

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

Students and Student Characteristics

Newport School District serves students from pre-school through the 12th grade. Table 1 shows enrollment in October of the 2023-24 school year by grade, including postgraduate students, of which Newport had 3. Newport SOAR is an alternative high school route in the district to meet students where they are. Newport has one student enrolled.

Table 1

Newport Schools	Pre	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	PG	Totals
Newport Middle High School (High)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	91	76	74	46	3	290
Newport Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	59	53	0	0	0	0	0	149
Newport SOAR High School	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Richards Elementary School	23	38	44	44	54	49	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	307

Table 2

	American Indian or Alaskan	Asian or Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black Non-Hispanic	White Non-Hispanic	Multi Race	Total
Newport	1	9	7	1	711	18	747
Percentage	0.1%	1.2%	0.9%	0.1%	95.2%	2.4%	100.0%
State Total	306	5,117	14,242	3,400	135,903	6,034	165,002
Percentage	0.2%	3.1%	8.6%	2.1%	82.4%	3.7%	100.0%

Table 2 displays racial enrollments for students at Newport as of October 2023.¹ There is less racial diversity among Newport students than there is statewide. Only 4.8% of Newport students are not white compared to 18% statewide.

Of the 715 Newport students in the 2023-24 school year, 410 were eligible for free/reduced lunch based on their family income. While 24.1% of students statewide were eligible, **57%** of the students at Newport were eligible.

Also in the 2022-23 school year, 204 students received special education services with an Individual Education Program (IEP). This was 28% of the 715 students, a bit more than the statewide average of 19.7%. 10 students were not native English speakers in 2023-24.



How Have Student Enrollments Changed Over Recent Years in Newport?

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 Newport declined from 995 in 2007 to 715 in 2024, a 25.5% decline.

What Has Been the High School Graduation Rate?

Newport graduated 457 students in graduating classes from 2015 through 2021. The graduation rate over those seven years averaged 77.7%. This was much lower than the state average of 88.9%.

Ranking the 81 public high schools in New Hampshire with the highest graduation rate as (1) and the high school with the lowest graduation rate as (81), Newport ranked 76th.

Figure 1

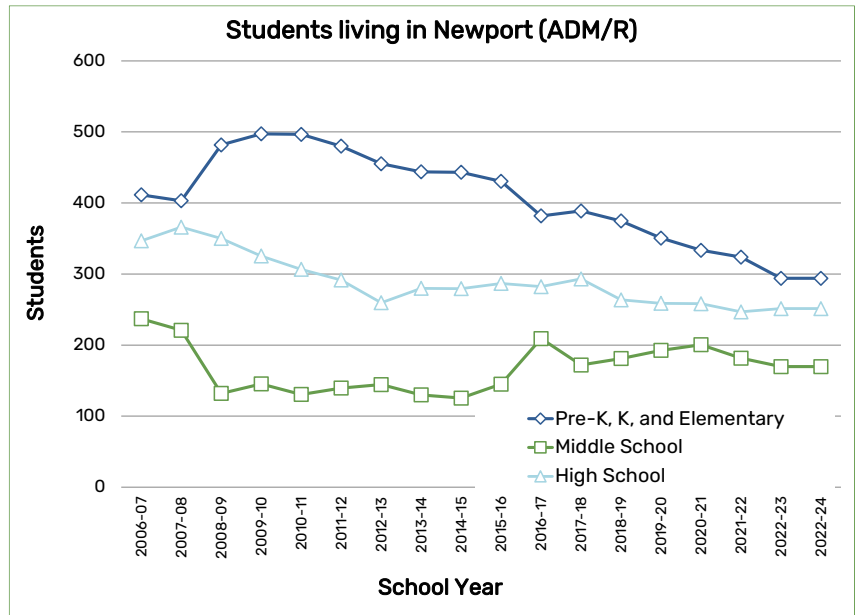
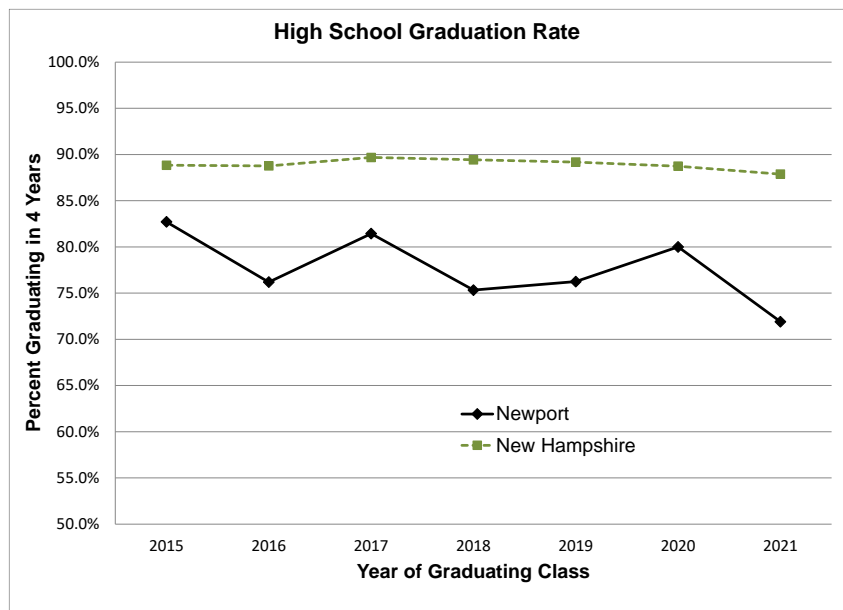


Figure 2

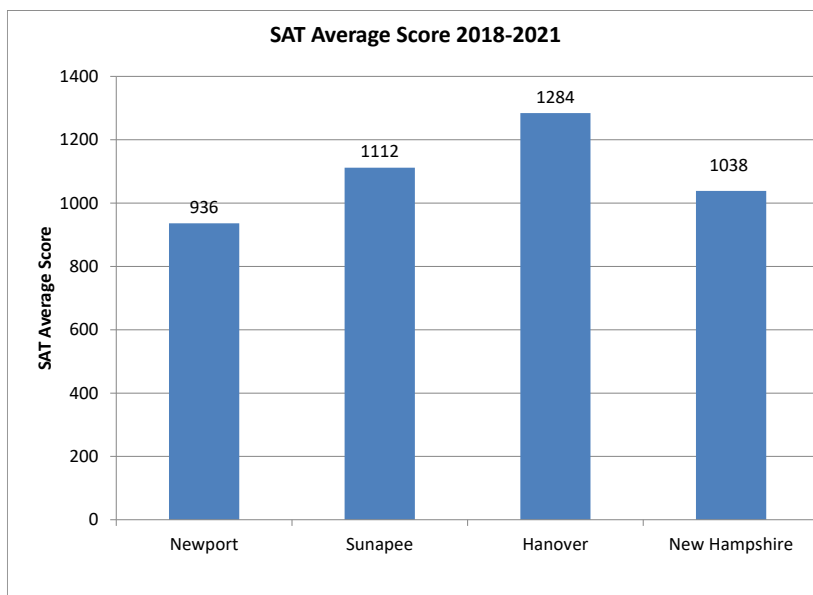


How Well Have Newport Students Done on the Annual SAT Exam?

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, 247 Newport students took the SAT in their junior year, with an average score of 936, compared to the state average of 1038. Out of 79 public high schools, Newport ranked 74th. Over the same period, 298 juniors were enrolled at Newport, with 17.1% of students untested. The average number of untested juniors is 12.2% statewide.



What Courses are Available for Newport 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 Newport offers fewer courses in all subject areas than the average public school in New Hampshire except for career technology.

Table 3

	World Languages	Advanced Placement	English Electives	Math courses	Social Study Electives	Computer Technologies	Career Tech	Arts / Performing Arts	Science Elective
Newport	6	3	9	13	3	2	40	11	4
State Average	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 Newport?

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, allowing them to bypass certain introductory courses potentially.

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
Newport	66	73	40	6.7%	1.11	54.79%	4.04
State	22,966	36,355	25,108	10.62%	1.58	69.06%	11.61

Newport students were less likely to take AP tests and were less likely to be successful in the exams than the statewide averages.

How Likely Are Students from Newport 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 it can ultimately accept. Between 2017 and 2021, 28.8% of New Hampshire public high school seniors applied to UNH. Of Newport High School's seniors, 14.8% applied, and 84.8% of those were admitted. In total, 4.5% of Newport seniors enrolled at UNH, fewer than 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
Newport	66	56	20	14.8%	84.8%	4.5%
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.