

Measures of Schools and Students in Somersworth School District August 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 Somersworth School District and how they compare to the rest of the state.

Students and Student Characteristics

Somersworth Schools have grades from pre-school through the 12th grade. Table 1 shows enrollment in October of the 2022- 2023 school year by grade, including postgraduate students, in which Somersworth had none.

Table 1

| Somersworth Schools | Pre K | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | PG | Total |
|------------------------------|-------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| Idlehurst Elementary School | 49 | 81 | 87 | 94 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 311 |
| Maple Wood Elementary School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 89 | 101 | 91 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 281 |
| Somersworth High School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 110 | 89 | 93 | 94 | 0 | 386 |
| Somersworth Middle School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 111 | 116 | 115 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 342 |
| Totals | 49 | 81 | 87 | 94 | 89 | 101 | 91 | 111 | 116 | 115 | 110 | 89 | 93 | 94 | 1320 |

Table 2

| District | American Indian or Alaskan | Asian or Pacific Islander | Hispanic | Black Non-Hispanic | White Non-Hispanic | Multi-Race | Total |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|---------|
| Number of Students | | | | | | | |
| Somersworth | 3 | 114 | 82 | 36 | 1,019 | 93 | 1,254 |
| State Total | 360 | 5,271 | 13,557 | 3,494 | 138,647 | 5,949 | 167,278 |
| Percent of Students | | | | | | | |
| Somersworth | 0.22% | 8.46% | 6.08% | 2.67% | 76% | 6.90% | 100% |
| State Total | 0.20% | 3.20% | 8.10% | 2.10% | 82.90% | 3.60% | 100% |

Table 2 displays racial enrollments for all students in Somersworth Schools as of October 1, 2022.

White non-Hispanic students constituted 75% of the students, a bit lower than the average. Somersworth had a more diverse population than most NH schools.

In the 2021-22 school year, there were 1,254 public school students who attended Somersworth Schools. Of these, 657 (52%) were eligible for free/reduced-price school meals, meaning their family's income was below 185% of the Federal Poverty Line. The state average was only 23%, less than half that of Somersworth.

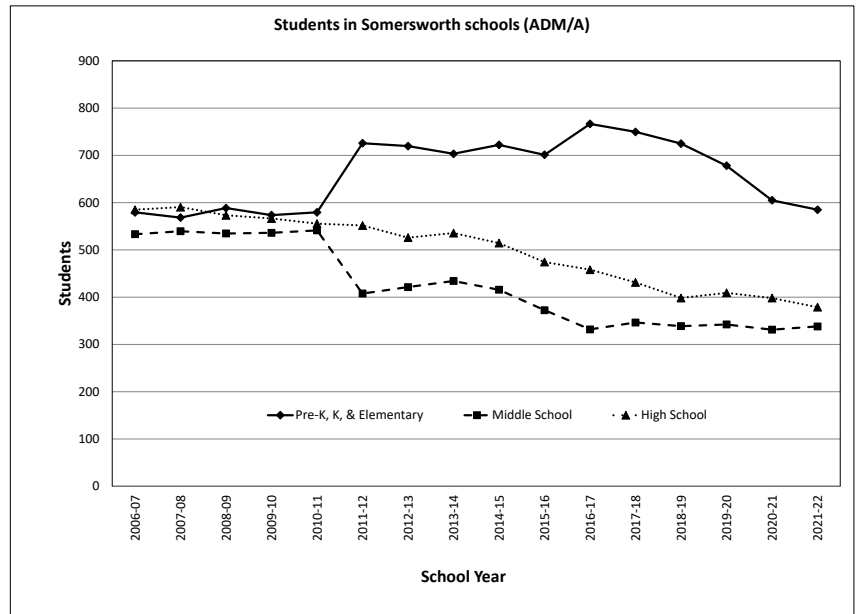
Also in the 2021-22 school year, 303 students were receiving special education services with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This was 24% of the students, more than the statewide average of 19%.

80 students (6.7%) were not native English speakers in 2022-23.

How Has Enrollment Changed Over Time in Somersworth Schools?

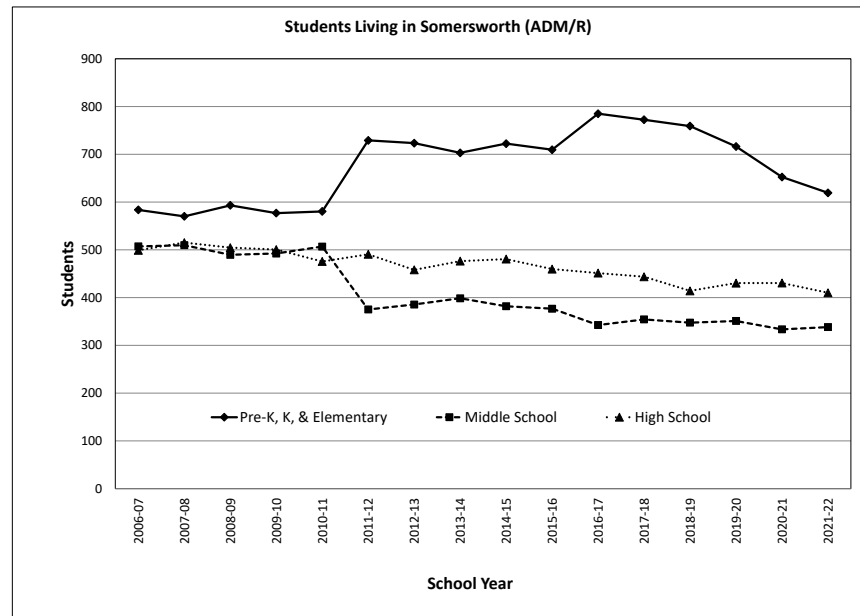
Average Daily Membership in Attendance (ADM/A) is one way in which enrollment is measured. It measures the number of public school students attending a district's schools. ADM/A has been in slow decline in New Hampshire in recent years, attributable to declining birth rates. In Somersworth, there has been a decrease of 23 percent from 2006-07. Figure 1 displays ADM/A trends in Somersworth's elementary, middle, and high schools for the past sixteen years. During this period, the number of elementary students increased by 0.9 percent, middle school students decreased by 36 percent, and high school students decreased by 35 percent.

Figure 1



This decline in attendance at Somersworth public schools can be misleading. Much of it is due to decisions made by surrounding districts and towns who no longer tuition their students into Somersworth's schools. Figure 2 displays the number of students who were residents of Somersworth only.

Figure 2



The decline in Somersworth resident elementary students was 6 percent, and the decline in Somersworth-resident middle school students was 33%. For high school students, it was 17%. A 14% decline in total.

What Sports Have Been Available to Somersworth High School Students?

The New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) organizes high school sports competitions in New Hampshire.

Table 4

| Sports at Somersworth | Available FY 2019-20 |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Coed Unified Soccer | x |
| Girls Volleyball | x |
| Boys Volleyball | x |
| Girls Ice Hockey | |
| Boys & Girls Nordic Skiing | |
| Ski Jumping | |
| Girls Gymnastics | x |
| Boys Wrestling | x |
| Ten-Pin Bowling | x |
| Unified Track | x |
| Boys Ice Hockey | sh |
| Bass Fishing | x |
| Boys & Girls Cross Country | x |
| Field Hockey | x |
| Football | x |
| Boys & Girls Golf | x |
| Boys Soccer | x |
| Girls Soccer | x |
| Spirit | x |
| Boys Basketball | x |
| Girls Basketball | x |
| Boys & Girls Indoor Track | x |
| Boys & Girls Alpine Skiing | x |
| Swimming & Diving | x |
| Unified Basketball | x |
| Baseball | x |
| Softball | x |
| Boys Lacrosse | x |
| Girls Lacrosse | x |
| Outdoor Track | x |
| Girls Tennis | x |
| Boys Tennis | x |
| Unified Volleyball | |
| Count of Sports | 29 |

Of the 33 sports listed by NHIAA for the school year 2019-20, 29 were available to students at Somersworth High School. There were only 4 sports that were not available to students at Somersworth's high school: girls ice hockey, Nordic skiing, ski jumping, and unified volleyball.

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

How Many Credits are Required to Graduate from Somersworth High Schools?

The State of New Hampshire sets 20 credits as the minimum that each student must accumulate before they are allowed to graduate. In 2021 those credits were distributed across multiple subjects as shown in Table 5.

Most school districts in New Hampshire have higher graduation requirements than the 20-unit minimum set by the state. A few require as many as 28 units to graduate. Somersworth requires that students successfully complete 22.5 credits to obtain their diploma.

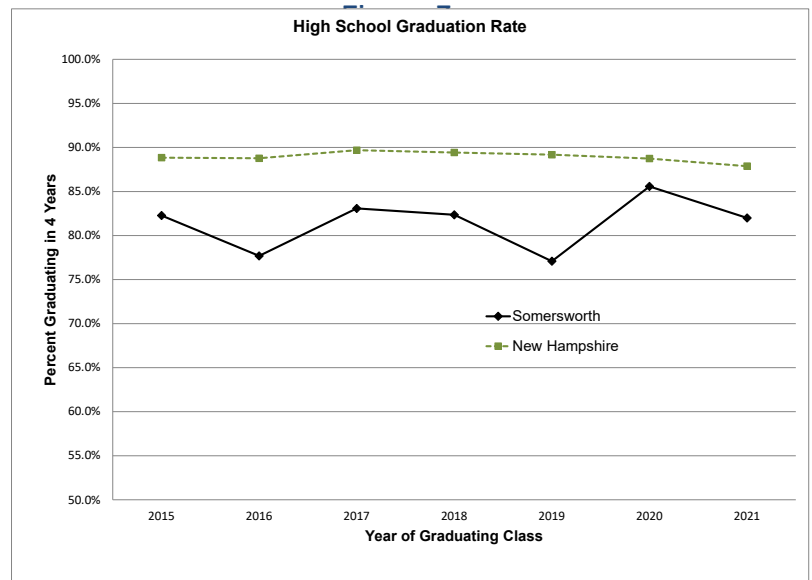
What Has Been the High School Graduation Rate?

Somersworth graduated 661 students in graduating classes from 2015 through 2021. The graduation rate over those seven years averaged 81.5%. This was considerably below the state average of 88.9%. In 2019 the graduation rate was only 77.1%.

Ranking the 81 public high schools in New Hampshire with the highest graduation rate at (1) and the high school with the lowest graduation rate at (81), Somersworth ranked 71.

Table 5

| State Requirement | Units |
|--|-------------|
| Arts | 0.5 |
| Information & Communications | 0.5 |
| English | 4.0 |
| Mathematics | 3.0 |
| Physical Science | 1.0 |
| Biological Science | 1.0 |
| Other Science | |
| US/NH History | 1.0 |
| US/NH Government & Civics | 0.5 |
| Other Social Studies | |
| Economics | 0.5 |
| World History, Global Studies, Geography | 0.5 |
| Health | 0.5 |
| Physical Education | 1.0 |
| Electives | 6.0 |
| TOTAL | 20.0 |



How Well High School Students Done 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.

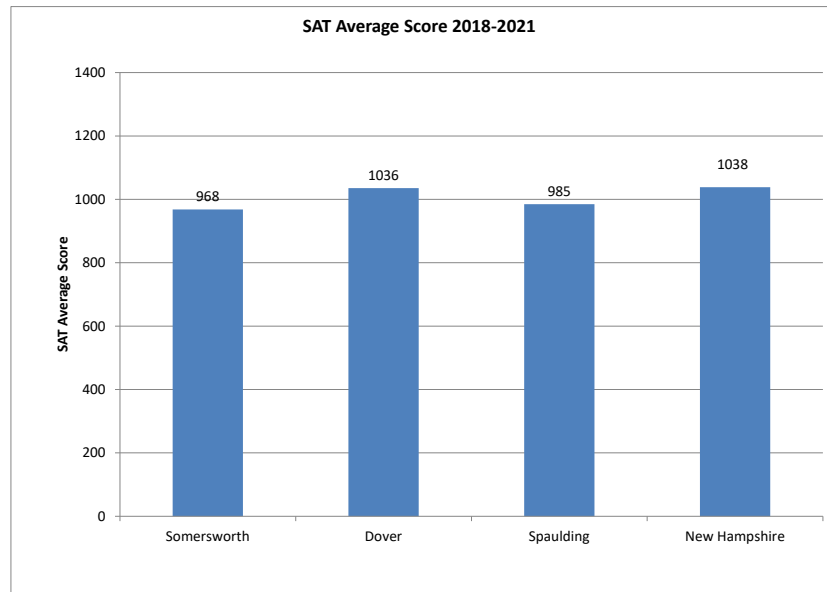
Over the four years from 2018 through 2021, 345 Somersworth High School students took the SAT exams in the spring of their junior year. The average score of those students was 968 while the New Hampshire average was 1038.

Figure 5

Ranking the 79 public high schools for which data were available, the school with the highest average score was (1) and the lowest was (79), Somersworth ranked 63rd, Dover 30th, and Rochester (Spaulding) 58th.

The total October enrollment of juniors in Somersworth high schools over the 4 years totaled 407. As a percentage of enrollment, 15.2% of juniors were not tested. The percentage of untested juniors statewide was only 12.2%.

For unknown reasons, many more Somersworth students were excused or absent from these standardized tests than elsewhere in the state.



What Courses are Available to High School Students in Somersworth?

Course availability is an important measure of a student's educational opportunity. The Course of Studies documents for 2021-22 were collected from our public high schools. Counts of courses available in each subject area were compiled. Table 6 shows that Somersworth High School offers more courses in career tech social studies electives, and AP than the state average.

Table 6

| | World Languages | Advanced Placement | English Electives | Math courses | Social Study Electives | Computer Technologies | Career tech | Arts / Performing Arts | Science Elective |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Somersworth High School | 8.00 | 10.00 | 14.00 | 14.00 | 12.00 | 0.00 | 106.00 | 15.00 | 8.00 |
| State Average | 14.00 | 9.00 | 11.00 | 17.00 | 10.00 | 6.00 | 26.00 | 23.00 | 13.00 |

The availability of courses is tied to several factors. The size of a school plays a large role. Larger schools have economies of scale, more teachers, and a student population with more diverse interests. Other factors include transportation and teacher licensure.

What Have Been Advanced Placement Results in Somersworth?

The College Board offers Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 38 subjects every May. The exams are the culmination of students' participation in Advanced Placement courses in their high school. Those courses follow a standard syllabus and use nationally standard materials. There is no requirement for New Hampshire high schools to offer any AP courses, for students to take an AP course, or for those who do to take the associated exam at the end of the year.

One purpose of the courses and the exams is to allow students to get college credit in advance of entering college, thus potentially skipping certain introductory college courses. Among students who desire to attend a four-year college after graduation, there is considerable incentive to take AP courses and their associated exams.

The College Board grades each test on a scale from 1 to 5. Most colleges grant advanced credit to students whose score is a 3, 4, or 5. A few highly selective colleges may not accept scores of 3 or 4.

Table 7 lists the results of AP tests over the four years 2018-2021.

Table 7

| | 2018-2021 Exam Takers | 2018-2021 Exams | 2018-2021 Scores 3,4,5 | 2017-2020 Fall enrollment | Takers as % of Enrollment | Exams per Taker | 3+ as % of Exams | 3+ per 100 enrollment |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Somersworth High School | 79 | 93 | 43 | 1684 | 4.69% | 1.18 | 46.24% | 2.55 |
| State Totals | 22,966 | 36,355 | 25,108 | 216,266 | 10.62% | 1.58 | 69.06% | 11.61 |

Participation in Advanced Placement tests by the College Board is very low among Somersworth High School students.

How Likely Have Students from Somersworth 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.

The UNH Admissions Office provided counts of applications, admissions, and enrollments from each New Hampshire public high school for freshman years 2017 through 2021. By aggregating data over five years, the need to suppress small numbers was greatly reduced, and year-to-year variations were smoothed,

especially for smaller high schools. For comparisons among high schools of greatly varying sizes, senior year enrollments are used as the base for calculating what percentage of a school’s students have applied, been admitted, and finally enrolled at UNH.

Students who plan to attend college after graduating from high school often apply to as many as 8 to 10 colleges. Thus, even when accepted to UNH, a vast majority of students will choose to go elsewhere, and a much smaller number will enroll. Understanding this, UNH (and other colleges and universities) offer admission to many more applicants than they could accept.

On average, based on the years 2017-2021, 28.8% of New Hampshire’s public school senior class applied to UNH. From Somersworth High School, 31.8% applied. Statewide of the 18,455 who applied, UNH admitted 84.8%. Among the 169 Somersworth students who applied, 76.7% were admitted. Eventually enrolling for freshman year at UNH were 8.0% of all New Hampshire high school seniors and 8.5% of Somersworth seniors.

Table 8

| | 2017-2021 UNH Applicati ons | 2017-2021 UNH Admissio ns | 2017-2021 UNH Enrollme nt | Application s as % of Enrollment | Admissio ns as % of Applicati ons | Enrollme nt as % of 5 Year Senior Enrollme nt |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Somersworth High School | 169 | 135 | 45 | 31.8% | 79.9% | 8.5% |
| State totals | 18,455 | 15,653 | 5,101 | 28.77% | 84.82% | 7.95% |

As seen throughout this paper, educational experiences for New Hampshire students vary widely across the state. School funding 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, spreadsheets, and websites of the NH Department of Education, the University of New Hampshire, the College Board, and the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association. Graduation requirements and number of courses offered were collected from Programs of Study from 79 New Hampshire public high schools.