



## Chester School Board

January 3rd, 2024

### **Chester School Funding Resolution**

WHEREAS the Town of Chester must spend significantly more money to educate its students than the State of New Hampshire provides for that purpose, and;

WHEREAS the New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled on multiple occasions that the State of New Hampshire has a constitutional responsibility to pay for the cost of an adequate education for all K-12 public school students, and;

WHEREAS this constitutional responsibility was recently upheld and reaffirmed by a NH Superior Court, which ruled that the current base adequacy amount of \$4,100 is unconstitutionally low, and that the legislature must increase base adequacy to at least \$7,356.01, plus the cost of transportation, and;

WHEREAS the Town of Chester and its students and taxpayers have been harmed by New Hampshire's school funding model, relative to students and taxpayers in other communities, and;

WHEREAS increasing base adequacy and shifting a larger portion of the cost of education from local property tax payers to the State will help alleviate these harms in Chester and for the vast majority of communities around New Hampshire, and;

WHEREAS the New Hampshire General Court has the ability to change how education is funded in New Hampshire, and has been charged once again by the Courts with the task of bringing statute in line with 30 years of Court precedent;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chester School Board calls upon all of the Town of Chester's elected representatives serving in the State Legislature to work toward and support a school funding solution in the best interest of students and taxpayers, that complies with the recent court rulings and increases the amount of State education funding received by Chester Schools and reduces the property tax burden on the taxpayers of Chester.

### *Chester School Board*

*Royal M. Richardson, 2024 – Chair*

*Jonathan Eckerman, 2025 - Vice Chair*

*Kristina Bickford, 2026*

*Sabrina Harris, 2025*

*Chris Kozura, 2026*

## Allenstown School Funding Resolution

WHEREAS the town of Allenstown, must spend significantly more money to educate its students than the State of New Hampshire provides for that purpose, and;

WHEREAS the New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled on multiple occasions that the State of New Hampshire has a constitutional responsibility to pay for the cost of an adequate education for all K-12 public school students, and;

WHEREAS this constitutional responsibility was recently upheld and reaffirmed by a NH Superior Court, which ruled that the current base adequacy amount of \$4,100 is unconstitutionally low, and that the legislature must increase base adequacy to at least \$7,356.01, plus the cost of transportation, and;

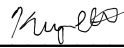
WHEREAS the town of Allenstown and its students and taxpayers have been harmed by New Hampshire's school funding model, relative to students and taxpayers in other communities, and;

WHEREAS increasing base adequacy and shifting a larger portion of the cost of education from local property tax payers to the State will help alleviate these harms in Allenstown and for the vast majority of communities around New Hampshire, and;

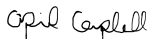
WHEREAS the New Hampshire General Court has the ability to change how education is funded in New Hampshire, and has been charged once again by the Courts with the task of bringing statute in line with 30 years of Court precedent;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Allenstown calls upon all of the elected representatives serving in the State Legislature to work toward and support a school funding solution in the best interest of students and taxpayers, that complies with the recent court rulings and increases the amount of State education funding received by Allenstown Schools and reduces the property tax burden on the taxpayers of Allenstown.

  
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Jody Moore School Board Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Menelaus Charest School Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Bellerose School Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
April Campbell School Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Venegas School Board

**RESOLUTION**

**RE: DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS:** The City of Dover must spend significantly more money to educate its students than the State of New Hampshire provides for that purpose; and

**WHEREAS:** The New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled on multiple occasions that the State of New Hampshire has a constitutional responsibility to pay for the cost of an adequate education for all K-12 public school students, and;

**WHEREAS:** This constitutional responsibility was recently upheld and reaffirmed by a NH Superior Court, which ruled that the current base adequacy amount of \$4,100 is unconstitutionally low, and that the legislature must increase base adequacy to at least \$7,356.01, plus the cost of transportation, and;

**WHEREAS:** The City of Dover and its students and taxpayers have been harmed by New Hampshire's school funding model, relative to students and taxpayers in other communities, and;

**WHEREAS:** Increasing base adequacy and shifting a larger portion of the cost of education from local property tax payers to the State will help alleviate these harms in Dover and for the vast majority of communities around New Hampshire, and;

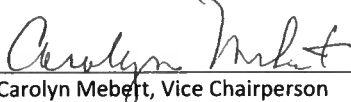
**WHEREAS:** The New Hampshire General Court has the ability to change how education is funded in New Hampshire, and has been charged once again by the Courts with the task of bringing statute in line with 30 years of Court precedent;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Dover School Board calls upon the City of Dover's elected representatives serving in the State Legislature to work toward and support a school funding solution in the best interest of students and taxpayers, that complies with the recent court rulings and increases the amount of State education funding received by Dover Schools and reduces the property tax burden on the taxpayers of Dover.

**SUBMITTED BY:**



Robin Trefethen, Chairperson




Carolyn Mebert, Vice Chairperson



Michelle Clancy, Secretary

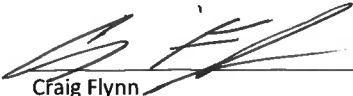
Maggie Fogarty



Elizabeth Goldman



Micaela Demeter



Craig Flynn

Franklin School Funding Resolution

WHEREAS the City of Franklin adopted an FY2023 budget that included a \$19,080,631 appropriation for the funding of our schools, and;

WHEREAS Franklin Schools is expected to receive \$9,876,543 in Adequate Education funding from the State of New Hampshire for the current school year, which includes \$886,084 raised through the Statewide Education Property Tax, which is effectively a local tax because the State does not collect the revenues raised, and reduces effective State aid to \$8,990,459, only 47.1% of the City's total cost of education, and an average of \$8,218 per enrolled pupil, and;

WHEREAS the City of Franklin's Equalized Value Per Pupil (total value of taxable property divided by Average Daily Membership in Residence) of \$947,482 is only 59% of the State average, meaning the taxpayers of Franklin must be charged a higher local tax rate to raise the same amount of money of districts with higher property values, and;

WHEREAS the City of Franklin and its students and taxpayers are harmed by New Hampshire's school funding model, relative to students and taxpayers in other communities, and;

WHEREAS the New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled on multiple occasions that the State of New Hampshire has a constitutional responsibility to pay for the cost of education, and that the continued lack of action to address these rulings has exacerbated the problem to the extent that the State finds itself facing continued litigation on school funding, and;

WHEREAS the New Hampshire General Court has the ability and responsibility to change how education is funded in New Hampshire to bring it in line with the decisions of the Court and this constitutional responsibility, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Franklin School Board calls upon all of the City of Franklin's elected representatives serving in the State Legislature to work toward and support a school funding solution in the best interest of students and taxpayers, that increases the amount of State education funding received by Franklin Schools and reduces the property tax burden on the taxpayers of Franklin.

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Tim Dow, School Board Chair

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Delaney Carrier, School Board Vice-Chair

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Deb Brown, School Board Treasurer

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Christie Martin, School Board Member

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Laurie Cass, School Board Member

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Liz Cote, School Board Member

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Jack Finley, School Board Member

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Maureen Aube, School Board Member

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Desiree McLaughlin, School Board Member

**Manchester Board of School Committee**

Manchester School District ~ SAU 37  
20 Hecker Street, Manchester, NH 03102



December 20, 2023

State House Representative X

**Re: ConVal Lawsuit ruling**

Dear Rep. X,

We, the Manchester Board of School Committee, are writing with regard to the recent ruling in Contoocook Valley School District, et al v. State of NH, No. 213-2019-CV-00069. The Manchester School District joined the plaintiffs in this lawsuit, who noted that the State has the exclusive obligation to fund a constitutionally adequate education, and that the State may not shift any of the constitutional responsibility to local communities, per the New Hampshire Supreme Court. However, the State has not met this constitutional obligation, resulting in an unconstitutional downshifting of education costs to local communities.

As you likely know, the trial court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, finding that the current amount of base aid (\$4,100) is insufficient to provide an adequate education. The court’s order carefully reviews the evidence and arrives at a conservative “threshold” figure of \$7,356.01. The court notes that number is an absolute minimum and would likely still be unconstitutional. It leaves it to the legislature to set a new adequacy amount. This is the first time the court has set a baseline threshold amount.

We would like to know how you, as a State Representative who represents constituents in Manchester, plan to act on this ruling? We would appreciate hearing your thoughts and an update on your next steps to represent the students of Manchester.

As a fifteen-member Board, we have worked diligently to find common ground on education legislative issues that have broad public support. And we believe it is important to work together to achieve these goals at the local, state, and federal levels. Our students deserve the best education possible. We look forward to your continued support and we appreciate your time and consideration.

Thank you—Sincerely,

Jay Ruais, Chair  
Mayor of Manchester

James O’Connell, Vice Chair  
Committee Member, At-Large

Peter Argeropoulos  
Committee Member, At-Large

Julie Turner  
Committee Member, Ward 1

Sean Parr  
Committee Member, Ward 2

Karen Soule  
Committee Member, Ward 3

Leslie Want  
Committee Member, Ward 4

Jason Bonilla  
Committee Member, Ward 5

Dan Bergeron  
Committee Member, Ward 6

Chris Potter  
Committee Member, Ward 7

Jessica Spillers  
Committee Member, Ward 8

Robert Baines  
Committee Member, Ward 9

Joy Senecal  
Committee Member, Ward 10

Elizabeth O’Neil  
Committee Member, Ward 11

Carlos Gonzalez  
Committee Member, Ward 12