

New Hampshire’s public school system, and the methods used to fund it, affect all Granite Staters but can often be difficult to grasp. Below are some common questions about ConVal’s school funding, along with key facts and figures. We hope this information sheds light on the inequities that continue to challenge our school funding.

**What Does ConVal Spend on Public Schools?
How Does It Compare to Other Communities?**

Figure 1

Antrim, Bennington, Dublin, Franconia, Greenfield, Hancock, Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple all have the same per-pupil expenditure because they share a school district. In the 1998-99 school year, the last year before New Hampshire increased education aid in response to the Claremont rulings, Peterborough (ConVal RSD) spent \$6,934 per elementary student, or 117 percent of the median spending among towns. In 2023-24, Peterborough's per-pupil spending had increased to \$28,008, which was 116 percent of the state median.

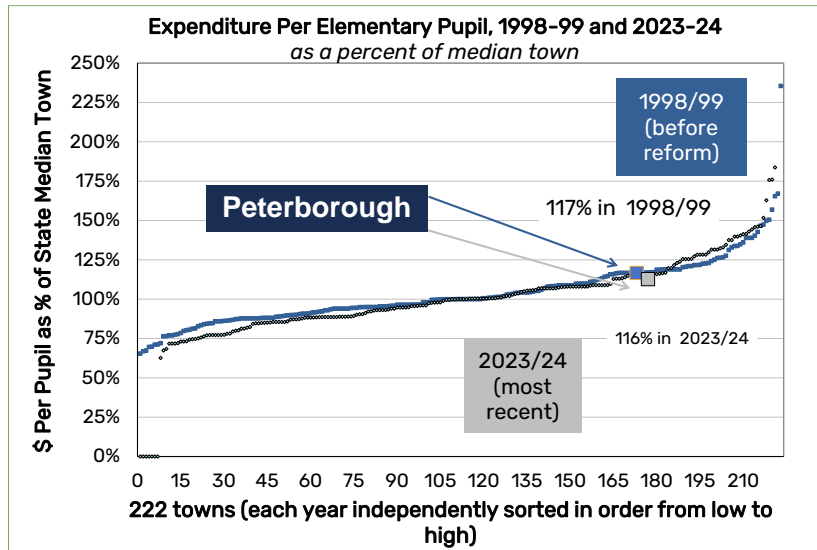
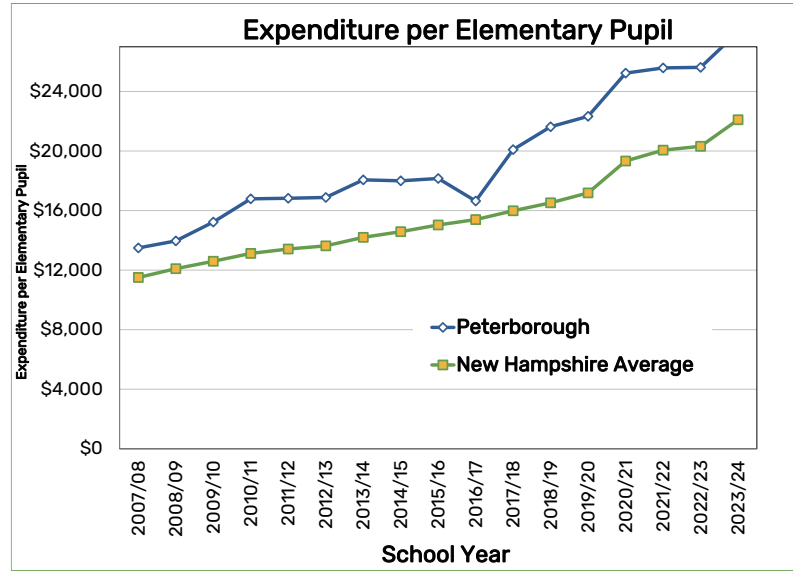


Figure 2

Figure 2 highlights the spending trends over the past 15 years, comparing Peterborough’s expenditure per elementary student to the state average. The data reveals that ConVal RSD has consistently been above the state average, with spending in 2023-24 above the state average by \$5,901.



New Hampshire’s public school districts spent \$3.80 billion during the 2023-24 school year. Of that amount, 38 percent was dedicated to regular classroom instruction, 20 percent to special education, 11 percent to administration, 9 percent to building operations, and the remainder was devoted to transportation, food services, and other purposes.

As shown in Table 1, ConVal spent less on regular instruction and student support services than the average. In contrast, spending on special programs and administration was higher.

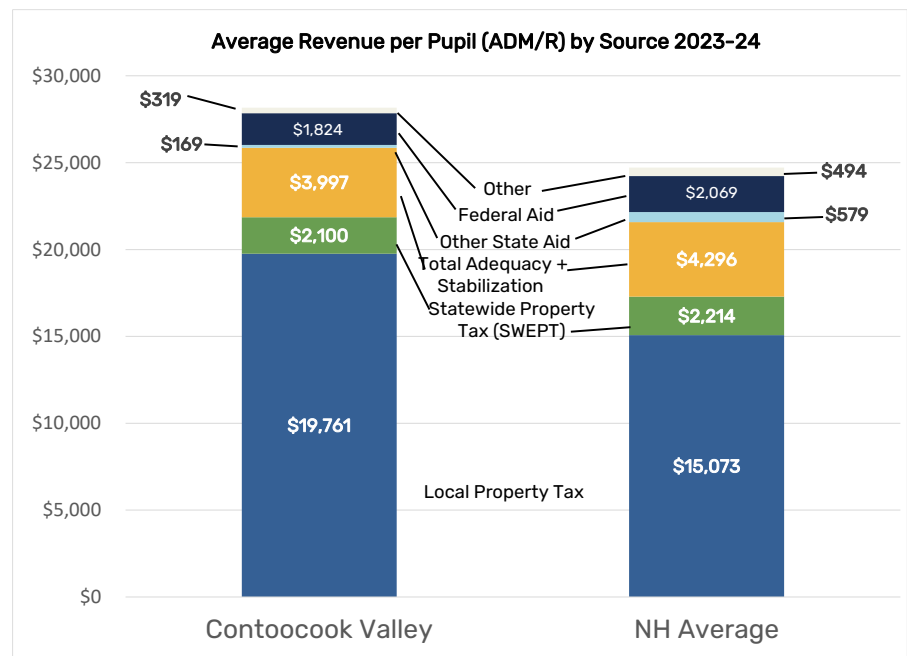
Spending by Type	Percentage	
	Contoocook Valley	NH Average
Regular Instruction	33%	38%
Special Programs	26%	20%
Vocational Programs	2%	1%
Other Instructional Programs	2%	2%
Student Support Services	6%	8%
Instructional Support Staff	2%	4%
Administration	14%	11%
Plant Operations	8%	9%
Pupil Transportation	5%	5%
Food Services	1%	1%
Bond & Note Interest	0%	1%
Other Expenses	0%	0%
Total Expenses	100%	100%

How Does ConVal Pay for Public Schools?

Figure 3 shows all the various revenue sources that ConVal uses to pay for its students’ education, measuring them on a per-pupil basis. It also compares ConVal’s revenue sources to the New Hampshire average. As this figure makes clear, local property taxes are the major source of revenue for public schools across the state.

Figure 3

During the 2023-24 school year, ConVal School District’s total school revenue was \$28,169 per pupil, more than the state average of \$23,198. Property taxes (local plus statewide) provided \$21,861 per pupil or 78 percent of the overall amount, more than the state average of 71 percent. ConVal received \$3,997 in total state “adequacy grant” per pupil. The state average aid was \$4,296 per pupil.



How Has Antrim’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Antrim’s equalized school property tax rate was \$25.42 per \$1,000, 136% of the median town. Following the 1998 education funding reforms, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Antrim’s rate dropped to \$17.15. By 2023, it had fallen further to \$9.94 (\$8.81 local and \$1.13 SWEPT), or 106% of the median.

Figure 4

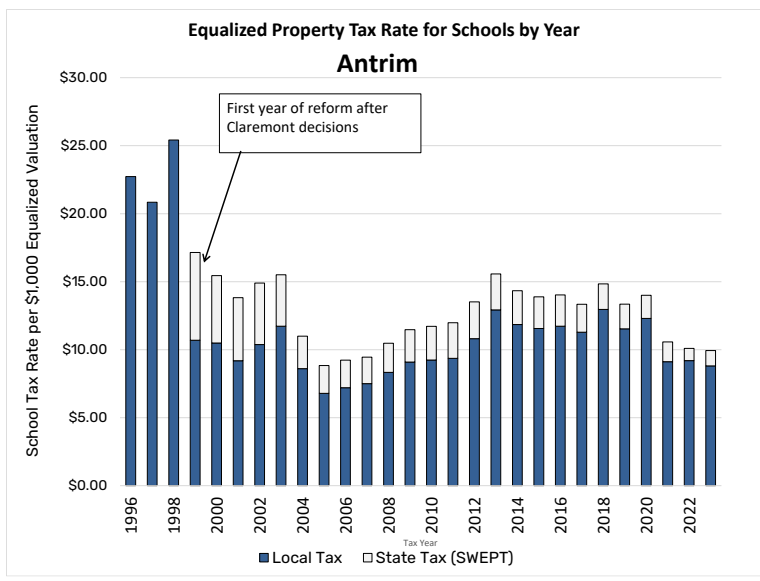
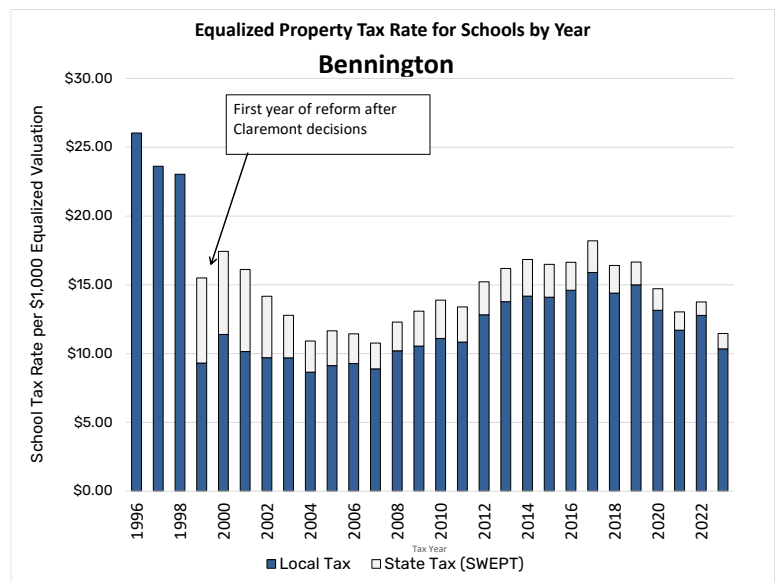


Figure 5

How Has Bennington’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

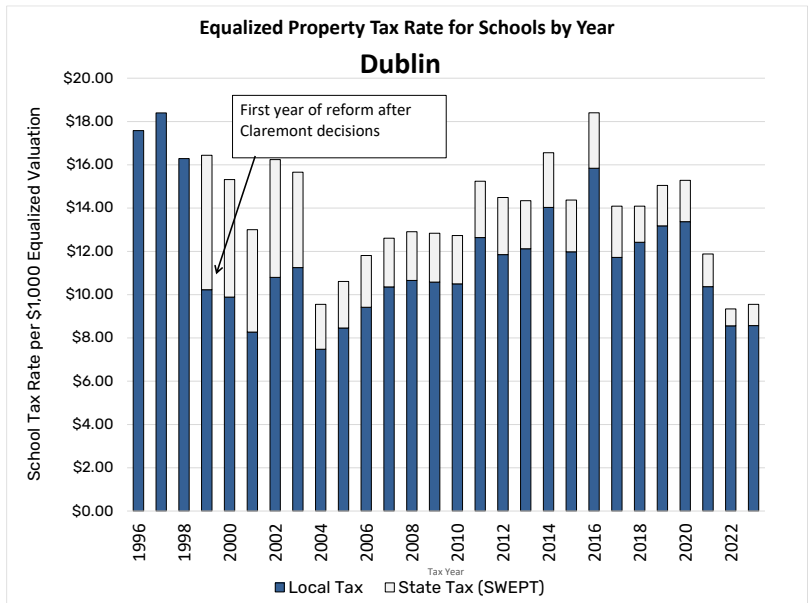
In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Bennington’s equalized school property tax rate was \$23.04 per \$1,000, 124% of the median town. Following the 1998 education funding reforms, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Bennington’s rate dropped to \$15.50. By 2023, it had fallen further to \$11.46 (\$10.34 local and \$1.12 SWEPT), or 122% of the median.



How Has Dublin’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Dublin’s equalized school property tax rate was \$16.29 per \$1,000, 87% of the median town. Following the education funding reforms in 1998, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Dublin’s rate rose to \$16.44. By 2023, it had fallen to \$9.55 (\$8.57 local and \$.98 SWEPT), or 102% of the median.

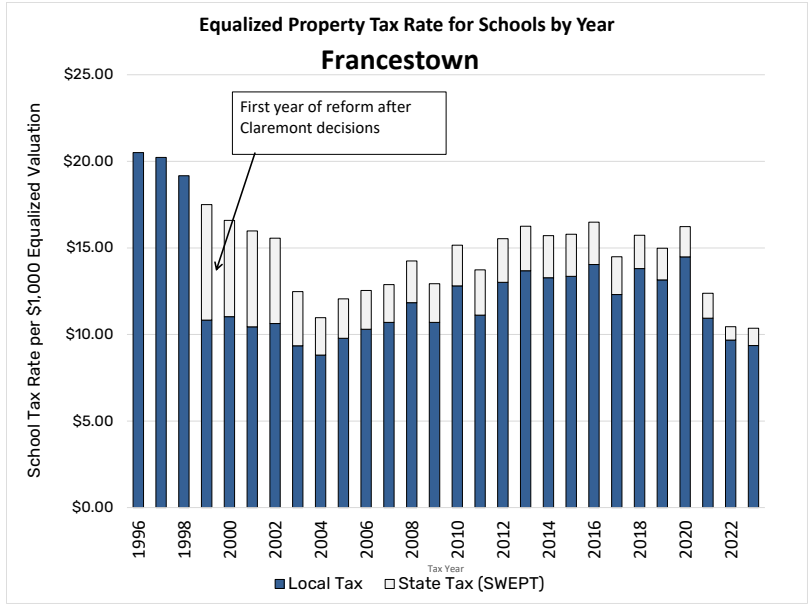
Figure 6



How Has Francestown’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Francestown’s equalized school property tax rate was \$19.17 per \$1,000, 103% of the median town. Following the 1998 education funding reforms, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Francestown’s rate dropped to \$17.50. By 2023, it had fallen further to \$10.36 (\$9.36 local and \$1.00 SWEPT), or 111% of the median.

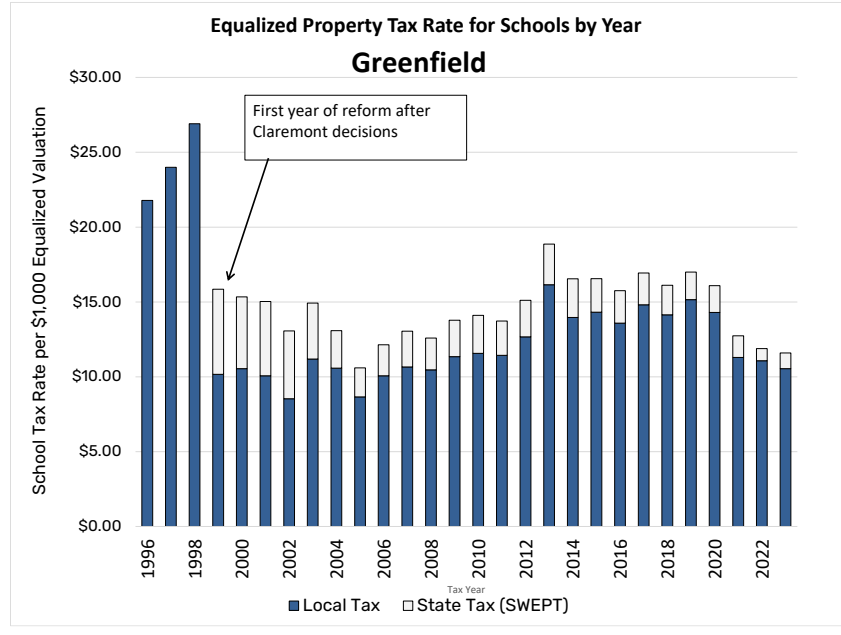
Figure 7



How Has Greenfield’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Greenfield’s equalized school property tax rate was \$26.90 per \$1,000, 144% of the median town. Following the 1998 education funding reforms, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Greenfield’s rate dropped to \$15.85. By 2023, it had fallen further to \$11.60 (\$10.55 local and \$1.05 SWEPT), or 124% of the median.

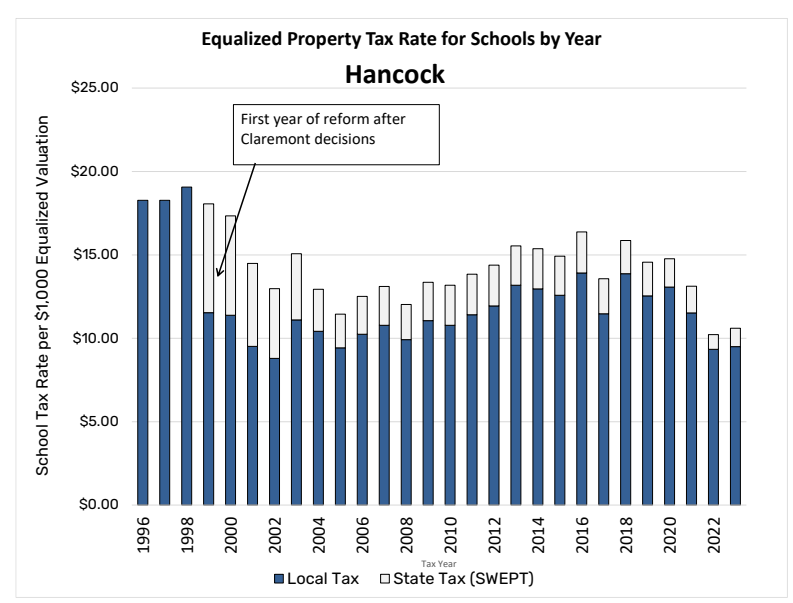
Figure 8



How Has Hancock’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Hancock’s equalized school property tax rate was \$19.07 per \$1,000, 102% of the median town. Following the 1998 education funding reforms, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Hancock’s rate dropped to \$18.06. By 2023, it had fallen further to \$10.60 (\$9.50 local and \$1.10 SWEPT), or 113% of the median.

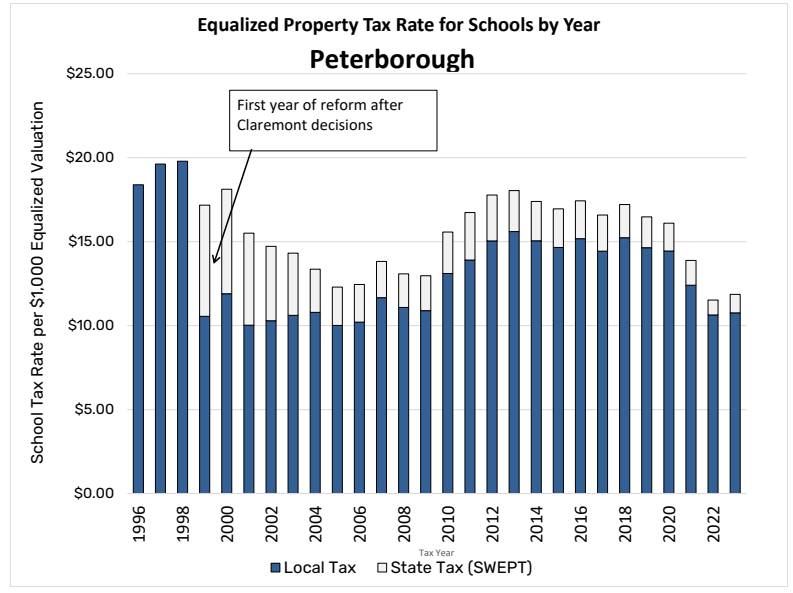
Figure 9



How Has Peterborough’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Peterborough’s equalized school property tax rate was \$19.78 per \$1,000, 106% of the median town. Following the 1998 education funding reforms, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Peterborough’s rate dropped to \$17.17. By 2023, it had fallen further to \$11.86 (\$10.76 local and \$1.10 SWEPT), or 127% of the median.

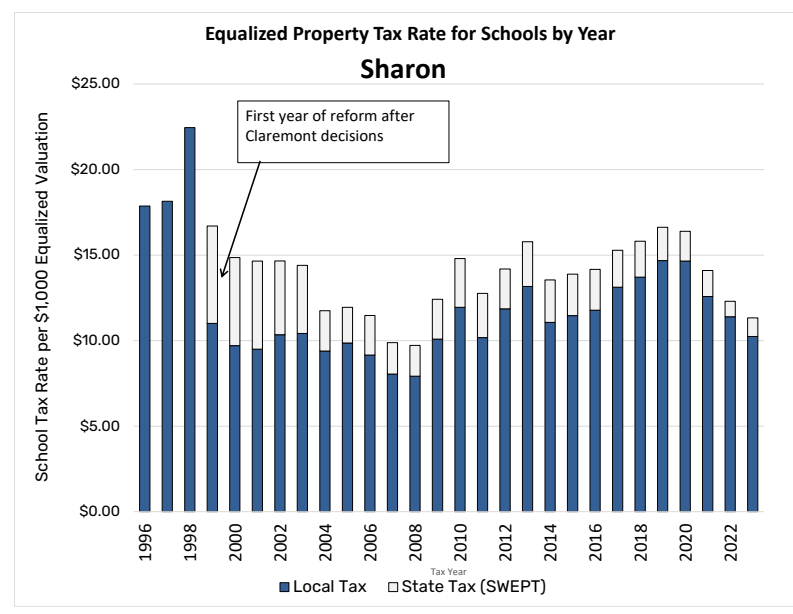
Figure 10



How Has Sharon’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Sharon’s equalized school property tax rate was \$22.45 per \$1,000, 120% of the median town. Following the 1998 education funding reforms, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Sharon’s rate dropped to \$16.70. By 2023, it had fallen further to \$11.33 (\$10.24 local and \$1.09 SWEPT), or 121% of the median.

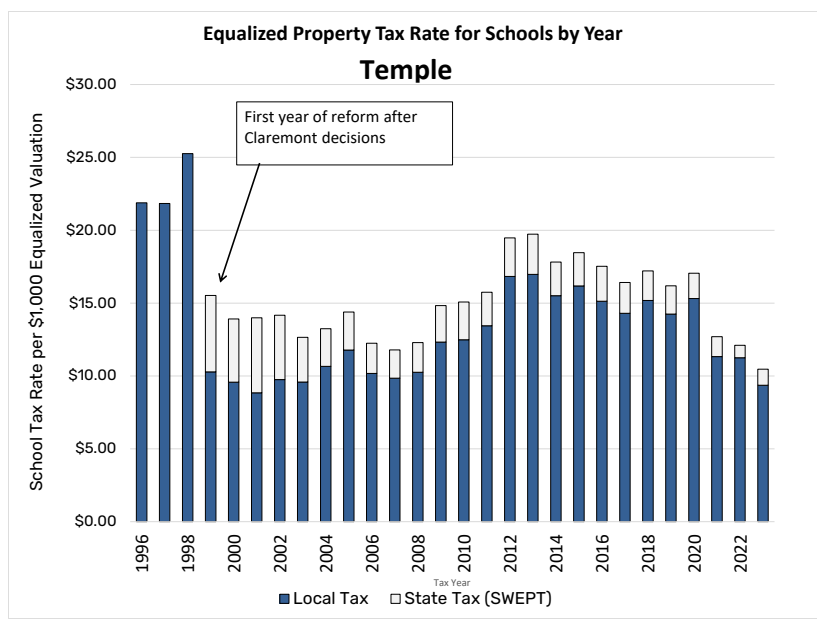
Figure 11



How Has Temple’s School Property Tax Rate Changed Over Time?

In 1998, the year before the state responded to the Claremont rulings, Temple’s equalized school property tax rate was \$25.26 per \$1,000, 136% of the median town. Following the 1998 education funding reforms, including the introduction of the Statewide Education Property Tax (SWEPT) and new adequacy aid in 1999, Temple’s rate dropped to \$15.53. By 2023, it had fallen further to \$10.47 (\$9.37 local and \$1.10 SWEPT), or 112% of the median.

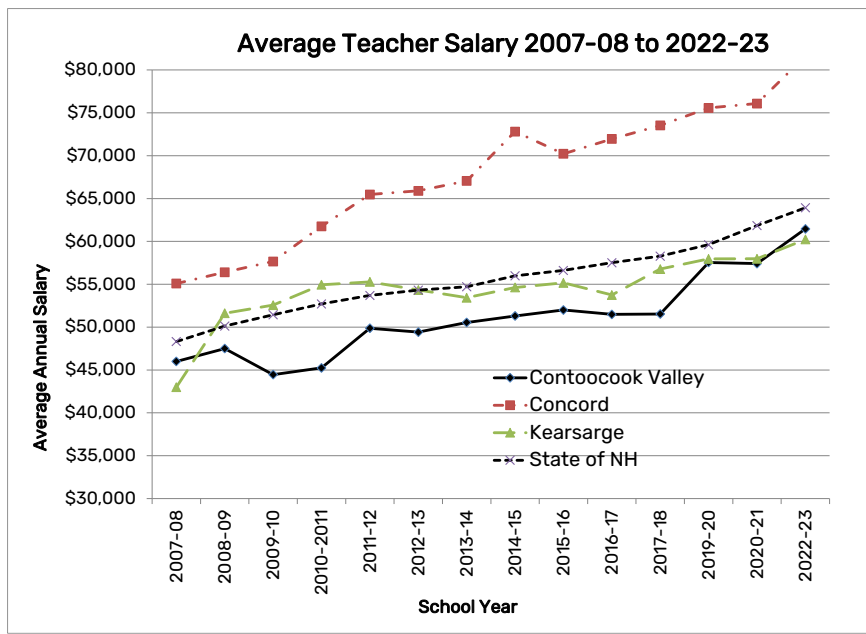
Figure 12



How Much Do Teachers Earn in ConVal?

In 2007-08, ConVal had 247 teachers, and in 2022-23, that number dropped to 200. During the 2022-23 school year, the average teacher salary in ConVal was \$61,465, 4% lower than the state average of \$63,926. ConVal has consistently remained below the state and far below Concord’s averages since 2008. Over the same period, ConVal’s average teacher salary increased by 29 percent, while the Consumer Price Index increased by 42 percent. Concord saw a 45 percent rise in their teacher salaries in the same time.

Figure 13



What Does ConVal Spend on Special Education?

Under federal and state law, students with physical, mental, or learning disabilities require special additional services to support their learning. An Individualized Education Program (IEP) is created for each such student. The cost of these services is tracked within the overall spending of each district.

As shown in the table below, in 2023-24 ConVal reported spending \$16,400,434 for these additional services.

Function	Amount
Instruction	\$13,057,851
Instruction Related	\$1,465,543
Administration	\$493,936
Legal	\$0.00
Transportation	\$1,383,104
TOTAL	\$16,400,434

During that year, ConVal had 417 students with IEPs. On average, this was \$39,329 for each such student. In the state overall, there were 30,965 such students, and the total cost was \$915,220,911. The statewide average was \$29,557. The average cost for additional services for each student with an IEP at ConVal was much more than the average throughout the state.

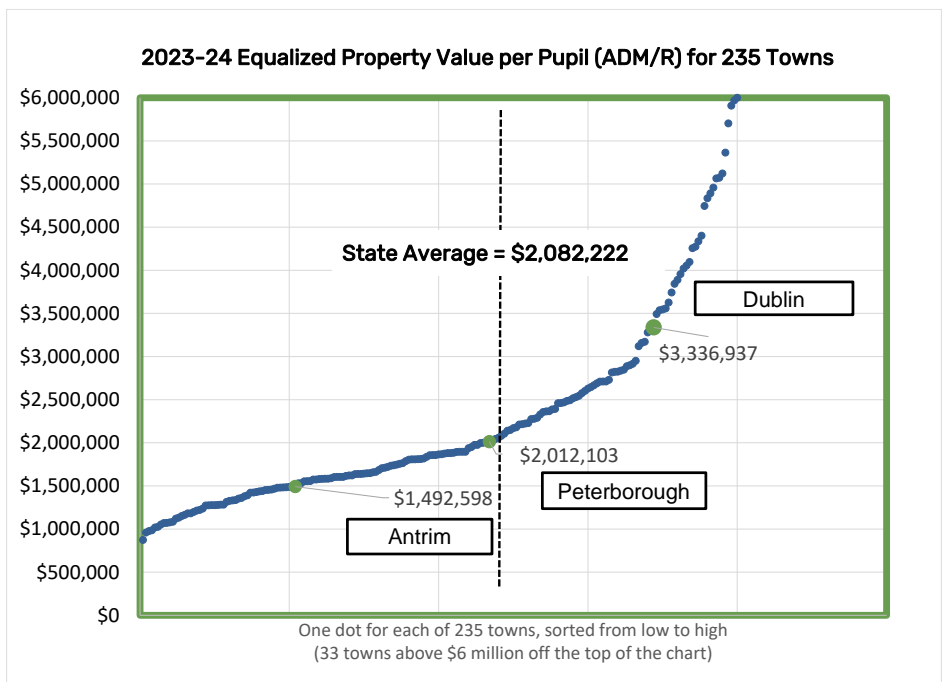
These costs *are in addition to* the non-special education costs shared among all students. While \$29,557 was the average additional cost, for some students with considerable disability, the cost can be much higher, while for others it may be only a few hundred dollars.

Figure 14

What are Property Values in ConVal?

The key measure of a town’s ability to raise revenue for its schools is Equalized Property Value per Pupil (EQVP), which reflects the taxable property wealth available per student. Towns with higher EQVPs can raise the same amount of money with lower tax rates.

In 2023, EQVPs in the ConVal area were: Antrim (\$1,492,598), Bennington (\$1,120,873), Dublin (\$3,336,937), Frankestown (\$2,711,035), Greenfield (\$1,555,519), Hancock (\$2,730,163), Peterborough (\$2,012,103), Sharon (\$1,804,958), and Temple (\$2,461,048).



Note: Data used in this report are taken from reports and spreadsheets of the NH Department of Education (Equalized Valuation per Pupil, Cost Per Pupil by District, Average Daily Membership Based Upon Attendance and Residence (ADM), Average Class Size by School, and DoE25 Extract for State Profile Data for various years). Such data are reported by New Hampshire school districts to the Department. Tax rates printed on town tax bills are not equalized and cannot be compared among towns. Using equalized data allows an apples-to-apples comparison among town tax rates and property values.