

## Measures of Schools and Students in Keene School District June 2023

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

### Students and Student Characteristics

Keene Schools have grades from pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade between Franklin Elementary, Fuller Elementary, Jonathan Daniels School, Symonds Elementary School, Wheelock Elementary School, Keene Middle School, and Keene High School. Table 1 shows enrollment in October of the 2022- 2023 school year by grade.

Table 1

	Pre-School	Kinder-garten	Read-iness	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	*PG	Total
Franklin Elementary School	0	41	0	37	34	34	30	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	212
Fuller Elementary School	0	48	0	56	54	44	56	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	310
Jonathan Daniels School	102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	102
Keene High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	345	322	316	308	0	1291
Keene Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	196	195	236	0	0	0	0	0	627
Symonds Elementary School	0	49	0	52	54	46	50	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	308
Wheelock Elementary School	0	27	0	39	31	24	38	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	194

Table 2 displays racial enrollments for all students in Keene Schools.

Table 2

Category	American Indian/Alaskan Native	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	White Non-Hispanic	Multi-Race	Total
Students	31	94	137	38	2,684	119	3,103

2,684 of the 3,103 students (ADM-A)<sup>1</sup> in 2021 were white non-Hispanic.

In the 2021-22 school year, there were 3,103 public school students who attend Keene Schools. Of these, 716 were eligible for free/reduced-price school meals, meaning their family's income was below 185% of the Federal Poverty Line. This was 23% of the students, the same as the statewide average of 23%.

Also in the 2021-22 school year, there were 517 students who were receiving special education services with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This was 16% of the students, a bit less than the statewide average of 19%.

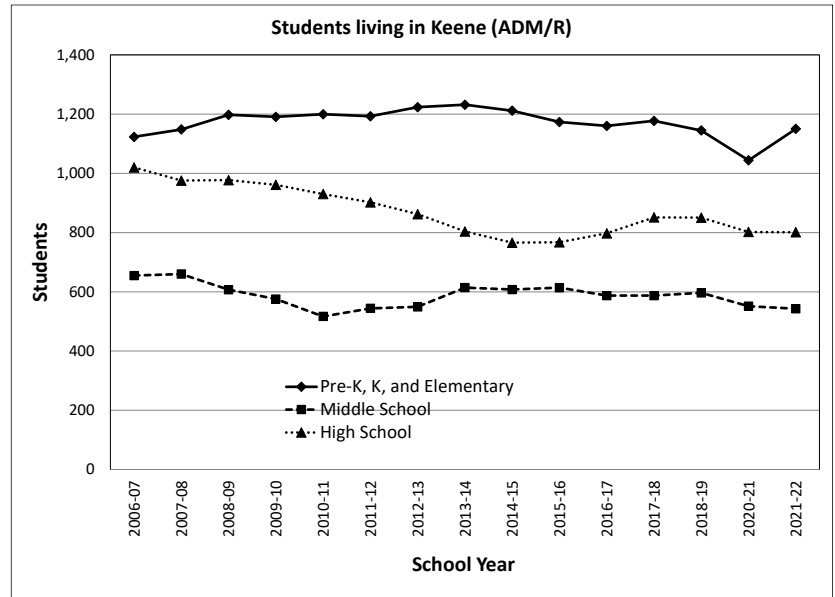
<sup>1</sup> Average Daily Membership in Attendance is the measure of all students who attend the school rather than those who live in the municipal boundaries, accounting for tuition agreement students from other towns.

There were 30 students who were English language learners, just 1% of all students. Statewide, 3% of students were English language learners in the 2021-22 school year.

## How has enrollment changed over time in Keene Schools?

Figure 1

Average Daily Membership in Residence (ADM/R) is one way in which enrollment is measured. It measures the number of public school students living in a district. ADM/R has been in slow decline in New Hampshire in recent years, attributable to declining birth rates. In Keene, there has been a decrease of 10.9 percent from 2006-07. Figure 1 displays ADM/R trends in Keene’s elementary, middle, and high schools for the past fifteen years. During this period, the number of elementary students increased by 2.4 percent, middle school students decreased by 17.1, and high school students decreased by 21.5 percent.



## What Sports Are Available to Keene 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, Keene offered 31 athletic programs for its 1291 enrolled school students. Of the high schools with an enrollment of over 500 students, the average number of sports was 25. The number of interscholastic sports available to Keene students at Keene was average for high schools of similar size.

The interscholastic sports offered at Keene were:

Bass Fishing, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Football, Boys and Girls Golf, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Co-Ed Unified Soccer, Spirit, Girls Volleyball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Ice Hockey, Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Boys and Girls Alpine Skiing, Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving, Girls Gymnastics, Boys Wrestling, Unified Basketball, Baseball, Softball, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Ten-Pin Bowling, Unified Basketball, Unified Track, Unified Volleyball, Boys and Girls Outdoor Track, Girls and Boys Tennis.

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?

Keene graduated 2,115 students in graduating classes from 2015 through 2021. The graduation rate over those 7 years averaged 89.4%. This was above the state average of 88.9% over the same years.

Ranking the 81 New Hampshire public high schools' graduation rates over this period from highest rate (1) to lowest rate (81), Keene ranks 46th.

## 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, 1,260 students at Keene took the SAT exams in the spring of their junior year. The average score of those students was 1027 while the New Hampshire average was 1038. Of the 79 public high schools for which data was available, Keene ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> (rank #1 being the

Figure 2

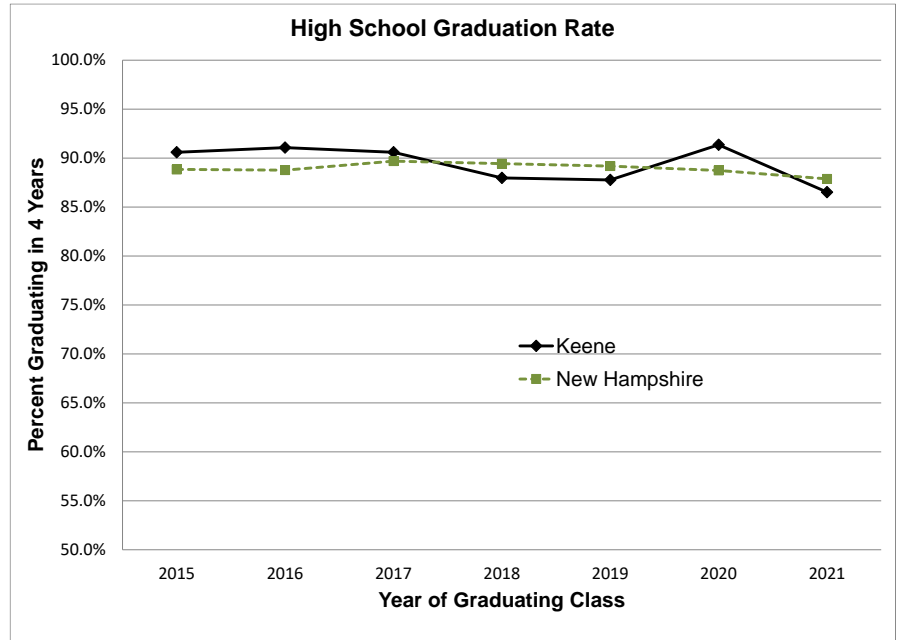
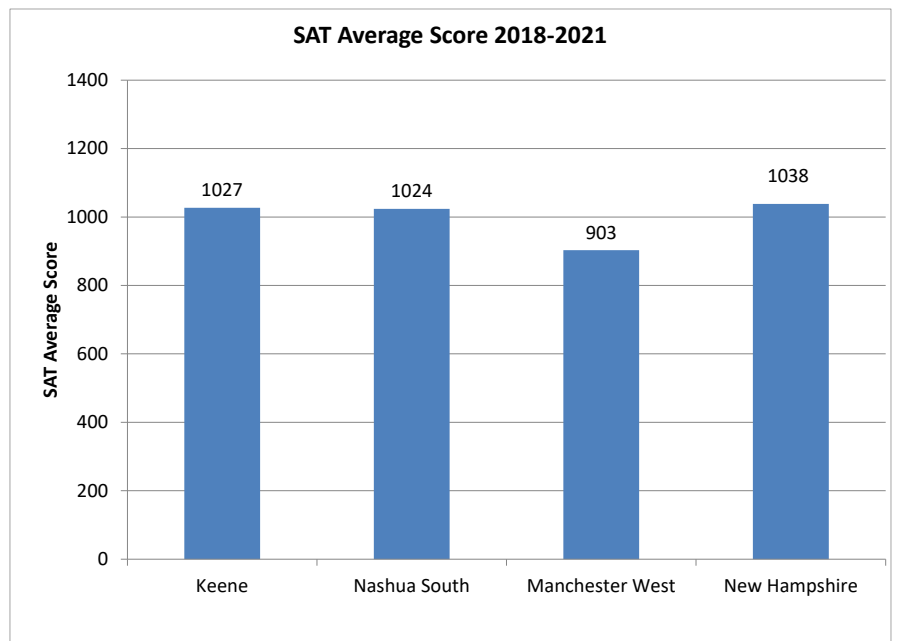


Figure 3



highest average score and rank #79 being the lowest average score).<sup>2</sup>

The total October enrollment over 4 years of the junior year totaled 1,359. As a percentage of enrollment, 7.3% were not tested. The percentage of untested students statewide was 12.2%. Thus, Keene was able to test a larger percentage of its juniors than the average.

## What Courses are Available to High School Students in Keene?

Course availability is an important measure of a student’s educational opportunity. Based on Course of Studies collected from NH Public High Schools from the 2021-22 school year, course offerings were compiled, as well as the state average of nine-course categories ranging from Math to Arts. Table 3 shows that Keene is above the state average in most categories, only lacking in Computer Technologies.

The availability of courses is tied to several factors. The size of a school plays a large role<sup>3</sup> in what a school can offer as well as staffing, transportation, and licensure. Keene High School is on the larger side, with roughly 1,200 students yearly, while the average high school size in NH is 692. Keene’s course selections are on par with schools of the same size.

Table 3

School	World Language	AP	English Electives	Math	Social Study Electives	Computer Technologies	Career Tech	Arts & Performing Arts	Science Electives
Keene # of courses	17	12	13	26	12	0	50	27	13
State Average # of courses	14	9	11	17	10	6	26	23	13

## Advanced Placement Results in Keene

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, Keene had 548 test takers and 894 exams taken. 634 of those exams scored high enough to earn credit at some colleges.

Keene offered 17 AP courses for the 2021-2022 academic year. Table 4 compares Keene to the state’s averages for test takers as a percentage of enrollment, the percentage of exams that scored a 3,4, or 5, and the number of students who scored a 3 or higher out of 100 students.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> Because of economies of scale, larger schools are able to offer a wider range of courses to larger populations of students.

Table 4

School	Test takers as a % of enrollment	% of Exams Scored 3,4,5	Successful AP Test per 100 enrolled
Keene	10.0%	71.9%	11.7
State Average	10.6%	69.1%	11.6

## How Likely Are Students from Keene 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 period between 2017-2021 were available for analysis. Using enrollments as of October 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Keene was below the state average in terms of UNH applications, above average for admissions, and below average for enrollments. Over the 5 years, Keene had 23.1% of their seniors apply to UNH. Of those applicants, 88.2% were admitted and 5.9% 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 both during their time in public schools and 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.*