

Measures of Schools and Students in John Stark School District December 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 John Stark School District and how they compare to the rest of the state.

Students and Student Characteristics

John Stark Schools have grades from 9th through 12th grade. Table 1 shows enrollment in the October 2022- 2023 school year by grade, including postgraduate students, of which John Stark had none.

Table 1

John Stark Regional School District	Pre	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PG	Totals
John Stark Regional High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	169	143	162	127	0	601

Table 2

District	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	White Non-Hispanic	Multi-Race	Total
Number of Students							
John Stark	1	1	18	2	541	16	579
State Total	360	5,271	13,557	3,494	138,647	5,949	167,278
Percent of Students							
John Stark	0.17%	0.17%	3.10%	0.34%	93%	2.76%	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 John Stark Schools as of October 1, 2022.

White non-Hispanic students constituted 93%, more than the average. John Stark's population has less diversity than the New Hampshire Average.

In the 2021-22 school year, 579 public high school students attended John Stark Schools. Students from Weare and Henniker flow into John Stark Regional District after the 8th grade. In total, there are 1,836 from Weare and Henniker. Of these, 346 (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 John Stark.

Also in the 2021-22 school year, 373 students were receiving special education services with an Individual Education Plan (IEP). This was 20% of the students, a bit more than the statewide average of 19%. 6.85 students (.37%) were not native English speakers in 2022-23.

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

What Sports Have Been Available to John Stark 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 9 were NOT available to students at John Stark High School. Those sports were: Coed Unified Soccer, Girls Ice Hockey, Boys and Girls Indoor Track, Boys and Girls Nordic Skiing, Ski Jumping, Girls Gymnastics, Ten-Pin Bowling, Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, and Unified Volleyball.

On average, schools with enrollment between 500 and 1,000, have at least 23 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 John Stark 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. John Stark requires that students successfully complete 22 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?

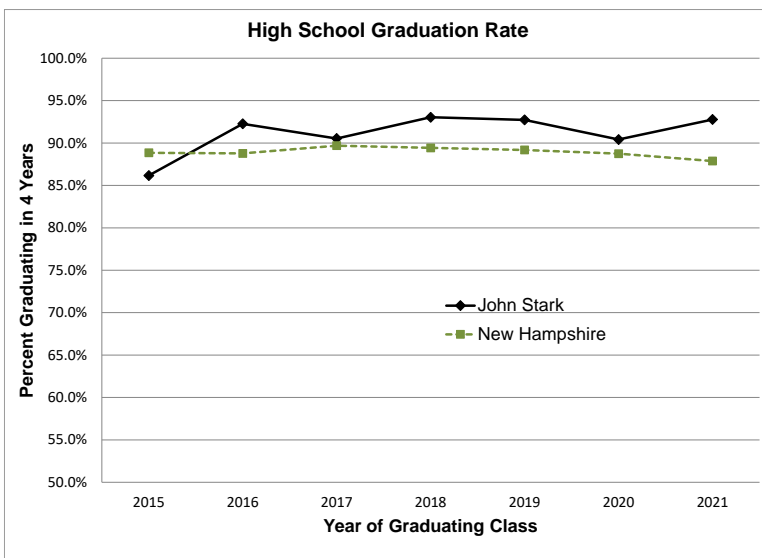
John Stark graduated 1,056 students in graduating classes from 2015 through 2021. The graduation rate over those seven years averaged 91%. This was a bit more than the state average of 88.9%.

Ranking of 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), John Stark ranked 37.

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

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.

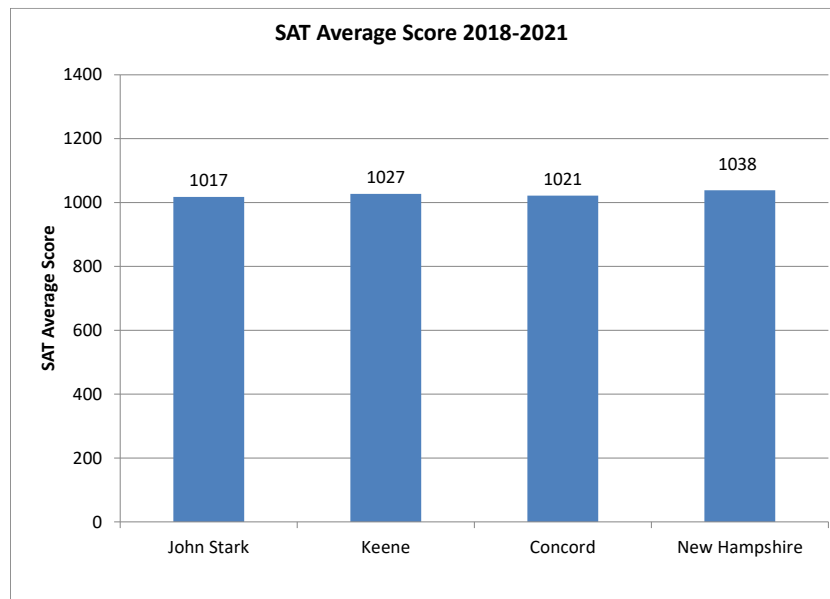
Over the four years from 2018 through 2021, 613 John Stark High School students took the SAT exams in the spring of their junior year. The average score of those students was 1017 while the New Hampshire average was 1038.

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), John Stark ranked 40th, Keene ranked 33rd, and Concord ranked 38th.

The total October enrollment of juniors in John Stark High School over the 4 years totaled 639. As a percentage of enrollment, 4% of juniors were not tested. The percentage of untested juniors statewide was only 12.2%.

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



What Courses are Available for High School Students in John Stark?

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 John Stark High School offers similar or more courses in all subject areas as compared to the state average, besides English and Social Study electives.

Table 6

	World Languages	Advanced Placement	English Electives	Math courses	Social Study Electives	Computer Technologies	Career Tech	Arts / Performing Arts	Science Elective
John Stark	12.00	11.00	6.00	15.00	7.00	8.00	32.00	33.00	15.00
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 John Stark?

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	Takers as % of Enrollment	Exams per Taker	Scored 3+ as % of Exams	Scored 3+ per 100 enrollment
John Stark	210	403	228	11.0%	1.92	56.6%	11.9
State	22,966	36,355	25,108	10.62%	1.58	69.06%	11.61

Participation in Advanced Placement tests by the College Board is moderate, but a bit more compared to the state among John Stark High School students.

How Likely are Students from John Stark 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. At John Stark High School, 23.8% applied. Statewide, of the 18,455 who applied, UNH admitted 83.9%. Among the 190 John Stark students who applied, 86.8% were admitted. Eventually enrolling for freshman year at UNH were 7.7% of all New Hampshire high school seniors and 7.9% of John Stark 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
John Stark	190	165	63	23.8%	86.8%	7.9%
State	18,455	15,653	5,101	27.1%	83.9%	7.5%

How do John Stark Students Perform on State-Wide Assessments?

The State of New Hampshire requires students in public schools to take periodic assessments over their tenure as a student. These assessments take place in 3rd grade, 8th grade, and the 11th grade. Studenta’ ability to meet proficiency in Mathematics and Reading is measured as a percentage of students scoring above average.

Table 9

	3rd Grade			
	Average Scores		% of Students Proficient or Better	
	Math	Reading	Math	Reading
New Hampshire	429	578	51.0%	45.0%
Weare	424	580	47.0%	51.0%
Concord	424	575	43.0%	40.0%
Bow	441	585	66.0%	58.0%
Portsmouth	451	607	79.0%	74.0%
Henniker	428	573	42.0%	42.0%

In Table 9, John Stark’s (Henniker and Weare) 3rd-grade assessment scores are compared to the state average as well as some surrounding communities (Henniker and Weare). As seen, John Stark’s 3rd graders from Weare perform better in Math and Reading than Concord, their scores fall below the state average.

In Table 10, John Stark’s (Henniker and Weare) 8th-grade assessment scores are compared to the state average. In 8th grade, John Stark students from

Henniker outperformed Concord and the state average. 8th graders from Weare fell below the state average as well as surrounding communities.

Table 10

	8th Grade			
	Average Scores		% of Students Proficient or Better	
	Math	Reading	Math	Reading
New Hampshire	562	655	35.0%	35.0%
Weare	513	626	10.0%	10.0%
Concord	548	641	29.0%	29.0%
Bow	568	661	34.0%	66.0%
Portsmouth	596	451	58.0%	79.0%
Henniker	599	671	57.0%	42.0%

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.