

## Norwich School District

### MARION CROSS SCHOOL

Marion Cross School is a nurturing pre-K through 6th grade public school that:

- Promotes educational excellence and fosters a lifelong love of learning.
- Empowers all students to realize their intellectual, physical, emotional, creative, and social potential.
- Partners with families and the community to develop responsible local and global citizens who can adapt to a changing world.

### NORWICH SCHOOL BOARD

Lisa Christie  
Michael Costa, *Vice Chair*  
Gina des Cognets  
Neil Odell  
Garrett Palm, *Chair*

### Want more in depth information?

Visit the SAU70 website Budgets page for the most up to date information and FY2026 Budget Books with Exhibits. All Districts are listed, just look up the District you'd like to review.



## Warrant for the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Norwich School District

**ARTICLE 1:** Elect a Moderator of the Town and School District meeting for one year.

*The moderator is voted upon annually and presides over the combined town and school district meeting.*

**ARTICLE 2:** Elect Town and School District Officers for terms starting in 2026.

*This year, there are three seats coming up for election in March for (1) a 2-year term and (2) a 3-year term.*

**ARTICLE 3:** To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of bonds or notes not in excess of anticipated revenues for the next fiscal year in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(9).

*In the event that school district tax revenues are not received in a timely manner, the school district requests authorization from the electorate to borrow money to cover necessary expenditures.*

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the voters of the Norwich Town School District determine and fix the salaries of the School Board members in the sum of \$500 each per year for a total of \$2,500 in accordance with the provisions of 16 VSA § 562(5)?

*The salary for school board members is voted upon annually. This figure is unchanged from last year.*

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the voters of the Norwich School District approve the school board to expend \$ 8,888,877, which is the amount the Norwich School Board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

The Norwich School District estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per-pupil education spending of \$19,082, which is 4.30% higher than per-pupil education spending for the current year.

[Note: The per-pupil education spending is calculated using the new LTWADM information as of January 24th, 2026, and this includes the Dresden base assessment amount.]

The gross expenditure amount of the Marion Cross School's direct budget, including wage and benefit changes bargained with the Norwich Teachers' As-

sociation and the Norwich Education Association Support Staff, is \$8,888,877, which is an increase of \$614,798 or 7.43%. Norwich's assessment portion of the Dresden base budget is \$9,080,715, an increase of \$475,735 or 5.53%. Adding together both of these base budget amounts is a total of \$17,969,592, a total increase for the education of Norwich students of \$1,090,533 or 6.46%. Applying offsetting projected revenues brings this increase down to \$967,717 or 6.51%.

Using the VT State AOE's definition of net "Education Spending per pupil" (that is, net education spending, after the application of appropriate income, divided by the number of long-term weighted average daily membership "LTW ADM"), we will be increasing by 4.95%. As of January 13th, 2026, our LTW ADM has increased from the prior year by 2.08% from 816.35 to 833.35.

Dresden has only one other article that could impact the Norwich assessment, including Article #3, a collective bargaining agreement with the Service Staff [Norwich assessment portion 30.162%]. If this article passes, this would increase the year-over-year Dresden assessment by an additional \$30,707 or .36%.

Assuming all Dresden articles pass and adding the total assessment to the Norwich elementary budget, total expenditures would be \$18,002,799 or 6.66%. Total education spending after offsetting revenues is \$15,935,268 or 7.14%. Applying the updated LTW ADM to the adjusted equalized spending, our per pupil figure is \$902 higher than last year, or a 4.95% increase.

Projecting the Norwich tax rate is always speculative as one of the most important data points – the Base Yield – is not ratified by the State Legislature until well into May, sometimes June. As of today, we are using a yield amount of \$8,849 issued in the VT Education Tax Rate Letter from the VT Tax Commissioner dated December 1st, 2025. Based on current projected revenues, current yield, our LTWADM of 833.35, a Common Level Appraisal [CLA] 142.51% that includes state adjustments, and finally a state-adjusted Year 3 discount of \$0.114, our projected tax rate if all articles pass will be \$2.0469. This would be a \$0.1286, and a 6.71% increase from the prior year. It is best to keep in mind that this discount will be going away at the end of FY2029, but will be reduced each year; the 2026-2027 school year discount will be 60%

less than it was in the 2024-2025 school year, at a discount rate of \$0.076 in 2027-2028 and \$0.038 in the last year being 2028-2029.

The Teachers Union and Board came to a three-year agreement totaling 4.07% of new money at a projected total increased cost with steps of \$163,289, plus some minor changes around sick leave, contract language, and the MOU regarding additional substitution pay. The Support Staff Union and Board also came to a two-year agreement totaling 6.87% of new money at a projected total increased cost with steps of \$44,163. Non-union wage increases were budgeted at 3.0% for both administration and non-union support. Medical insurance has experienced large increases for the current fiscal year and will increase at a moderate level for the 2026-2027 school year, of 7.4% over the 2025-2026 fiscal year rates. The increase has been partially offset by a 1% increase in the support staff co-pay rate and election changes; the net effect is an increase of \$10,059. Other wage-associated benefits increase the total to \$49,430.

The Supervisory Union's assessment will increase by \$44,686 due to many changes within the SAU Budget and revenue shortfall in prior years. We will continue to work on the Capital Improvement Plan, and a committee has been formed to review the needs and wants before moving forward on any other large building improvements. We have adjusted the Building & Site Improvements by \$18,000 and will be working on projects like roof repair and maintenance, during the current and in 2026-2027 school year.

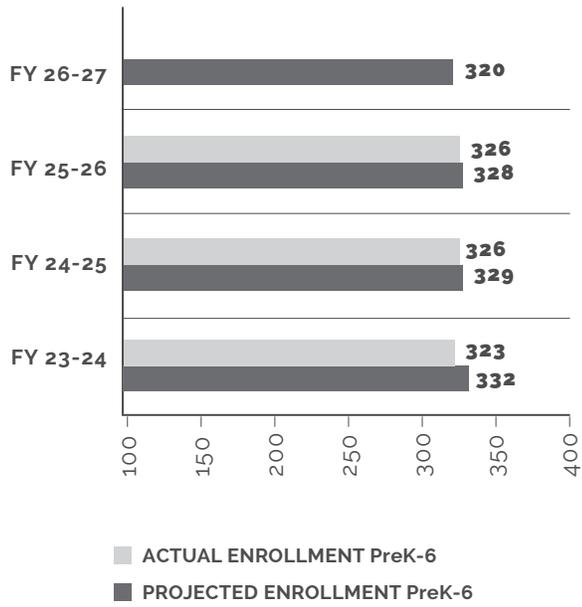
Other maintenance projects will include painting, door replacements, classroom circuits, fencing, playground maintenance, and carpeting and polishing existing concrete floors.

The most up-to-date details for the 2026-2027 proposed budget can be reviewed in the Norwich Budget Book with Exhibits on the SAU 70 District website at [www.sau70.org](http://www.sau70.org) on the Business & Finance Department tab in the Budgets section.

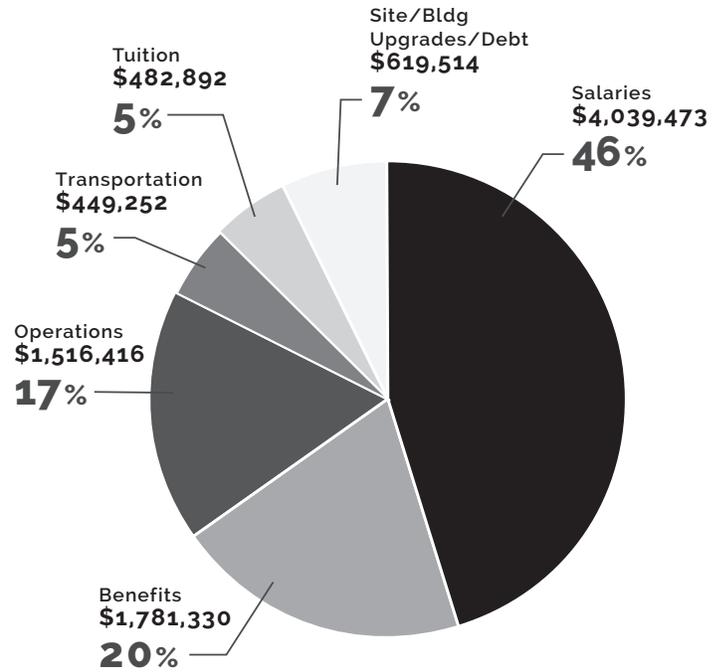
<b>NORWICH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET SUMMARY</b>					
BY MAJOR FUNCTION	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	\$CHG	%CHG
Regular Education	\$3,627,442	\$3,620,746	\$3,859,212	\$238,466	6.6%
Technology	226,329	263,552	313,204	49,652	18.8%
Special Education	1,258,905	1,407,320	1,578,930	171,610	12.2%
Guidance	133,622	112,529	118,484	5,955	5.3%
Health Services	111,657	115,543	131,602	16,059	13.9%
Staff Development	84,894	84,758	105,511	20,753	24.5%
Media (Library)	120,257	124,603	132,807	8,204	6.6%
School Board	52,194	50,076	52,716	2,640	5.3%
SAU Assessment	396,406	462,926	505,612	42,686	9.2%
School Administration	605,764	631,452	656,251	24,799	3.9%
Op & Maintenance of Plant	562,799	584,516	604,782	20,266	3.5%
Transportation	450,540	450,250	449,252	(998)	-0.2%
Site & Bldg Improvements	187,380	104,000	122,000	18,000	17.3%
Debt Service	115,646	256,809	253,514	(3,295)	-1.3%
Interfund Transfers Out	13,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$7,946,835</b>	<b>\$8,274,080</b>	<b>\$8,888,877</b>	<b>\$614,797</b>	<b>7.43%</b>

<b>BUDGETED STAFFING</b>				
FTEs	FY25	FY26	FY27	% CHG
Classroom Teachers	22	21	21	0.0%
Art, Music, PE, Specials Teachers	6.8	7.0	7.0	0.0%
Special Ed Certified Staff	5.4	5.4	4.8	-11.1%
Other Staff	20.8	21.5	21.2	-1.3%
<b>TOTAL STAFF FTEs</b>	<b>55.0</b>	<b>54.9</b>	<b>54.02</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>

## Norwich Enrollment PreK-6



## Norwich FY27 Budget



By Hudson Crow, MCS 4th grader.

# Dresden School District

## DRESDEN SCHOOL BOARD

Deborah Bacon Nelson  
Lisa Christie  
Michael Costa  
Gina C. des Cognets

Marcela Di Blasi  
Benjamin Keeney, *Chair*  
Kelly McConnell  
Neil Odell, *Vice Chair*

Garrett Palm  
Carrie Russell  
Renee Sullivan  
Tara Velozo

## HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL

Hanover High School is an active learning community that provides broad academic and co-curricular programs. We engage students' minds, hearts and voices so that they become educated, caring and responsible adults. All students are given the opportunity to use their

- minds to pursue excellence, academic challenge and personal success
- hearts to respect and care for the emotional and physical well-being of themselves and others, and for the environment.
- voices to contribute to the democratic process and the common good.

## RICHMOND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our mission is to inspire students to build the skills and compassion necessary to succeed in a complex world and, as they move toward greater independence, empower them to examine the impact their actions have on themselves, others, and the environment.

- For this school community to thrive, teachers, staff, parents, and students will work together to:
- Communicate effectively in a variety of ways
- Think critically and creatively to identify and solve a range of problems
- Contribute positively to the classroom, school, and broader community by
  - Participating in decision making
  - Valuing diversity
  - Taking responsibility for their own actions
  - Resolving conflicts peacefully

## Warrant for the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Dresden School District

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect by written ballot for one-year terms a Moderator, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and an auditor for a one-year term, a two-year term, and a three-year term.

*The positions noted above are voted on annually. The auditor positions are no longer required as the State of NH requires formal audits to be conducted annually.*

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the Dresden School District determine and fix the salaries of School District officers as follows: School Board members \$1,000 per member with an additional \$300 for School Board Chair; School District Treasurer \$2,777; School District Clerk \$500; and School District Moderator \$300 in accordance with Article V-A of the NH/VT Interstate School Compact, and further raise and appropriate the amount of Fifteen Thousand, Eight Hundred, Seventy-Seven Dollars (\$15,877) to fund these salaries?

**The Dresden School Board recommends this article and appropriation.**

*All salary amounts are status quo, other than the Treasurer, whose amount is adjusted each year by 2%. This article's effect on the tax rate is negligible.*

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Dresden School District vote to approve the cost items in the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Dresden-Hanover Service Staff AFSCME, Local #1348, and the Dresden School Board, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimated Increase over status quo budget
2026-2027	\$101,809
2027-2028	\$99,100
2028-2029	\$92,784

and further, shall the district raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred One Thousand, Eight Hundred Nine Dollars (\$101,809), such sum representing the estimated increase in service staff salaries and benefits for the 2026-27 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement? (majority vote required)

**The Dresden School Board recommends this article and appropriation.**

**NOTE 1.** The sum necessary to pay the so-called status quo salaries and benefits for the support staff if this article is defeated is included in the operating budget in Article 4.

**NOTE 2.** A favorable vote on this article shall be considered the approval of the cost items in all years of the proposed collective bargaining agreement.

*The details of the 3-year agreement can be reviewed in Simbli for the January 27, 2026, Dresden School Board Meeting under Business Requiring Discussion. The agreement includes the following language clarifications: timing of step and wage increases to July 1st, appropriate time for wearing shorts on the job, promoting from within and transfers, and posting job position openings in-house 5 days prior to posting externally. There has been an increase in uniform allowances from \$150 per year to \$250 per year. There was a change to years of service regarding longevity, amounting to \$3,500 after 35 years of employment. Insurance cost share changes are as follows: year 1 @ 10% cost of premiums, year 2 @ 12.5% cost of premiums, and year 3 @ 15% cost of premiums. For service staff who waive medical insurance, they will now receive \$3,000/year, compared to prior years of \$1,750. Compensation changes on the base wage rates include 5% for 2026-27, 5% for 2027-28, and 5% for 2028-29. This article will add \$0.025 to the tax rate.*

**ARTICLE 4:** Shall the Dresden School District raise and appropriate the amount of Thirty-Three Million, Seven Hundred Five Thousand, One Hundred Nine Dollars (\$33,705,109), for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the teachers and other school employees, school district officials, and agents, and for the payment of the statutory obligations of the district for the 2026-27 fiscal year? This sum does not include the sums appropriated in any of the other articles.

**The Dresden School Board recommends this article and appropriation.**

*There are three categories of expenditures in the proposed Dresden budget. The three budget categories are Hanover High School, Richmond Middle School, and District Wide [administrative, support, and debt ser-*

vices]. The Dresden District's base budget expenditures [including Article 2] are planned to increase by \$1,937,530 or 6.10%. Hanover's assessment increase from this article is \$1,461,433, which will add \$0.37 to the Hanover tax rate, with noted reductions of projected fund balance carryforward and revenues.

When combined with all other warrant articles discussed here for Dresden only, the total budget increase is projected to be \$2,039,339 or 6.42%. Hanover's assessment share increase if all articles pass is \$1,532,535 or 7.83%, resulting in a tax rate increase of \$0.39. The Dresden budget was ratified at the Dresden School Board Budget Hearing on January 13, 2026. The most up-to-date details for the 2026-27 proposed budget can be reviewed in the Dresden Budget Documents with Exhibits on the SAU70 District website at [www.sau70.org](http://www.sau70.org) on the Business & Finance Department page under the Budgets section.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Dresden School District will vote to ratify acceptance of the following privately donated trust funds for the purpose of providing student awards, and further, to designate the Trustees of the Trust Funds for the Town of Hanover as the trustees to hold the funds in accordance with NH RSA 31:31. (majority vote required):

**William Murphy Lamp of Learning Award Scholarship**

- Created in 2008 from private donations
- Income earned to be used for an annual \$100 "Murph Award" for outstanding achievement in the field of history

**Emil Rueb Photography Trust**

- Created in 2002 from a bequest
- Income earned to be used for an annual "Emil Rueb Photography Prize"

**Jeremiah Ice Hockey Fund**

- Created in 1975 from a bequest
- "For the benefit of the hockey team with the interest only expended each year"

**D.W. Bruce Prize Fund**

- Created in 1971 from a bequest
- Income earned on the gift is to be used for an annual American History Essay Prize

Per NH RSA 31:31 Trust Funds for Districts, these funds require a vote to be legally established and held by the Trustees of the Trust funds. These funds do not have an impact on the tax rate, as they were established through donations, living trusts, wills, etc.

**The Dresden School Board recommends this article.**

*The details of the Funds can be reviewed in Simbli in the December 13, 2025 Dresden School Board Meeting under Item 4.B.*

**ARTICLE 6: PETITION ARTICLE**

**Question:** "Non-Monetary. JV Hockey Approval. Shall SAU 70, the School District and/or Hanover High School recognize, support, and endorse a privately funded and administered boys' and girls' junior varsity hockey team so as to enable and authorize such a team to play interscholastic junior varsity hockey under New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association rules? This obligation would be sustained and open-ended, but does not require the SAU, the School District, or Hanover High School to pay for ice time, equipment, fees, insurance, or any other outlay, nor to field a junior varsity hockey team if a privately funded junior varsity hockey team is not privately mobilized and created?"

At present, Hanover High School does not field a JV Hockey Team. However, there is significant demand in the pipeline for boys and girls high school hockey. There are enough players at present, and for the foresee-

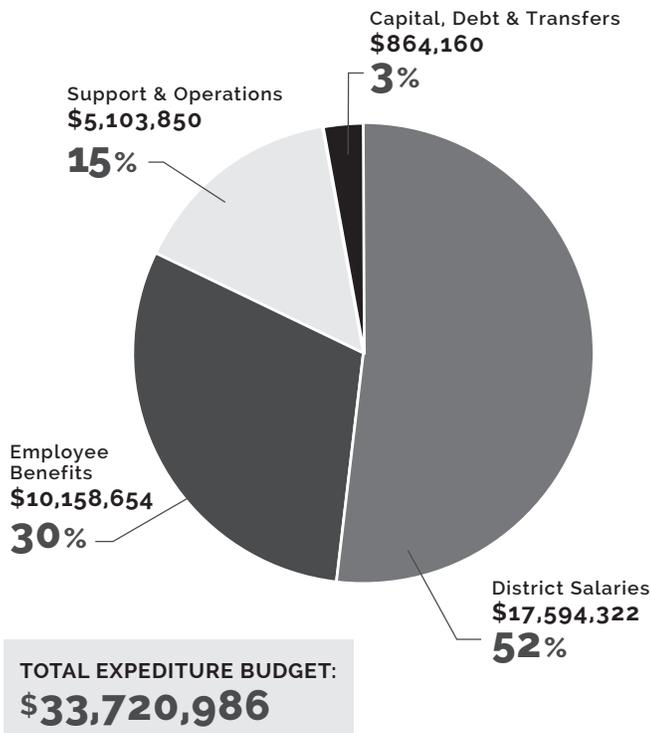
able future, to support a boys JV Hockey Team and possibly a girls JV Hockey Team. Understanding that the School District is not yet prepared to support JV Hockey Teams financially, local families are ready, willing, and able to fund and administratively support a JV Hockey Team through private donations and per player fees. However, in order to play against other New Hampshire high schools in the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association, a privately funded JV Hockey Team would still need to be operated under the auspices and authority of Hanover High School. The proposed warrant article would require SAU 70, the School District and/or Hanover High School to endorse and support such a team, such that it would be able to play other JV Hockey Teams under NHIAA rules. This article is not intended to affect the budget, as the team is intended to be privately funded, supported, insured, organized, and coached, albeit under the final authority of the Hanover High School Principal and/or her designee, which is a requirement of the NHIAA. Players would be required to meet all NHIAA eligibility requirements.

**ARTICLE 7:** To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of this meeting.



*HHS photography students Drew McCaull and Abe Prince (both 11th grade) with Lisa Lacasse.*

# Dresden FY27 Proposed Budget



EXPENSES	DISTRICT WIDE	
	FY27 BGT	INCR (DECR)
Coord of Volunteers	\$12,151	\$59
Comp Tech	5,000	-
School Board Services	60,808	(3,167)
Supt Services	1,650,345	25,623
Bldg Maintenance	743,104	3,505
Debt Service	352,235	6,368
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,823,643</b>	<b>\$32,388</b>
Percent of Change		<b>1.16%</b>
<b>TOTALS RECAP</b>		
District Wide	\$2,823,643	\$32,388
Richmond Middle	\$11,135,232	\$751,242
Hanover High	\$19,746,234	\$1,138,023
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$33,705,109</b>	<b>\$1,921,653</b>
Percent of Change		<b>6.05%</b>
Article 2: Board/Officers Sal	\$15,877	\$15,877
	\$0	\$0
Article 3: Hanover Service	\$101,809	\$101,809
	\$0	\$0
<b>ALL DISTRICT TOTALS</b>	<b>\$33,822,795</b>	<b>\$2,039,339</b>
Percent of Change		<b>6.42%</b>

ENROLLMENT & STAFFING	RICHMOND MIDDLE		HANOVER HIGH	
	FY27	%CHG	FY27	%CHG
<b>Budgeted Enrollments</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>-0.82%</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>2.16%</b>
Teachers FTEs	47.07	-0.17%	76.42	-2.40%
Other Staff FTEs	27.12	-1.74%	49.63	-0.58%
<b>Total Staff FTEs</b>	<b>74.19</b>	<b>-0.75%</b>	<b>126.05</b>	<b>-1.69%</b>

EXPENSES	RICHMOND MIDDLE		HANOVER HIGH	
	FY27 BGT	INCR (DECR)	FY27 BGT	INCR (DECR)
Regular Instruction	\$5,962,989	\$643,447	\$9,351,971	\$689,047
Technology	336,617	6,358	585,383	42,493
Special Education	1,892,257	(81,715)	2,367,483	12,413
Vocational Education	n/a	n/a	140,000	5,000
Co-Curricular/Athletics	274,651	237,271	1,112,509	(38,139)
Student Support Services	512,112	5,648	1,654,303	113,381
Staff Support Services	356,046	22,360	569,516	(11,713)
School Administration	874,549	68,770	1,962,487	57,507
Operation & Maint of Plant	731,945	5,328	1,305,814	63,827
Transportation	56,466	66	308,443	24,982
Site & Bldg Improvements	116,000	45,000	296,325	169,225
Interfund Transfer Out	21,600	-	92,000	10,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$11,135,232</b>	<b>\$751,242</b>	<b>\$19,746,234</b>	<b>\$1,138,023</b>
Percent of Change		<b>7.23%</b>		<b>6.12%</b>

## SAU 70 FY27 Budget Information

Taken together, the Hanover, Norwich, and Dresden School Districts receive services from School Administrative Unit #70, an umbrella organization formed under New Hampshire state law.

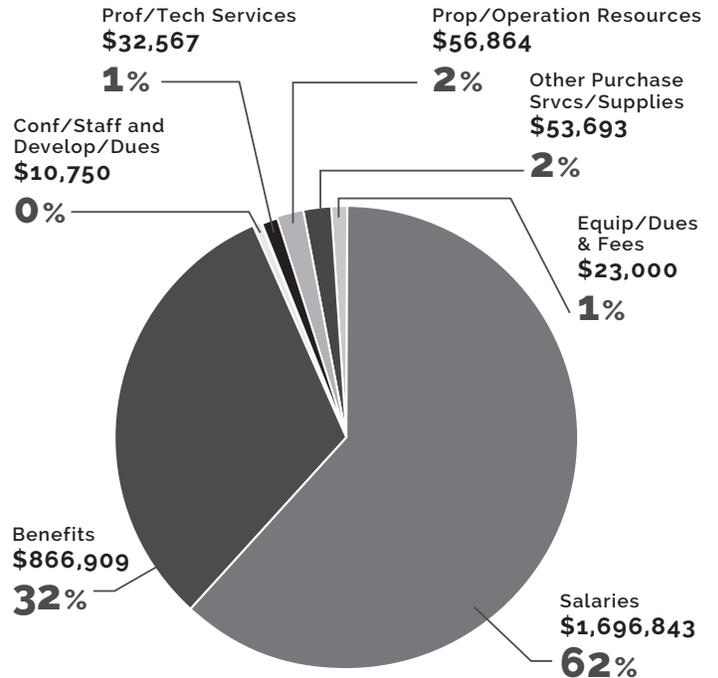
SAU 70 provides services in the following departmental areas: Superintendent's service, Special Education case management, technology support, accounting services, grants management, including writing and oversight, human resource services, transportation, and food service coordination. During the FY24-25 school year, all open positions were filled, resulting in higher-than-anticipated/budgeted salaries, unanticipated benefits changes, wage comparison adjustments for exiting employees, and revenue shortfalls, which resulted in a deficit of (\$166,389). With additional reductions in contracted services, early retirements, and benefit changes, during the FY25-26 school year, we project another savings of about (\$80,562) by the end of June 2026. We also had changes to our health insurance plans in FY25-26 due to NHIT's dissolution. Even with our new health insurance plan in place, we are still looking at a possible 10-15% increase in health insurance cost for FY26-27. A Capital Improvement Plan Committee was formed during FY26-27. Improvement needs will be discussed and implemented for the coming year and beyond. The FY26-27 SAU 70 expenditure budget was reduced by (\$35,149) compared to FY25-26, resulting in an assessment of only \$27,907 or .01% increase, after local revenues were deducted. Due to the deficit from FY24-25, there is an additional assessment of \$143,341, to each of the districts to reduce the deficit. This will result in an overall assessment increase of \$171,248 or 6.31%.

The assessments are shared by all three districts via a predetermined formula, including student and staff counts, and are already included in the Hanover, Norwich, and Dresden budgets as built. The SAU 70 budget was ratified by the SAU board on November 10th, 2025. The details of the Funds can be reviewed in Simbli in the November 10th, 2025. SAU 70 Budget Committee Meeting under Item D.1. The SAU budget is not voted on separately by the district voters.



RMS Painting on Canvas student Miles Kelley, 8th grade.

## SAU 70 FY27 Budget



**TOTAL EXPEDITURE BUDGET:**  
**\$2,740,626**

DISTRICT ASSESSMENTS	2025-26	2026-27	B-B Inc/Dec
Dresden School District	\$1,621,722	\$1,647,195	\$25,473
Hanover School District	\$620,798	\$731,160	\$110,362
Norwich School District	\$470,199	\$505,612	\$35,413
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,712,719</b>	<b>\$2,883,967</b>	<b>\$171,248</b>

SAU 70 FTEs	FY26	FY27	Diff
<b>Superintendent's Office</b>			
Certified	2.00	2.00	0.00
Other	2.65	2.00	-0.65
<b>Business/Finance Office</b>			
Certified	2.00	2.00	0.00
Other	3.00	2.00	-1.00
<b>Technology Dept</b>	4.00	5.00	1.00
<b>Student Services Dept</b>			
Certified	2.00	2.00	0.00
Other	1.00	1.00	0.00
<b>Human Resources Dept</b>	2.35	2.00	-0.35
<b>TOTAL FTEs</b>	<b>19.00</b>	<b>18.00</b>	<b>-1.00</b>



Norwich School District  
 c/o School Admin Unit #70  
 41 Lebanon Street  
 Hanover, NH 03755

NON-PROFIT ORG  
 U.S. POSTAGE PD.  
 PERMIT #48  
 HANOVER, NH 03755

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*

**DON'T FORGET  
 TO VOTE!**  
**Tuesday, March 3rd**  
**7am—7pm**  
**Tracy Hall, Norwich, VT**

**Residential Customer**

**Meet Your  
 School Districts**

**JOIN US!**  
**Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 11:30  
 A.M. and 12:30 P.M., Hanover High  
 School Auditorium** for the Discussion  
 Phase of the Hanover and Dresden  
 School Districts Annual Meetings. A  
 virtual option will be available to attend  
 via Zoom link and the information will be  
 shared via the SAU70 District website  
 at SAU70.org.

**VOTING!**  
**Tuesday, March 3, 2026, from 7:00 A.M.  
 to 7:00 P.M. in the Richmond Middle  
 School Gymnasium in Hanover, NH**  
 (for Hanover voters) and in **Tracy Hall in  
 Norwich, VT** (for Norwich voters).

*Absentee ballots will be available ahead  
 of the in-person voting date.*

---

The Norwich and Dresden School District Budget proposals support the strategic plan of SAU 70 with the following overarching goals:

**ACADEMIC GOAL**  
 To provide curriculum, instruction, and assessments that are rigorous, engaging, and equitable for all learners across the SAU70 School Districts.

**STUDENT SUPPORT GOAL**  
 To provide instruction, co- and extra-curricular programs, professional development and other forms of support, that include social emotional learning, mental and physical health and wellness, and community-building.

**FACILITIES GOAL**  
 To provide facilities, grounds, and environment that are sustainable, fiscally responsible, and that enhance our curricular and extracurricular goals for each student to achieve success.

**ORGANIZATIONAL GOAL**  
 To ensure that the leadership, governance, financial, and administrative functions of the organization support the attainment of the academic, student support, and facility goals established in this Plan.

---