers begin going down and we can think about returning to "normal," whatever that will look like. In the meantime, I am confident in our ability to see this pandemic through and to gain a great deal of knowledge, wisdom, and appreciation for what we have and who we are because of it.

All in all, U-32 remains committed to improving curriculum, instruction and assessment so our students can achieve at the highest levels and be prepared for the next stage of learning in their lives. It continues to be my privilege, and pleasure, to be a part of that process.



Sincerely,

Steven Dellinger-Pate

PRINCIPAL

What's New and Noteworthy at U-32?



We implemented the Canvas Learning Management system, which houses students' work in one place and makes it easier for them to organize their workload.



We finished construction on our new track, which will be ready to use this spring.

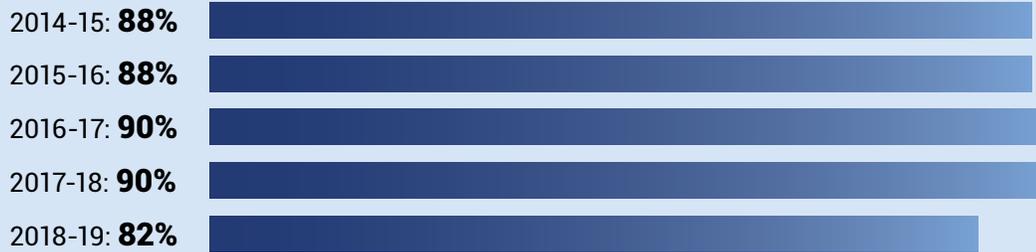


Our students, teachers and staff have shown incredible resilience and creativity in this new and challenging world.



Life After High School

U-32 4-Year Graduation Rate



Note: The 4-year graduation rate is based on any student who is enrolled at U-32 at any time in the four years that the graduating class would be enrolled.

Where Do Our Graduates Go?

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
# of Graduates	118	125	123	126	106	113
% Attending College	69%	66%	65%	68%	65%	65%
% 2-Year College	12.7%	13.6%	15.4%	12%	8%	6%
% 4-Year College	56%	52.8%	49.6%	56%	57%	59%
Employed/Gap/Military	31%	33%	29%	32%	26%	35%

SAT Scores / Math

Year	U-32	Vt Average	US Average
2018	557	554	527
2019	566	549	528
2020	543	545	523

SAT Scores / Critical Reading

Year	U-32	Vt Average	US Average
2018	583	565	533
2019	581	559	531
2020	553	559	528





U-32 Recognized for Financial Literacy Education



Next Gen Personal Finance (NGPF), a leading non-profit provider of financial education curriculum and teacher professional development, has recognized U-32 High School as a Gold Standard School for requiring all students to take at least one semester of personal finance before graduation.

With fewer than 20 percent of students receiving this type of financial education in high school today, U-32 High School is one of just 1,247 Gold Standard or Future Gold Standard Schools nationwide.

Outside of the five states (Alabama, Missouri, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia) that currently require their high school students to take a personal finance class of at least one semester, the responsibility falls on individual

schools and school districts to ensure all students take this common-sense course. Outside these five mandate states, fewer than 10 percent are required to take at least one semester of personal finance to graduate. This makes U-32 High School's Gold Standard achievement all the more impressive.

"Behind each of these trail-blazing schools is a story," said Tim Ranzetta, NGPF's co-founder and CEO, "a story of a teacher, parent, grandparent, student, administrator, local representative or businessperson who asked an important question: Why don't we teach ALL students about the real-world financial decisions they'll be making every day for the rest of their lives?"

"We like to say we're preparing

students for success in the real world," said Principal Steven Dellinger-Pate. "But there's no way we could say that if we weren't preparing them to understand the financial realities and obligations they'll be facing after graduation and as they begin their lives."

All U-32 students take a personal finance class before they graduate, helping them prepare for success in their financial future.

**WASHINGTON CENTRAL UNIFIED UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
WARNING**

The legal voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District, a municipal corporation consisting of the Towns of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex, and Worcester, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in their respective towns at the polling places hereinafter named on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, to vote by Australian ballot on Articles 1 through 9 as outlined below. The polls will open beginning at 8:00 AM in Berlin; 7:00 AM in Calais; 7:00 AM in East Montpelier; 7:00 AM in Middlesex; and 10:00 AM in Worcester. The polls will close in all towns at 7:00 PM.

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Clerk for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 2. To elect a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 3. To elect a Moderator for a term of one (1) year.

ARTICLE 4. To elect the following School Directors:

	Berlin	One (1) School Director	One (1) Year of a Two (2) Year Term
		One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	Calais	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	East Montpelier	One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	Middlesex	One (1) School Director	Two (2) Years of a Three (3) Year Term
		One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term
	Worcester	One (1) School Director	Two (2) Years of a Three (3) Year Term
		One (1) School Director	Three (3) Year Term

ARTICLE 5. To fix the annual compensation of the Union School District officers.

Clerk	\$500.00
Treasurer	\$6,600.00
Directors	\$1,000.00 each

ARTICLE 6. Shall the voters of the Washington Central Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend \$34,984,949 which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$19,533 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 0.01% higher than spending for the current year.

ARTICLE 7. Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors of Washington Central Unified Union School District to hold any audited fund balance as of June 30, 2021 in a reserve fund to be expended under the control and direction of the Board of School Directors for the purpose of operating the school?

ARTICLE 8. Shall the School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of the receipt of revenues for the 2021-2022 school year?

Polling Places and Times:

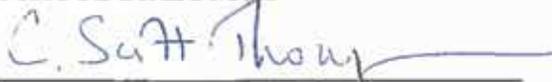
- Berlin Municipal Office in Berlin Corners – 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
- Calais Town Hall in Calais – 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
- East Montpelier Elementary School in East Montpelier – 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Middlesex Town Hall in Middlesex – 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Worcester Town Hall in Worcester – 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

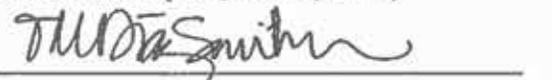
A virtual public hearing will take place at 6:30 PM on March 1, 2021 to provide information on the articles to be voted by Australian Ballot at the municipalities' respective Town Meetings on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. <https://tinyurl.com/y5bagl9s> Meeting ID: 843 7229 9786 Password: 234101 Phone: 1-929-205-6099

Upon closing of the polls, the ballots shall be transported and delivered to the Berlin Municipal Office in the Town of Berlin and comingled and counted by members of the Boards of Civil Authority of several towns under the supervision of the Clerk of the Washington Central Unified Union School District.

The legal voters of Washington Central Unified Union School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said annual meeting shall be as provided in Sections 553 and 706(u) of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

SCHOOL DIRECTORS


C. Scott Thompson, Chair (Calais)

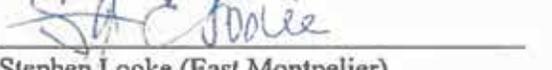

Flor Diaz Smith, Vice-Chair (East Montpelier)


Jonas Eno-Van Fleet, Clerk (Worcester)


Diane Nichols-Fleming (Berlin)

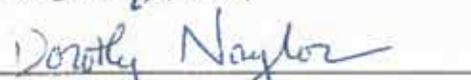

Karoline May (Middlesex)


Jill Olson (Middlesex)

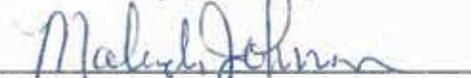

Stephen Looke (East Montpelier)

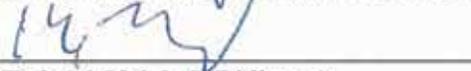

Mary Ormsby, Clerk


George Gross (Berlin)


Dorothy Naylor (Calais)


Jaiel Pulskamp (Worcester)


Malinda (Lindy) Johnson (East Montpelier)


Chris McVeigh (Middlesex)


Karl Bradley (Calais)


Jonathan Goddard (Berlin)

WCUUSD Budget 2021-2022 vs. Budget 2020-2021

DESCRIPTION	Adjusted Budget 2021	Increase (Decrease)	Budget % change	Budget 2022
SALARIES AND BENEFITS				
NEGOTIATED ITEMS				
SALARY ESTIMATE		\$565,877	1.60%	
BENEFITS RELATED TO SALARY ESTIMATE		\$56,588	0.16%	
HEALTH INSURANCE @ 9.6% INCREASE W/ CURRENT COVERAGE, HRA ADJUSTMENT		\$81,626	0.23%	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFIT CHANGES		-\$19,452	-0.05%	
SUBTOTAL NEGOTIATED ITEMS		\$684,639	1.93%	
OTHER STAFFING CHANGES				
STAFFING CHANGES-INCLUDES UNFILLED EARLY RETIREMENT-REDUCE 4.4FTE'S		-\$390,518	-1.10%	
STAFFING CHANGES FY 21-UNFILLED POSITIONS (ATTRITION)-REDUCE 6.3FTE'S		-\$476,165	-1.34%	
STAFFING TRANSFERRED TO GRANT FUNDING-TRANSFER OF 2.3 FTE'S		-\$164,336	-0.46%	
SALARY AND BENEFIT SAVINGS FY 21-PRIMARILY HEALTH AND STAFF TURNOVER		-\$149,086	-0.42%	
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS-ADD 6.71 FTE'S ESP		\$272,163	0.77%	*see revenues below
ACADEMIC, SPED & OPERATION OF PLANT PROGRAMS (NEW STAFF)- +2.75 FTE'S		\$281,476	0.79%	
SUBTOTAL OTHER STAFFING CHANGES		-\$626,466	-1.77%	
TOTAL SALARY & BENEFITS	\$24,928,979	\$58,173	0.16%	\$24,987,152
NONSALARY ITEMS				
TECHNOLOGY SERVICES-ERATE INCOME		-\$44,679	-0.13%	
OPERATION OF PLANT-REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE(PREVIOUSLY CAPITAL)		\$100,000	0.28%	
TECHNICAL EDUCATION TUITION(USING CURRENT YEAR +2%)		\$10,125	0.03%	
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES		\$44,842	0.13%	
SCHOOL-WIDE BUDGET UPDATE		-\$76,909	-0.22%	
SCHOOL-WIDE EXPENSES-PREK SERVICES		-\$96,105	-0.27%	
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS-STATE PLACED/504 STUDENTS(W/O CASE MGMT)		-\$238,303	-0.67%	*see revenues below
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS-TUITION & PROF SVCS		-\$203,011	-0.57%	*see revenues below
TOTAL NONSALARY-W/O OTHER ITEMS	\$8,553,677	-\$504,040	-1.42%	\$8,049,637
SUBTOTAL BASE BUDGET INCREASE	\$33,482,656	-\$445,867	-1.26%	\$33,036,789
OTHER ITEMS				
DEBT SERVICE-BOND PAYMENT	\$1,241,324	-\$18,164	-0.05%	\$1,223,160
CAPITAL FUND -TRANSFER	\$706,522	\$18,478	0.05%	\$725,000
TOTAL OTHER ITEMS	\$1,947,846	\$314	0.00%	\$1,948,160
COMBINED TOTAL WCUUSD EXPENSES	\$35,430,502	-\$445,553	-1.26%	\$34,984,949
REVENUES THAT OFFSET EXPENSE INCREASES (DECREASES)				
TUITION INCOME-LEVEL BUDGET @9 LESS STUDENTS(4 FY21, 5 FY22)		-\$185,843	-0.52%	
SMALL SCHOOLS GRANT		\$28,866	0.08%	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME-ERATE SEE EXPENSE		-\$44,679	-0.13%	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME-U-32		-\$7,000	-0.02%	
SPECIAL EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENTS-INCLUDES STATE PLACED PROGRAMS		-\$37,004	-0.10%	*see expenses above
TRANSPORTATION AID-COVID		\$11,511	0.03%	
FUND BALANCE TO SUPPORT EARLY RETIREMENT FOR BUDGET FY 22		\$144,000	0.41%	
SUBTOTAL REVENUES		-\$90,149	-0.25%	
NET IMPACT ON TAXES		-\$355,404	-1.00%	

WCUUSD Budget 2021-2022 vs. Budget 2020-2021

DESCRIPTION	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Projected 2021	Budget 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Budget22/ Budget21
REVENUES						
TUITION-SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUALS	\$1,081,930	\$1,094,311	\$1,011,703	\$908,468	-\$185,843	
INVESTMENT EARNINGS INTEREST	\$354,463	\$283,755	\$229,975	\$283,755	\$0	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME-OTHER	\$305,289	\$315,118	\$451,618	\$263,440	-\$51,679	
EDUC. SPENDING REVENUES	\$27,091,430	\$28,137,890	\$28,137,890	\$27,782,486	-\$355,404	
MISC STATE REIMBURSEMENTS-INCLDING CRF- COVID-19	\$909,141	\$772,663	\$3,119,005	\$813,040	\$40,377	
SPED EXPENDITURE REIMBURSEMENT	\$4,321,332	\$4,826,765	\$4,487,765	\$4,789,761	-\$37,005	
SUBTOTAL REVENUES	\$34,063,585	\$35,430,502	\$37,437,956	\$34,840,949	-\$589,553	
FUND BALANCE	\$1,941,291	\$0	\$0	\$144,000	\$144,000	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$36,004,876	\$35,430,502	\$37,437,956	\$34,984,949	-\$445,553	-1.26%
EXPENSES						
INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES						
SALARIES	\$7,868,446	\$8,494,048	\$8,323,814	\$8,257,994	-\$236,054	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$2,317,170	\$2,625,939	\$2,536,310	\$2,432,828	-\$193,111	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$160,237	\$197,042	\$197,042	\$193,962	-\$3,080	
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SVC	\$43,746	\$73,263	\$73,263	\$62,795	-\$10,468	
TUITION TO OTHER SCHOOL DISTRICTS	\$475,755	\$506,668	\$506,268	\$516,390	\$9,722	
TRAVEL	\$10,585	\$14,700	\$15,100	\$14,100	-\$600	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$195,450	\$276,105	\$285,605	\$240,913	-\$35,192	
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$26,504	\$83,593	\$74,390	\$56,484	-\$27,109	
EQUIPMENT	\$6,223	\$64,000	\$64,000	\$49,901	-\$14,099	
DUES AND FEES	\$2,999	\$700	\$700	\$1,200	\$500	
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES	\$11,107,115	\$12,336,058	\$12,076,492	\$11,826,567	-\$509,491	-4.13%
PRESCHOOL PROGRAM						
SALARIES	\$375,148	\$366,368	\$351,002	\$341,908	-\$24,460	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$109,184	\$100,318	\$117,464	\$107,887	\$7,569	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$1,675	\$4,331	\$4,331	\$0	-\$4,331	
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SVC	\$50,727	\$112,927	\$120,952	\$13,000	-\$99,927	
TUITION TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS	\$180,066	\$148,325	\$144,690	\$148,512	\$187	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$11,932	\$7,915	\$7,915	\$7,715	-\$200	
TOTAL PRESCHOOL PROGRAM	\$728,732	\$740,184	\$746,354	\$619,022	-\$121,162	-16.37%
GUIDANCE SERVICES						
SALARIES	\$745,719	\$773,088	\$723,423	\$722,337	-\$50,751	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$245,850	\$270,590	\$264,474	\$255,213	-\$15,377	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$2,739	\$3,575	\$3,575	\$1,125	-\$2,450	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$26,954	\$34,200	\$34,200	\$32,550	-\$1,650	
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$450	\$2,260	\$2,260	\$1,010	-\$1,250	
TOTAL GUIDANCE SERVICES	\$1,021,712	\$1,083,713	\$1,027,932	\$1,012,235	-\$71,478	-6.60%
HEALTH SERVICES						
SALARIES	\$323,018	\$340,061	\$335,365	\$348,269	\$8,208	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$128,100	\$139,871	\$149,070	\$149,455	\$9,584	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$4,100	\$2,300	\$2,300	\$0	-\$2,300	
TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$120	\$550	\$562	\$550	\$0	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$3,993	\$6,535	\$6,535	\$7,135	\$600	
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$496	\$933	\$933	\$845	-\$88	
TOTAL HEALTH SERVICES	\$459,827	\$490,250	\$494,765	\$506,254	\$16,004	3.26%

WCUUSD Budget 2021-2022 vs. Budget 2020-2021

DESCRIPTION	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Projected 2021	Budget 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Budget 22/ Budget 21
EXPENSES (continued)						
LIBRARY SERVICES						
SALARIES	\$336,130	\$350,669	\$341,951	\$328,725	-\$21,944	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$106,714	\$116,849	\$112,084	\$106,774	-\$10,075	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$2,968	\$5,400	\$5,400	\$1,300	-\$4,100	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$10,895	\$19,901	\$19,901	\$15,895	-\$4,006	
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$43,545	\$50,658	\$50,658	\$52,108	\$1,450	
TOTAL LIBRARY SERVICES	\$500,252	\$543,477	\$529,994	\$504,802	-\$38,675	-7.12%
CURRICULUM SERVICES						
SALARIES	\$151,657	\$305,499	\$195,212	\$295,465	-\$10,034	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$14,129	\$76,007	\$17,894	\$50,446	-\$25,561	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$4,602	\$8,000	\$12,500	\$13,000	\$5,000	
PURCHASED PROF & TECH SERVICES	\$583	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
TRAVEL	\$988	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$461	\$5,000	\$12,676	\$5,000	\$0	
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$685	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	
DUES AND FEES	\$2,529	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	
TOTAL CURRICULUM SERVICES	\$175,634	\$399,206	\$242,982	\$368,611	-\$30,595	-7.66%
INSTRUCTIONAL -RELATED TECH SVCS						
SALARIES	\$467,477	\$518,692	\$524,145	\$530,764	\$12,072	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$97,058	\$104,089	\$96,072	\$111,723	\$7,634	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$0	\$8,600	\$6,100	\$7,500	-\$1,100	
TECHNOLOGY RELATED R&M	\$39,421	\$32,516	\$32,516	\$32,516	\$0	
RENTALS AND LEASES-COPIER	\$31,742	\$50,700	\$55,200	\$50,700	\$0	
COMMUNICATIONS	\$111,555	\$136,400	\$134,400	\$131,500	-\$4,900	
SUPPLIES-TECHN RELATED	\$28,331	\$36,300	\$36,300	\$36,300	\$0	
SUPPLIES-TECHN RELATED-SOFTWARE	\$49,110	\$234,324	\$240,014	\$300,000	\$65,676	
EQUIPMENT/FINANCIAL SOFTWARE	\$403,684	\$324,250	\$324,250	\$280,000	-\$44,250	
TOTAL INSTR REL-TECHNOLOGY SVCS	\$1,228,378	\$1,445,871	\$1,448,997	\$1,481,003	\$35,132	2.43%
BOARD OF EDUCATION SVCS.						
SALARIES	\$19,985	\$27,964	\$27,964	\$28,155	\$191	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$1,956	\$2,624	\$2,624	\$2,639	\$15	
OFFICIAL SVC TAX COLLECT.	\$10,639	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
LEGAL SERVICES	\$42,815	\$25,850	\$25,850	\$25,850	\$0	
INSURANCE	\$95,651	\$99,832	\$99,832	\$101,829	\$1,997	
ADVERTISING	\$3,878	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$7,900	-\$2,800	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$17,870	\$25,200	\$24,964	\$25,200	\$0	
DUES AND FEES	\$225	\$15,765	\$15,765	\$15,765	\$0	
TOTAL BOARD OF EDUCATION SVCS.	\$193,019	\$207,935	\$207,699	\$207,338	-\$597	-0.29%
SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES						
SALARIES	\$347,704	\$343,935	\$336,891	\$319,097	-\$24,838	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$126,552	\$133,876	\$132,064	\$113,522	-\$20,354	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$3,528	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$11,000	-\$5,000	
PURCHASED PROF & TECH SERVICES	\$9,049	\$21,200	\$21,200	\$21,200	\$0	
COMMUNICATIONS-POSTAGE	\$4,444	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0	
PRINTING AND BINDING	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	
TRAVEL	\$6,309	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$18,618	\$19,857	\$19,857	\$19,857	\$0	

WCUUSD Budget 2021-2022 vs. Budget 2020-2021

DESCRIPTION	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Projected 2021	Budget 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Budget 22/ Budget 21
EXPENSES (continued)						
SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES (continued)						
BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	\$683	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0	
DUES AND FEES	\$5,150	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	
TOTAL SUPERINTENDENT SERVICES	\$522,037	\$554,668	\$545,812	\$504,476	-\$50,192	-9.05%
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL						
SALARIES	\$1,332,742	\$1,417,005	\$1,415,271	\$1,454,637	\$37,632	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$447,133	\$492,589	\$516,096	\$527,214	\$34,625	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$11,764	\$21,200	\$21,200	\$22,000	\$800	
PURCHASED PROF & TECHNICAL SVCS	\$27,705	\$17,625	\$17,625	\$11,800	-\$5,825	
COMMUNICATIONS-POSTAGE	\$14,181	\$17,960	\$17,960	\$17,460	-\$500	
TRAVEL	\$4,332	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$4,800	-\$300	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$44,473	\$43,410	\$43,410	\$43,410	\$0	
DUES AND FEES	\$12,692	\$7,475	\$7,475	\$8,150	\$675	
TOTAL OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL	\$1,895,022	\$2,022,364	\$2,044,137	\$2,089,471	\$67,107	3.32%
FISCAL SERVICES						
SALARIES	\$368,142	\$369,901	\$380,805	\$359,558	-\$10,343	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$114,456	\$117,047	\$118,140	\$111,254	-\$5,793	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$4,855	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	
PURCHASED PROF & TECHNICAL SVCS	\$30	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0	
COMMUNICATIONS-POSTAGE	\$47,300	\$36,800	\$36,800	\$36,800	\$0	
TRAVEL	\$3,148	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$4,255	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0	
DUES AND FEES	\$489	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$0	
INTEREST ON SHORT-TERM DEBT	\$266,486	\$262,925	\$209,145	\$262,925	\$0	
TOTAL FISCAL SERVICES	\$809,161	\$802,223	\$760,440	\$786,087	-\$16,136	-2.01%
OPERATION AND MAINT.PLANT						
SALARIES	\$1,173,957	\$1,216,821	\$1,225,261	\$1,359,061	\$142,240	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$365,771	\$414,365	\$445,841	\$493,111	\$78,746	
UTILITY SERVICES	\$56,344	\$42,350	\$44,500	\$44,950	\$2,600	
CLEANING SERVICES	\$77,753	\$87,355	\$81,580	\$77,580	-\$9,775	
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SVCS & PROP	\$169,605	\$189,892	\$193,005	\$289,005	\$99,113	
TRAVEL/GAS & BOTTLED GAS	\$3,802	\$10,640	\$11,804	\$8,804	-\$1,836	
GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$178,646	\$143,294	\$143,294	\$145,794	\$2,500	
ELECTRICITY	\$256,081	\$314,220	\$314,600	\$290,700	-\$23,520	
OIL	\$97,408	\$111,440	\$109,896	\$123,896	\$12,456	
OTHER ENERGY-WOOD CHIPS / PELLETS	\$100,385	\$121,129	\$121,129	\$110,129	-\$11,000	
EQUIPMENT	\$16,990	\$20,600	\$20,600	\$23,600	\$3,000	
TOTAL OPER. AND MAINT.PLANT	\$2,496,742	\$2,672,106	\$2,711,510	\$2,966,630	\$294,524	11.02%
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SV						
STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SV	\$1,285,046	\$1,494,718	\$1,494,718	\$1,539,560	\$44,841	
TOTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SV	\$1,285,046	\$1,494,718	\$1,494,718	\$1,539,560	\$44,841	3.00%
STUDENT TRANS-OTHER						
STUDENT TRANS-FIELD TRIPS	\$37,522	\$44,805	\$44,805	\$45,105	\$300	
TOTAL STUDENT TRANS-OTHER	\$37,522	\$44,805	\$44,805	\$45,105	\$300	0.67%
DEBT SERVICE						
REDEMPTION OF PRINCIPAL	\$1,376,690	\$926,910	\$926,910	\$927,136	\$226	
INTEREST LONG TERM DEBT	\$288,507	\$314,414	\$314,414	\$296,024	-\$18,390	
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	\$1,665,197	\$1,241,324	\$1,241,324	\$1,223,160	-\$18,164	-1.46%

WCUUSD Budget 2021-2022 vs. Budget 2020-2021

DESCRIPTION	Actual 2020	Budget 2021	Projected 2021	Budget 2022	Increase (Decrease)	Budget 22/ Budget 21
EXPENSES (continued)						
FUND TRANSFER OUT						
FUND TRANSFER-CAPITAL	\$1,116,012	\$706,522	\$706,522	\$725,000	\$18,478	
FUND TRANSFER-FOOD SERVICE	\$109,403	\$149,115	\$149,115	\$149,115	\$0	
FUND TRANSFER-CMTY CONNECTIONS	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0	
TOTAL TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS	\$1,225,415	\$895,637	\$895,637	\$914,115	\$18,478	2.06%
SUPPORT PROGRAMS-SPECIAL EDUCATION						
STATE PLACED STUDENT COSTS W/504	\$363,250	\$508,303	\$247,069	\$270,000	-\$238,303	
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$3,646,400	\$4,131,241	\$3,911,438	\$4,301,233	\$169,992	
EXTRAORDINARY PROGRAM	\$1,266,998	\$1,477,928	\$1,452,735	\$1,529,214	\$51,286	
SUMMER PROGRAM	\$120,405	\$124,418	\$43,220	\$110,146	-\$14,272	
ZENITH (W/O CLASSROOM TEACHERS)	\$164,727	\$196,056	\$173,078	\$167,080	-\$28,976	
PSYCHOLOGICAL SVCS (INCL SUMMER)	\$144,308	\$158,653	\$166,444	\$168,526	\$9,873	
SLP SERVICES	\$506,571	\$536,681	\$531,802	\$534,706	-\$1,975	
OT SERVICES	\$26,894	\$33,492	\$31,878	\$28,780	-\$4,712	
PT SERVICES	\$0	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$0	
TRANSPORTATION (NOT SUMMER)	\$54,961	\$69,179	\$69,179	\$58,179	-\$11,000	
TOTAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS-SPEC ED	\$6,294,514	\$7,246,451	\$6,637,343	\$7,178,364	-\$68,087	-0.94%
SPED ADMINISTRATION						
SALARIES	\$256,087	\$240,447	\$292,529	\$298,730	\$58,283	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$77,744	\$82,194	\$69,613	\$71,785	-\$10,409	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$4,561	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	
INSURANCE	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	
COMMUNICATIONS	\$4,775	\$4,775	\$4,775	\$4,775	\$0	
ADVERTISING	\$243	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0	
TRAVEL	\$1,117	\$2,450	\$2,450	\$2,450	\$0	
SUPPLIES	\$3,848	\$5,300	\$5,300	\$4,446	-\$854	
SUPPLIES-SOFTWARE	\$5,654	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$6,000	\$1,200	
DUES AND FEES	\$610	\$600	\$600	\$645	\$45	
TOTAL SPED ADMINISTRATION	\$358,139	\$351,566	\$391,067	\$399,831	\$48,265	13.73%
SUBTOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION PRGM	\$6,652,653	\$7,598,017	\$7,028,410	\$7,578,195	-\$19,822	-0.26%
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER						
SALARIES	\$56,769	\$57,550	\$57,550	\$59,277	\$1,727	
MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS	\$16,093	\$24,925	\$35,323	\$27,140	\$2,215	
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
TRAVEL	\$1,373	\$933	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$67	
TOTAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER	\$74,235	\$83,408	\$94,873	\$88,417	\$5,009	6.01%
CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES						
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$637,875	\$774,537	\$771,687	\$723,902	-\$50,635	
TOTAL COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	\$637,875	\$774,537	\$771,687	\$723,902	-\$50,635	-6.54%
COVID-19 EXPENSES-REIMBURSED BY CRF FUNDS						
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES	\$111,847	\$0	\$2,317,476	\$0	\$0	
TOTAL COVID-19 EXPENSES	\$111,847	\$0	\$2,317,476	\$0	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,827,421	\$35,430,502	\$36,726,044	\$34,984,949	-\$445,553	-1.26%

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- WCUUSD audit reports can be found on the website: <https://www.wcsu32.org/Page/1259>
- WCUUSD Faculty and Staff salaries can be found on the Human Resources section of the website: <https://www.wcsu32.org/Page/1331>

Tax Rate Projections Using Budget 2021-2022

TOWNS	Common Level of Appraisal	Tax Rates FY20-21	Tax Rates FY21-22	Increase (Decrease)
BERLIN	108.77%	\$1.723	\$1.669	(\$0.054)
CALAIS	93.93%	\$1.857	\$1.932	\$0.075
EAST MONTPELIER	94.18%	\$1.893	\$1.927	\$0.034
MIDDLESEX	95.89%	\$1.795	\$1.893	\$0.098
WORCESTER	99.55%	\$1.770	\$1.823	\$0.053

NOTE: All towns start with an equalized tax rate of \$1.8149. The local Common Level of Appraisal impacts the actual tax rate, which is why the amounts differ by town.

Treasurer's Report

Title 16 V.S.A., Section 706j(3) mandates the election of a treasurer for union school districts.

The citizens of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester must elect a Treasurer and approve a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The financial dictates of the voters are carried out by the Washington Central Unified Union School District Business Office.

The Washington Central Unified Union School District's financial records have been maintained in an appropriate and satisfactory manner. The Treasurer's Report is submitted in accordance with Section 706q of the same statute.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Ormsby
WCUUSD Treasurer

Services for Children with Disabilities

Attention residents of Berlin, Calais, East Montpelier, Middlesex and Worcester:

Washington Central Unified Union School District (WCUUSD) offers special education services to eligible children three through 21, and early intervention for children birth to age three.

Eligible students with disabilities are entitled to receive a free, appropriate, public education.

WCUUSD may not be aware of all resident children and youth with a disability. If you know of a child who has a disability and is not in school, homeless, attending an independent school, enrolled in home study or not otherwise being educated at public expense, please notify us by contacting your local school principal or by calling 802-229-0553, ext. 1303, or writing: Kelly Bushey, Director of Special Services, Washington Central Unified Union School District, 1130 Gallison Hill Road, Montpelier, VT 05602

A copy of this notification, as well as other supporting information regarding the WCUUSD Special Education Program, can be found on our website at: <https://www.wcsu32.org>

Three Prior Years Comparisons – Format as Provided by AOE

District: **Washington Central UUSD**
 SU: **Washington Central**

U092
 Washington County

Property dollar
equivalent yield

10,763

Homestead tax rate per
\$10,763 of spending per
equalized pupil

1.00

Income dollar equivalent yield per 2.0%
of household income

12,825

		FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	
Expenditures						
1.	Adopted or warned union district budget (including special programs and full technical center expenditures)	-	\$33,854,769	\$35,430,502	\$34,984,949	1.
2.	plus Sum of separately warned articles passed at union district meeting	-	-	-	-	2.
3.	Adopted or warned union district budget plus articles	-	\$33,854,769	\$35,430,502	\$34,984,949	3.
4.	plus Obligation to a Regional Technical Center School District if any	-	-	-	-	4.
5.	plus Prior year deficit repayment of deficit	-	-	-	-	5.
6.	Total Union Budget	-	\$33,854,769	\$35,430,502	\$34,984,949	6.
7.	S.U. assessment (included in union budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	7.
8.	Prior year deficit reduction (if included in union expenditure budget) - informational data	-	-	-	-	8.
Revenues						
9.	Union revenues (categorical grants, donations, tuitions, surplus, federal, etc.)	-	\$6,763,339	\$7,292,612	\$7,202,463	9.
10.	Total offsetting union revenues	-	\$6,763,339	\$7,292,612	\$7,202,463	10.
11.	Education Spending	-	\$27,091,430	\$28,137,890	\$27,782,486	11.
12.	Washington Central UUSD equalized pupils	-	1,452.05	1,440.65	1,422.30	12.
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil						
13.		-	\$18,657.37	\$19,531.39	\$19,533.49	13.
14.	minus Less net eligible construction costs (or P&I) per equalized pupil	-	\$1,090.02	\$784.02	\$785	14.
15.	minus Less share of SpEd costs in excess of \$60,000 for an individual (per eqpup)	-	\$19.34	\$43.12	\$31	15.
16.	minus Less amount of deficit if deficit is SOLELY attributable to tuitions paid to public schools for grades the district does not operate for new students who moved to the district after the budget was passed (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	16.
17.	minus Less SpEd costs if excess is solely attributable to new SpEd spending if district has 20 or fewer equalized pupils (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	17.
18.	minus Estimated costs of new students after census period (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	18.
19.	minus Total tuitions if tuitioning ALL K-12 unless electorate has approved tuitions greater than average announced tuition (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	19.
20.	minus Less planning costs for merger of small schools (per eqpup)	-	-	-	-	20.
21.	minus Teacher retirement assessment for new members of Vermont State Teachers' Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015 (per eqpup)	-	-	-	\$91	21.
22.	Excess spending threshold	threshold = \$17,816	\$17,816.00	\$18,311.00	\$18,756.00	22.
23.	plus Excess Spending per Equalized Pupil over threshold (if any)	-	-	-	-	23.
24.	Per pupil figure used for calculating District Equalized Tax Rate	-	\$18,657	\$19,531	\$19,533.49	24.
25.	Union spending adjustment (minimum of 100%)	-	175.219%	177.590%	181.487%	25.
		based on yield \$10,220	based on yield \$10,648	based on \$10,998	based on yield \$10,763	
26.	Anticipated equalized union homestead tax rate to be prorated [(\$19,533.49 ÷ \$10,763 / \$1.00)]	-	\$1.7522	\$1.7759	\$1.8149	26.
		based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	based on \$1.00	
Prorated homestead union tax rates for members of Washington Central UUSD						
		FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY22 %
T019	Berlin	1.7091	1.7522	1.7759	1.8149	100.00%
T039	Calais	1.6681	1.7522	1.7759	1.8149	100.00%
T065	East Montpelier	1.8416	1.7522	1.7759	1.8149	100.00%
T124	Middlesex	1.8322	1.7522	1.7759	1.8149	100.00%
T254	Worcester	1.7277	1.7522	1.7759	1.8149	100.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
27.	Anticipated income cap percent to be prorated from Washington Central UUSD [(\$19,533.49 ÷ \$12,825) x 2.00%]	0.00%	2.85%	2.89%	3.05%	27.
		based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	based on 2.00%	
Prorated union income cap percentage for members of Washington Central UUSD						
		FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY22 %
T019	Berlin	2.82%	2.85%	2.89%	3.05%	100.00%
T039	Calais	2.76%	2.85%	2.89%	3.05%	100.00%
T065	East Montpelier	3.04%	2.85%	2.89%	3.05%	100.00%
T124	Middlesex	3.03%	2.85%	2.89%	3.05%	100.00%
T254	Worcester	2.86%	2.85%	2.89%	3.05%	100.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%
		-	-	-	-	0.00%

- Following current statute, the Tax Commissioner recommended a property yield of \$10,763 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value. The Tax Commissioner also recommended an income yield of \$12,825 for a base income percent of 2.0% and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.73. **New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.**
 - Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.
 - The base income percentage cap is 2.0%.

Washington Central Unified Union School District Community

Washington Central Unified Union School District

1130 Gallison Hill Road
Montpelier VT 05602
Ph: 802-229-0553 | Fax: 802-229-2761

Berlin Elementary School

372 Paine Turnpike North
Berlin, VT 05602
Ph: 802-223-2796 | Fax: 802-229-0222

Calais Elementary School

321 Lightening Ridge Rd
Plainfield, VT 05667
Ph: 802-454-7777 | Fax: 802-454-1580

Doty Memorial School

24 Calais Road
Worcester, VT 05682
Ph: 802-223-5656 | Fax: 802-223-0261

East Montpelier Elementary

665 Vincent Flats Rd
East Montpelier, VT 05651
Ph: (802) 223-7936 | Fax: (802) 223-3736

Rumney Memorial School

433 Shady Rill Road
Middlesex, VT 05602
Ph: 802-223-5429 | Fax: 802-223-0750

U-32 Middle & High School

930 Gallison Hill Road
Montpelier, VT 05602
Ph: 802-229-0321 | Fax: 802-223-7411



Remember to Vote!

Vote by Australian ballot
on Town Meeting Day,
Tuesday, March 2, 2021

See page 21 for your local polling place.



Washington Central
Unified Union School District
1130 Gallison Hill
Montpelier, VT 05602

wcsu32.org

