

**Updated FAQ's and Responses
FALL 2025**

Below are questions we have received since our last FAQ document was compiled. These questions have been sent via email, asked at public forums or community gatherings, or asked of EC members. We have done our best to answer these questions honestly and thoroughly below.

Question	Response
<p>Why don't you move 6th grade to the Farley Building and move 3rd grade to HUES?</p>	<p>The Hollis School District does not own the Farley building. At the time this committee was formed, considering the Farley building was not an available option and it is still currently not available to the HSD.</p> <p>The prospect of moving the third grade to HUES was investigated in 2024 and again in the spring of 2025. This investigation is thoroughly addressed in the June 2025 FAQ document located on the Hollis Enrollment Committee website.</p>
<p>Why can't the Farley Building take the PreK and Kindergarten classes?</p>	<p>The Hollis School District does not own the Farley building. At the time this committee was formed, considering the Farley building was not an available option and it is still currently not available to the HSD.</p> <p>The location of the Farley building is not conducive for young children. Placing a kindergarten and preschool next to a middle school is not an ideal location for this age group, whereas in the primary school these young children are in proximity of children closer in age, providing educational opportunities and a level of comfort in the transition from PreK and K to the primary grades. Further, It is located on a hill, surrounded by traffic lanes and boarded by a busy street. There is no level area for children to play, so sitework would have to be done to make safe play areas and pathways for the children. Additionally, this would require administrative staff, specialists, custodians, and cafeteria workers to accommodate the children's health and education, duplicating these staff positions or requiring them to travel to this location, many of whom are in positions where they are already traveling between HPS and HUES, making the Farley location all the more untenable.</p> <p>Please see the Farley Committee Presentation that was given at the March 2025 Town Meeting for further reference.</p>
<p>Why do so many parents drop</p>	<p>The most common reasons parents give for picking up or</p>

<p>off/pick up their children instead of taking the bus?</p>	<p>dropping off their children at school are the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Bus drops off children too late." It is not uncommon for children to be dropped off by the bus an hour or more after school dismissal begins. 2. Parents are concerned about potential for bullying on the bus or about younger students being near older students. 3. In rare cases, a parent has safety concerns about their child's bus stop. For example, some elementary school students must cross a busy street (e.g. South Merrimack Rd) to board the school bus on streets where cars have been driving past school buses with flashing red lights. A few bus stops require children to walk along a street with through traffic (e.g. dirt section of Rocky Pond Road).
<p>Why does HPS need an addition because of increasing enrollment when HPS enrollment has been higher in the past than it is now?</p>	<p>This situation was first addressed at the January 29, 2025 Town information session (PPT HERE and posted on EC website).</p> <p>Over the years there have been many changes to education in NH and nationally.</p> <p>In Hollis, the Town voted to change kindergarten from half-day to full day. This change doubled the amount of classrooms needed to accommodate the same number of children (2 classrooms to 4 classrooms; loss of capacity for 36 students)</p> <p>Requirements put on schools for services that are now mandated by law take up classroom space, which was not occupied in the past:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preschool (3 classrooms, max 12 students/classroom) ● Intensive needs, K-3 (max. 8 students/classroom, though often fewer) ● Occupational Therapy <p>As a result, class size requirements for PreK result in 6 students/classroom fewer than policy allows for K-1. This results in 18 fewer students that we are able to accommodate.</p> <p>Similarly, the 8 student max in the Intensive Needs room results in <i>at least</i> 10 fewer students than could be there if it were a K-1 classroom.</p> <p>Occupational Therapy is utilized throughout the day by various students. That results in 18 fewer students than could have been accommodated.</p> <p>Total fewer students: 44 students</p>

	<p>The HPS offers a robust curriculum, which results in a highly rated school that is successful at addressing the needs of all children. NH requires all students be screened for dyslexia and reading difficulties and that the school address those needs. For mathematics, NH has regulations for elementary math specialists in grades K-6 to support mathematics reading and calculation. To meet the high expectations of meeting children’s needs and moving them forward, HPS has Reading and Mathematics Specialists which work with both our children who need additional support and who need enrichment. A shared, additional classroom space is therefore allotted to accommodate these professionals and the services they provide. (Loss of capacity for another 18-20 students)</p> <p>Adding up all of these changes in programming results in six classrooms being utilized for other purposes now, for which they were able to be utilized as classroom space in the past. But there is more...</p> <p>NH fire codes have changed over the years. PreK-grade 1 students must have their primary classroom located on a floor with a direct egress. That is, they must be able to exit without utilizing stairs or ramps out of the building. This greatly limits the classrooms available for those grade levels as we have an entire hallway of classrooms on the first floor that the school is not allowed to use for those age groups, and a second floor, which is only available to second and third graders (this also explains why we cannot simply build up, as the additional floors would not be helpful). In the past, the current staff room was used as a classroom, which fire codes now prohibit (loss of capacity for another 18-20 students)</p> <p>Grand total of loss of capacity: at least 116-120 students</p>
<p>Is this a bubble or is the increase in enrollment permanent?</p>	<p>The HSB watched enrollment for several years prior to forming the Enrollment Committee in January of 2024. NESDEC Historical Enrollment data and Enrollment Projections both confirm the current enrollment and its increasing numbers are part of a trend, not a bubble, just as the population of Hollis has been steadily increasing and continues to do so.</p>
<p>When will this be voted on?</p>	<p>This bond vote will be on the warrant at the HSD Annual Meeting on March 17, 2026 at 7pm at the Hollis-Brookline High School gymnasium.</p>

	A public hearing with the Town Budget Committee is scheduled for February 10, 2026 at 7pm in Town Hall.
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