

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

### Students and Student Characteristics

Hudson Schools have grades from pre-school through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Table 1 shows enrollment in the October 2022- 2023 school year by grade, including postgraduate students, of which Hudson had 3.

**Table 1**

Hudson Schools	Pre	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PG	Totals
Alvirne High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	249	256	265	264	3	1037
Dr. H. O. Smith Elementary School	0	194	212	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	406
Hills Garrison Elementary School	0	0	0	121	67	87	108	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	383
Hudson Memorial School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	236	235	221	0	0	0	0	0	692
Nottingham West Elementary Pre Sch	92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
Nottingham West Elementary School	0	0	0	110	103	108	124	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	445
Totals	92	194	212	231	170	195	232	236	235	221	249	256	265	264	3	3055

**Table 2**

District	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	White Non-Hispanic	Multi-Race	Total
Number of Students							
Hudson	9	81	247	44	2,531	128	3,040
State Total	360	5,271	13,557	3,494	138,647	5,949	167,278
Percent of Students							
Hudson	0.29%	2.60%	8.12%	1.44%	83%	4.21%	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 Hudson Schools as of October 1, 2022.

White non-Hispanic students constituted 83%, about the same as the average. Hudson's population has similar diversity to most NH schools.

In the 2021-22 school year, there were 3,040 public school students who attended Hudson Schools. Of these, 565 (18%) 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 23%, a bit more than Hudson.

Also in the 2021-22 school year, 495 students were receiving special education services with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This was 16% of the students, less than the statewide average of 19%.

43 students (1.4%) were not native English speakers in 2022-23.

## How Has Enrollment Changed Over Time in Hudson 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 Hudson, there has been a decrease of 27.8 percent from 2006-07. Figure 1 displays ADM/A trends in Hudson's elementary, middle, and high schools for the past sixteen years. During this period, the number of elementary students decreased by 21 percent, middle school students decreased by 32 percent, and high school students decreased by 28 percent.

Figure 1

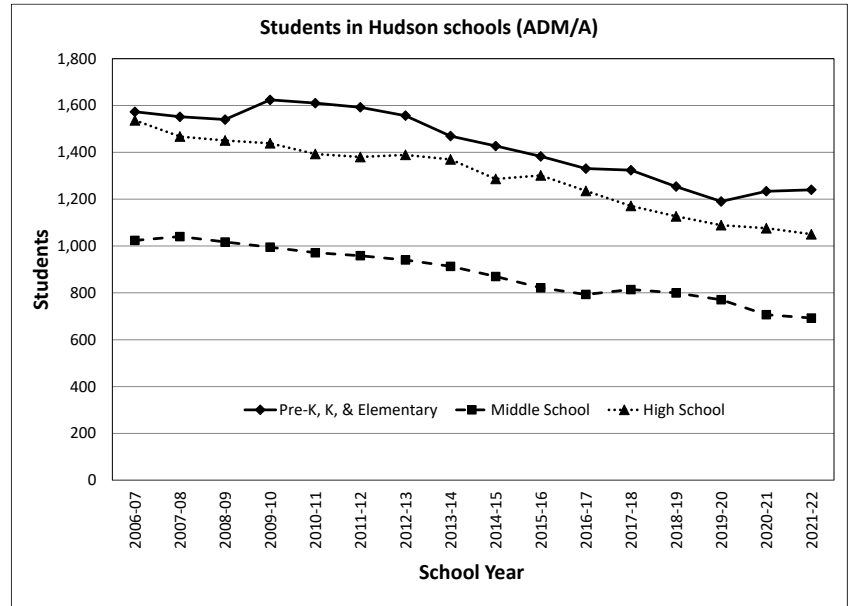
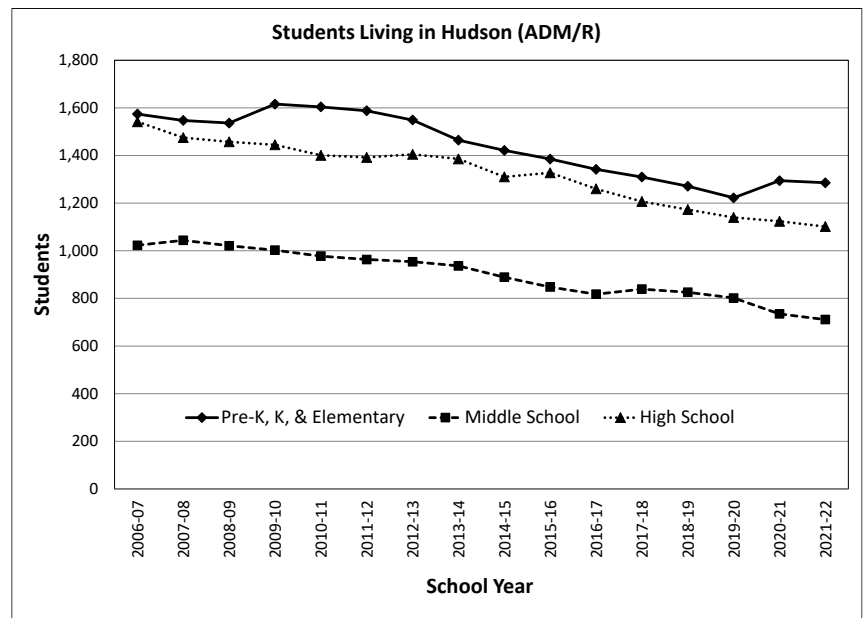


Figure 2

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

The decline in Hudson resident elementary students was 18 percent, and the decrease in Hudson-resident middle school students was only 30%. For high school students, it was a decline of 28%. A 25% decline in total.



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## What Sports Have Been Available to Hudson High School Students?

Coed Unified Soccer  
Girls Volleyball  
Boys Volleyball  
Girls Ice Hockey  
Boys & Girls Nordic Skiing  
Ski Jumping  
Girls Gymnastics  
Boys Wrestling  
Ten-Pin Bowling  
Unified Track  
Boys Ice Hockey  
Bass Fishing  
Boys & Girls Cross Country  
Field Hockey  
Football  
Boys & Girls Golf  
Boys Soccer  
Girls Soccer  
Spirit  
Boys Basketball  
Girls 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  
Unified Volleyball

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 6 were NOT available to students at Hudson High School. Those sports were: Field Hockey, Boys Volleyball, Indoor Track, Ski Jumping, Alpine Skiing, and Unified Volleyball.

On average, schools with enrollment over 800, have at least 25 sports available to students.

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 Alvirne High School?

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

## What Has Been the High School Graduation Rate?

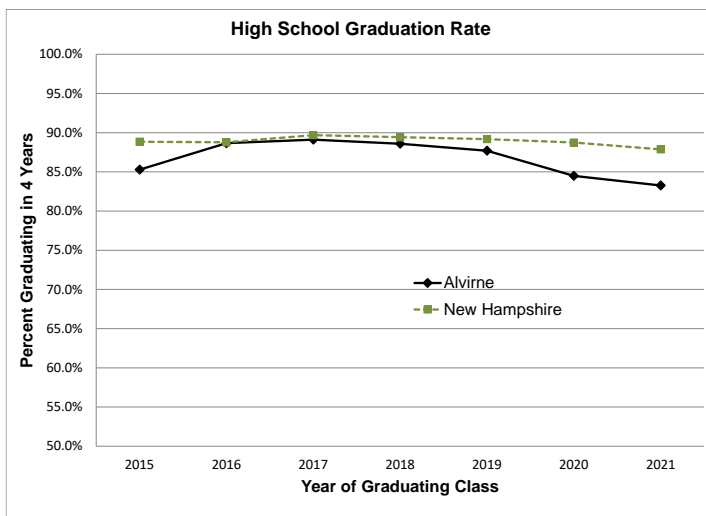
Hudson graduated 1,902 students in graduating classes from 2015 through 2021. The graduation rate over those seven years averaged 86%. This was below the state average of 88.9%.

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), Hudson ranked 58.

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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20.0</b>

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.

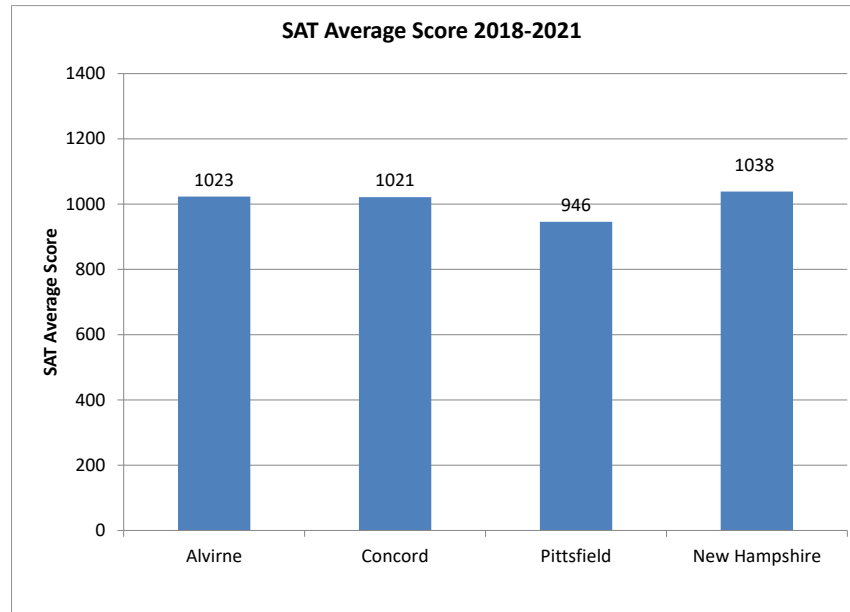
Over the four years from 2018 through 2021, 1,037 Alvirne High School students took the SAT exams in the spring of their junior year. The average score of those students was 1023 while the New Hampshire average was 1038.

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), Hudson ranked 37<sup>th</sup>, Concord 38<sup>th</sup>, and Pittsfield 71<sup>st</sup>.

The total October enrollment of juniors in Hudson high schools over the 4 years totaled 1,139. As a percentage of enrollment, 9% of juniors were not tested. The percentage of untested juniors statewide was only 12.2%.

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



## What Courses are Available for High School Students in Hudson?

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 Alvirne High School offers more courses in all subject areas as compared to the state average, besides science electives.

Table 6

	World Languages	Advanced Placement	English Electives	Math courses	Social Study Electives	Computer Technologies	Career Tech	Arts / Performing Arts	Science Elective
Alvirne High School	21.00	11.00	13.00	22.00	10.00	7.00	38.00	25.00	12.00
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 Hudson?

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
Alvirne	384	669	408	3,438	11.2%	1.74	61.0%	11.9
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 Alvirne High School students.

## How Likely Have Students from Hudson 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 with 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 Alvirne High School, 20.9% applied. Statewide of the 18,455 who applied, UNH admitted 83.9%. Among the 310 Hudson students who applied, 81% were admitted. Eventually enrolling for freshman year at UNH were 7.5% of all New Hampshire high school seniors and 5.3% of Hudson 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
Alvirne	310	251	79	20.9%	81.0%	5.3%
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.*