

SAU70 2023 Survey Free-Text Answers: Ray School Only

SAU70 Comprehensive Family Costs Survey May 2023

Based on 556 completed surveys

Free-Text Answers

Select portions redacted to eliminate potential identifying information for individuals. Each redacted word is replaced by four asterisks: ****.

Only free-text response questions are included in this document.

Some respondents wrote free-text answers similar to “No”, “None”, and “Nothing”. Answers like these are not present in this document; these are the differences in counts between “# Responses” and “# Specific Responses” below.

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Total	--	3,769	2,570	574	--

Q02: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q01: Did the perceived quality of the SAU70 schools have an impact on your decision to live specifically in Hanover or Norwich?*

169 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 123 answers → 28 Ray answers

1. I prefer other school systems but my **** * here and its a good school, so not worth the arguing.
2. We moved to the region for several reasons but bought our home based on the school district.
3. It was a major consideration
4. Peace place to live around

5. The quality of the schools is a primary reason that we chose to live here because we don't want to have to send our kids to private school for a quality education.
6. The schools are the only reason the high property values and real property taxes make sense.
7. We moved here for the schools, there was really no other reason. We used to live in Lebanon.
8. I chose to move my family from Lebanon to Hanover so my kids could attend the school districts in Hanover and Norwich.
9. Reputation speaks a lot; curriculum and academic structure are good in SAU
10. Moved here from other UV town for the schools
11. Everyone kept saying that the Hanover schools were top notch but so far I think the elementary school we were in Boston was much better. My main issue is that the **** is not very present, doesn't know the kids or parents and I don't feel like the administration wants parent involvement.
12. Grew up in the area and have an affinity towards Hanover compared to other nearby towns :)
13. The Hanover school system offers an excellent education and my child has learned so much.
14. Moved to a Dartmouth rental, and then did not want to move kids once we got settled. Love Ray School.
15. SAU70 is long reputed for its strong school system & community
16. I previously lived in Lebanon, **** **** ****. My wife preferred to live in Hanover to allow the children to attend school in this school district. Another factor was that many of our child's friends would be in the school district as well.
17. Moved to Hanover specifically for the schools, but in the Upper Valley area generally because of Dartmouth
18. The schools aren't the reason we're in the Upper Valley, but it is the reason we chose Hanover.
19. good school system
20. I looked up schools next to Harvard, Brown and DH and moved here mostly because of schools.
21. I also work in the district so logistically living in district helps navigate family life.
22. The schools changed a lot since 2017 when we toured all 3 Hanover schools. I am not sure if we would have decided on Hanover if it was a question today. Too many negative changes happened since the pandemic. We still have 2 kids in the SAU and hope that there will be a return to the previously experienced quality of educational service.
23. We are prioritizing the school district for our kids, which is a huge financial decision.
24. Ray School is a high ranking school in NH.
25. It was very important to us to be in the best school district possible.
26. When we bought our house we wanted to be in this school district
27. Moved here for high-quality schools that allow for differentiation
28. Before children we lived in another UV location but once our kids were school age, we wanted to be in Hanover schools

Q04: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know.

Re Q03: Generally, is living in Hanover or Norwich financially challenging for your family?

180 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 141 answers → 32 Ray answers

1. Taxes are really high.
2. It is not common concern now but I do worry about what would happen if my job changed and we could no longer afford our mortgage.
3. We rent, but could not afford to buy here
4. We both work highly educated and professional jobs, and are stretched thin with the cost of housing, childcare, and general cost of living.
5. The recent real property reassessments were challenging. My real property taxes increased by 33%.
6. It is not a challenge for our family, however we are extremely fortunate and have good remote employment that afford us to live here. Relative to employment opportunities in the area the cost of living in the UV is a considerable concern in terms of creating a culturally and economically diverse community.
7. We sacrifice to live here, but not at the expense of retirement and savings. We do less travel than we might otherwise and drive old/less expensive cars that we otherwise would.
8. We are a dual-income household who does struggle at times and live very close to our margins. If it wasn't for credit cards, it would be challenging for us. I don't have a safety net when it comes to finances. It's just my spouse and I.
9. There have been times when my spouse and I who earn salaries have lived pay check to pay or had less then \$1k in our bank account. We have had lean times. We are the classic house rich cash poor family.
10. High tax rates.
11. Housing prices are exponentially growing and there is no new construction. This could be challenging for young families with the kids who are starting their professional careers but do not have bandwidth to afford a decent housing
12. There can be some pressure to volunteer either time or money which is t always feasible.
13. There is no housing in Hanover and the fee homes that come on sale are priced so high that it makes me want to move back to MA. I look at home prices in **** MA compared to Hanover and you get a better home in MA than here.
14. We feel fortunate to have purchased our home when we did (2018), it'd be much harder for us to afford it today. We find student enrichment activities and camps (and daycare) are some of our most significant costs.

15. We own our home, but would not be able to afford to move to another home in town
16. Hanover is financially feasible for us but not for many, and that continues to be something we think about relative to SAU70. Economic diversity and diversity of opportunity is important to us, including supporting others.
17. Initially problematic, but now in a (hopefully solid) financial groove
18. Initial start-up issues were challenging in the first year, but (hopefully) we're stabilized now
19. Housing is so expensive!
20. Housing costs are a huge challenge for our family. We began looking for a home in Feb of 2020, and watched in dismay as the costs kept rising. Both of the adults in our family work full time in good jobs (one at the College, one freelance) and it's still not enough for housing.
21. Getting a house here seems to be the biggest hurdle; there doesn't seem to be any other financial hurdles beyond housing
22. It wasn't until housing market blew up. I couldn't buy a house in this market.
23. I live with my family in **** * so my children can attend SAU 70 schools. It's not ideal actually, it stinks. There is no housing to purchase that our family can afford in the school system towns and it's a logistical nightmare getting my kids to school after I would need to be at school **** * . Lucky for us, I have **** * house we can live in.
24. Hanover is expensive!
25. Cost of living is higher than near by places.
26. Very high rent
27. We bought our house in 2014 (in Hanover) and probably could not repeat that today (we would be priced out).
28. The cost of housing is exorbitant
29. Childcare costs are very high.
30. The cost of living and the expectation of wealth is a challenge as well as having to work and take time off to attend school functions that could be held after hours.
31. Property taxes are high. Contractors often charge more in Hanover.
32. This is a very affluent community, wherein sometimes the rate becomes the norm and it is hard to reconcile

Q06: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know.

Re Q05: Have you ever used a supplementary private educational service for your child, such as one-on-one tutoring or group-based lessons, for subjects also taught in school, such as math, reading, or writing? Please select all that apply.

197 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 160 answers → 28 Ray answers

1. Our daughter has ****, **** and a poor **** ****. We didn't feel her needs were being met at school so we are supplementing with after school private tutoring sessions.
2. Speech
3. The curriculum isn't enforced; teachers are free to teach what they want. This creates asymmetrical learning opportunities between classrooms, even classrooms in the same grade.
4. Logistically challenging and limited local options. Mostly to augment and supplement child's interests and or needs.
5. ongoing private tutor for spelling
6. But we have tried to add supplementary online resource.
7. My child is a year behind in math (in **** grade) and could benefit from tutoring. **** teacher has been really disengaged this year and hasn't been interested in adapting to my **** needs.
8. My child receives additional help in school for 2 subjects and if s/he continues to need such services, I will likely secure private tutoring despite it being financially and logistically prohibitive.
9. Our child received reading support in school from K through 3rd grade. While it was helpful, it was not sufficient so we supplemented this with weekly private one on one tutoring. After incurring this substantial cost for several years, my child is now at the appropriate reading level and enjoys reading but it took substantial financial and time resources.
10. Kumon for math and reading
11. Used to be that advanced math was offered to students in 4th and 5th grade that were excelling in math. The teachers would correct it and give feedback. Now I was told to buy the books myself and spend time correcting it myself. That is frustrating.
12. My daughter goes to Kumon program. There is no one on one tutoring but have some support and structured program

13. I would like to because the Ray school doesn't seem to be pushing the kids along or giving homework. The lack of tests they have make it difficult to know where they stand academically. Private tutor would help resolve that
14. There is so much pressure in Hanover to be excellent. Parents always say that they don't care but all the kids are taking extra math courses, reading camps, sports are another pressure point. It's a bit of a crazy town with academics and sports.
15. Always good to have extra support!
16. Mathnasium
17. I expected a greater focus (and progress) on learning to read in Kindergarten this year.
18. We do have some concerns with the curriculum that the school district is forced to use, as part of the public school system.
19. My kid is a bit behind on one subject and gets supplementary stuff in the school. The personnel say that they don't think there's any long-term concern, but the internal pressure is there. "Am I being a good parent if I get my child supplementary teaching to help them catch up, but I'm choosing not to due to costs and logistics?" It's hard to face the mirror on this sometimes.
20. Reading help for about 2 years
21. My kid is very gifted. And we're Asian. **** gets enough of that at home.
22. After the pandemic one of our children at Ray School needed a lot of catching up in ****. We were remote during the pandemic school year and the online option was very poorly designed and the teachers were not at all supported by the school. Our child's **** score plummeted on the year end testing the following year and we requested some assistance in the **** grade (the beginning of the current school year). We were told that there is no staff allocated for this kind of support anymore.
23. **** tutor specifically trained in **** ****
24. We believed that the education provided by the school is so far enough.
25. Kumon
26. Math can be more challenging. It is too easy for an average kid. The school should provide enrichment program like extra worksheets and homework
27. It was very costly but much needed.
28. Attends math enrichment to access more rigorous material

Q08: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know.

Re Q07: Philosophically, do you feel that taxpayers should pay for the costs of these supplementary private educational activities for subjects taught in school, or should costs be borne out by participating students and their families?

210 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 173 answers → 29 Ray answers

1. Taxes are really high. It is not appropriate to push additional cost burden on tax-payers.
2. I havent really ever thought about this- always assumed it should be families paying for kids
3. The elementary school does a great job of supplementing what students need, from my experience.
4. Students shouldn't have to pay for tutoring to get an A. Getting an A should be attainable without parent's money. Extra hours should be available to everyone even people performing above grade level.
5. Subsidies for financially challenged families is reasonable when there is a demonstrated need for assistance. However, I feel that the district provides significant resources for families.
6. The Hanover schools already provide comprehensive services. Extra services MUST be the responsibility of the families. Students are NOT entitled to extra-curricular academic services.
7. If the academic needs are not being met, through school based education , then yes.
8. I think it should be covered 100% for individuals qualifying for free/reduced lunch and only if it's necessary to keep students at grade level. Supplemental tutoring to provide "advanced opportunities" for students should be 100% supported by the family.
9. As a community, I think it's important to support all families. I think you could have a sliding scale fee system with waived or reduced fees based on need.
10. Subsidized for children with IEP's or demonstrated financial need.
11. I think it should also be sliding scale, where families who are struggling get more financial support than other families. Perhaps a sliding scale.
12. Extra tutoring should be available for kids who need it. Some families may want to spend a lot more.
13. Tax payers are not social welfare workers

14. I think taxpayers should only pay for services that help kids who are performing below grade level. I have such a child and pay \$65/week for additional reading and writing tutoring.
15. students need to be challenged
16. I think school is where you should learn and extra curricular should be for fun but this town is a little crazy and kids feel so much pressure to keep up. I don't want to supplement but my kids beg me because their friends are all in accelerated math classes
17. If it helps students keep up to grade level, school should pay. If it is just because of person interest, family should pay.
18. This is a complex issues fraught with broader challenges. School budgets SHOULD be able to provide supplemental services for students needing such interventions without additional taxpayer support.
19. I think my wife would have preferred to send the children to a private school system, but we could not justify the loss of taxes that we would still continue to pay towards the public school system. If we were allowed to deduct this amount from our taxes, I think our child would be in private school instead.
20. This is solely dependent on goals. Are the children at grade-level etc.
21. Some quick scheming/gaming would likely occur if taxpayers took this on 100%
22. If a child needs extra help on something taught in school, then I think the school should provide that assistance using taxpayer dollars
23. I'm not certain about this answer. My perception is that SAU70 schools are exceptional, and have the resources to meet any additional needs for students who need support. But: in the case of families who do not have the financial resources for a perceived need for private tutoring outside of the district, I'm not certain what the right answer is.
24. Because parents need to invest time in their kids education. There's literally nobody in Hanover who's not educated.
25. The supplementary nature of the support I am thinking of is due to the schools lack of support from the previous years. Our child is a hard working student but the school did not provide a full time teacher for her class during the pandemic. This was true to all **** of our children who were remote during the pandemic school year. The SAU shamefully dropped the ball at all three Hanover schools. The right thing would have been to say that the schools are not able to provide adequate education in the remote format.
26. It is a private matter .
27. Perhaps local services could be approached to offer scholarships
28. My child is on an IEP and I don't believe that **** is really getting the full extent of services that **** needs/requires. Very disappointing.
29. The district is required to educate all children, and I believe Dresden to have resources beyond most other districts to accommodate for these needs during the school day.

Q10: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know.

Re Q09: Have you ever used a supplementary educational service for your child, such as one-on-one tutoring or group-based lessons, for supplementary academic subjects that are not taught in your school, such as coding or additional languages not currently taught? Please select all that apply. Note that we are not referring to subject-based camps that occur only during summer or vacation breaks.

129 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 90 answers
→ 21 Ray answers

1. robotics and programing and math
2. Have had good extra support through IEP for our sim requiring additional reading support.
3. Private classes for additional language
4. My child has expressed interest in additional classes but honestly, they are very expensive and hard to get to during the work day.
5. I thought about robotics but it's expensive and logistically cost prohibitive.
6. Robotics
7. Robotix
8. Language classes.
9. Language
10. STEM robotix
11. Maybe when the kid is older, but a little young to pursue this yet (at least, young to me; I'm guessing there are Hanover kindergarteners already in intensive supplementary academics)
12. Would love to do more/different languages if we had the means and time. Coding, too
13. My child does take music lessons at the Upper Valley Music Center, but I'm not sure if that applies to this question?
14. STEM coding
15. We already do private tutoring for reading and math, and cannot afford to do more out of pocket
16. Violin
17. Private piano lessons

18. STEM
19. Language (****) and coding
20. Music, instruments
21. Our daughter is enrolled in private piano and music reading lessons to supplement her weekly music special.

Q12: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know.

Re Q10: If your child has an IEP or 504 plan, do you supplement this plan with private services?

114 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 67 answers
→ 11 Ray answers

1. I strongly feel the **** services are inadequate at ray school, really upset my child should have qualified, just barely missed the cut off. Only **** percent understandable in **** grade. When denied services, we were offered a friend of the **** ****, who didn't take insurance. Instead we found private **** with insurance. We're not even told that option!
2. She has a new IEP, not sure if we'll need additional services on top of that next year.
3. I know families on IEP who receive round the clock aide while in school but still need to supplement with weekly services because what the school provides while good is simply not sufficient. It is a burden for them time and cost-wise. Both parents work full time and have had to take time off from work regularly. This also had adverse career ramifications.
4. Kumon reading
5. I pay for additional reading and writing tutoring - \$65/week
6. More help needed for ADHD and social skills. Need Camp Coyote back
7. The middle school does a great job with food allergies but the Ray school needs some serious training. There is a lot of talk about diversity and inclusion but it's all talk. Kids with food allergies are excluded and if you say something, you're the problem. The food services provided at the Ray school are so dangerous for kids with food allergies, you can't trust what's on the website and foods have common allergens almost everyday of the week without any option for meals without common allergens. The middle school does a much better job. The person in charge makes meals that most kids can have.
8. My child has a IEP and would benefit from supplemental services; however, the district does not pay or offer after-school services.
9. Private tutoring with an **** **** specialist

10. My Child with recent IEP: considering summer tutoring to avoid having an IEP at RMS. Stigma attached to those students but being segregated even as a homeroom
11. We currently do not have supplemental services that I believe she needs but it is cost prohibitive.

Q14: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know.

Re Q13: Does your child currently receive mental health and/or behavioral health services?

107 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 63 answers
→ 13 Ray answers

1. Therapy
2. The school provides services that meet our family's needs.
3. Minimal support through school guidance counselor for anxiety, not significant enough for additional intervention.
4. It was very, very hard to find. Once I mentioned **** was finally in counseling, the school came forward with additional resources that would have been helpful months ago.
5. She does not have a mental health disorder but is seeing someone due to the **** ****
**** **** **** ****.
6. I pay \$200 every other week to visit a psychologist that is not covered by health insurance.
7. The pandemic pushed many kids over the edge and anxiety is a real problem. Wish the school would have a therapist on site.
8. I had very minor concerns at the preschool phase, but I don't think there's a need currently.
9. My kids seem fine on this, but there appear to be many anecdotes in my social circle of folks struggling with this, particularly costs and availability of providers
10. I can't find anyone locally that has openings for my child. The only therapists with available appointments don't take insurance and I can not afford to pay out of pocket. If there is one thing the schools should make more available to families, it's mental health care.
11. These services were highly beneficial and my child no longer needs them at this time.
12. One-off help with anxiety issues related to child's ****
13. It's very difficult to find child therapists for young children in the Upper Valley.

Q16: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know.

Re Q15: Does your child have difficulty obtaining nutritious meals?

97 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 52 answers
→ 13 Ray answers

1. The quality of the meals served at the Ray School cafeteria has declined notably in the past several years. We generally send our kids with food to ensure they have a nutritious meal.
2. Ideally would like to see more healthy, local and organic, healthy foods in school. We limit school meals because many options include highly processed foods of low quality and are a lack of regional/ local sourcing remains a consideration.
3. School lunch should be free for all students. We can afford it no problem, but as a free lunch kid myself, it was incredibly stigmatizing. Make it free for everyone and no one has to worry about being hungry.
4. I wish s/he had more variety but that's more a function of age and personality.
5. The child is picky!
6. Used to be more healthy options at Ray. All schools need more healthy options. Veggies! Roasted veggies, Fresh Kale chips, etc.
7. Working parents/ not a lot of time to prepare meals for several children.
8. Wish there were a greater range of healthy lunch options. Our student has ****, so limited range of what he'll currently eat, so we pack lunch but wish there were greater range. Ideal would be some incorporation of local farm to school.
9. I think the school lunches at Ray are not of good quality- not very healthy and too much repeating.
10. The quality of food provided at the Ray school is suboptimal for growing, learning kids.
11. I'm assuming that "pickiness" is not what the question is concerning
12. Im the only one who is making income.
13. I wish school meals were more nutritious, and I would pay the extra cost. The convenience of school meals is big.

Q18: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q17: Does your child have regular access at home to technologies or devices needed for educational purposes, such as internet access, a computer, a tablet, or a printer?*

104 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 62 answers
→ 14 Ray answers

1. The internet and screen time are a HUGE negative influence on my childrens' ability to focus and engage in real life. PLEASE keep screen time out of the curriculum. The current school assignments are requiring them to get ONLINE. This is unhealthy and not age appropriate for our **** and **** graders.
2. The schools provide all required technology.
3. Working to be very mindful of screen time and prefer hands on and experiential opportunities where and whenever possible. However recognize high value and appreciate high value and high quality technology options have to offer.
4. It's a challenge when multiple children need to use my laptop and I need to use it too for my own use including work. Sometimes this involves me using my laptop after s/he goes to bed as the kiddos come first.
5. If I am working on my laptop, I cannot always let my child use it. Sometimes we take turns.
6. Students at RAY and RMS should not be expected to have phones. This is especially a problem at RMS
7. More guidelines from school about age-appropriate technology and apps/etc. would be helpful, as would knowing what students are doing on tech in school.
8. We also use the free/low-cost technology available at the public library as needed for school work.
9. Our family also uses the free/low-cost technology provided through our public library (computer, printer, copier)
10. not much is needed, but my child has access when he does need it
11. At this point, there's not a great need for technology at home. I assume as my child gets older, there will be a greater need.
12. My kids are in grades **** & **** so at this point they do not use technology for outside of school educational purpose. When the time comes, they will have to share with me because I can not afford to purchase these items.
13. We have a young child, so no real need for this yet

14. I think we should limit as much as possible exposure of children to screens in elementary school, so I don't favor accesses to online tools at this age, even when labeled educational tools.

Q20: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q19: During this 2022-2023 academic year, does your child participate in organized afterschool athletic activities of some sort? Please select all that apply. Note that we are not referring to subject-based camps that occur only during summer or vacation breaks.*

125 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 92 answers
→ 23 Ray answers

1. Please DE Emphasize SPORTS. Travel teams for grade school children is INSANITY. Put a stop to this NONSENSE and refocus childrens' time and attention.
2. There are no organized sports at the elementary school.
3. He learns swimming, ****, and soccer.
4. Ford Sayre Nordic and UVAC swim lessons
5. My child has done basketball and baseball and while s/he enjoys them, practices and games are scheduled with the assumption that there is a stay at home parent that can chauffeur the kid to practice and games. Who has the financial and time resources to do this? My spouse and I make it work but its not without difficulty. It would be nice if the schools had school-sponsored and/or related programs instead of having to either go through parks and recreation or private leagues. I know there are families who would theoretically like to participate in such sports but for various reasons cannot or chose not to for the reasons I mentioned. It's truly a shame. Kids who don't have access to the same resources get left behind.
6. We do parks and rec for soccer and basketball and private league for baseball and basketball. Our child loves baseball and basketball and in order for them to possibly play at the high school level, this is what they need to do.
7. More options for sports you have never tried before would be nice - even martial arts, where you are not the only new child and so you feel at a disadvantage
8. The rec department does not seem to care about youth sports anymore. Which is sad. Most or all youth sports are now private because the town dropped the ball.

9. The middle school doesn't have teams but larva and Rec does. Wish there was another option for soccer all he round. Not everyone wants to do lightning; it's super expensive and super intense. Some kids would like to play all year round without the intensity of lightning
10. Participate in activities across the upper valley (arts, swimming, gymnastics, etc)
11. Wish the sports were part of school or right after school so parents weren't expected to drive.
12. HPR sports
13. I'm not aware of specific school-sponsored sports at Ray. If there are some, please publicize more!
14. club sports
15. Lightning soccer and Ford Sayre nordic skiing
16. I spent so much time reading to him. He doesn't want anything else! It's sad!
17. We have chosen to enroll our children in other much more costly programs since the Rec programs are limited and in my opinion some sports are very poorly run as the coaches are volunteer and have no guidance. There also aren't the offering available for my child's interest through the rec center (dance, higher level soccer, lacrosse, theatre, etc)
18. The town's Parks & Recreation department has activities and services that are essential to our family (including KAST).
19. We do a variety of after school activities
20. School sponsored sports would be preferred
21. Activities with schedules changing every season and even from one week to the next (e.g. games) are very difficult with both parents working and several children interested
22. **** participated in the Ford Sayre XC program and is on the downhill ski team at ****.
23. Lightning Soccer

Q22: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q21: Philosophically, do you feel that taxpayers should pay for the costs of these afterschool athletic activities, or should costs be borne out by participating students and their families?*

190 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 161 answers
→ 29 Ray answers

1. Taxes are really high. It is not appropriate to push additional cost burdens on tax-payers.

2. If we pay, there will continue to be more options. If tax payers pay, it seems like options would be limited
3. I think stronger rec center based programs would be the best solution. Better organization and paid coaches (i.e., not begging parents with full-time jobs and little coaching experience), would make these programs a more viable option and hopefully cut down on the perceived need to do Lightning soccer or private baseball at a huge expense of both time and money. There is a lot of pressure to join the travel teams and it is just too much for our family. But the rec leagues seem to phase out by the end of elementary school.
4. School based activities should be easily accessible for all families. Other outside activities should be borne by families.
5. School-sponsored sports and activities are a societal good that everyone should pay for.
6. Assuming they are available to all students within cohorts (for example, all high schoolers have access, or all 4th graders have access, etc.
7. It really depends. School-affiliated sports and parks and rec leagues can be covered by taxpayers, but high-performance travel teams (Lightning, Echo, Wild, even Ford Sayre) should be covered 100% by parents.
8. Sliding scale with waived or reduced fees based on need.
9. Again, sliding scale where fees are waived or reduced if families need it.
10. Personal commitment are needed with vested interest
11. My response is specific to Hanover P&R programs
12. Athletics is part of learning. Why are school plays funded, but soccer teams are not?
13. The town should provide appropriate and acceptable facilities. That is not the case currently. Town facilities are maintained by parent volunteers to make up for the town. The town also charges us rouse the gyms that we finance.
14. There should be scholarships available for families who need funding, but families who can pay should 100% pay.
15. I do believe financial support should be provided to families who cannot afford to participate, but this support doesn't necessarily need to come from taxes.
16. A lot of price variation by sport, subsidies/taxpayers might balance that out where it's based on interests/skills, rather than ability to pay
17. There's so much price variance by sport that it's hard to be consistent. But since certain sports have so much expensive buy-in, like skiing or rowing, there's a clear financial concern for student access equity issues unless the town gets involved
18. Families should be able to support non-school sponsored athletics. If there's financial need, then the clubs usually have assistance available
19. With both club organizations that we are involved in, scholarships are available for families with financial need. I do not feel that taxpayers should pay for club sports.
20. Taxpayers should pay to maintain fields and HPR staff but families should contribute to costs to have their kids play on a team
21. Some participation fees with scholarship opportunities for families to participate if middle income.
22. With the cost of living so high in Hanover, it seems like taxpayers could pay for some of these services.

23. Parks and Rec offerings should be subsidized for residents so more kids can participate. Private orgs should offer financial aid/scholarships
24. ski should be supplemented since it's one of the free outdoor activities available and should be subsidized.
25. For middle and high school sports
26. For school teams at middle and high school level
27. After school activities should not be cost prohibitive
28. Athletics are an important part of a child's social, emotional, and physical development. Without some district support (such as: free use of facilities), many of these activities would be cost prohibitive for families.
29. I think the middle school should have a sports program similar to all other areas schools

Q24: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q23: How do you feel about the additional costs of athletics to your family?*

**145 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 109 answers
→ 27 Ray answers**

1. Schools should have funding for families who request
2. I wish more activities happened at the school so there was not need for driving midday to practices
3. See above. Travel teams are expensive and time consuming, but feel like the only option, especially after 4th grade ish.
4. Our kids in the school system are in K and 1st grades, so are not participating in school based sports at this time.
5. What would school-age kids do without sports and other constructive activities?
6. Some activities are reasonable, others come with a high price tag.
7. It's tough but we make it work. I know others who cannot.
8. The logistics are hard too as we need to take time off from work, rearrange work schedules, or arrange transportation with other families to get to practice, games, etc.
9. I would say the cost seem high for private but reasonable for park and rec
10. It is soo inefficient to have to drive kids to different activities after school and often need to coach because it is only volunteer parent-coaches.
11. Before HHS it is nice if no sports on Sundays(This for HHS too) and no more than 3 times a week. That allows for more activities for students to try and also family time and also families to manage multiple children.
12. Same as the last few; the town doesn't provide any youth sports or decent facilities.

13. We just do HPR. I feel pressure to do more private leagues, but those are too hard financially and logistically.
14. bussing, schedule conflicts between rec and private athletics.
15. It's extremely expensive and we offset by ****. It's a problem that indoor sports pay very high fees to rent school facilities and that we cannot access indoor facilities at other times. Other towns have rec centers and it's not clear to me why we don't. The logistics of two kids doing sports while working depends on at least one parent having flexibility from 3 pm onwards and that creates serious inequities
16. My kid is probably too young for the super expensive stuff, but currently the prices are good
17. Some more info about the cumulative upfront costs before committing to some of these sports would have been helpful
18. Scholarships are available for many of these programs for needy families
19. We can pay for these costs ourselves, however many after school athletics programs offer scholarships to those who cannot afford them
20. We do request some scholarship for our kids to participate in club sports. Both organizations provide discounts for families in need of any amount of financial assistance.
21. We only do HPR athletics. Might be a different story for private athletic teams.
22. I wish there was an option-"we are able to pay them but they seem unreasonable."
23. might have to cut back on sports
24. Combination of registration costs and high costs of gear, particularly as new gear is needed every year as kids grow. It's tough living in an area where there are very expensive sports (e.g., skiing, hockey, or even travel teams) where for many the costs are likely a non-issue but some they are more so, but yet one doesn't want to deprive their child from such experiences that others have
25. Downhill skiing is increasingly expensive and logistics are difficult
26. Logistics is very difficult, especially with several children. Activities not needed or limiting parents involvement (happening just after school and walking distance from school, or with dedicated transportation) would be very valuable. Regular schedules throughout the year would also be a lot easier to navigate.
27. Ford Sayre ending at 4:30pm and the morning ski drop off is difficult for dual working parents.

Q26: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q25: During the 2022-2023 academic year, does your child participate in performing arts, such as music or theatre, of some sort? Please select all that apply. Note that we are not referring to subject-based camps that occur only summer or vacation breaks.*

122 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 83 answers
→ 26 Ray answers

1. Such a great opportunity!
2. Our kids are too young for school based programs
3. The arts are neglected by the district. It is unacceptable that chorus was cut at the Ray school and you still haven't hired for the band position.
4. He takes piano lessons
5. Upper valley music center
6. **** *. Wish we had theater for K-5 on a weekly basis in Hanover.
7. I looked at group lessons with a local music center and it was laughably expensive and logistically challenging for a working parent. I didn't even bring it up to my kid since I didn't want to say no and have them be disappointed.
8. It is a cost to rent an instrument annually and we have to consider how to get the instrument to school on a weekly basis. My child also has to practice the instrument daily and we rent it from a company which again is expensive. We looked at things like private group lessons but it was cost prohibitive.
9. My child takes dance lessons.
10. Ray is sad now - No Band, No chorus, no 5th grade play.
11. Sports activities are expensive in general. Rec is okay but everything else is incredibly expensive
12. Upper Valley Music Center kids chorus and private piano
13. Upper Valley Music Center
14. I haven't even thought to push this at my kid's young age, but perhaps I should! Will need to find some local resources on little kid acting and music
15. My kid does music during school hours, but does not take on additional music stuff at UVMC, both too expensive and too late at night
16. private free piano lessons by a family member
17. Upper Valley Music Center
18. We're trying theater, singing, acting and story telling at home.

19. I wish there were more opportunities for music and theatre at the elementary level through school or rec department.
20. We are very grateful for the strings program at the Ray School. When we moved here the 5th grade had band as well but it is currently not happening, which is unfortunate.
21. Violin through UVMC
22. she practiced violin
23. Private piano lessons
24. I don't really know what age appropriate arts programming is available for my child's age (grade 2)
25. She's not old enough, but wants to do this.
26. At Upper Valley Music Center

Q28: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q27: Philosophically, do you feel that taxpayers should pay for the costs of these performing arts activities, or should costs be borne out by participating students and their families?*

**143 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 107 answers
→ 24 Ray answers**

1. Taxes are really high. It is not appropriate to push additional cost burdens on tax-payers.
2. Overall, i would like to see more taxpayer \$\$ goong towards the arts.
3. I think the school-sponsored arts activities should be covered by school/tax payer but I think families should cover additional out-of-school time activities. Although, I would love more afterschool options that are arts-oriented through Parks and Rec.
4. I like the strings program being available at Ray. It would be great if it started earlier. Would also be great to have some theater opportunities at Ray.
5. School sponsored or based activities should be accessible to all families, but outside activities should be borne by the families that choose to participate.
6. School-sponsored activities are a societal good enjoyed by all, and should be paid for by all.
7. All school based extracurricular activities should be treated equally - theater is equal to sports in this way.
8. Theater and music opportunities offered on an after-school rec-like basis would be nice to cover partially, with a small fee coming from parents.
9. Sliding scale with no or reduced feed based on need.

10. Sliding scale with no or reduced fee based on need.
11. My response is specific to Hanover P&R programs
12. Should be included in lower levels to expose them to different things
13. in school yes 100% tax but out of school covered by families with some \$ for families that cant afford it
14. Again, for families who can't afford to have their child participate, there should be financial services.
15. Music lessons should be available during the school day for no cost. If people want to do additional outside of school, they should pay.
16. again, scholarships are usually available for non-school related performing arts activities and can be utilized by families in need of financial assistance
17. UVMC provides scholarships to families with financial need, so I do not feel that taxpayers should shoulder the financial responsibility for these experiences.
18. If it is in-school such as orchestra or band, I would expect taxpayers to pay for teacher/music room, etc. but would expect families to provide instrument rental fees.
19. scholarships need to be available for low and middle income families to support participation and off set taxpayer costs
20. Maybe parks and rec can expand offerings - or residents can be offered financial aid to certain orgs via taxpayer dollars
21. For school performances not private lessons
22. Only for school programs not private lessons
23. School sponsored activities should have financial aid for families that cannot afford (eg musical instrument rental)
24. Similar to Athletics, performing arts is an important part of the whole child development philosophy. Again, without some support, these programs are not feasible for some families.

Q30: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q29: How do you feel about the additional costs of performing arts to your family?*

107 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 61 answers
→ 16 Ray answers

1. The challenge is TIME and logistics.
2. I would like him to try out theater but it is quite expensive, so we have not enrolled.
3. They have interest but we do not participate due to cost and logistics.
4. See above, its also expensive to rent an instrument.

5. I'm grateful that we have the financial wiggle room to pay for additional arts and athletic opportunities for our kids.
6. Does not participate - not offered at Ray
7. these are quite expensive, but we are willing to pay them
8. *can be financially problematic to many
9. Music in particular builds up costs quickly
10. For us, music lessons are free because they are taught by a family member, but in theory, if we were paying for music lessons, they would require financial planning/budgeting
11. Music is incredibly important for our family, and we make a family financial decision for our kids to have excellent music instruction through the music center. But it does come at a financial cost.
12. we use the financial assistance program
13. There hasn't been any in grade 1. He's reading **** and he's interested in that and we have piano and guitar at home.
14. similar to response re: athletics. music lessons are extremely expensive, but we feel obligated to take on the financial burden for the enrichment of our child, especially seeing so many peers in these programs
15. She may as she gets older but it is not available right now
16. For context, we pay \$1200 per year for a 30 minute weekly private piano lesson. I suspect that is out of question for some families especially with more than one child.

Q32: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q31: During this 2022-2023 academic year, does your child participate in outside of school in other subject-specific activities not related to previous questions, such as robotics or art, of some sort? Please select all that apply. Note that we are not referring to subject-based camps that occur only during summer or vacation breaks.*

100 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 55 answers
→ 16 Ray answers

1. Logistics is part of challenge - also don't think kids need to be scheduled all the time - so we stick to one extra thing at a time
2. Sports keep us fully busy.
3. Stem robotix
4. Even though there is interest, we seek out free programs as again, it's too expensive financially and logistically.
5. Free resources in the community like open art studio
6. My child has taken classes at AVA after school
7. Robotix is expensive. Chess through Rec was very expensive
8. Here in Hanover you have to drive to get to activities. Everything is far in the upper valley. There is only one soccer club, one gymnastics, one theater place. Logistics are hard when things are far away
9. Great but \$ and logistical challenges
10. AVA Art classes
11. We do the free AVA stuff when we're available on weekends
12. We would love to do both art and robotics, probably others too, but only so much \$ and time to go around
13. We have a lot of learning toys like coding robots and we love to paint as a family. He's pretty good for his age at oils, pastels and acrylic.
14. art classes at The League of NH or Rec Center
15. Have to arrange private lessons, because child has **** parents and too complicated for logistics. Would be great if child could attend after-school, particularly when she ages out of KAST.
16. Robotics, coding

Q34: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q33: Philosophically, do you feel that taxpayers should pay for the costs of these other activities, or should costs be borne out by participating students and their families?*

**99 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 57 answers
→ 17 Ray answers**

1. Taxes are really high. It is not appropriate to push additional cost burdens on tax-payers.
2. Schools should have funding for families who request

3. Again, I think providing these within school is ideal. The real dream would be after school activities AT the school that offer some of this. Supplement KAST and build out strong programs for reasonable fees so that kids have opportunities and working parents are not required to transport kids during the work day.
4. School based activities should be accessible to all families, but costs of other activities should be borne by the families that choose to do them.
5. Schools should sponsor the activities, but costs of robotics and other hardware get expensive and the public contribution should be capped.
6. Same as sports and theater, assuming it is school based, it should be mostly covered by taxpayers to give all students equitable access.
7. If it's offered in conjunction with the school as an after-school activity once a week, it should be split between taxpayers and parents.
8. sliding scale with waived or reduced fees.
9. Sliding scale based on need where fees are waived or reduced.
10. My response is specific to Hanover P&R programs
11. Same as above - programs for families that can't afford these should be easy to apply to
12. Should be offered during school.
13. should be during school hours
14. Probably depends on the specifics of the "other"
15. Really depends on what the "other" is, of course.
16. If there is a possibility for the town to offer subsidies for extra curriculums, I think that would be a very wise investment in the youth
17. Again, facility fees could be waived.

Q36: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q35: How do you feel about the additional costs of these other activities to your family?*

65 responses. After removing "no" and similar answers → 21 answers
→ 7 answers

1. Hard to say what "reasonable" is. I value the time, effort, and expertise of the various teachers and coaches of extra-curricular activities (this goes for all categories). But we cannot afford for our children to do many of them.
2. Need more good employment and family support in the community, good cell and internet access with reliable coverage would help provide continuity while navigating logistics.
3. It's hard financially and logistically so we don't do them.

4. If my child wasn't in so many sports, I would think about something like art lessons.
5. The answers here are weird. We can afford the costs but they are very high and create inequities
6. I think it's probably cheaper to do it at individual level as all kids develop at a different level.
7. my child previously participated in robotics but cost is extremely high

Q38: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q37: During the recent April Spring Break, what did your child do during workday hours? Please select all that apply.*

129 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 99 answers
→ 17 Ray answers

1. HPR vacation camps are a much needed and appreciated service for our family!
2. Break activities fill up too fast, and are expensive.
3. Family vacation
4. Family outdoor extended mt bike and camping adventures. Experiential learning and family time was priority.
5. **** * runs amazing February/April break camps
6. It's expensive both financially and logistically. There is the cost of the camp both with the fees, wear and tear on my car, and taking time off from work and needing to rearrange my work schedule.
7. I had to take time off work and re-arrange my work schedule to drop and pick my child up from camp.
8. Where on earth would I find a care giver? We can't even access after school care!
9. traveled to see family members
10. we visited family out of state
11. KAST is awesome but families using it should pay for it themselves.
12. Roadtrip to stay with Uncle and cousins so my kids had something to talk about with their classmates that was special upon return from school vacation.
13. We are new to town and may have participated in a local camp if we were aware before planning for the school year.
14. Art camp at AVA gallery
15. I took time off to be home w my son
16. She attended the Hanover Parks & Rec Mini Camp
17. Hanover Parks and Rec vacation camp

Q40: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q39: Does providing caregiving or activities for your child during school breaks present challenges for your family?*

103 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 64 answers
→ 19 answers

1. Taking care of children takes a near full time person. I am divorced and take on this responsibility. It partially prevents me (or my ex) from maintaining a full-time job.
2. HPR camps are affordable. Other options are expensive and not abundant.
3. We manage them through by use of our nanny for our younger children for these times, or we plan to be together as a family. Childcare in general, combined with the cost of housing and living is financially difficult.
4. We have to modify our work schedules but we manage.
5. Additional child care in region for 2 working professional parents is logistically complicated in this area.
6. I work in the schools and generally have the same vacation days. On days I have to work and there is no school, my spouse works from home and spends the day with my child.
7. It's tough all around and hard on the budget though s/he loves the experience of camp.
8. We pay either way-if camp, we pay for the camp and also need to take time off to take the child to and from camp. If I take time off, I take the time off from work and then play catch up when I'm back in the office. In some ways, it's a losing proposition at least when it comes to my career. It's great for the kids though.
9. I no longer work professionally because it was too taxing on my family to have to take so much time off from work. It was very stressful / impractical to have two working parents without and expensive caregiver.
10. These camps are very expensive - happy to pay so our child doesn't sit at home, but it is not inexpensive
11. The costs for camps and similar during breaks is expensive and can be challenging for many families, but it's still significantly cheaper than preschool and daycare!
12. we have many options for these weeks, such as a parent taking time off work, a grandparent watching them, or many local camp options
13. We have many options for these weeks. A parent could choose to take time off work, a grandparent could watch them, or they could attend camp. We choose to send them to camp.

14. We usually travel over the kids school breaks, but if we don't, then the kids are home with us while we try to work.
15. I have to take time off and cancel a lot of patients.
16. I appreciate the camp offerings during vacation weeks
17. Having moved to the area from somewhere that did not have a February week off of school, these frequent breaks present logistical challenges for parents with school age children who require a caregiver at home. It means either time off of work (which is limited) or working from home remotely but not engaging with children
18. One parent works from home
19. Camps hours are often reduced compared to our working schedule and schedule the rest of the year

Q42: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q41: Does early Wednesday dismissal present challenges for your family?*

**120 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 86 answers
→ 27 Ray answers**

1. Thank goodness for KAST otherwise it would be a huge problem to provide childcare on Wednesdays.
2. We love early dismissal
3. We use kast, would be very hard if we didn't have a spot
4. HPR/KAST for the win again!
5. I have my kid in Kast because it's the only after school option. It's expensive but less expensive than a nanny so it's what I do. I need aftercare as a working parent. Fortunately, my child enjoys Kast and playing with friends.
6. Before KAST was available to kids my child's age, I had to work from home those days and/or take time off to meet the child at the bus. I've had to not schedule meetings during that time. I was glad when Kast was available to kids my child's age but Kast is also expensive.
7. Not too bad and early days are the best. Sometimes have to adjust our work schedule
8. There are great enrichment programs. Cost and logistics have been challenging, but we're making it work.
9. Kids go to KAST, so no real difference for us.
10. It really feels like SAU70 is set up for an era when a usually female parent was home. It's very hard to have two full time jobs in the frame allowed by school and after care options

11. Kast
12. It was hugely problematic until a slot opened up at KAST
13. Thanks to KAST. Please expand KAST. I know doctors who are having problems because of that.
14. Kast
15. We utilize the KAST program
16. Kids After School Program for Ray students is as much as the mortgage on my house! I don't have another option since my kids are too young to leave at home alone. Before school care is a challenge too.
17. We are hoping for a spot in KAST on Wednesdays next year. It's both a logistical issue (both parents working) and somewhat a financial obstacle
18. My wife is a house-wife
19. There is limited space in aftercare, especially on Wednesdays, which calls on us to leave work early (2pm). There is flexibility with work but it's still a difficult schedule. Might there be afterschool club or activities to help fill the time?
20. KAST coverage is key
21. Kast is a lifesaver
22. I don't quite understand the purpose of the short Wednesday school day. We have coverage now, but in the future as my children age out of KAST, the early dismissal may become more challenging
23. it's a little frustrating/annoying not having a consistent daily schedule. interestingly, our understanding was that this was done to accommodate after school ski lessons, yet in doing these for the first time this year, we found few Ray School kids partaking in lessons. the lack of a bus/shuttle from the school to the mountain creates a burden.
24. However, when child ages out of KAST, this will be a problem. Both parents work full time.
25. Children going to KAST
26. If KAST is not extended to older grades, once our daughter phases out, this could be a problem.
27. My child attends KAST ... hoping that he will be able to continue through 5th grade.

Q44: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q43: During the 2022-2023 academic year, do you anticipate that your child will travel (or be offered a travel opportunity) for school-sponsored activities that will cost additional money to you? Please select all that apply.*

101 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 60 answers
→ 6 Ray answers

1. The Spanish trip to NYC was VERY expensive.
2. I don't know
3. S/he had a field trip that fortunately did not cost anything extra.
4. My kid is probably too young for this to be an issue yet
5. The school canceled all travel opportunities
6. We only have young children at home so haven't dealt with this yet

Q46: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q45: How do you feel about the additional costs of this travel to your family?*

108 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 65 answers
→ 7 Ray answers

1. The trip to NYC was very expensive, but we paid for it and do NOT expect tax-payers to cover something like this.
2. I have concerns about equity. School sponsored activities should be accessible to all students, including those whose families do not have additional funds.
3. Cost should never keep a child from participating
4. I wish there were opportunities
5. We hope and plan to in the future. It may be financially challenging.
6. The logistics can be difficult for the families who have younger kids.

7. RMS language trips are very expensive

Q48: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q47: Philosophically, do you feel that taxpayers should for the costs of these school-sponsored travel activities, or should costs be borne out by participating students and their families?*

143 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 106 answers
→ 27 Ray answers

1. I think families should pay when they can. If they can't then the community should make sure the kids can still participate.
2. Taxes are really high. It is not appropriate to push additional cost burdens on tax-payers.
3. Schools should have funding for families who request
4. Not at this age yet, but I think taxpayer funds can/should be supplemented by student-led fundraisers. It should not be on parents to find expensive trips.
5. Taxpayers should pay for the events, but individuals should pay for additional activities.
6. Need based and some families may have hardship paying and participating.
7. I think that the expenses need evaluation before being offered through schools.
8. It would be nice to offer scholarships for students who can't afford to go. Plenty of families can afford the trips, but some cannot. When I was in HS, my entire AP English class went to London, but we couldn't afford it, so I didn't go. I was the only one and as a teenager, it was embarrassing because it was clearly a money issue. We should provide taxpayer-funded scholarships for free/reduced lunch kids and others who may financially struggle.
9. Sliding scale based on need.
10. Sliding scale based on need with waived or reduced fees.
11. Depends on the situation. Standard field trip school pays. Above and beyond and very specific to the kids involved then parents should have to put up a portion
12. If it is through school, it should be paid for by taxpayers.
13. *all of my responses intend to convey that there should be some subsidies (taxpayer, private, or otherwise) for families who cannot afford school-offered programming.
14. fund raising!
15. with financial support provided for those who would otherwise not be able to join
16. If it's school-sponsored, it should be free

17. Some participant fees for travel make sense, with a possibility to be free for folks that need it
18. Needy families should be offered scholarships/funds to help with expenses that are mandatory and school sponsored
19. Needy families should be provided financial assistance for school sponsored activities.
20. depends on the cost. Local field trips should be mostly covered by the school, but overseas trips taken by the high school may require more family contributions
21. This is a tricky question. If a student cannot attend due to financial constraints, then I believe that they should be offered financial support through the school, ie from taxpayers. But I don't know if there's a limit to the amount of funds for travel that can be given as scholarships to students.
22. I think funds should be available for students based on financial need
23. Travel for March Intensive is a choice. For some it is an opportunity that they don't have at home to do. I would push for funding these opportunities for children that don't have this opportunity at home and not provide the opportunity for the many families that travel the world on a regular basis.
24. They can hold fundraisers too
25. If some kids/families can't afford this, and SAU70 requires it, then SAU70 needs to find a reasonable way to help/solution
26. I have never been asked to pay more than 5 dollars. I think small costs are reasonable
27. My own K-12 school district had a Foundation, where twice per year, parents were asked to contribute any amount. These funds were used for things outside of the District's operating budget, including scholarships for families that needed help with the programs Dresden is evaluating. You can learn more about it here: ****

Q50: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q49: During the 2022-2023 academic year, were you asked to pay for the following additional school-related costs (not for outside organizations)? Please select all that apply.*

**103 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 64 answers
→ 20 answers**

1. Taxes are really high. It is not appropriate to push additional cost burdens on tax-payers.
2. When i see this list, it looks like a lot! But its part of having kids

3. Seems this is more geared for high school students. At Ray, there are many requests through the PTO to donate to this or that. It adds up through the year. But, seems this is minima compared to what is ahead!
4. We rented a ****
5. We were offered the opportunity to give money toward a class gift, but no pressure/expect.
6. Invisible fees add up. It's public school but there is potential to pay both in terms of time and money.
7. There is a lot of pressure from the community as a whole to volunteer your time and chip in your funds.
8. martial arts
9. Second grade student so not many options yet.
10. All felt very optional. Done in a very appropriate way
11. Not much currently, but this list just made me queasy thinking of when all this stuff hits when my kid gets to high and middle school
12. Lots of additional sports things we've paid, but I don't think those were technically through the schools
13. It is amazing how little money I am asked for compared to peers whose children attend public schools in other parts of the US. Many families are even asked to provide toilet paper and paper towels for regular classroom use.
14. The gift was clearly optional and not required
15. All of the items that I checked, we paid for but they were all OPTIONAL.
16. I wonder if this survey was for middle school. In 1st grade there's not much.
17. minimal at the elementary level but teacher's share their wishlists. Maybe they need a bigger budget so as things come up throughout the school year, they can purchase items for individual classroom needs.
18. The costs were not too high. My child is in kindergarten and I expect the costs to increase over his time in school.
19. PTO is frequently asking for donations - Haven, flowers, library books, used items, etc - I don't mind it and think they should be supporting the school. Maybe there is a way to lay everything out (all of the asks) ahead of school, so parents who can't afford to support every endeavor can pick and choose. I do think the work of the PTO is important and good - and supporting the Haven is good. Not asking for change here, just noting it.
20. this year in particular, it feels like there were too many times where we were asked to give or buy certain items here or there: birthday books, author signed books, treat, baked goods, flowers, etc. some of these are time consuming, some the costs seem a tad high. there also seems to be a pressure associated with these, because if we don't participate, it's apparent to our student who might not get an item or bring in an item. it's awkward and, while coming from a good place, feels exclusionary

Q52: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q51: Considering the previous list, approximately how much money do you think your family has spent on your child for these school-related purposes during this 2022-2023 academic year?*

97 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 61 answers
→ 12 Ray answers

1. I have **** children in Ray School and spent a few hundred on each per year for sports and fees.
2. Parents are asked to volunteer their time, donate supplies, finances, etc. Give and then give some more.
3. There is lots of pressure from other parents to donate funds or time. If you don't, it's frowned upon.
4. I have no problem with school-related costs of up to \$200, this seems reasonable. After that, I would want to understand the source of the costs and if it is something that the school / taxpayers should pay for.
5. violin rental is a big portion of this number.
6. About \$250 for Ray, not bad. Wish we had bnd - we would have rented an instrument
7. including Athletics
8. Going to probably be some big grade variation on this one
9. The \$500 to \$1000 was just for the instrument, if you throw in the sports not sponsored by the school, it's several thousand more
10. This amount was clearly optional
11. Teachers are often asking for us to bring snacks in for the class to have easier access to.
12. Violin rental (happy to rent if it means child can access lessons at school), classroom parties and teacher gifts (again, happy to contribute to these)

Q54: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q53: Considering the previous list, do you feel pressure to pay these costs, which are ostensibly “optional”? Please select all that apply.*

88 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 52 answers
→ 12 Ray answers

1. Kids come begging for birthday books, etc. There is definitely pressure, but we don't say yes to everything.
2. I feel shunned and feel like I'm treated as an outsider due to the fact that I'm not actively engaged with volunteering in some way through the school. My feeling of being an outsider is not related to being a person of color though that certainly does help with a feeling of belonging at times.
3. I work fulltime but sometimes feel guilty that I can't put in the time to volunteer in the school, be part of the PTA, or spend all of my free time or leave work early at 2:45 pm so that I can tutor my kid full time the way stay at home parents can.
4. I do not feel pressure, but also contributed more than the average share to a teacher appreciation gift because, as the organizer, I knew that not every family participated and wanted to get the gift amount to a round / meaningful number.
5. Never thought about it as pressure, just what it costs to have a child in activities
6. The teacher/coach gifts get pressure from other parents, particularly when it's led by a parent who can see who is and is not paying
7. The pressure to pay is not overt, but it's definitely there whether people want to admit it or not
8. There's not really pressure, but I want to contribute to teacher gifts.
9. I didn't consider the costs optional - they were very small, and I always want to support teacher appreciation and make sure that my child has pencils, etc to use.
10. I'm not signing him up for anything because he's not interested in organized sports.
11. It's really hard to be middle income in this town. Low income has access to financial supports for many of these items in the survey.
12. I always want to support the school because the teachers and school are important - I want to recognize them and that, so I do as much as we can

Q56: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q55: Considering the previous list, how do you generally feel about these costs? Please select all that apply.*

86 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 49 answers
→ 11 Ray answers

1. The community and culture is being taken over by SPORTS at too young of an age. We need to replace the SPORTS culture with STEM and ARTS culture. Please eliminate travel teams for grade schoolers and free up our time as parents to actually parent.
2. Taxes are really high. It is not appropriate to push additional cost burdens on tax-payers.
3. Sliding scale sounds good, but requires parents to share personal information and ask for help. Even when we were really financially crunched a few years ago, I did not feel comfortable asking for help.
4. We need to do better for the kids. I'd like the board to consider the voices of families and parents. Thank you for collecting this information through a survey.
5. It's a good public school education but there are strings attached or hidden costs when it comes to voluntary time and funds spent.
6. I would only worry about fees that rise above \$200 for incidental costs. After that, the taxpayers should be contributing to subsidize all students' costs.
7. Difference between fees and gifts/donations
8. They seem to all be at once and sometimes feel financially overwhelming (mainly speaking to athletics)
9. The gifts to teachers and coaches bother me. Most do a great job, but the expectation to pay up is there and there are strong equity issues between grades, classes, sports, teams, etc. if one gets a huge gift based on 1 specific kid/family who happens to be in that group.
10. When my next kid starts school he'd want to play sports and I'd be happy to provide that for him. I don't think we need to burden tax payers more. Taxes are high as it is.
11. I like the way classroom gifts are limited to \$10, etc - I think that helps

Q58: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q57: If financial aid were available for any of the previous topics, would you anticipate using it? Please select all that apply.*

66 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 25 answers
→ 6 Ray answers

1. Having to ask is a huge barrier.
2. If there was a formula where people who met criteria were automatically opted in and if they didn't want to use the aid, they could decide to opt out. That way, its less stigmatized and more normalized and status quo.
3. I'd be fine accepting the help but my spouse wouldn't out of pride.
4. It's hard to admit when you need help, especially in this town.
5. As a parent of an elementary school student, the extra school related expenses were very minimal, so no financial assistance was needed.
6. great question. when we've signed our kids up for activities we often see that there's a financial aid option. unfortunately, no information is ever provided about what income/financial situations make up the basis for the aid. meaning, to find this out, families need to reach out directly. this is awkward and embarrassing and why we've never done it. do we absolutely need aid? possibly not. would it alleviate some financial burdens if some were available? of course. but that lack of transparency and barrier of not knowing what the threshold is for qualification precludes us from inquiry.

Q60: If you wish to provide more information about your responses to the previous question, please let us know below. *Re: Q59: How do you feel about a general financial aid fund, covered by donations, that would be used to help cover costs like this? Please select all that apply.*

102 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 68 answers
→ 13 Ray answers

1. Please direct school resources away from SPORTS to hiring GREAT Teachers.
2. Taxes are really high. It is not appropriate to push additional cost burdens on tax-payers.
3. Again, if it requires people to ask, it will be a barrier. The Ray PTO seems extremely well-funded and the grants committee has a surplus of funds they are trying to give away each year. Would be great to distribute donations uniformly in a way that doesn't require an individual to ask for help.
4. This is a band-aid and will not fix things in the long-term. It will also paint a rosier picture than the reality. There are families who are struggling in the community but some are ashamed to ask or receive help.
5. A program funded by donation is problematic as it's a band aid that doesn't address the root cause issue. It's better than nothing but the school and town should do better.
6. I think the above **could** be helpful and also would benefit from benchmarking of other similar funds so as to understand best practices, benefits, challenges, pitfalls, etc.
7. I'm not sure of the solution without understanding the larger scope of the problem
8. I'm not sure what the "other strategies" would be, to be honest, that's a tough one outside of increased taxation
9. I might use it in the future- no need for it now due to very low costs!
10. Donations from students and families are likely to be inconsistent and insignificant to make an impact. The cost of living is already so high in this area.
11. na- I think a sliding scale cost for everything is important to try.
12. A Dresden School District Foundation or Fund is a great idea!
13. As noted above, this was a critical component of my own K-12 education.

Q69: Did we miss anything about these issues that you think is important for us to know? Please put anything here that is not covered by the other survey questions.

120 responses. After removing “no” and similar answers → 94 answers
→ 23 Ray answers

1. This survey feels like you want to pay for children's activities out of the tax dollars and you are gaining awareness and support for this initiative.
2. Ethnicity, Gender, Income, etc questions are not appropriate.
3. You didn't ask about use of after school care, which has very limited availability and causes real logistics headaches.
4. We love Hanover, but the pressure is intense here across the board. Finding ways to release and minimize that pressure on finances and the overall drive for achievement will benefit our students and our community while allowing for more socioeconomic diversity in our precious bubble.
5. You didn't ask about preschool costs. You didn't ask about caregiving costs. You didn't ask about KAST availability problems. I would rather the taxpayer pay for universal preschool than football uniforms.
6. Summer opportunities! Huge issue for many kids, especially 12-15.
7. The strings program is financially uneven. Violins are cheap, but other instruments are very expensive.
8. Cancellation of KAST was a huge hardship for us, a 2 working parent family
9. Thank you to the costing out committee for working on the survey so tirelessly. Your work does not go unrecognized. It is so key for families to have voices and to tackle a nuanced topic such as out-of-pocket costs, its important to do it in an anonymous manner like a survey. I appreciate the opportunity to share my experiences with cost. I was also very dismayed to hear a handful of board members in Hanover and Norwich be so dismissive of families experiences with cost and essentially boiling it down to family choices during the SAU 70 board meeting on 3/21/23. Some families don't have choices. I was also upset to hear some board members express the idea that hearing from families was not needed and a simple number was all that was needed. What a number means to a family will vary tremendously. Thank you for perserving in the face of adversity from your colleagues. I am glad they eventually did the right thing and voted to move forward with the survey however I want them to know that I and other parents are now watching them closely.
10. I am thankful my family is part of the SAU 70 community. It is well-resourced but I think we can do better. I also think it's imperative that the SAU 70 school board listens to the voices of families and parents like mine and really hears us. Your job is to represent us and be our voices and there are families in our community who are hurting. For those families and children, we need to and must do better. It is imperative that we do this.

11. Include everyone in DEI - Dems and Repubs
12. Please stay out of all of the current political issues and offer a useful education. Kids don't need to be worried about politics or national issues. People live here to get away from these things. Most of these issues don't effect us here and that's okay.
13. Thank you for looking into this! Please center the voices of those on the lowest end of the payscale.
14. I appreciate these efforts, but wonder if the needs of the schools differ by grade and what priorities are being chosen for each.
15. I would be happy to help in creating a middle school Athletics program if it were School run!!
16. My kid is (theoretically, I guess) too young for most of these to be a thing yet, but thanks for freaking me out! More things to look forward to.
17. Thanks for taking this on. It needed to happen, but also helped me think a bit about what the schools should do (or not do) with these nuanced and controversial issues.
18. Thank you for doing a deep dive into these tough questions!
19. Thank you for doing this. Growing up the poor kid in this town and now being the middle income family that can not access low income supports but feeling like they need to pay our of pocket so my children can have a similar experience and access to what others in the town have is really hard.
20. I like the idea of financial aid, but don't think you'll get donations to fund it - maybe split funding between taxpayers and donations
21. Please provide advanced math homework/ worksheet for the kids who need more challenge
22. As a Ray school parent - happy to cover instrument rentals, teacher gifts and classroom social events. It seems that the costs increase at the high school level and a donation based, opt-in fund makes sense for students that would benefit and could use additional resources
23. My perspective is a bit limited, since my oldest child is in 2nd grade, but my impression is that the Hanover/Dresden schools are excellent. I don't see additional tutoring as necessary given the quality of education and student-teacher ratios. That additional tutoring is perceived as necessary by some families likely has to do with a misguided notion that a perfect GPA is necessary for admission to college and success in life. If families want to pay for that, that is fine, but there shouldn't be an expectation that taxpayers fund tutoring and instruction beyond what the schools offer. Also, in a highly educated community, parents should be able to provide some tutoring themselves.