

*Inequitable education funding in New Hampshire impacts reach beyond the taxpayer. Students' educational experiences can be drastically different all over the state. This paper presents information about the students in Kearsarge and how they compare to the rest of the state.*

## Students and Student Characteristics

Kearsarge School District serves students from preschool through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Table 1 shows enrollment in October of the 2023-24 school year by grade, including postgraduate students, of which Kearsarge had 7.

Table 1

Kearsarge Regional Schools	Pre	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PG	Totals
Kearsarge Reg. Elem. School at New London	0	43	48	58	56	75	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	337
Kearsarge Reg. Elementary School - Bradford	0	27	20	40	30	21	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	167
Kearsarge Regional High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	138	121	111	106	7	483
Kearsarge Regional Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	146	131	127	0	0	0	0	0	404
Kearsarge Regional Preschool Bradford	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Kearsarge Regional Preschool New London	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Simonds Elementary School	0	16	15	21	27	28	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130
Sutton Central Elementary School	0	11	15	10	15	17	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	86

Table 2

	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	White Non-Hispanic	Multi Race	Total
<b>Kearsarge</b>	4	18	45	9	1554	30	1660
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>93.6%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
State Total	306	5,117	14,242	3,400	135,903	6,034	165,002
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>82.4%</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table 2 displays racial enrollments for students at Kearsarge as of October 2023.<sup>1</sup> There is less racial diversity among Kearsarge students than there is statewide. Only 6% of Kearsarge students are not white compared to 18% statewide.

Of the 1660 Kearsarge students in the 2023-24 school year, 252 were eligible for free and reduced-price lunch based on their family income. While 24.1% of students statewide were eligible, 15% of the students at Kearsarge were eligible.

Also in the 2023-24 school year, 241 students received special education services with an Individual Education Program (IEP). This was 14% of the 1,660 students, much less than the statewide average of 19.7%. Only 5 students were not native English speakers in 2023-24.

# How Have Student Enrollments Changed Over Recent Years in Kearsarge?

Average Daily Membership in Residence (ADM/R) is one way enrollment is measured. It measures the number of public school students living in the district over the school year.

ADM/R has been in slow decline in New Hampshire in recent years, attributable to declining birth rates.

Between 2006-07 and 2023-24 students at Kearsarge declined from 2,015 in 2007 to 1,721<sup>2</sup> in 2024, a 12% decline.

## What Has Been the High School Graduation Rate?

Kearsarge graduated 900 students in graduating classes from 2015 through 2021. The graduation rate over those seven years averaged 95%. This was much higher than the state average of 88.9%.

Kearsarge ranked 13th among the 81 public high schools in New Hampshire, with the highest graduation rate being 1<sup>st</sup> and the lowest graduation rate 81<sup>st</sup>.

Figure 1

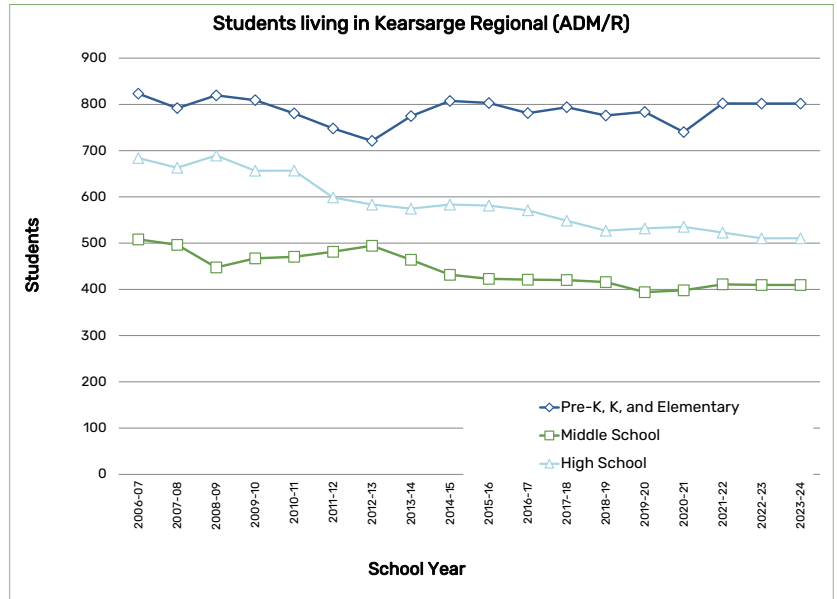
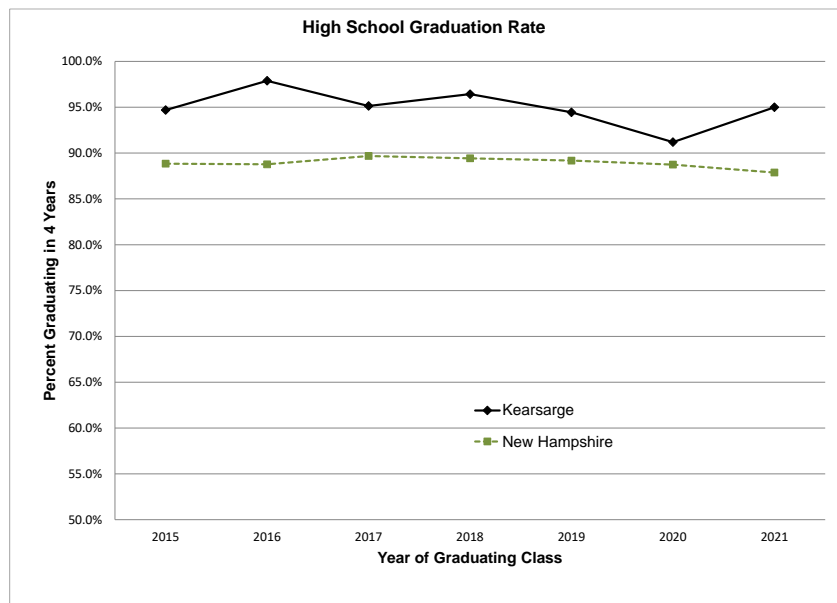


Figure 2



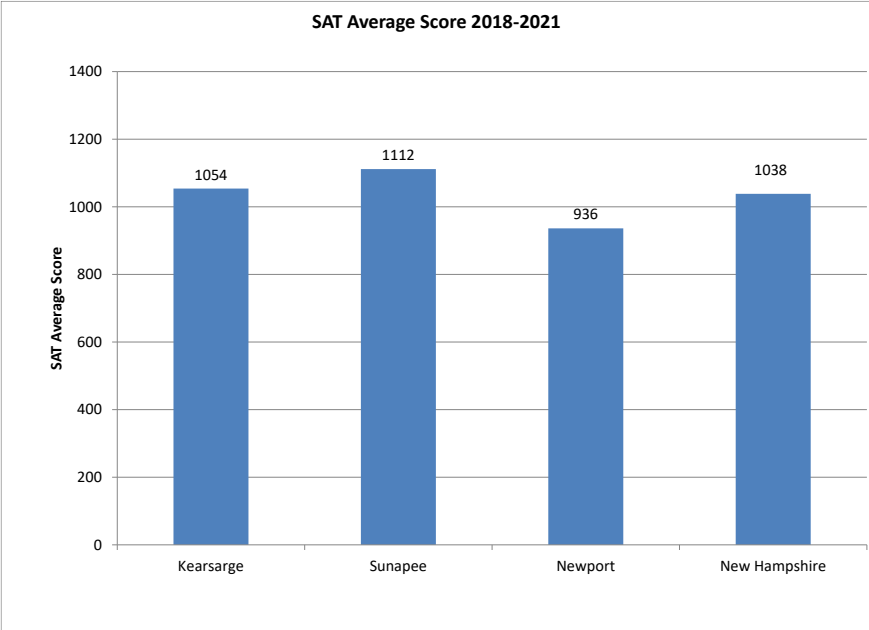
<sup>2</sup> This enrollment number is higher than the enrollment reported by the DOE. There are slight differences in Membership in Residence and Membership by Attendance.

## How Well Have Kearsarge Students Done on the Annual SAT Exam?

Figure 3

New Hampshire measures high school student achievement through the SAT, administered by the College Board. The exam consists of two sections: Mathematics and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, with combined scores ranging from 400 to 1600.

Between 2018 and 2021, 470 Kearsarge students took the SAT in their junior year, with an average score of 1054, compared to the state average of 1038. Out of 79 public high schools, Kearsarge ranked 20th. Over the same period, 509 juniors were enrolled at Kearsarge, with 7.7% of students untested. The average number of untested juniors is 12.2% statewide.



## What Courses are Available for Kearsarge Students?

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 3 shows that Kearsarge offers more courses in almost all subject areas than the average public high school in New Hampshire.

Table 3

	World Languages	Advanced Placement	English Electives	Math courses	Social Study Electives	Computer Technologies	Career Tech	Arts / Performing Arts	Science Elective
<b>Kearsarge</b>	21	14	22	17	11	8	24	24	14
<b>State Average</b>	14	9	11	17	10	6	26	23	13

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 teaching licensure.



## What Have Advanced Placement Results Been at Kearsarge?

The College Board administers Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 38 subjects every May, following standardized courses offered in high schools. While New Hampshire high schools are not required to provide AP courses or mandate that students take the corresponding exams, those who do take AP courses may opt to sit for the exam at the end of the year. AP courses and exams offer students the opportunity to earn college credit before entering college, potentially allowing them to bypass certain introductory courses.

AP exams are scored on a scale of 1 to 5. Most colleges grant credit for scores of 3, 4, or 5, though some highly selective institutions may only accept scores of 4 or 5. Table 4 details AP exam results from 2018 to 2021

Table 4

	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
Kearsarge	297	489	287	19.1%	1.65	58.7%	18.5
State	22,966	36,355	25,108	10.62%	1.58	69.06%	11.61

Kearsarge students were more likely to take AP tests but less likely to succeed in the exams than the statewide averages. But, as a percent of enrollment, Kearsarge outperformed the average.

## How Likely Are Students from Kearsarge to Apply, Earn Admittance, and Enroll at The University of New Hampshire?

The University of New Hampshire (UNH), the state's flagship public institution, is a common choice for college-bound seniors. The UNH Admissions Office provided data on applications, admissions, and enrollments from New Hampshire public high schools for freshman years 2017 through 2021. By aggregating five years of data, small sample sizes and year-to-year fluctuations were minimized, providing a clearer picture, especially for smaller schools. To allow for comparisons across schools of varying sizes, senior-year enrollments were used as the basis for calculating the percentages of students who applied, were admitted, and ultimately enrolled at UNH.

Students often apply to multiple colleges, and even if accepted to UNH, many choose to attend other institutions. As a result, UNH offers admission to more students than will ultimately enroll. Between 2017 and 2021, 27.1% of New Hampshire public high school seniors applied to UNH. Of Kearsarge High School's seniors, 28.7% applied, and 85.8% of those were admitted. In total, 7.5% of Kearsarge seniors enrolled at UNH, the same as the statewide enrollment rate.

Table 5

	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
Kearsarge	183	157	48	28.7%	85.8%	7.5%
State	18,455	15,653	5,101	27.1%	83.9%	7.5%

*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 of the 81 New Hampshire public high schools.*