

## Hanover School District

### THE BERNICE A. RAY SCHOOL

**Mission:** The Ray School provides a nurturing and inclusive learning community that inspires excellence.

**Vision:** To be One Ray, focused on empowering students to dream, create, think critically, and contribute to the greater good.

### HANOVER SCHOOL BOARD

Deborah Bacon Nelson  
Marcela Di Blasi  
Benjamin Keeney  
Kelly McConnell  
Carrie Russell  
Renee Sullivan  
Tara Velozo

### 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 Hanover School District

**ARTICLE 1:** To elect by written ballot for one-year terms a Moderator, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and one (1) School Board member for a three-year term and one (1) School Board member for a two-year term.

*The positions noted above are voted on annually. The names of the candidates are listed at the end of the Hanover section of the annual report. Information on each position is available in the Superintendent's office. School Board members elected to the Hanover School Board will also serve as the Hanover representatives on the Dresden and SAU 70 School Boards.*

**ARTICLE 2:** Shall the District appropriate the sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000) from the Don S. Bridgman Fund during the 2026-2027 fiscal year in order to afford additional advantages to the students of the district not provided by taxes?

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

**NOTE 1.** In his will dated January 20, 1917, Don S. Bridgman left a portion of his estate to what is now the Hanover School District. These monies are known as the Bridgman Fund and are currently invested to provide a stream of income for years to come. Expenditures from the fund are used for projects that would not be covered in the school's regular operating budget. Monies are taken only from the Bridgman Trust Fund, so this appropriation has no effect on the tax rate.

**ARTICLE 3:** Shall the Hanover School District determine and fix the salaries of School District officers as follows: School Board members \$1,000 per member with additional \$300 for School Board Chair; School District Treasurer \$2,075; School District Clerk \$300; and School District Moderator \$300 in accordance with RSA 194:10, and further raise and appropriate the sum of Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$9,975) to fund these salaries?

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

**NOTE 1.** 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 4:** Shall the Hanover School District vote to approve the cost items in the three (3) year collective bargaining agreement reached between the Hanover-Dresden Service Staff AFSCME, Local #1348, and the Hanover School Board, which calls for the following increases in salaries and benefits:

Year	Estimated Increase over status quo budget
2026-2027	\$28,179
2027-2028	\$26,894
2028-2029	\$23,827

and further, shall the district raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Eight Thousand, One Hundred Seventy-Nine Dollars (\$28,179), such sum representing the estimated increase in service staff salaries and benefits for the 2026-2027 fiscal year brought about by this collective bargaining agreement? (majority vote required)

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

**NOTE 1.** The sum necessary to pay the so-called status quo salaries and benefits for the service staff if this article is defeated is included in the operating budget in Article 5.

**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 2026-2027, 5% for 2027-2028, and 5% for 2028-2029. This article will add \$0.007 to the Hanover tax rate.*

**ARTICLE 5:** Shall the Hanover School District raise and appropriate the amount of Sixteen Million, Nine Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand, Fifty-Four Dollars (\$16,956,054), 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 2026-2027 fiscal year?

This sum does not include the sums appropriated in any of the other articles.

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

*The Hanover District's base budget expenditures [including Articles 2 & 3] are planned to increase 2.89% or \$479,259. The effect of this article alone is projected to add \$0.13 to the Hanover tax rate. With noted reductions of projected fund balance carryforward and other revenues, the tax assessment increases by \$988,922 or 7.33%, resulting in a projected rate of \$0.25. If all articles [in-*

*cluding articles #2 & #3] pass, the budget net of revenue changes will increase by a total of 7.54% or \$1,017,101, compared to the 2025-2026 fiscal school year, resulting in a projected rate of \$0.26. When combined with all the warrant articles proposed in both Hanover and Dresden, plus the state education tax, the tax rate is projected to be 7.48% or \$0.63 higher than the 2025-2026 rate.*

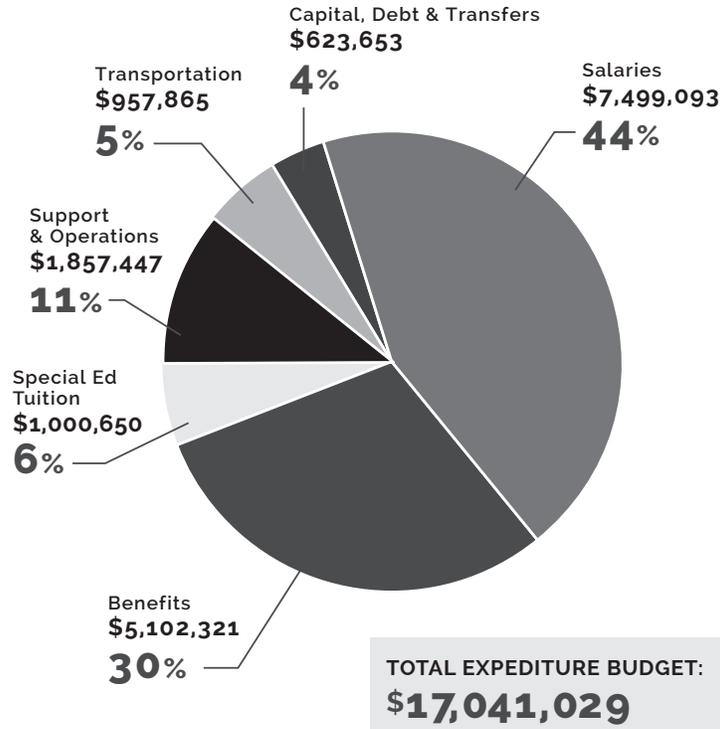
*The Hanover Budget was ratified at the Hanover School Board Budget Hearing on January 14, 2026. The most up-to-date details for the 2026-2027 proposed budget can be reviewed in the Hanover Budget Book, specifically Exhibits 2 & 3, on the SAU 70 District website at [www.sau70.org](http://www.sau70.org) on the Business & Finance Department tab in the Budgets section.*

**ARTICLE 6:** To transact any non-substantive business that may legally come before the discussion phase of the meeting..



*Ray School students*

## Hanover FY27 Budget



### ENROLLMENT & STAFFING

Budgeted Enrollment	FY26	FY27	%CHG
Budgeted Enrollment K-5 (Ray)	452	452	0.00%
<b>Budgeted Staff (Ray School)</b>			
Classroom Teachers	27.00	27.00	0.00%
Other Staff FTEs	75.20	68.46	-8.96%
<b>TOTAL STAFF FTEs</b>	<b>102.20</b>	<b>95.46</b>	<b>-6.59%</b>

BUDGET OUTLINE	FY26	FY27	INC/DEC
<b>RAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (PRE K-5 ONLY)</b>			
Regular Instruction	\$6,299,924	\$6,710,615	\$410,691
Technology	553,111	567,031	\$13,920
Special Education	5,026,082	4,750,411	(\$275,671)
Student Support Services	400,618	434,465	\$33,847
Staff Support Services	397,560	526,153	\$128,593
School Board/Assessment	671,517	782,086	\$110,569
School Administration	774,722	820,935	\$46,213
Operation & Maint of Plant	812,148	857,815	\$45,667
Transportation	894,009	957,866	\$63,857
Site & Bldg Improvements	152,250	152,250	\$0
Interfund Transfer Out	579,829	481,404	(\$98,425)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$16,561,770</b>	<b>\$17,041,029</b>	<b>\$479,259</b>
Percent of Change			<b>2.89%</b>

\*Please note the FY26-27 total includes Warrant Articles #2 & #3

# 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-

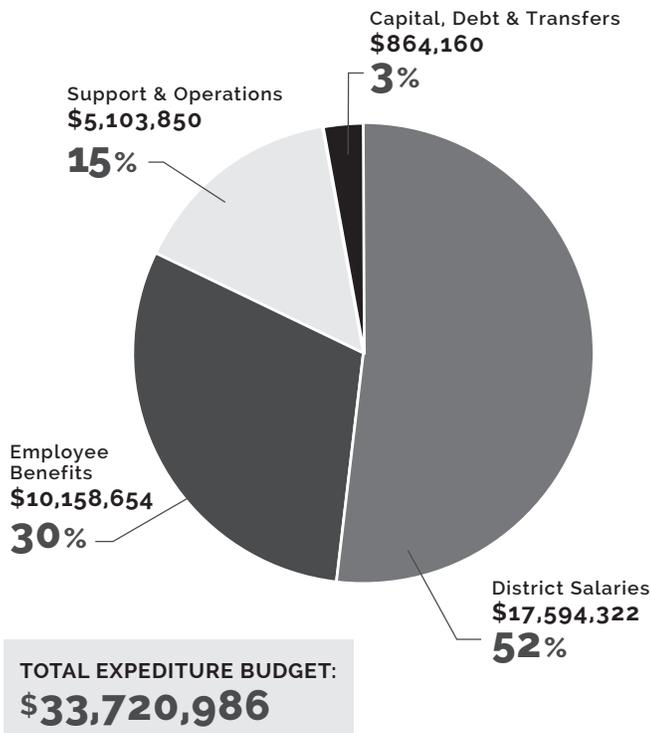
able future, to support a boys JV Hockey Team and possibly a girls JV Hockey Team. Understanding that the School District is not yet prepared to support JV Hockey Teams financially, local families are ready, willing, and able to fund and administratively support a JV Hockey Team through private donations 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		1.16%
<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		6.05%
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		6.42%

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		7.23%		6.12%

## 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.

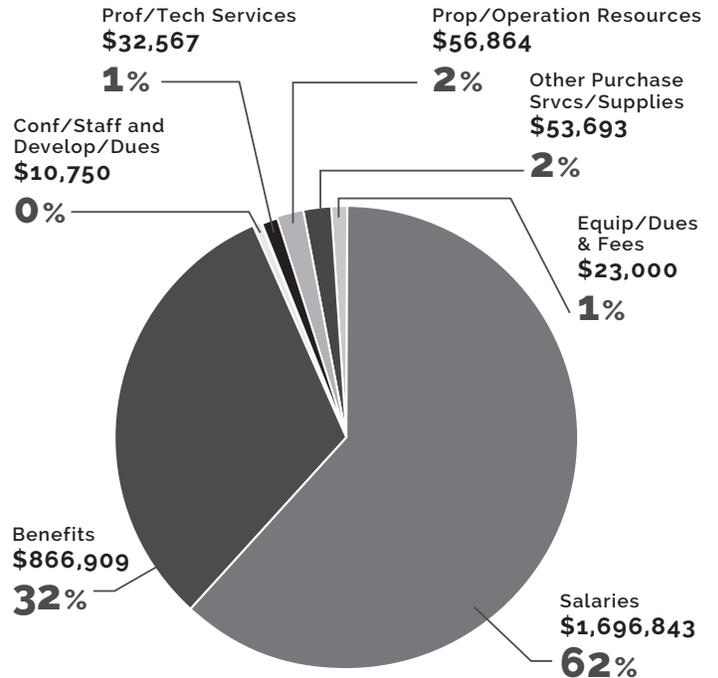
SAU 70 provides services in the following departmental areas: Superintendent's service, Special Education case management, technology support, accounting services, grants management, including writing and oversight, human resource services, transportation, and food service coordination. During the FY24-25 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>



Hanover 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**  
**Richmond Middle School**

**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.*

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The Hanover 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.

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