

Measures of Schools and Students in Bedford April 2023

Inequitable education funding in New Hampshire affects far more than the property taxpayer. Students' educational experience can be drastically different all over the state. Below is some helpful information about the schools in Bedford and how they compare to the rest of the state.

Students and Student Characteristics

Bedford School District has grades from kindergarten through 12th grade. Spread between Memorial School, Peter Woodbury School, McKelvie Intermediate School, Riddle Brook School, Ross A. Lurgio Middle School and Bedford High School, enrollment in October 2023 by grade was as follows.

Table 1

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Students	207	258	284	282	324	305	344	332	368	327	349	358	352	4,159

3,367 of the 4,159 students in 2021 were white non-Hispanic.

Table 2

Category	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	White Non-Hispanic	Multi-Race	Total
Students	4	366	194	40	3,367	265	4,159

In the 2021-22 school year, there were 4,159 public school students in Bedford. Of these, 230 were from families with income low enough for the students to be eligible for free/reduced-price school meals. This was 5.5% of the students, considerably less than the statewide average of 23%.

Also in the 2021-22 school year, there were 574 students who were receiving special education services with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This was 14% of the students, somewhat less than the statewide average of 19%.

Also in the 2021-22 school year, there were 46 students who were English language learners, 1% of all students. Statewide, 3% of students were English language learners.

How Much Do Teachers Earn in Bedford?

In 2007-08 there were 257 teachers. In 2021-22 there were 314 teachers.

In 2021-22 the average teacher salary in Bedford was \$68,285. This was 8% above the state average of \$62,695. Bedford's average teacher salary has generally been somewhat above the state average over the past 11 years. It has generally been above that of Claremont and below that of Lebanon.

Bedford's average teacher salary increased 42% from 2007-08. At the same time, the Consumer Price Index increased by 36%.

Average teacher salary is affected by two things: the actual salary schedule of a district and the number of years of teaching experience among the teachers. Teacher salary schedules generally increase salaries as teachers gain experience. It is therefore possible for two districts that have identical salary schedules to have different average salaries. The salary of a newly recruited teacher depends on the district's salary schedule, not on the average teacher's salary.

Starting salaries, on the other hand, show us what a recent college graduate could earn as a first-time teacher in a district. This is important for hiring and retaining quality teachers over the long term. The starting salaries for teachers in New Hampshire range from \$31,712 to \$59,752.

Figure 1

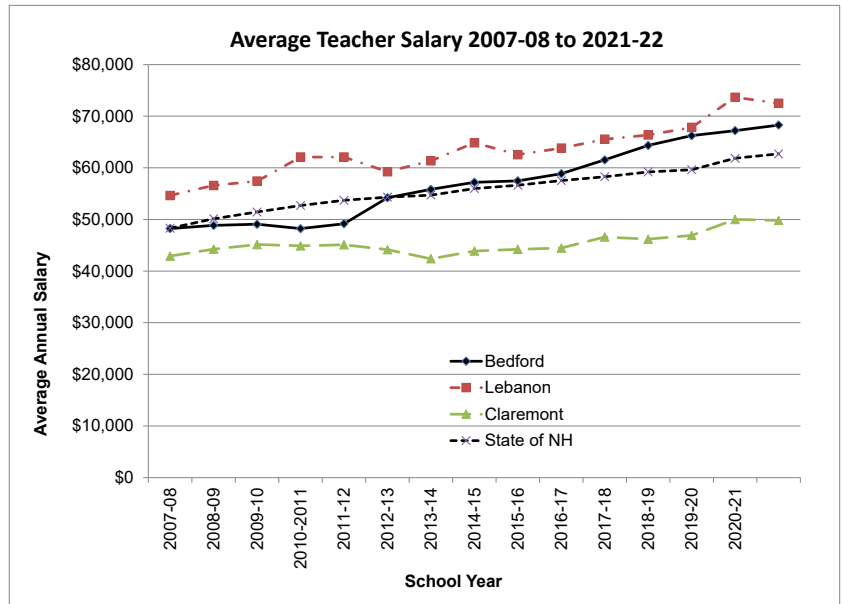
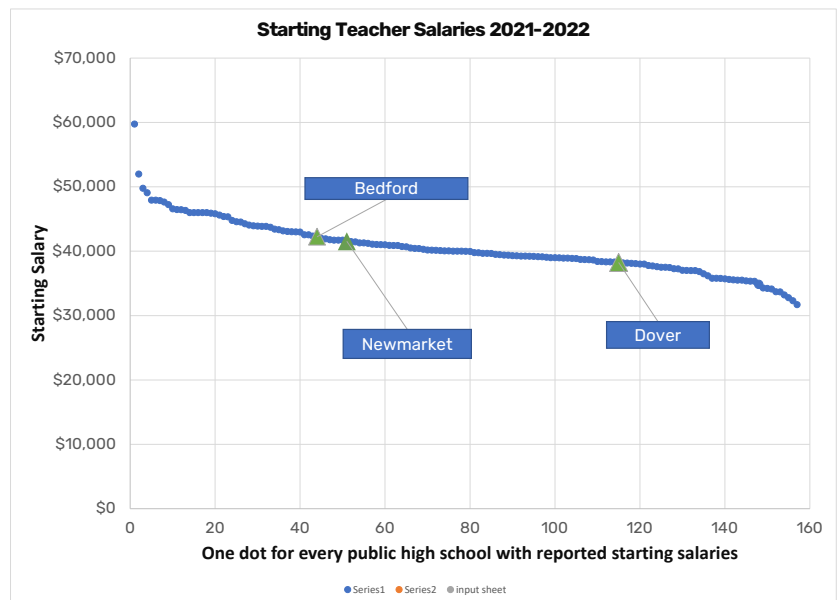


Figure 2



Bedford has a starting salary for its teachers of \$42,241 for the 2021-2022 school year. Bedford's starting salary for teachers is 104% of the state average of \$40,478. In figure 2 we can see that towns like Newmarket have lower starting salaries than Bedford.

What Sports are Available to Bedford High School Students?

The New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) organizes high school sports competitions in New Hampshire. Of 34 NHIAA sports in 2019-20, Bedford offered 27 athletic programs for its 1,498 enrolled students. Of the high schools with enrollment between 1,000 and 4,000 students, the average number of sports was 26.6. The number of interscholastic sports available to Bedford students at Bedford was average for high schools of similar size.

The interscholastic sports offered at Bedford were:

Bass Fishing, Boys Ice Hockey, Boys & Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Boys & Girls Golf, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Spirit, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Unified Basketball, Boys & Girls Indoor Track, Boys & Girls Alpine Skiing, Swimming & Diving, Unified Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Outdoor Track, Girls Tennis, Boys Tennis, and Girls Volleyball.

The sports available in any particular year will depend, of course, on the availability of coaches and whether enough students sign up.

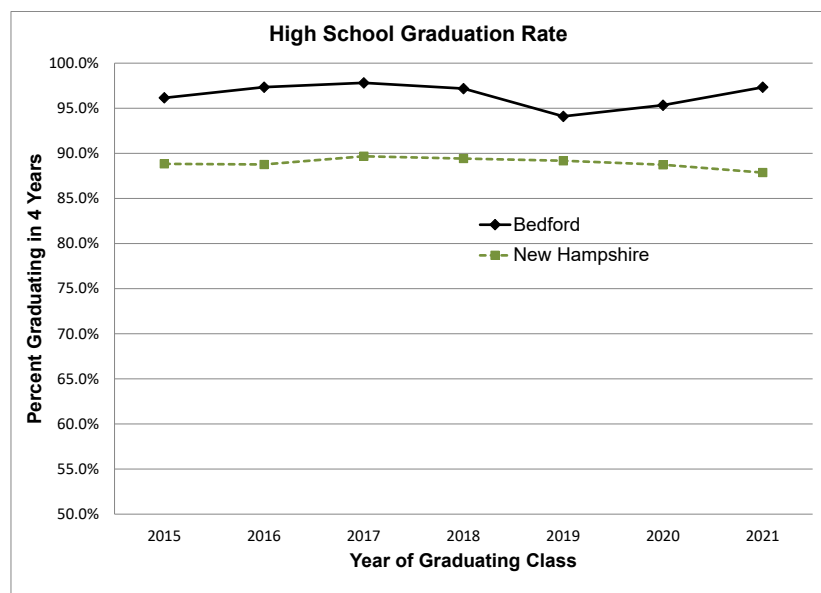
What is the High School Graduation Rate?

High schools that serve students from multiple elementary school districts or towns report graduates and graduation rates in total, not separately for each town. Bedford's graduating classes include students from only Bedford. The data that follows is for all students at Bedford.

Bedford graduated 2,249 students in graduating classes from 2015 through 2021. The graduation rate over those 7 years averaged 96.5%. This was slightly above the state average of 88.9% over the same years.

Of course, the rate varied somewhat from year to year as shown in figure 3.

Figure 3



Ranking the 81 New Hampshire public high schools' graduation rates over this period from highest rate (1) to lowest rate (81), Bedford ranks 3rd.

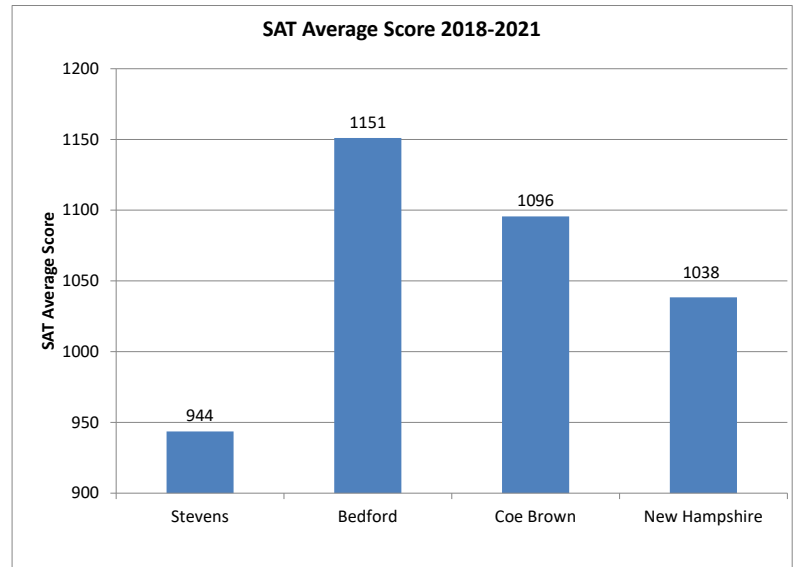
How Well Do High School Students Do on the Annual SAT Exam?

One of the standardized exams used by New Hampshire to measure student achievement in high school is the SAT of the College Board. There are two parts: Mathematics and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing. The possible range of combined scores is 400 to 1600.

Over the four years from 2018 through 2021, 1,429 students at Bedford took the SAT exams in the spring of their junior year. The average score of those students was 1151 while the New Hampshire average was 1038. Of the 79 public high schools for which data was available, Bedford ranked 3 (rank #1 being highest average score and rank #79 being lowest average score).¹

The total October enrollment over 4 years of the junior year totaled 1,509. As a percentage of enrollment, 5.3% were not tested. The percentage of untested students statewide was 12.2%. Thus, Bedford was able to test a much larger percentage of its juniors than the average.

Figure 4



What Courses are Available to Students in Bedford?

Course availability is an important measure of a student's educational opportunity. Based off of Course of Studies collected from NH Public High Schools from 2021-22 school year, course offerings were compiled, as well as the state average of nine course categories ranging from Math to Arts. As seen in the table below, Bedford falls below the state average in English electives, social study electives courses, and science electives.

The availability of courses is tied to several factors. The size of a school plays a large role in what a school can offer as well as staffing, transportation, and licensure. Bedford has 1,498 students, while the average high school size in NH is 692.

¹ Scores are not available for Bud Carlson Academy in Rochester and Pittsburg High School because the number of test takers in any particular year was fewer than 5.

Table 4

School	World Language	AP	English Electives	Math	Social Study Electives	Computer Technologies	Career Tech	Arts & Performing Arts	Science Electives
Bedford # of courses	23	14	6	26	7	11	-	36	6
State Average # of courses	14	9	11	17	10	6	26	23	13

Advanced Placement Results in Bedford

In the four-year span from 2018 to 2021, there were 22,966 AP exam takers and 36,355 exams taken in New Hampshire. As a percentage of enrollment, 10.6% of students took AP exams. During that time, Bedford had 742 test takers and 1,107 exams taken. 860 of those exams scored high enough to earn credit at some colleges.

Bedford offered 14 AP courses for the 2021-2022 academic year. Table 5 compares Bedford to the state's averages for test takers as a percentage of enrollment, % of exams that scored a 3,4, or 5, and the number of students who scored a 3 or higher out of 100 students. Bedford falls above the state averages for all three categories.

Table 5

School	Test takers as a % of enrollment	% of Exams Scored 3,4,5	Successful AP Test per 100 enrolled
Bedford	12.4%	77.7%	14.3
State Average	10.6%	69.1%	11.6

How Likely are Students from Bedford to Apply, Earn Admittance, and Enroll at The University of New Hampshire?

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) is one of New Hampshire's public higher education institutions. The school is often a popular choice for many NH students graduating from public high schools. Though not the only choice, analyzing the application, admission, and enrollment patterns among New Hampshire High Schools can tell us interesting things about the post-secondary paths of students.

Based on data collected by the University of New Hampshire, counts of applications, admissions, and enrollments over a 5-year time period between 2017-2021 were available for analysis. Using the senior enrollments as of October 1st at NH public high schools over a 5-year period helps protect the identity of students at small schools and helps build a better sample.

On average, based on the years 2017–2021, 27% of New Hampshire’s public school senior class applied to the UNH. Of those students who applied, 83.8% of them were admitted to the University of New Hampshire. Though, on average only 7.4% of all seniors ended up enrolling and attending UNH.

Bedford was above the state average in terms of UNH applications, admissions, and enrollments. Over the 5 years, Bedford had 42.9% of their seniors apply to UNH. Of those applicants, 88.8% were admitted and only 11.5% of their seniors enrolled and attended UNH.

As seen throughout this paper, educational experiences for New Hampshire students vary widely across the state. A school’s finances can make a large impact on the student population in their post-secondary lives.

Note: Data used in this report are taken from reports and spreadsheets of the NH Department of Education, The University of New Hampshire, and the College Board (2022 Adequacy Summary, School Sports, Average Daily Membership Based Upon Attendance and Residence (ADM), Average Class Size by School, and DoE25 Extract for State Profile Data for various years, Teacher Salaries, SAT scores, and graduation rates). Such data are reported by New Hampshire school districts to the Department. The number of courses offered was hand collected from Programs of Study from 79 New Hampshire Public High Schools.