

Hi there,

In last month's newsletter, we asked you to get in touch with your State Reps about filing school funding legislation for the upcoming session, and **we want to say thank you for how enthusiastic you were in answering that call to action!**

We heard from a number of representatives about hearing from constituents, and we heard from some of you about good conversations you were having with your elected officials. And all of that effort made an impact.

At the close of the House filing period, there were over 15 bills filed dealing with school funding and property taxes!

But, right now, we don't know what all those bills are. When Legislative Service Requests (LSRs) are filed, the only information that is published by the General Court is a title for the bill and the prime sponsor. And while a bill title might be about school funding, it might not say what exactly about school funding it is looking to address.

Between now and the start of the legislative session in January the text of the bills will be published, and we'll get to work digging into them to try and figure out what kind of impact they will have on you and your community. And in the meantime, you can [check in on the retained bills](#) we're keeping an eye on at our website.



Upcoming Events

**SCHOOL FUNDING
& PROPERTY
TAXES: HINSDALE**

HOSTED BY THE HINSDALE
SCHOOL DISTRICT AND
HINSDALE SCHOOL BOARD

Learn how State decisions affect local
budgets, and how low State funding
for education has wide reaching
impacts on students and taxpayers.

**OCTOBER 18 @6PM
HINSDALE TOWN HALL**

We're headed to Hinsdale! We're excited to be hosted by the **Hinsdale School District and Hinsdale School Board** at **Hinsdale Town Hall** for a presentation on **October 18** to discuss how State level decisions about school funding impact local budgets in every corner of New Hampshire.

[Register](#)

We also have an event coming soon in **Wolfeboro!** Stay tuned to our [social media](#) for more details on a date and location in the coming weeks!



Rand Lawsuit Update

While the trial in the *Rand* lawsuit is still on hold until after the courts issues its rulings on the *ConVal* case and the *Rand* taxpayer plaintiffs' motion for summary judgement on SWEPT, there was a **new court filing** from the State on a different part of the case.

In its response to the plaintiffs' objection to its summary judgement motion on the school funding questions of the case, [the State made it clear](#) that it has no positive defense for how little it provides in adequacy funding.

The State is playing procedural games and claiming that it is the plaintiffs' responsibility to prove that what it is paying is insufficient because it knows that it can't show that what it provides in adequacy is sufficient.

Plaintiffs: "The State has not produced any other evidence justifying its defined cost of adequacy."

State's Response: "Undisputed. But the State disputes any contention that it bears the burden to disprove the plaintiffs' claims."

-From the State's Consolidated Statement of Facts filed 9/20/23 in *Rand v. New Hampshire*

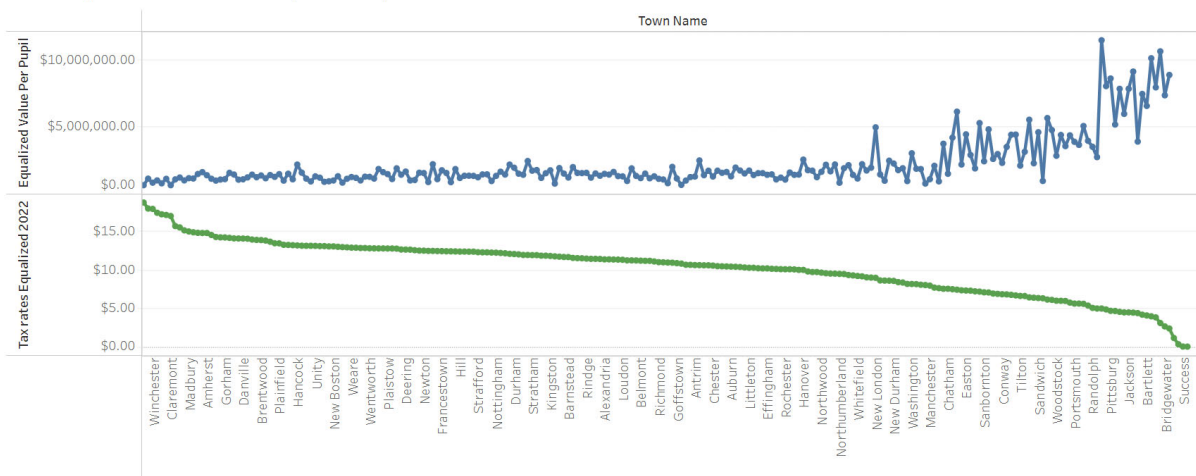


[Read the New Filing](#)



Learn about your town and the impact of property values on education tax rates

2022 Equalized Value Per Pupil and Equalized Tax Rates



We talk a lot about **Equalized Property Value per Pupil (EQVP)**, which is calculated by adding up the total taxable value of all the property in a town and dividing it by the number of students who live there, because it allows us to compare places of different sizes with different student populations.

As a general rule, communities with high EQVP have lower property tax rates than communities with low EQVP. For example, Town A with \$2 million in EQVP could have

half the tax rate of Town B with \$1 million in EQVP and be able to raise the same amount of money.

And as you'll see in the chart above, that general rule applies across New Hampshire. As EQVP goes up, education property tax rates go down.

Click on the button below for an interactive version of this chart that includes a search bar to allow you to see where your community stands compared to others in the State.

Learn About Your Town



School Funding News Roundup

These are some of the stories we've had our eye on this month:

Concord Monitor: ["Record betting on lottery, sports and gaming means record payout to schools"](#)

We are often asked about the lottery's impact on school funding, since most people know all profits are earmarked for education. But those profits are smaller than you might realize. On a \$1 lottery ticket, only \$0.22 is left for education after prizes and fees have been paid out. So even a record lottery transfer to the Education Trust Fund for an entire year comes in at only \$187 million, less than 10% of the over \$2 billion the State is downshifting in education costs annually.

Concord Monitor: ["Extra water stationed at city schools, sports cancelled due to heat wave"](#)

With the weather taking a clear turn toward fall, you might have forgotten how summer heat seeped into the start of the school year. But it brought to the fore some important reminders about the lack of State building Aid in recent years. Using this story about Concord as an example, not all school buildings have air conditioning or are equipped to have heat escape the building, and there may be issues with lead pipes keeping some water sources closed to hot, thirsty students. [Read our recent report on School Building Aid to learn more.](#)

Keene Sentinel: ["NH's Learn Everywhere program: much debate, few students"](#)

Underneath the NH State Board of Education's controversial decision to approve a PragerU financial literacy course was the program it was approved as a part of. Called Learn Everywhere, the program allows students to receive course credit for learning that happens outside of a classroom. But unlike the existing framework for Extended Learning Opportunities, where students develop projects subject to approval by school administrators and staff to be able to get credit, Learn Everywhere requires local districts to accept these credits approved by the State. Learn more about the program and the small number of participating students in this article.



The support of generous donors like you is critical to our success. Please consider becoming a part of the fair funding movement and contributing to our efforts.

Donate

{{Disclaimer}}

New Hampshire School Funding Fairness Project
64 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
United States

If you believe you received this message in error or wish to no longer receive email from us, please
(Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).