

Draft Brookline Study Update

The Brookline School District formed a cooperative study committee to study the advisability of expanding the Cooperative School district for grades Kindergarten through grade twelve.

The committee was formed with five members and held their first meeting on November 3, 2025. They held a second meeting on December 1, 2025 and a third meeting to be held on January 5, 2026.

They reviewed:

- article 8 of the 2025 Brookline School District warrant
- the COOP articles of agreement
- the collective bargaining agreements
- applicable New Hampshire RSA's
- Current student counts
- Comparisons of projected and actual enrollments
- Collective bargaining agreements within the co-op
- Long-term debt for all three districts
- Within RSA 195:6:III what is the limit in terms of total debt assumed that is allowable
- Town growth data
- Curriculum across the elementary school districts
- Average tenure of staff in the three school districts
- Qualitative data around the well-being of students and homework preparation
- Dissolving of the COOP study
- FY27 budget planning documents
- Performance over time both by schools and by cohorts
- The impact on students meeting at the middle school from two separate districts

They posed questions and concerns regarding the process for changing the Coop Agreement and realized that there would need to be two avenues for addressing their charge - discussion of Brookline alone making the change to a K- or PK-12 change and the possibility of Brookline and Hollis both making the change to expand the agreement.

Current Questions/Concerns for Brookline changing agreement alone:

- Changes to Adequacy Grants for both Brookline and Coop?
- Financial implications regarding Collective Bargaining Agreements - Brookline wages and benefits are considerably lower than the Coop. What would be the overall increase if compensation were to change?
- Potential cost savings within the SAU regarding multi district tuition costs?
- Discrepancy in per pupil costs between Coop and Brookline and impact on overall budget?
- Effects to the Brookline staff of a move to the Coop (another school district) regarding tenure and retirement?
- Efficiencies on SAU costs for Brookline?
- Impact on student opportunities, support, flexibility?

- Changes to Apportionment Formula?
- Need to address differences in debt/bonds held by Coop?
- Future space needs of Brookline PK-6?
- Current capital improvement needs?
- Impact on Brookline Capital Reserves/Trusts?
- Timeline for adopting changes?

Current concerns/questions for change if both Brookline and Hollis joined Coop?

- Changes to Adequacy Grants for both Hollis, Brookline, and Coop?
- Financial implications regarding Collective Bargaining Agreements - Hollis wages and benefits are lower than the Coop. What would be the overall increase if compensation were to change?
- Potential cost savings within the SAU regarding multi district tuition costs?
- Discrepancy in per pupil costs between Hollis, Coop, and Brookline and impact on overall budget?
- Effects to the Hollis staff of a move to the Coop (another school district) regarding tenure and retirement?
- Efficiencies on SAU costs for Hollis?
- Impact on student opportunities, support, flexibility?
- What changes to the Apportionment Formula will mean?
- Need to address differences in debt/bonds held by Coop?
- Future space needs of Hollis PK-6?
- Current capital improvement needs?
- Impact on Hollis Capital Reserves/Trusts?
- Timeline for adopting changes?

They agreed that any change can be made by Brookline alone, but wondered what an overall change to a single school district a Hollis-Brookline Cooperative might achieve. Next steps would entail getting actual figures to address these questions and concerns. It does not appear that in any initial stages, Brookline students would change at this point.