

SAU70 2023 Survey Free-Text Answers: RMS Only

SAU70 Comprehensive Family Costs Survey May 2023

Based on 556 completed surveys, 104 Specific to RMS

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.

Question #	Subject	# Responses	# Specific Responses	# RMS Responses	Page Numbers
02	Schools Why Hanover/Norwich	169	123	23	2 – 4
04	Towns Financially Challenging	180	141	22	4 – 5
06	Supplement School Subjects	197	160	27	5 – 7
08	Taxpayers Suppl School Subjects	210	173	31	7 – 9
10	Suppl Non-School Subjects	129	90	17	9 – 10
12	IEP / 504	114	67	18	10 – 11
14	Mental/Behavioral	107	63	11	12
16	Nutritious Meals	97	52	8	12 – 13
18	Technology Access	104	62	5	13
20	Do Athletics?	125	92	17	14 – 15
22	Athletics Taxpayers?	190	161	30	15 – 16
24	Athletics Family Costs	145	109	12	17
26	Do Performing Arts?	122	83	14	18

28	Perform Taxpayers?	143	107	23	19 – 20
30	Perform Family Costs	107	61	10	20 – 21
32	Other Activities?	100	55	12	21 – 22
34	Other Act. Taxpayers?	99	57	9	22
36	Other Act. Family Cost	65	21	3	23
38	Spring Break Activities	129	99	14	23 – 24
40	School Break Challenges	103	64	10	24
42	Wednesday Challenges	120	86	11	25
44	School \$ Travel?	101	60	14	26
46	Travel \$ Family	108	65	14	26 – 27
48	Travel \$ Taxpayers	143	106	19	27 – 28
50	Additional Fees	103	64	8	28 – 29
52	Total Family \$ Spent	97	61	14	29 – 30
54	Pressures to Pay	88	52	10	30
56	Feel About Total \$	86	49	9	31
58	Use Financial Aid?	66	25	5	32
60	Financial Aid Fund?	102	68	11	32 – 33
69	Anything Else?	120	94	14	33 – 34
Total	--	3,769	2,570	445	--

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
→ 23 RMS answers

1. Taxes are really high, mostly because of our schools

2. We have lived in many states and 2 countries and have experienced public and private schooling- the sau district is our favorite and we are sooo glad we moved here! Thank you for all your hard work, we truly appreciate everything you do! (And we are usually the annoying hard to please parents with ever the problems and complaints!)
3. Initial job wanted us to live within a 1/2 mile of Dartmouth.
4. The quality of SAU70 schools were a main reason, but we had other determining factors, such as proximity to our jobs and childcare (our kids were young at the time), proximity to cultural events/diversity (it's far less diverse further out), etc. In addition, the housing stock is limited. We lucked out when we bought our house in Norwich.
5. The other reason is proximity to work.
6. Hanover schools & NH no state tax
7. Homes and construction are quite expensive in Hanover. But it is close to work and the teachers and schools here seem very good.
8. Live in choice town of ****, VT
9. not a reason I moved here, but would be a factor if I faced a moving decision
10. Bought house in Hanover for school district
11. Son w/ **** so it was important that the school (Ray at the time we moved) had amazing support services including **** **** trained staff
12. we moved to Hanover specifically for the schools
13. We bought in Hanover because of the school district. Unfortunately, the special education is lacking
14. The school system is the number 1 reason we moved here
15. Born in Norwich
16. I have owned a house and paid taxes since 2000. My daughter did not start school until 2015.
17. The quality of public education has always been the top (or even the sole) criteria for us in choosing a town to live in. We would not have moved to any other town in NH.
18. We came from an IB program and were told Hanover would match more closely than other towns.
19. The quality of the school is important. What I've seen in elementary school is that the quality of the education is varied depending on teacher. The "specials/electives" like music, art, foreign language actually is not very good and the expectations are quite low - this has been a surprise to us. The middle school is exceptional with a few exceptions (Foods needs better curriculum). But, the families in the school system have high expectations and that shows through with the kids. The culture is also quite good and comes from family-led decisions as well as school-led decisions.
20. We moved to Hanover specifically for the schools
21. The schools are amazing.
22. The schools are terrific.
23. French, Environmental studies (with hands on experiences), small classroom size and high school scores on many national sites were our initial attractions. Now,

excellence in support and thriving with learning differences, small classrooms, and excellent middle school experience.

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
→ 22 RMS answers

1. We came from more expensive areas with double the taxes, so this is great.
2. It's not financially challenging on a day to day basis. Probably the only notable thing is that we will choose to stay in our current home which is a bit small for our family but it's too expensive to move to a larger home.
3. It is expensive to live in Hanover, but we are willing to make the trade-offs.
4. We have lower level jobs with lower incomes.
5. I would frame this less as a "concern" but more that finances are a consistent factor in our family's decision-making. For instance, our children know that they are limitations to the kinds of after-school or summer activities they could take part in, largely because with two working parents, our family is limited in time and resources.
6. Housing is very expensive.
7. Cost of living is high and property taxes are very high and going up (esp in Norwich)
8. The cost of living is high but we are able to manage.
9. We are financially well off. But maintaining and buying a home can stretch the budgets of even well off families here.
10. High taxes in Norwich; remote location means fewer educational opportunities for our children
11. The cost of living in Hanover is certainly difficult, from high housing costs to higher taxes. I believe the town should provide more moderate-income housing opportunities for increased workforce housing.
12. With our combined income it is a struggle to pay for everything
13. I find it unnecessary that once our Norwich kids cross the river to rms/hhs, we have to pay non resident fees for Athletics. Those fees should not apply to our student athletes.
14. I am only able to reside in Norwich because I have an apartment rental on my property. The income enables me to pay the taxes.
15. high taxes and generally high cost of living. inflation hasn't helped. and i lived in the s.f. bay area prior to moving here about 20 yrs ago thinking i might finally be able to save some \$ but i was wrong

16. We have a college student who received some scholarships, but are struggling to pay the additional tuition.
17. We don't have any significant issues, but I worry about the cost of living in Hanover once our children are out of school and taxes continue to increase.
18. Norwich has high education taxes having to pay into the Hanover/Dresden school district at a high rate - the representation isn't balanced so the school district is able to require a higher level of cost from Norwich. It's a small town, so family/parental involvement in projects as well as stronger management is required to keep costs down. For example, the new playground proposal at MCS - this should have included significant PTO support both financially and physically/in-kind (similar to Lyme's project years ago). Also, the facilities are simply not kept up well. There needs to be better guidance and stronger support.
19. As soon as our kids graduate we will move to a lower tax neighborhood
20. We barely get by in this area due to limited finances. When the school asks/needs/requires us to pay for the extra things that may seem like a little thing to others ; it is really hard for us and on us in multiple ways. We do not qualify for aid because we do manage to get by. The problem becomes when the school asks for even more, and things are already so painfully tight for us.
21. The taxes and general cost of living keep rising. We are not sure how we can afford to send our children to college.
22. We are struggling with the lack of affordable housing, but unwilling to pull our children from this school to live in a more affordable town. We may have no choice soon though. I wish it was more affordable to tuition them into the Hanover schools to at least finish out middle school.

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
→ 27 RMS answers**

1. During Covid I realized how behind my child was in math so enrolled in Kumon at the advice of a friend. They have caught up and are now a confident math student but we have continued because the 6th grade math instruction at RMS is weak

2. We love how much we are saving by not needing private school so we can afford tutoring in math.
3. Kumon to build math skills, poor fit with the teacher that year (6th grade)
4. Need more advanced math classes than offered.
5. I would utilize Spanish tutoring if more logistically feasible.
6. I'm not entirely clear on what this actually entails. Is this extra academic support for students who are struggling? Or extra coursework for students who want to go above and beyond? When our child struggled with math, we did consider connecting her with a math tutor for extra help, but it was more money than we were comfortable paying and logistically difficult for us to navigate. We actually ended up continuing to work closely with our child's teacher, who offered study sessions before, during, and after school. That helped our child a lot, and we are grateful this opportunity was available for all the students (not just our child.)
7. I'm concerned about the math program at RMS
8. math tutoring
9. Private tutor for honors math at HHS
10. We paid out of pocket for extra reading help and for speech therapy as we were not given enough speech therapy in school.
11. I considered math because so many other families do Kumon. Ray teachers and specialists discouraged it and THEY WERE RIGHT. My kids are STRONG with math now.
12. private math tutor
13. We use HHS tutor service for math
14. I wish we could afford to do this for our children!
15. We spend \$1000 per month for year round tutoring for a son who has severe ****.
16. My **** has serious **** and the services provided at Ray School were insufficient to remedy his needs. As a result, my family spends close to \$1,000 per month on a private **** tutor. At the beginning of 5th grade, our **** was **** at a 1st grade level. **** is now in **** grade and is **** at a 5th grade level. We feel our **** remarkable progress is due to the private tutor that we spend thousands of dollars on. We do, however, love the supports **** is offered at RMS.
17. Just this month I have considered and will most likely seek a tutor for my 5th grader at mcs to receive extra support on ELA.
18. My child's IEP doe not provide the needed specialized OG instruction and we have had to supplement with weekly, private tutoring for years.
19. The lack of instruction for remote learners during covid had a huge impact on my daughter's lack of math comprehension. Despite MCS's focus on bringing kids up to speed in the 21-22 school year, it did not happen and I was forced to pay for private instruction in math for my daughter.
20. private tutoring
21. The current math curriculum in SAU 70 seems to be challenging even the teachers. We're hoping that the district will return to a more skills-based curriculum in the near future.
22. Math tutoring and **** coaching.

23. Music lessons - we thought by providing these, our child might enjoy the violin more - this was advice from a friend.
24. Transportation and cost has been the issue otherwise we would do it because the school system is not as great as we once thought it would be :-)
25. Kumon
26. My child was bored in math, so we provided enrichment.
27. Too challenging to find a tutor, and the volunteer coordinator didn't have any options available.

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
→ 31 RMS answers

1. Hanover taxes are really high
2. We lived in the **** where everything was paid through taxes. We paid lower taxes and got waaaay more for that- in addition to free health care and little stuff like trash/recycling/compost/landscape pick up- it was unheard of to pay anything for school. Seemed very fair bc some kids weren't able to afford extras, and this way, it was more equitable.
3. The choice to add math support was not a necessity but a parenting choice, so I don't think it should be borne by taxpayers.
4. I would like the option to be available for higher performing students, too, but on a sliding scale based on financial needs not just academic performance or lack thereof.
5. I am a big proponent of equity. If the additional services can benefit EVERY student, but just a portion of the students do because they have the finances or other resources, then you have a system that's inherently inequitable. If these additional services are necessary for a child to succeed in school, then we have to find a way to make it accessible for everyone. I know I have said earlier that finances are a consideration for us, but we would be willing to pay additional share of taxes since we all would benefit.
6. Helping everyone who may need it helps the whole community.

7. Since we are already paying so much, I wouldn't want to ask taxpayers to take on more. That said, as a taxpayer I do question many of the priorities in the school budget.
8. Taxpayer funded for those with academic and financial need.
9. Subsidies only for families of kids underperforming, where financial need is demonstrated.
10. I do not see it as wise use of funds to pay for tutoring for most families in this town. But there might be a role if a student is both struggling and the family is not well off.
11. I don't think that such supplementary private education should be necessary if students needs are being addressed with school-supported services.
12. Academics appear to be more challenging than other area schools, but should cater to an elite overachiever group of students, which is what it looks like sometimes.
13. This is very difficult to parse. I am not in favor of tax payer money going to private institutions, and it would be hard to delineate what is actually needed so that the student can manage schoolwork or what is supplementary to help the student "get ahead".
14. This needs further clarification. If the school cannot support the special needs of a student, it should be taxpayer subsidized. If the only interest is improving grades, then families should pay.
15. based on need
16. Hard question. If too many people use tutoring it could be costly
17. Because the school provides services at no cost
18. We pay around \$1,000/month for our **** private **** tutor because **** was not making sufficient progress with the SAU's tutors. Our **** is supposed to be guaranteed an education but we have had to pay for it (in addition to the astronomical property taxes that we pay). The taxpayers should be paying for specific **** tutoring for all kids in the district with ****.
19. I think out of school activities are at the burden of the families who choose them.
20. Taxes are already at a level where people of low and modest incomes are getting pushed out of town.
21. There are many reasons why a student may be performing below grade level and that needs to be explored.
22. Tutoring should be offered at school if needed
23. Public Education is for the entire community. If we are paying our taxes and our kids aren't getting the support they need to learn, that is a serious problem.
24. School ratings and rankings affect real estate values more than ever in a digital age. And the rankings are based in part on test scores, etc. We all benefit, so we all should pay.
25. School district does not provide enough opportunities at elementary level for advanced learning
26. If parents think students need tutoring for A++, as opposed to Bs, that is their choice.

27. I'd augment my statement to say that the portion responsible to come from "other than taxpayers" could be done through fundraising, grant support, etc. It doesn't necessarily have to just be a check from the families.
28. If the schools are doing their job then students shouldn't need private extras
29. nonprofits/foundations could be another source of support for families who need it
30. I think that if a student is struggling in any subject that there should be increase support within the school and if not available in the school then outsourced.
31. Most of the time, these tutors are part of the toxic Hanover mindset of academic superiority and should NOT be encouraged nor paid for by the taxpayer. The only exception ESL support, which I would be in favor of supporting. I'd also be in favor increased taxpayer contribution for in-school supports for children with learning disabilities, disadvantages, or performing below grade level.

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
→ 17 RMS answers

1. Math tutoring.
2. Only during covid- online supplemental interesting English
3. Coding, music
4. Yes we pay for drama, art classes, and music.
5. Ours it not specifically "not taught" (Spanish) but rather that my student is unable to access this class at school due to the available slot being taken up by Special Education services
6. Mandarin is not taught in our school.

7. For now, our children are happy with what's offered at school. If they express interest in a subject outside of what's taught in school (coding, art, film, etc.), we look for short-term options or classes that work better for our family.
8. Robotix
9. Supplemented w/French w/native speaker in our neighborhood
10. hebrew education, K-7th
11. We pay for piano lessons and before our son started receiving literacy lessons, we paid for a Stem Robotics course after school.
12. Coding
13. We have paid for FIRST robotics in the past.
14. That is beyond our budget
15. Our child did supplementary things that were free
16. Coding, Robotics, lacrosse, hockey
17. They were extra-curricular STEM for fun

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
→ 18 RMS answers**

1. Counseling
2. My child has an IEP and absolutely needs additional private help but we can't afford it. The fact that this isn't an option above is concerning.
3. I think my child is not currently being served by the school under his IEP/504 plan and could benefit from additional tutoring, but that is not something I can afford long term.
4. Yes, additional private services are needed because the supports are inadequate to reach goals. Private services are VERY expensive and impact our ability to pay for our basic needs (housing, groceries, healthcare, etc)
5. The **** at RMS, along with our child's teachers, have provided a lot of wonderful supports that at the moment, makes services outside of school not necessary. Our child's teachers have always made time before, during, and after school (consistently - not just one-offs) to provide support to all students who need it. (not just kids on 504 or IEPs)
6. Might need private tutoring in high school but he's not there yet.
7. While the school provides excellent support to my child, the challenges are such that without additional support, my child would not be able to keep up with his peers.

8. At the moment we do not have a math tutor but may have to return to that as subject matter increases in demand.
9. Does outside mental health therapy count?
10. We pay \$1000 per month on **** lessons for a **** who has severe ****. Even with the services **** received, **** was **** three grades behind **** peers. A year after **** started **** lessons, **** advanced to **** one grade level behind **** peers and recently during spring vacation, **** started **** for pleasure.
11. Our son has an IEP and we pay close to \$1,000/month for **** tutoring. He has made good progress with the private tutor that he was not making with the SAU provided services
12. My son has a 504 plan, could use additional support but I can't afford paying for services
13. Have had to supplement weekly OG tutoring for years because the school serve is are not adequate for my student-not enough special education staff, special education staff not adequately trained in OG/or the school will not dedicate the needed instruction because of staffing issues, too difficult given student's grade level and embedded academic and electives in school day.
14. Mine children had IEPs in the past and I needed to supplement in the summer as services weren't available
15. this option doesn't quite fit - need another one. what if child could use services but doesn't have them because of cost involved - that option is not available
16. Both of my children were close to needing a plan (for different reasons). We solved one through holding **** **** **** in elementary school. This has been a big success. Kindergarten at MCS simply didn't prepare him - and I've heard this for many students. The other we solved for with deliberate conversations and step up conversations with teachers. This was very helpful in the latter part of MCS, but required one teacher to be exceptional in her support as another teacher and the **** at the time were not helpful at all (current **** is much better in supporting this need).
17. additional services (tutoring) could alleviate some of the items on the IEP
18. My child is very well supported at Richmond Middle School and is having a successful time!

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
→ 11 RMS answers

1. Counseling
2. Waiting lists in the area are years long
3. difficulty finding services
4. We pay out of pocket for counseling. Very expensive. School counseling was very, very minimal.
5. My child could use anxiety counseling but we have had trouble making as much time this year as we did last year when he did a zoom counseling each week. Would be amazing if there were more opps through school.
6. Just started therapy this year
7. Before moving to Hanover we used a private therapist
8. Our son received therapy once a week but the insurance wouldn't cover it and it costs too much money.
9. Our son saw a therapist for anxiety (related to his ****, we believe). Since his reading has improved, his anxiety has subsided and he no longer needs private therapy (which we were paying for also)
10. We are on a wait list for a therapist to address anxiety and depression with one of our children
11. With ADD and ****, there self-esteem and worry about performance or talking/reading aloud was impacted. The therapy helped to move forward and grow and embrace their differences.

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
→ 8 RMS answers

1. School food is junky.
2. He brings lunch from home everyday

3. We have family meals every night; I read for an hour with our son every evening; his father practices piano with our son, as we. We are singularly dedicated to educating our child.
4. Sometimes
5. but i do think lunches for all should be free or heavily subsidized. kind of annoyed that vermont kids could not access the free lunch program because sau 70 doesn't choose to participate, even though they serve vermont students
6. The school food isn't very good, so both children have started each year trying to eat at the school but have then opted for home lunch more much of the year. Some days are nutritious and others less so. I would love to see better school food - Woodstock I've heard is a great model for this.
7. It would be helpful if healthier lunch options were offered at RMS
8. Our child would qualify for universal school meals however it's not offered in Hanover even though our child is a Vermonter. Paying for school meals is a hardship for us.

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
→ 5 RMS answers**

1. We have a shared IMac and two iPads for 3 kids.
2. We can purchase technology as needed.
3. We don't believe our son needs his own computer; he uses our computers when necessary
4. My child has computer from school for school year
5. No personal devices yet just family shared

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
→ 17 RMS answers

1. RMS has no sports program
2. I don't know of any school sponsored programs. I was under the understanding that Hanover does not provide such opportunities unlike most school districts around us. All programs are private or through the Rec dept.
3. We wish there was more opportunity for school based team sports in Middle School rather than working through Hanover Rec. Hanover Rec. is disorganized and the quality of the coaching uneven, at best. I feel our child is missing out on a great opportunity for school spirit and community building.
4. It is shocking to me that Hanover elementary and middle schools do not have school teams. This absolutely reduces access to these activities, puts the burden of driving on parents, and creates inequities in athletic opportunities and skills.
5. Have found both rec and other athletic opportunities expensive
6. The biggest drawback to the Hanover schools prior to HHS is that there are not athletics after school, forcing parents to spend a lot of \$ for private organizations if their child wants to perform sports at a competitive level in HS.
7. I would prefer if the middle school had sports teams like the high school does.
8. He plays Dresden baseball and traveling baseball team
9. Our son's **** lessons interfere with after school programs.
10. Because we pay for a private **** tutor and our **** meets with her after school, he cannot participate in sports at this time
11. I wish there were middle school sponsored athletic opportunities.
12. Again I will say that for Norwich families with rms athletes, they should not have to pay non resident fee for athletics.
13. There is inequity in how sports are handled at RMS. It is ridiculous that there is organized football and nothing else.
14. We spend about \$15,000 per year on athletic activities outside school.
15. Gymnastics, skiing
16. There seems to be a significant shift in middle school. Norwich rec is run very well with a lot of programs, strong coaching, and a great culture. Hanover rec doesn't

have the same level of organization and the coaching/playing philosophy seems to be left to each individual coach so every sport, every year could be different. I found that basketball (girls specifically) wasn't a great experience due to this. The coach only wanted an A team and the rec dept struggled to support a B team. It was not inclusive and not welcoming and ending up leaving a program for a few kids.

17. Park and rec for middle school is ridiculous. The school should be running the sports programs

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
→ 30 RMS answers**

1. Taxpayers are already taxed so highly. We only participate in things we can afford. If we can't afford it, we don't participate.
2. We should have Middle School sports teams, paid for by taxpayers. I also endorse Rec sports teams.
3. I can afford to privately fund my child's out of school activities but want all kids to be able to participate regardless of income
4. Taxes are too high. It is not appropriate to ask tax payers to cover athletic costs. They already pay way too much.
5. I feel that basic athletics should be mostly taxpayer funded, but higher level sports should be mostly paid for by families.
6. I think the school district should organize middle school and high school sports which would be supported by taxpayers. I think elementary school level is on families. And I think should only include sports currently offered by HPR for the middle school. This would not include travel teams and ski racing those are the responsibility of the families.
7. I am fine with sports being part of Parks and Rec until high school. The fees are minimal because they're subsidized by taxpayers (and would be if school-based as well).
8. This question is confusing. I think school sports should be paid for by taxpayers, but private/club sports should be primarily paid for by families but with financial supports available.

9. If the athletic teams / sports are offered through the school, then we have to make it possible for all students who have the desire (and ability? Make the cut?) to participate to be able to do so. Team sports and interscholastic athletics is an important part of the school experience, and we should work to remove financial barriers to participation.
10. Subsidies for families with demonstrated need. Some clubs have financial assistance too.
11. I think there would be benefits to organizing more sports through the schools rather than the town, even if not heavily subsidized.
12. Other middle schools throughout the US have athletic programs and other clubs. In addition to cost (which is reasonable), the stress of having to find volunteer coaches (which is probably why the cost is low), after school and evening logistics , makes things untenable for parents when signing their children up for rec programs.
13. school team sports or private groups?
14. taxpayers as most middle schools have sport team offerings.
15. also need based subsidies
16. Parents should pay for after school activities
17. For school sponsored sports only
18. Taxes should support school-related athletics
19. Education should be 100% borne by the taxpayers; sports should be split with the families having the ability to request financial assistance
20. I think it depends on the activity and age. I believe there should be school sponsored athletics, starting in middle school. However, there are also going to be other athletics that are offered through private organizations, and those should come at the expense of the families choosing to participate in them.
21. There is a dire need to keep further taxation to a minimum
22. School-sponsored athletics should be the 2nd answer; non-school-sponsored athletics should be the 4th answer.
23. should be (and usually are) scholarships for families who qualify
24. Families should pay for private organization activities but school and town run activities should be at least subsidized by taxpayers.
25. Rec provides a wide variety of activities.
26. Currently taxes are high , participation fees are high, and yet we have the worst sports programs and uniforms in the upper valley and beyond
27. For public school programs at middle and above
28. nonprofits/foundations could be another source of support for families who need it
29. For students that can not afford these services or do not have means to get to practice it would be nice if the practices were at school.
30. Because the schools do not have their own athletics, I would support needs-based financial assistance

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
→ 12 RMS answers

1. Logistics are hard, in addition to the costs.
2. I would want to make sure that the fees are not a barrier to participation for all children.
3. Town rec sports are reasonable cost. Private teams such as Lightning Soccer are considerably higher. That said, we don't feel the need for other taxpayers to fund afterschool programs.
4. We are fortunate to not have to worry as much about costs, but the logistics of getting to a from sports activities after school is a challenge for working parents.
5. Our family can manage this because one parent has extreme flexibility, can drive etc etc.
6. Driving becomes an issue with multiple kids
7. HPR can be a bit of a disorganized mess when it comes to athletics, but I think part of the problem is that they rely on parent volunteers for coaching. We don't yet have a child in high school where I know the athletics have paid coaching. Our family also participates in an athletic club in Concord because there are no closer opportunities here, but that is our choice. Even if it does result in challenging logistics!
8. The private costs can be quite expensive.
9. Costs are high. Local club sports like soccer are extraordinarily high. Lightning, despite **** saying it'd be affordable, has increased costs dramatically and it's 3x what club soccer costs in the boston area. Rec sports are affordable, but not consistent. I'd love to see a stronger rec program that measures itself by being both competitive AND inclusive. The result of this would be a high percentage of kids participating in sports in high school.
10. The school should be providing buses and sports NOT the rec and parents
11. We could not afford to and did not have the ability to travel so that my daughter could play on travel hockey.
12. The TIME and LOGISTICAL cost not the financial cost, of Rec athletics is NOT equal in the middle school grades to all other schools in our area. Why do we rely on parents to coach and drive when other schools have coaches and busing?

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
→ 14 RMS answers

1. We have encouraged an arts course of study in high school after intermittent engagement during elementary and middle school.
2. flute lessons in music class
3. New this year, first time we have been involved in music performance.
4. Takes piano lessons
5. My son takes piano lessons.
6. We pay for our son's private piano lessons
7. It was hugely disappointing to not have a band program at the Ray school this year.
8. Not available at school
9. The string program at RMS is weak so we had to supplement with private lessons. The string program is so weak that I observed many students dropping out over the three years my child was at that school. That is a shame.
10. Stopped private music lessons as too logistically difficult. Spring play and theatre performing group; band and/or chorus
11. There was a great elementary school summer program through Norwich rec this past summer. I'd love to see this throughout the academic year, both after school and in school. The in school programming is at such a low level, that I believe we should put effort into both in school and afterschool so students that aren't as interested in sports have another well supported outlet for socializing, developing skills, and learning in different ways.
12. We would pay for more lessons but have never been able to manage the logistics
13. Music lessons
14. Theatre camp was so important for my child.

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
→ 23 RMS answers

1. Students have access to many opportunities for arts and music enrichment at school. Taxpayers should not be asked to pay for more.
2. It is not appropriate to ask taxpayers to cover these addition programs. We all are paying too much.
3. For the programs offered in a school this should be covered by the school this taxpayers. This should not include programs such as the upper valley music center which families should pay for. We should expand what we offer on school.
4. The performing arts should be part of the school curriculum. Extra programs can be privately funded.
5. This question is confusing. I think school performing arts should be paid for by taxpayers, but private performing arts should be primarily paid for by families but with financial supports available.
6. If the programs are offered through the school, then much of the program should be made accessible to all students. From what I have seen, some outside theatre programs do offer scholarships and other subsidies to help families in financial need participate (more so than I have seen offered at academic-based camps or programs).
7. music in the school should be paid by taxpayers, music that isn't school sponsored should be paid by families
8. I think taxpayers should be paying for things that occur within the school, but not outside of it.
9. While some participant fees are likely needed, there should be subsidies for those in financial need.
10. This music program is operated by an individual and they need to make a living. Not sure how subsidies would work?
11. I am totally open to more taxpayer subsidies. Arts education important, and the schools help geographically centralize more opportunities for arts.
12. Play is part of school so taxpayers could pay some of cost
13. Music instruction provides a cognitive benefit that goes beyond music.

14. Once again, I think it depends on the age of the child. Not having band offered at the Hanover elementary school was very disappointing, and resulted in our child taking private music lessons outside of school. Those are incredibly expensive! While we can afford them, I do believe they should be offered as part of the elementary experience.
15. If this is school-sponsored, it should be taxpayers 100%; if this is non-school-sponsored, it should be the 4th answer.
16. Athletics and theater are electives and as such it is reasonable to expect families to pay. But it would be very welcoming and inclusive to give those in need financial assistance if possible.
17. same as athletics - should be scholarships for those who qualify
18. Some exposure to the arts is necessary for a well rounded education (music helps math; art helps science).
19. Families should bear instrument costs
20. For school based programs not private lessons
21. More theatre experiences the better. Particular for the elementary school years.
22. taxpayers should pay for arts education in school, but private options should be paid for by the family. Most private organizations in the area have need based scholarships
23. Because the school provides excellent opportunities for music and arts instruction, I don't see a role for taxpayers, especially as most of the art organizations in the area provide needs-based scholarships

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
→ 10 RMS answers**

1. Hard to fit in performing arts outside of school hours. I value what is offered during school so that my kids can participate.
2. Again, I want to be sure any extra fees are not a barrier to participation for all children.
3. we have no financial outlay for performing arts for this student (this student borrows an instrument from the school).
4. As with sports, the logistics of getting kids to and from rehearsals or classes after school is very challenging for working parents.
5. Private lessons are Very challenging to arrange in the upper valley. Time and distance, not necessarily cost.

6. We pay for our son's piano lessons, which (along with the private **** tutoring we pay for) adds up
7. I wish there was another category said we can afford the lessons, but we acknowledge that they very expensive.
8. My child attends lessons only every other week due to cost
9. Our family highly values the arts and music and invest a lot of funds. This is not necessarily for academic purposes, but because we consider it to be critical for social and mental health development.
10. I can see that some car pooling can be difficult to organize and wish their was a way support it - for more inclusivity and the environment.

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
→ 12 RMS answers**

1. Art is very important for one of my kids. So we make a concerted effort to have art projects happening at home. It’s too challenging to fit in a class outside of school in addition to sports and homework
2. My child did some volunteer work with KAST.
3. Too many activities right now but would like possible art activities.
4. Art class online via Outschool because her school schedule does not allow her to take Art at school
5. Yes, my child has taken self-paced, free online courses for animation and design. She also takes classes at AVA for teens & adults (for drawing, etc.).
6. There isn't enough time with sports, driving to activities and music/art lessons to take on additional activities and do the required homework.
7. Scouts
8. My **** receives intensive **** instruction that interferes with extra-curricular programs.

9. Private **** tutoring, plus piano lessons, makes other lessons financially out of reach
10. We're too busy to add anything else to our schedule.
11. Scholarships are usually needed for us to afford to participate and we are very grateful for that.
12. The additional costs were challenging, especially the unexpected last-minute financial asks

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 → 9 RMS answers

1. Taxes are too high
2. School-based programs should be sufficient for nearly all students. Extra enrichment can be funded privately.
3. A lot of outside programs are driven by personal interest, so I think it makes sense for families to help pay for these activities. However, I do think there are opportunities for some of the programs to be supported by taxpayers to allow for more students to take part.
4. I think the school should offer Robotix classes to students; it's a phenomenal skill to have
5. If school-sponsored, mostly taxpayers; if not school-sponsored, mostly families.
6. should be scholarships for those who qualify
7. I think if schools offer the current electives and most kids can enroll in courses they want, then that is enough. But some kids need to be busy afterschool to stay out of trouble. I wish the town provided something.
8. Fundraising should happen as well
9. nonprofits/foundations could be another source of support for families who need it

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 → 3 RMS answers

1. We have a range of options here - some are more expensive. We prioritize which activities matter and prioritize our spending accordingly. We also find that there are cost-effective ways to obtain access (for instance, as an adult, we have volunteered to usher to gain free access to performances). We don't mind having to hustle to meet our budgetary needs. I don't believe in having others pay for our child's extracurriculars etc. Taxes are already too high and that is a big barrier to affordably remaining in our home.
2. The online group art class is not very expensive
3. Pottery class in Leb to supplement school offerings. Difficult for working parents to get to, but also not inexpensive at close to \$350 for 6-8 sessions.

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 → 14 RMS answers

1. Spent a lot of time with a couple friends who remained local this year.
2. Road trip with grandparents domestically
3. Our child preferred to stay home and was fine doing so. We supplemented it with pet-sitting for a friend's family
4. family vacation
5. We try to time vacations with breaks, but are also fortunate that we can work from home if necessary. Most families do not have that luxury.
6. Family vacation
7. painted her room!
8. Split between home while parents work and long weekend vacation
9. I don't work school vacation week

10. The February and April breaks are challenging for professors. One guardian can take a vacation to watch our son while the other can't take off.
11. I took vacation from my job to spend time with my son during April break
12. We went on a family vacation.
13. Supposed to travel to grandparents but got Covid
14. They volunteered in my elementary school library and worked at least 8 hrs a day

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
→ 10 RMS answers**

1. We used to struggle logistically and financially during vacation weeks until their grandparents moved locally a few years ago.
2. Child care was a huge issue for two working parents in the past.
3. It's always a challenge with two working parents, two children in different schools, and putting the puzzle pieces together!
4. We plan vacations around school breaks.
5. Kids are older now (8th/9th grades)
6. We both work at Dartmouth. It is not a vacation for us. The camps can be good, but they are scarce.
7. It doesn't present a challenge, except my child is bored. It would be great if the SAU calendar lined up more closely to the Dartmouth calendar.
8. I'm fortunate to have a flexible schedule.
9. It did cause issues when younger but not as much now as they are volunteering and looking for work
10. It's devastatingly difficult to manage school breaks, days off, sick days, etc and the cost of childcare/camps is so high that I've just had to limit my career permanently.

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
→ 11 RMS answers

1. Though it used to be difficult until my kids were older, the mental break they get from the early release always outweighed the frustration. I find it so important for their well-being and I've always been surprised that it makes such a difference
2. My employer allows flexibility so I can be home shortly after he arrives home on Wednesdays.
3. When our children were younger, childcare was a huge issue for us, but now we are fine.
4. It means I cannot bill as many hours at work on Wednesdays, so while we have adapted to the situation, it comes at a cost. Further, most after school sports do not address short Wednesdays, so we are left with "dead space" on many Wednesdays until the sports or music/art lessons start.
5. Also parent at home
6. We have made use of after school program. But that disappeared for a while!!
7. He can also stay alone
8. I don't understand why there is early dismissal on Wednesdays
9. I can't work full time because of this and lack of school sponsored sports in lower grades
10. It's not an issue, but it is a lost opportunity. I'd love to see Weds have an afterschool drama/theater plan - possibly through rec, but maybe through the school.
11. It used to be more of an issue when they were younger

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
→ 14 RMS answers

1. RMS language trip
2. RMS New York Spanish trip
3. I assume you meant 2023-2024 academic year
4. I wish there were more opportunities to travel, but we are looking forward to next year's 8th grade trip.
5. No specific plans, but assuming that is a possibility
6. RMS made it easy and affordable for Montreal field trip.
7. He went on Spanish trip to NYC
8. World language immersion trip
9. My **** can't participate in after school activities because of **** lessons.
10. our Kids had no travel in this school year
11. school language immersion
12. We haven't been given any information about this by the school, but have heard comments from other parents.
13. Quiz bowl trip, Spanish trip
14. RMS had a Spanish culture experience. It was fantastic!

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
→ 14 RMS answers

1. My child will soon be at the high school, and the cost of MI is a concern.
2. They are expensive for some but reasonable for us.
3. The cost was high but we were able to pay for it.

4. We have to definitely plan ahead and prepare. Our child is in 8th grade. We had no idea that the trip to Montreal was going to cost \$800 initially. Some of that cost came down eventually through grants, but we realized we had to do a little planning to make sure it all worked out.
5. I was very disappointed in the approach to the 8th grade field trip at RMS this year (to NYC or Quebec). These trips seem to have been planned with zero community engagement, announced to students before prices were provided, and sign up requested before details of financial aid were known or disclosed. The cost for a 3 day trip, organized by a travel agency, was astronomical. **** *
**** *
**** *
**** *
6. as above/RMS made it a priority that students could attend Montreal/NYC field trips independent of ability to pay and did so without families feeling shame or publicly known for asking for help
7. not enough information on this to answer these.
8. It was a bit expensive but it was successful trip
9. These are excellent opportunities; we value them very much for our children. However, the district should provide scholarship money for families less fortunate than we are.
10. the costs seem high and can be problematic
11. I think what the school offers that is supplemental cost is appropriate for families to pay.
12. Reasonable at times, but also too high. More thought into managing these costs could benefit a lot.
13. We wish they would do fundraising as we have a very tight budget
14. Fundraisers and other families chipped in to make sure all students who wanted to go could go.

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
→ 19 RMS answers**

1. Taxpayers should not be asked to pay for extracurricular activities outside of what is offered at school.
2. Our taxes are too high

3. They are not a problem for us but the school shouldn't charge families- not everyone can afford it and it is humiliating to be a "charity" case depending on peers' parents donations. Speaking from experience growing up poor.
4. I'm conflicted. I loved having this opportunity but March Intensive is not equitable in any way.
5. My actual answer would be it depends on the activity.
6. limited participate fees or costs should be subsidized for those in financial need.
7. Normal field trips are through schools , extended trips require some fees; ie the status quo seems fine
8. I have not selected any of the options above - an "other" category is needed. It's fine for these costs to be borne by families as long as there is a clear and transparent financial aid process that is shared as soon as the trip is announced.
9. and fundraising efforts to support
10. and need based subsidies
11. Not sure taxpayers should pay for travel trips
12. I think kids should be able to travel with school irrespective of financial ability to pay. Kids should be able to raise money throughout the year to fund trips. My **** taught and this is what **** classes did.
13. Travel experiences are very important educational opportunities. All children should have 1 high school trip paid for by taxpayers.
14. I don't feel like the cost of language immersion trips are worth the benefit to tax payers or families.
15. Fund raisers fine
16. should be scholarships for those who qualify
17. Help provided for those in need, but not all.
18. nonprofits/foundations could be another source of support for families who need it
19. This is very situation-dependent, but in general I don't think that a child should be unable to attend a *school sponsored* event because of finances.

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
→ 8 RMS answers

1. I think at the high school, these costs will go up.

2. Most expenses were small such as supplies and school dances.
3. Again this is confusing as we are 8th grade parents. There aren't "school-related" sports. They are all outside of the school system. I still marked them as costs for us though.
4. Dont remember
5. Assuming this does not include athletics or music/art after school.
6. I answered this question for both of my children, because answering for just the oldest, doesn't make sense, but completing the survey twice does not make sense either from a time perspective
7. I did not check that we were asked to pay additional fees for athletics because before high school none of the athletics are school sponsored. If they were, our family would have used these programs. We spend a significant amount on athletic registration, uniforms, coaches gifts ect.
8. For music

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 → 14 RMS answers

1. Most of that was for the RMS language trip. With other gifts and dances etc probably \$1100 total.
2. Cost was largely due to the (wonderful) NY trip
3. Again this is confusing as we are 8th grade parents. There aren't "school-related" sports. They are all outside of the school system. I still marked them as costs for us though.
4. The bulk of this was for the 8th grade trip.
5. Most of this was the 8th grade field trip.
6. Assuming this does not include athletics or music/art after school.
7. This amount includes the outside of school sports since none are offered at school.
8. The 900 trip was biggest expense
9. We pay \$1,000/month for private **** tutoring because our **** (even with an IEP) wasn't making appropriate progress in **** and ****
10. The eighth grade immersion trip was the majority of this cost
11. 8th grade trip, etc

12. That counts drivers Ed which is shockingly expensive. Other school systems cover this cost completely or partially and I'm surprised Dresden doesn't. It must be a hardship for some families and since it's required by NH law for driving, I think it should be at least partially subsidized.
13. We did what we could afford; our child would have done more if we could have afforded it
14. I did not need to spend as much as I did. The required financial output has been very low for our family.

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 → 10 RMS answers

1. Since we have the means I feel obligated to contribute to class gifts and school events. But never pressure from the schools.
2. I don't feel explicit pressure, but I think that some trips or traditions are ingrained in the culture, so I worry that if we do not participate due to cost that my child may miss out on a crucial part of the school experience.
3. I think the field trip is a great learning adventure; I do worry if it is too expensive for some to comfortably afford.
4. While I feel some pressure, it is not oppressive, nor is it a barrier for us.
5. Not pressure per se. More of an "it is what it is." I want my kids to have as many experiences as possible.
6. We came from a private school before so this is much better for us financially
7. If I want my child to go to college, I have to pay a private tutor for **** *. And my **** has an IEP and plenty of services in school
8. We are comfortable paying for additional activities that allow for our child to have additional experiences. I also appreciated that we were able to give a donation to help families out whereby the costs were challenging.
9. Yearbook is optional as are photos; violin needed for strings, but that is ok, rental cost is minimal; school provides instruments for those in need
10. Yes, because my child can only participate if the fees are paid.

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 → 9 RMS answers

1. There is too much inequity in March Intensive options (though not relevant for my child this year)
2. My concern is primarily about large fees for trips, which are ostensibly "optional", but there is so much buzz about them at school that, as a parent, you feel guilty if you can't let your child attend. Also, for March Intensive, I really do feel it's not appropriate to have basically "have and have-not" options from a financial perspective. If that means the very expensive options go away, that's fine. But it really does divide the students financially. If the expensive options stay, there should be easy options for financial assistance.
3. Some of my answers feel antithetical, but I just want to drive home the point of equity.
4. I don't mind paying the fees; however I do believe these fees should be supported by other means so that more families (of modest incomes and perhaps with tighter budgets) have the same opportunities for their children.
5. If there is a need sliding fee may be good idea
6. We can afford but I think all students should have access to trips etc.
7. I don't save for my **** college and have decreased my retirement savings because I pay for a private **** tutor for my **** (due to **** lack of progress with school based services). It's an enormous financial burden.
8. I want my child to feel included.
9. We have been able to pay for fees primarily because they are spread out through the year and it's not a big on lump sum that is due.

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 → 5 RMS answers

1. Scholarships put the burden on the recipient. I would rather see costs adjusted by the schools.
2. I go between worrying about asking and trying to save the \$ for these activities
3. Frankly, I haven't asked the SAU to reimburse me the costs of the private **** tutor I pay \$1,000/month for because I know I will just get the run around
4. But I know people for whom this would be a huge help.
5. Please help us if you can

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 → 11 RMS answers

1. I worry about donation request fatigue for families
2. I think the Friends of Hanover-Norwich Schools could help.
3. I think this is a great idea. There is so much wealth in this community, and also a substantial amount of generosity. I think this system would work well. Even though we are moderate income and would likely benefit from such a fund, I would still donate at least something to it because I believe in it philosophically.
4. Comprehensive strategy that includes donations and other funding strategies. I don't think it can all come from SAU70 family donations.
5. if it were need-based
6. Need more info about how fund would work
7. I think there should be two revenue sources: taxpayers and donations
8. The Norwich/Hanover tax base is high. Properly managed, it should be enough.

9. I think it's a good idea if it's part of a larger strategy.
10. I think an estimate is needed for those in need and should get food, rentals, etc and families should know this upfront. However, many families don't qualify for lunch but do need help. How do we manage that? Taxpayers should come together to cover this.
11. Some families don't blink at the extra costs and might even be happy to add more to help support participation. Other families need the help. It's an equity issue.

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
→ 14 RMS answers**

1. Asking tax payers to pay for the things listed in this survey is not a wise choice. Donations to support families who have difficulty paying for school related expenses however seems logical and reasonable given the success of pennies for change.
2. Our taxes are too high, please be lean with school expenses. Spend as if it were your own. Too many questions trying to costs to taxpayers.
3. I would happily pay more taxes if the middle school ran after school sports onsite and not through town-
4. Too many to list! The only reason I can afford to live in this area is because we live ***** household. The staffing this year has not been able to fulfill the IEP commitments for my child. My child was performing well in previous assessments, but seems to have slipped this year - I don't think the burden should be transferred to me when the IEP isn't being met.
5. Thank you for your careful consideration of these matters.
6. The presence of a parent at home (not working outside the home) makes a big difference for participation in activities, too.
7. Unhappy about the SAGE group, kept secret from parents, and run by gender ideologues. The trust level we have in SAU 70 is greatly diminished.
8. Please keep in mind that the survey covers current families who have a child attending school here in Hanover; I think it is important to note the fact that there are likely many families who wish to live here but unfortunately are priced-out from this opportunity and therefore not completing this survey / questionnaire. Many families no-longer have an opportunity to reside in a community of their choosing anymore especially in a town that they cannot afford. That said, acting on results of this survey in regard to high-ranking answers may not be the best course of action since it is not taking into account answers from those who wish to reside in Hanover but can't due to the high cost of housing in this area.

9. I do think the financial issues or expectations vary depending on the schools and the ages of children. I also think that there is a lot of community pressure to push our children both in school and out of school and out of school costs are particularly expensive. We are fortunate in that. We are not financially constricted and are able to participate in whatever programs are children are interested in, but I also recognize that that is not the case for everyone who lives in our community.
10. Thanks for asking!
11. The Dresden school system is unique in that it is a very wealthy community. The biggest problem we face is socio economic. While we appreciate getting free lunch and free entrance to the dances, all of my **** friends are aware of our economic situation. The assistance is appreciated but because it comes with public outing it discourages participation.
12. Missing a big component by not asking if families have placed kids in private schools and the reason.
13. We contributed anonymously to fund another child for a 2-night class trip. I was wondering whether we'd been the only ones or if others had also helped out. Maybe next time donations are solicited like this, some data could be provided afterward (anonymous data) so donors can get an idea of the impact of their gift.
14. Some families talk about how they can't afford something and it's in reference to a second home, a vacation outside of visiting family, and so forth. Other people talk about affordability and they are referring to not being able to buy enough groceries or to fix a leaky roof. It's really hard to live in this community with people working off of many incorrect assumptions about being able to live here or not. As you discuss these issues, please remind people to check their privilege that they don't even see or recognize. Thank you for doing this much-needed survey for the community.