





Overview

This report examines the overall picture of public education in your district, including community indicators that can affect a child's learning.

Questions to consider: What do these key indicators show about the context and environment in which children are learning in my district? How has my district changed over time? How might these changes affect student outcomes and how we educate **all** of our children?

Student Outcome Indicators

This section explores district performance on the 2017 statewide annual assessment for Grades 4, 8, and 11. This section also includes three other outcome measures: high school graduation rates, high school dropout rates, and attendance rates. Districts that do not operate a high school do not report Grade 11 assessment results, high school graduation rates, or high school dropout rates. Please see the Data Glossary for more information.

RESULT INDICATORS:			
 Does Not Meet Achievement Level	 Approaching Achievement Level	 Meets Achievement Level	 Exceeds Achievement Level

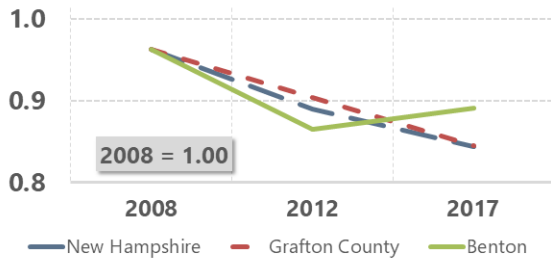
Student & Teacher Indicators

This section explores student enrollment by the following cohorts: economic status, race and ethnicity, emerging bi- and multi-lingualism, and special education.

Indicators counted students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 who **lived within** the district. The student count and percentages included students who attended public schools in their district and students who attended schools outside of the district as part of cooperative or regional agreements, tuition agreements, special education placements, or other arrangements.

Overall Enrollment, Kindergarten-Grade 12 (2008 – 2017)

Overall Enrollment is the total number of students who lived in the district.

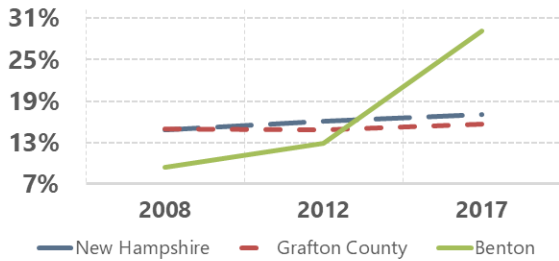


	2008	2012	2017	% change 2008-2017
Benton	35	31	32	-7.3%
Grafton County	11,912	11,208	10,498	-11.9%
New Hampshire	198,969	184,254	175,139	-12.0%

Chart scale: 1.0 is equivalent to enrollment for each cohort in 2008. Figures are normalized to display changes in enrollment between years

Special Education Student Enrollment Rate (2008 – 2017)

Special Education Student Enrollment Rate is the percentage of students who lived in this district and had an Individualized Education Program (IEP).



	2008	2012	2017	% change 2008-2017
Benton	9.3%	12.8%	29.1%	213.9%
Grafton County	14.9%	14.7%	15.6%	4.7%
New Hampshire	14.8%	16.0%	17.0%	14.9%

Limited English Proficient (LEP) Student Enrollment (2008 – 2017)

Limited English Proficient (LEP) Student Enrollment is the percentage of emerging bi- and multi-lingual students who lived in this district and qualified for English Language instruction.

	2008	2012	2017	% change 2008-2017
Benton	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	N.A.
New Hampshire	1.8%	2.3%	2.4%	34.1%

* Indicates fewer than 11 students

Community Indicators

When it comes to a child’s educational opportunities, the context and environment in which they learn matter. Economic, social, and health patterns in communities are strong predictors of success in school. These factors can, for example, provide a safe space to make learning possible, or present challenges that children must overcome before they can learn.

Indicators like median household income, access to health care, and stable housing illustrate the community context in which children are learning, playing, and growing.

We include various economic, social, and health indicators in this report to provide insight into a child’s learning environment and how they may impact learning and student success.

Median Household Income (2006 – 2016)

Median Household Income of a community provides a snapshot of the community’s relative income. It is different than the average because it is the middle value—half of households have incomes above that amount, and half of households have incomes below that amount. Using the median ensures that household incomes that are much higher or lower than the others in the community do not skew the data.

	2006-2010	2012-2016	% change
Benton	\$43,750	\$55,000	25.7%
Grafton County	\$53,075	\$58,107	9.5%
New Hampshire	\$63,277	\$68,485	8.2%

Unemployment Rate (2006 – 2016)

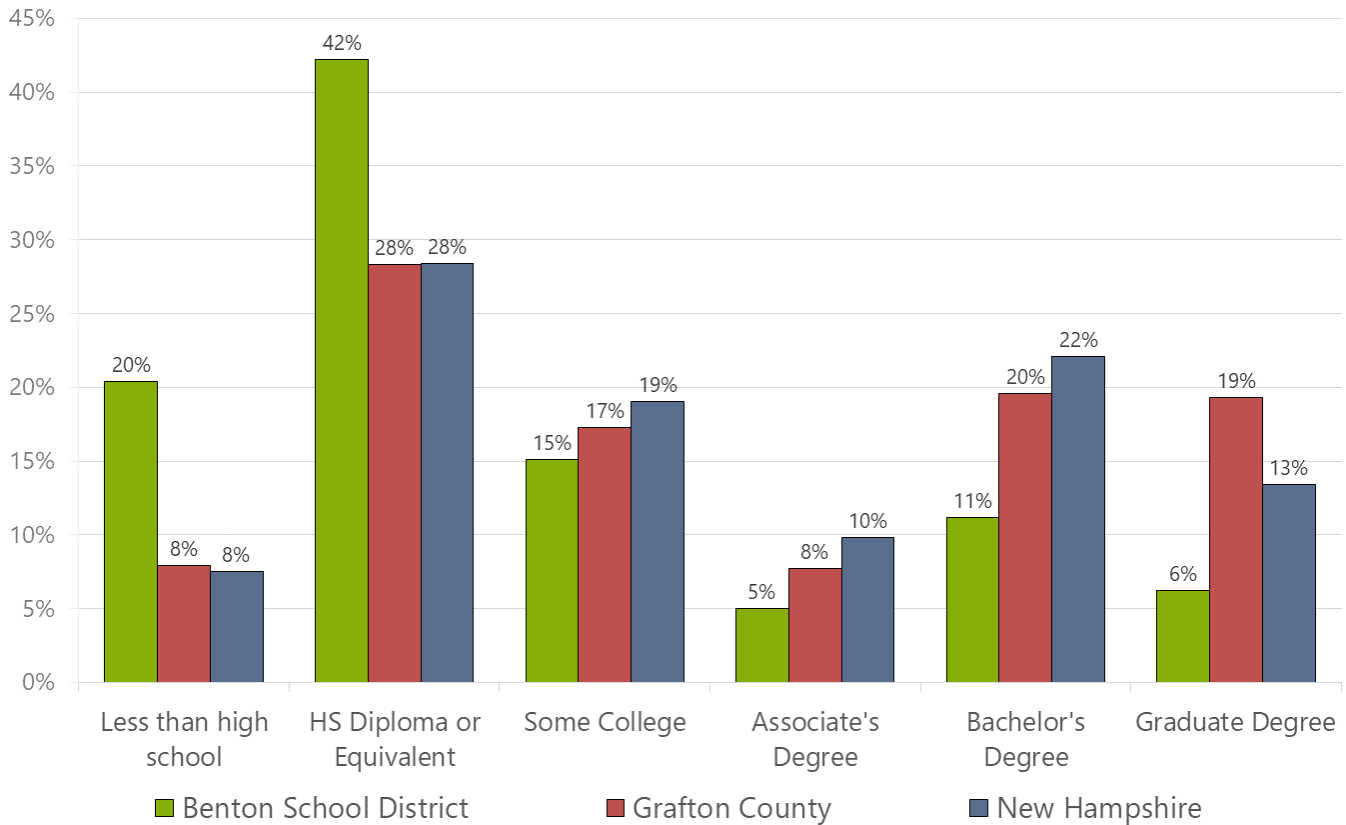
Unemployment Rate is the percentage of people who are looking for a job and cannot find one. It does not take into account workers who have stopped looking for a job, or individuals who work part-time, but want to work full-time.

	2006-2010	2012-2016	% change
Benton	21.8%	7.4%	-66.1%
Grafton County	4.2%	4.6%	9.5%
New Hampshire	5.9%	5.1%	-13.6%



Educational Attainment (2012 – 2016)

Educational Attainment is the percentage of adults 25 and older who lived within this district, county, and state, by highest level of education completed.



Owner-Occupied Housing Units (2006 – 2016)

Owner-Occupied Housing Units measures the percentage of all housing units within this district that were owner-occupied.

	2006-2010	2012-2016	% change
Benton	95.7%	88.8%	-7.2%
Grafton County	70.8%	68.5%	-3.3%
New Hampshire	72.6%	70.7%	-2.6%

Households with High Housing Cost Burdens (2006 – 2016)

Households with High Housing Cost Burdens measures the percentage of children living in households in which more than 30% of the monthly income was spent on rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and/or related expenses.

	2006-2010	2012-2016	% change
Benton	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Grafton County	35.0%	32.6%	-6.9%
New Hampshire	38.7%	33.9%	-12.4%

Low-Weight Births (2008 – 2017)

Low-Weight Births measures the percentage of babies who weighed less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. The percentages represent the number of babies born to mothers that reside in each county.

	2008	2012	2017
Belknap County	5.5%	8.3%	8.0%
Carroll County	6.8%	5.4%	5.2%
Cheshire County	7.6%	5.7%	7.3%
Coos County	8.3%	9.8%	7.2%
Grafton County	5.2%	6.1%	6.7%
Hillsborough County (<i>without cities</i>)	7.1%	6.7%	5.7%
<i>Manchester</i>	6.9%	7.6%	8.4%
<i>Nashua</i>	7.5%	9.4%	7.3%
Merrimack County	5.4%	7.1%	6.0%
Rockingham County	6.4%	7.7%	6.3%
Strafford County	5.5%	5.3%	8.5%
Sullivan County	7.7%	9.5%	7.1%



Births to Teen Mothers (2008 – 2017)

Births to Teen Mothers measures the percentage of babies who were born to teen mothers, ages 12 to 19. The percentages represent the number of babies born to mothers that reside in each county.

	2008	2012	2017
Belknap County	8.5%	4.3%	3.2%
Carroll County	7.9%	5.7%	5.2%
Cheshire County	8.0%	6.0%	3.9%
Coos County	10.3%	6.8%	7.2%
Grafton County	7.0%	6.1%	2.0%
Hillsborough County (<i>without cities</i>)	3.3%	3.7%	2.5%
<i>Manchester</i>	8.7%	7.6%	3.9%
<i>Nashua</i>	8.1%	6.2%	3.7%
Merrimack County	6.2%	6.2%	2.5%
Rockingham County	4.4%	3.3%	1.4%
Strafford County	7.8%	4.4%	3.2%
Sullivan County	11.8%	6.2%	5.3%



Residents without Health Insurance (2008 – 2016)

Residents without Health Insurance measures the percentage of residents (under 65 years old) who did not have comprehensive health care coverage for the entire calendar year. Health care coverage includes private and public health care plans.

	2008		2016		% change 2008-2016
	Population	Residents without Health Insurance	Population	Residents without Health Insurance	
Belknap County	50,715	7,014 (13.8%)	47,517	3,872 (8.1%)	-41.3%
Carroll County	38,327	6,097 (15.9%)	34,649	3,275 (9.5%)	-40.3%
Cheshire County	62,115	8,414 (13.5%)	57,399	4,743 (8.3%)	-38.5%
Coos County	25,657	4,011 (15.6%)	22,682	2,081 (9.2%)	-41.0%
Grafton County	66,701	8,727 (13.1%)	65,652	5,612 (8.5%)	-35.1%
Hillsborough County	350,256	40,883 (11.7%)	342,531	25,164 (7.3%)	-37.6%
Merrimack County	123,190	14,451 (11.7%)	117,652	8,390 (7.1%)	-39.3%
Rockingham County	260,660	27,370 (10.5%)	253,555	14,206 (5.6%)	-46.7%
Strafford County	102,431	12,705 (12.4%)	100,640	8,053 (8.0%)	-36.0%
Sullivan County	35,490	5,206 (14.7%)	34,010	2,625 (7.7%)	-47.6%



Data Glossary

Years listed throughout this profile are for the school year ending in the named year (e.g., 2017 is school year 2016-17), unless otherwise noted. To protect privacy, the New Hampshire Department of Education does not report student counts of less than 11, so district profiles may have missing values.

Statewide Annual Assessments for Grades 4 and 8 show public school student performance on the statewide assessments for these grades. Districts either administered the Smarter Balanced Assessment or the locally developed Performance Assessment for Competency Education (PACE) for the 2016-2017 school year. All public school children in Grades 3-8 were required to participate in statewide assessments, per federal law.

Reaching Higher NH reports only Grade 4 and Grade 8 outcomes on these assessments. Districts receive additional funding for third graders who are not proficient in reading, and likely provide additional interventions as a result of third grade reading level. Therefore, we use the Grade 4 outcomes to capture this progress. Grade 8 outcomes are predictive of on-time graduation. However, other factors—including attendance rate, performance in coursework, course rigor, the number of suspensions, and student behavior—are stronger indicators of high school graduation than performance on standardized tests.^{i,ii}

We report student performance levels in Math and Reading for these grades. Each district’s report includes scores for all student groups that were reported.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm

SAT Results show the district-level performance on the SAT. In 2016-2017, New Hampshire used the College Board SAT as the statewide assessment. Proficiency benchmarks (Levels 1-4) are identified by The College Board for Grade 11 students nationwide. The State of New Hampshire releases the average scores by the standard score reporting (400-1600) on their website.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/sat.htm

High School Graduation Rate is the percentage of students who graduated in four years with a regular or adult high school diploma. This data is only available for districts that operate a public high school or academy.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/dropouts.htm

Dropout Rate is the percentage of students who exited high school without earning a diploma as of the report date. This data is only available for districts that operate a public high school or academy.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/dropouts.htm

Overall Enrollment, Preschool-Grade 12 is the total number of students who live in the district and attend public schools or private schools as part of tuition agreements. This includes students who attended a public school or academy operated in their resident district, students who were tuitioned by the resident district to a district operated school in New Hampshire or another state, or students who were tuitioned by the resident district to a non-public school. This figure does not include students who attended charter schools, private schools, or students who were home schooled. The figure is reported by the New Hampshire Department of Education as the “average daily membership in residence” (ADM-R).

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm

Student Attendance Rate is the average daily student attendance for schools within the district. The rate does not include charter schools.



Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm

Economically Disadvantaged Student Enrollment is the percentage of students in Grades 1-12 who qualified for the federal Free and Reduced Lunch program and who lived in the district. The percentage includes students who attended public schools and public academies in the district, out-of-district schools as part of tuition agreements or other arrangements, and special education placements. The percentage does not include students who attended charter schools.

In 2017, children in a family of four with income at or below \$45,510 per year qualified for free or reduced-price school meals, regardless of annual income. Children in foster care, homeless, migrant, and runaway children, and children in households receiving benefits from State SNAP or State TANF programs also qualified, regardless of family income.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm

Special Education Student Enrollment is the percentage of students who had an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and lived in the district, including students who attended public schools and public academies in the district, charter schools (even if those charter schools were not in the same district), out-of-district schools as part of tuition agreements or other arrangements, and special education placements. The figure was calculated by dividing Special Education Student Average Daily Membership by District Average Daily Membership, both reported in the New Hampshire Department of Education State Aid Programs web page.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/state_aid.htm

Student Race/Ethnicity Enrollment is the percentage of students who lived in the district and identified as the races and/or ethnicities stated. The figure is reported as percent of District Average Daily Membership, reported in the New Hampshire Department of Education State Aid Programs web page.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm

Limited English Proficient Enrollment is the percentage of emergent bi- and multi-lingual students who were receiving English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) services at the time of reporting, students who were eligible for ESOL services but their parent(s) declined services, and students who were eligible for ESOL services but the school did not have an ESOL educator available. The percentage includes students who attended public schools and public academies in the district, out-of-district schools as part of tuition agreements or other arrangements, and special education placements. The percentage does not include students who attended charter schools.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/attendance.htm

Spend Per Student is the total amount spent per student from all funding sources (including local, state, and federal sources) in elementary schools operated by the district. The figure excludes tuition and transportation costs.

The available data does not differentiate between elementary school types. "Elementary school" may include K-8 schools and schools that have district-operated preschool and/or early intervention services.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/financial.htm

Student/Teacher Ratio measures the total number of students per full-time equivalent teacher, including subject-specific teachers, special education teachers, and regular classroom teachers. The ratio includes students and teachers in Grades 1-12 in public schools and academies within the district. The figure does not include charter



schools. Preschool and kindergarten teachers and students are not included in the ratio. Student to teacher ratio is not a measure of average class size.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/staffing.htm

Average Teacher Salary is the average salary reported for preschool teachers, kindergarten teachers, and regular and special education teachers in public elementary, middle, and high schools and academies. The figure does not include charter school teacher salaries. The values are not adjusted for inflation. Not all districts report salaries.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of Education*. www.education.nh.gov/data/staffing.htm

Median Household Income reports a community's relative income. The Census reports median income, rather than average income, so that families with incomes much higher or much lower than others in the community do not skew the data. The median is the middle value—half of families have incomes above that amount, and half of families have incomes below that amount.

For the complete definition, go to the American Community Survey subject definitions found in the report, "[Income in the Past 12 Months](#)."

Source: *US Census Bureau*. www.census.gov/library/publications/2018/demo/p60-263.html

Unemployment Rate is the percentage of people who were looking for a job but could not find one. It does not take into account discouraged workers who had stopped looking for a job, or individuals who were working part-time but wanted to be working full-time.

Source: *US Census Bureau*. www.census.gov/topics/employment.html

Educational Attainment is the highest level of education attained by all adults 25 and older that resided in the district.

Source: *US Census Bureau*. www.census.gov/topics/education/educational-attainment.html

Owner Occupied Rate is the percentage of housing units that were owner-occupied.

Source: *US Census Bureau*. www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/VET605217

Households with High Housing Cost Burdens is the percentage of children living in households where more than 30 percent of the monthly income was spent on rent, mortgage payments, taxes, insurance, and/or related expenses. We do not report data for districts with margins of error of 30 percent or more of the estimate.

The 30 percent threshold for housing costs is based on research on affordable housing by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). According to HUD, households that must allocate more than 30 percent of their income to housing expenses are less likely to have enough resources for food, clothing, medical care or other needs.

Source: *US Census Bureau*. www.census.gov/topics/housing/data.html

Low-Weight Births is the rate of babies that weighed less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds) at birth. The rate is per 1,000 live births. Figures were only available at the county and state level.

Source: *New Hampshire Department of State, Division of Vital Records Administration*.

https://nhvrinweb.sos.nh.gov/nhivs_about.aspx

Births to Teen Mothers is the rate of babies born to mothers between 15 to 19 years old. The rate is per 1,000 women between 15 and 19 years old. Figures were only available at the county and state level.



Source: *New Hampshire Department of State, Division of Vital Records Administration.*

https://nhvrinweb.sos.nh.gov/nhivs_about.aspx

Residents without Health Insurance is the percentage of residents who did not have comprehensive health care coverage for the entire stated calendar year.

Comprehensive health care coverage covers basic health care needs and includes private or public health insurance, but does not include single service plans, such as accident, disability, dental, vision, or prescription medicine plans.

Source: *US Census Bureau.* www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/sahie/estimates-ac.html

A note about percentages...

Many of the indicators show the **percentage** of students who fall within a specific cohort instead of the **count** of students. When calculating the percent change, one uses the same method that one would use to calculate the difference between numbers:

$$\frac{(New\ Number - Original\ Number)}{Original\ Number} \times 100$$

Let's use an example, where in 2006, 18.2% of students qualified for a program, and in 2017, 16% of students qualified for the program:

$$\frac{(16\% - 18.2\%)}{18.2\%} \times 100 = \frac{-2.2\%}{18.2\%} \times 100 = -12.1\%$$

This is a 12.1% decrease.

Simply subtracting the new number from the original number gives one a **point increase or decrease**:

$$18.2\% - 16.0\% = 2.2\%$$

This is a 2.2-point decrease.

ⁱ Jennifer Thomsen, *Request for Information Response: Student Success Indicators*, Education Commission of the States, 2017.

ⁱⁱ *Critical Academic Indicators*, Hanover Research, 2014.



School Finance Indicators

How much did my town receive in state funding? How did my town compare to other communities in New Hampshire when it comes to our overall ability to raise money for schools and how much we spent per student?

Where does the money come from?

The table below shows the total amount that this community received per student in total from the state between 2008 and 2017, compared to how much it raised from local property taxes. These figures are not adjusted for inflation.

	Benton			New Hampshire		
	2008	2017	% change, 2008-2017	2008	2017	% change, 2008-2017
Total Number of Enrolled K-12 Students*	35	32	-8.6%	195,383	176,442	-9.7%
Average State Funding per Student	\$2,905	\$4,632	+59.4%	\$2,699	\$3,197	+18.5%
Total State Adequate Education Grant	\$100,235	\$148,169	+47.8%	\$527,360,565	\$564,007,588	+6.9%
Locally Raised Revenue (Property Taxes)**	\$202,963	\$505,643	+149.1%	\$1,740,418,581	\$2,220,027,718	+27.6%
Percentage of funding raised locally***	67%	77%	+14.9%	77%	80%	+4.0%

*Kindergarten students were counted as half of an enrolled student for grant calculation purposes.

**Locally raised revenue included SWEPT and the local education property tax.

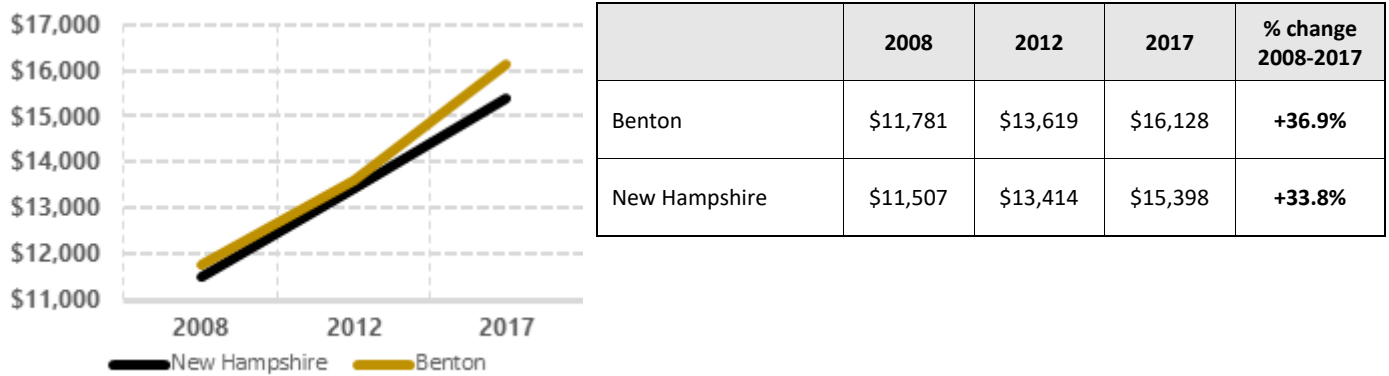
***Does not include federal sources.

Isn't the adequate education grant the same for all students? Not exactly. In 2017, the amount that a town received in state aid was dependent on a number of factors: the calculated amount of per-student funding (which included additional funding for economically disadvantaged students, those with Individual Education Programs, and other student cohorts), the amount that the town collected in the statewide education property tax (SWEPT), and the amount that the community received in stabilization grants.

How has state funding per-student changed since 2008? In 2008, the state was operating under a funding formula that targeted state funding to communities with low property values (and therefore lower capacity to raise money through property taxes), and communities that have median family incomes below the state average. For more information on how the state funds our public schools, visit bit.ly/nhschoolfunding.

Spend Per Student (2008-2017)

Spend Per Student is the average amount spent per elementary school student, per year. The figure does not include transportation or tuition paid to out-of-district schools. The figure is not adjusted for inflation.



Equalized Valuation Per Pupil (2017)

Equalized Valuation Per Pupil (EVPP) measures a town’s ability to raise money for schools through property taxes.

Benton Equalized Valuation Per Pupil = \$905,296

Property values vary widely between communities. Those with low property values ultimately have a smaller tax base from which to raise money for education, than those with high property values, as shown in the figure below. Each dollar bill represents \$100,000 in property values.



The median community’s property value per student is the middle value—half of communities have property values above that amount, and half of communities have property values below that amount. It is not the average property value.

Towns with lower property values generally need to have higher property tax rates to generate the same amount of revenue as those with high property values.

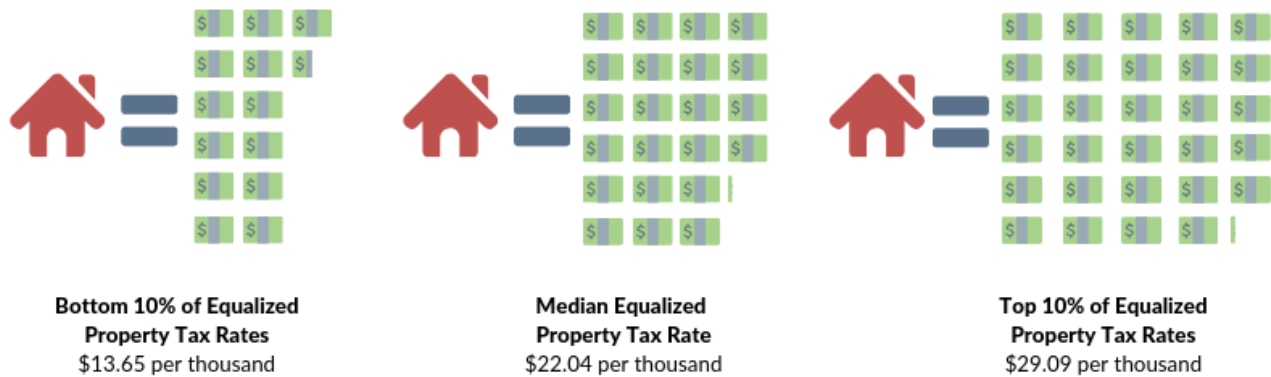
Total Equalized Property Tax Rate (2017)

Total Equalized Property Tax Rate includes Local Education Tax, Statewide Education Tax (SWEPT), County Tax, and Municipal Taxes. The figure shown below is per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Benton Equalized Property Tax Rate = \$15.74

The rate shown will likely not match the one on a property tax bill. The rates on a property tax bill are known as “assessed” rates. The data included in these figures are “equalized” rates. Equalized rates enable an “apples to apples” comparison across New Hampshire towns by adjusting property values to account for market value estimates. This adjustment is carried out by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration.

Like EVPP, there are a wide range of property tax rates across the state, as shown in the figure below. Each dollar bill represents \$1 per thousand in equalized property tax rate.



The median property tax rate is the middle value: half of towns have values above that amount, and half of towns have values below that amount.

Sources

Where does the money come from?, NH Department of Education Adequate Education Aid, https://www.education.nh.gov/data/state_aid.htm.

Spend Per Student, NH Department of Education Financial Reports, <https://www.education.nh.gov/data/financial.htm>.

Equalized Valuation Per Pupil, NH Department of Education Financial Reports, <https://www.education.nh.gov/data/financial.htm>.

Total Equalized Property Tax Rate, NH Department of Revenue Administration Equalization Reports, <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/mun-prop/property/equalization.htm>.

Find more school district profiles on our main District Dashboard page at:
reachinghighernh.org/datadashboard