

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

Students and Student Characteristics

Pittsfield 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 Pittsfield had none.

Table 1

	Pre	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PG	
Pittsfield Elementary School	10	32	26	40	33	45	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	219
Pittsfield High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	50	37	19	0	159
Pittsfield Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	43	54	0	0	0	0	0	139
Totals	10	32	26	40	33	45	33	42	43	54	53	50	37	19	0	517

Table 2

District	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	White Non-Hispanic	Multi-Race	Total
Number of Students							
Pittsfield	6	0	23	4	502	10	535
State Total	360	5,271	13,557	3,494	138,647	5,949	167,278
Percent of Students							
Pittsfield	1.10%	0.00%	4.20%	0.73%	92%	1.83%	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 Pittsfield Schools as of October 1, 2022.

White non-Hispanic students constituted 92% of the students, a bit higher than the average. Pittsfield had a less diverse population than most NH schools.

In the 2021-22 school year, there were 535 public school students who attended Pittsfield Schools. Of these, 222 (41%) 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%, a little over half of Pittsfield.

Also in the 2021-22 school year, 137 students were receiving special education services with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This was 25% of the students, more than the statewide average of 19%.

0 students were not native English speakers in 2022-23.

How Has Enrollment Changed Over Time in Pittsfield 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 Pittsfield, there has been a decrease of 18.3 percent from 2006-07. Figure 1 displays ADM/A trends in Pittsfield's elementary, middle, and high schools for the past sixteen years. During this period, the number of elementary students decreased by 33 percent, middle school students increased by 64 percent, and high school students decreased by 16 percent.

Figure 1

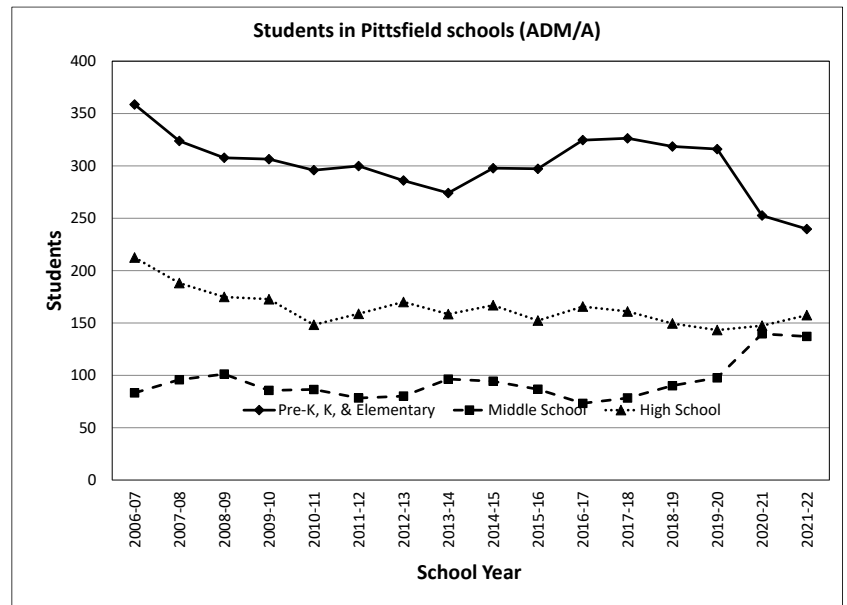
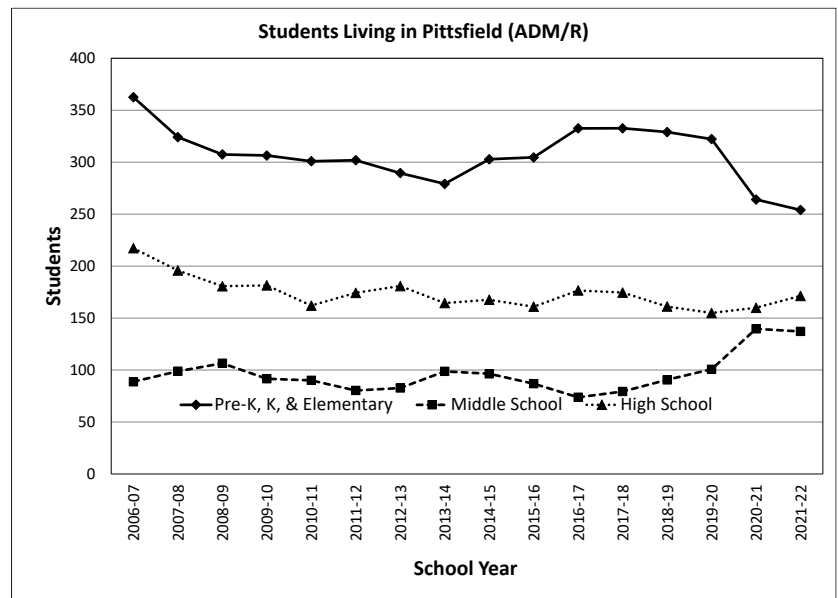


Figure 2

A decline in attendance at Pittsfield public schools is based on the number of students in attendance daily. Figure 2 displays the number of students who were residents of Pittsfield only. As seen, in Pittsfield, the ADM trends are very similar. Regional districts or those with tuition agreements sometimes see drastic changes in ADM-A.

The decline in Pittsfield resident elementary students was 29 percent, and the increase in Pittsfield-resident middle school students was only 54%. For high school students, it was a decline of 21%. A 16% decline in total.



What Sports Have Been Available to Pittsfield High School Students?

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

Of the 33 sports listed by NHIAA for the school year 2019-20, only 5 were available to students at Pittsfield High School. Those sports were: Boys Soccer, Boys and Girls Basketball, Baseball, and Softball. On average, schools with enrollment below 500, have at least 13 sports available to students. Pittsfield High School offered the least number of sports in 2021, tied with Lisbon Regional.

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 Pittsfield 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. Pittsfield requires that students successfully complete 26 credits to obtain their diploma. On average, New Hampshire public high schools require 24 credits to graduate with a high school diploma.

Table 5

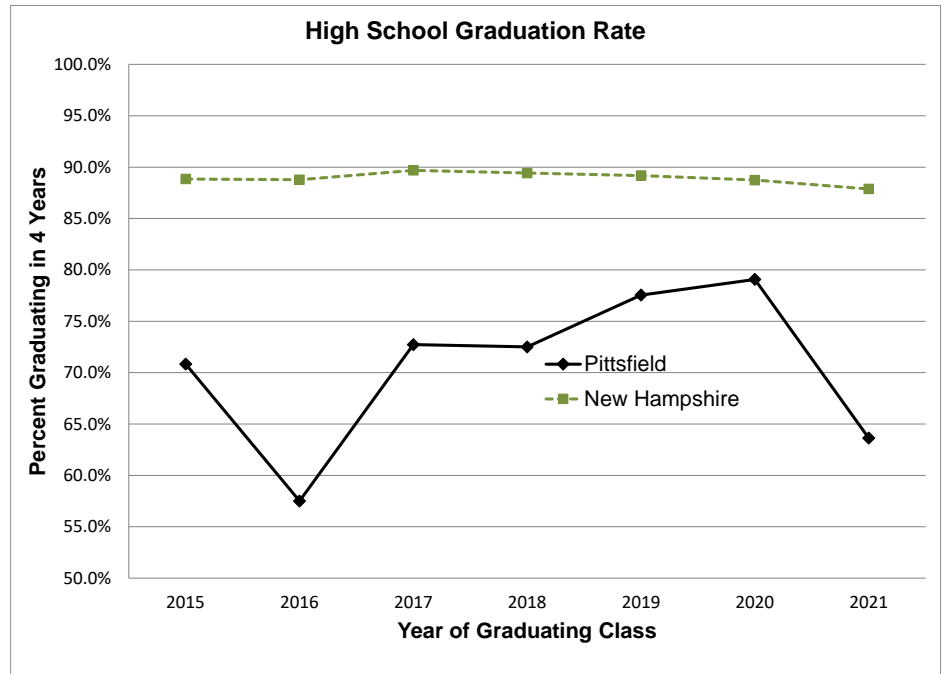
State Requirement	Units
Arts	0.5
Information & Communications	0.5
English	4.0
Mathematics	3.0
Physical Science	1.0
Biological Science	1.0
Other Science	
US/NH History	1.0
US/NH Government & Civics	0.5
Other Social Studies	
Economics	0.5
World History, Global Studies, Geography	0.5
Health	0.5
Physical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

What Has Been the High School Graduation Rate?

Pittsfield graduated 201 students in graduating classes from 2015 through 2021. The graduation rate over those seven years averaged 71%. This was considerably below the state average of 88.9%. In 2019 the graduation rate was only 63.6%

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), Pittsfield ranked 79.

Figure 3



How Well Have 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.

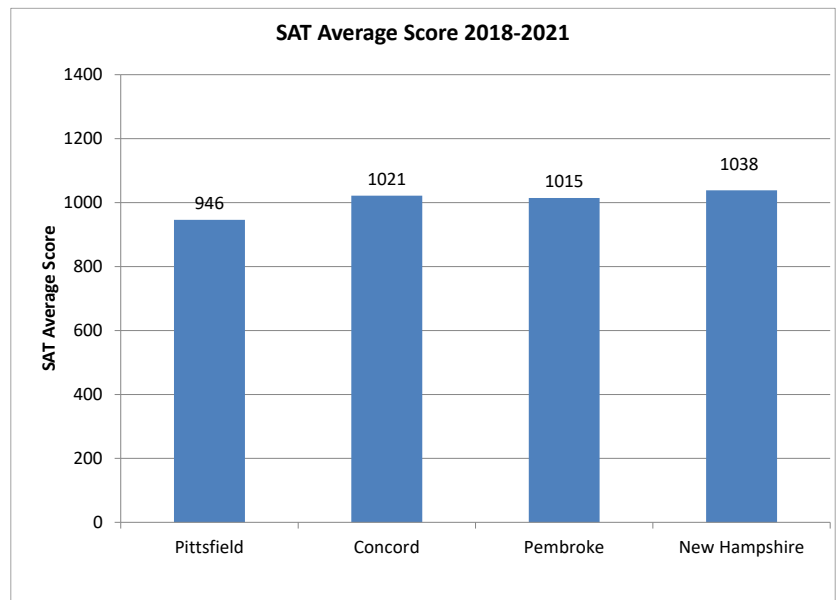
Over the four years from 2018 through 2021, 114 Pittsfield High School students took the SAT exams in the spring of their junior year. The average score of those students was 946 while the New Hampshire average was 1038.

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), Pittsfield ranked 71st, Concord 38th, and Pembroke 41st.

The total October enrollment of juniors in Pittsfield high schools over the 4 years totaled 128. As a percentage of enrollment, 10% of juniors were not tested. The percentage of untested juniors statewide was only 12.2%.

For unknown reasons, fewer Pittsfield students were excused or absent from these standardized tests than elsewhere in the state.



What Courses are Available for High School Students in Pittsfield?

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 Pittsfield High School offers fewer courses in all subject areas as it compared to 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
Pittsfield High School	3.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	1.00	2.00	24.00	11.00	6.00
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 Pittsfield?

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

	3 Year Exam Takers	3 Year Exams	3 Year Scores of 3,4, or 5	3 Year Fall Enrollment	Takers as % of Enrollment	Exams per Taker	Scored 3+ as % of Exams	Scored 3+ per 100 enrollment
Pittsfield	7	9	0	467	1.5%	1.29	0.0%	0.0
State	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 Pittsfield High School students.

How Likely Have Students from Pittsfield 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 popular 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, 27% of New Hampshire’s public school senior class applied to UNH. From Pittsfield High School, 23.8% applied. Statewide of the 18,455 who applied, UNH admitted 83.9%. Among the 31 Pittsfield students who applied, 71% were admitted. Eventually enrolling for freshman year at UNH were 7.5% of all New Hampshire high school seniors and 5.4% of Pittsfield seniors.

Table 8

	2017-2021 UNH Applications	2017-2021 UNH Admissions	2017-2021 UNH Enrollment	Applications as % of Enrollment	Admissions as % of Applications	Enrollment as % of 5 Year Senior Enrollment
Pittsfield	31	22	7	23.8%	71.0%	5.4%
State	18,455	15,653	5,101	27.1%	83.9%	7.5%

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.