NH SCHOOL Funding Fairness Project

Community Profile: SAU 20

Dummer · Errol · Gorham · Milan · Randolph · Shelburne

Six towns share school administration through SAU 20, but their schools, finances, and tax bases are all unique. This profile follows those four school districts and the communities they serve, showing where resources come from and how they support students.

DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

Dummer	Errol	Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative	Milan
No schools · attends Milan, Berlin or Gorham	Errol Consolidated School · K–8	Edward Fenn Elementary; Gorham Middle & High School · K–12	Milan Village School · P–6
32 resident students	**10** students	**372** students	**98** students
		SERVES: Gorham, Randolph, Shelburne	

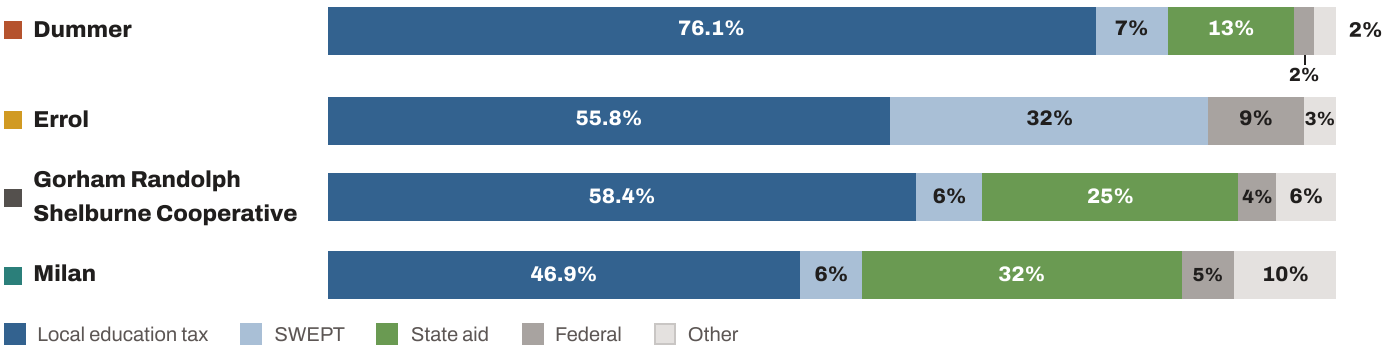
STUDENTS IN SAU 20 SCHOOLS	TOTAL POPULATION
480	**5,354**
	2025 town estimates

Table shows data for 2024-2025 school year; all figures in this profile are FY 2025 unless otherwise noted. School counts are October 1 K–12 headcount. Tuition-district figures are resident membership (ADM-R) and are not in the total.

A tuition district has a school board and budget but no school buildings. It pays other districts to educate its students. Students from **Dummer** attend Milan Village School (P-6), then either Berlin Middle High School (SAU 3) or Gorham Middle High School. Students from Errol and Milan attend Berlin Middle High School for Grades 7-12.

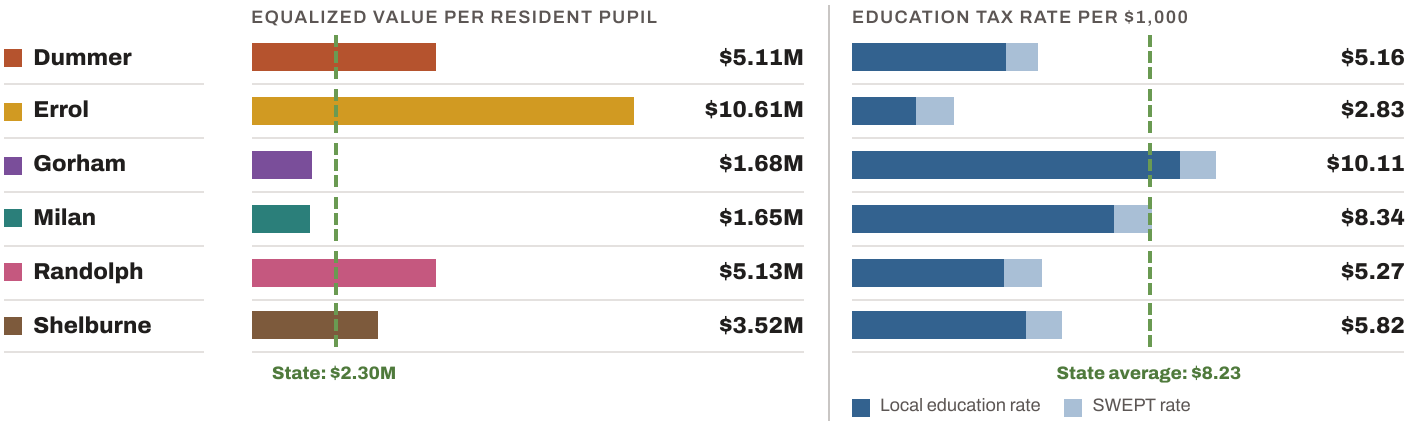
Where does the money come from?

SWEPT is the statewide education property tax; it is shown separately from the local education tax, but is raised, retained, and spent locally.



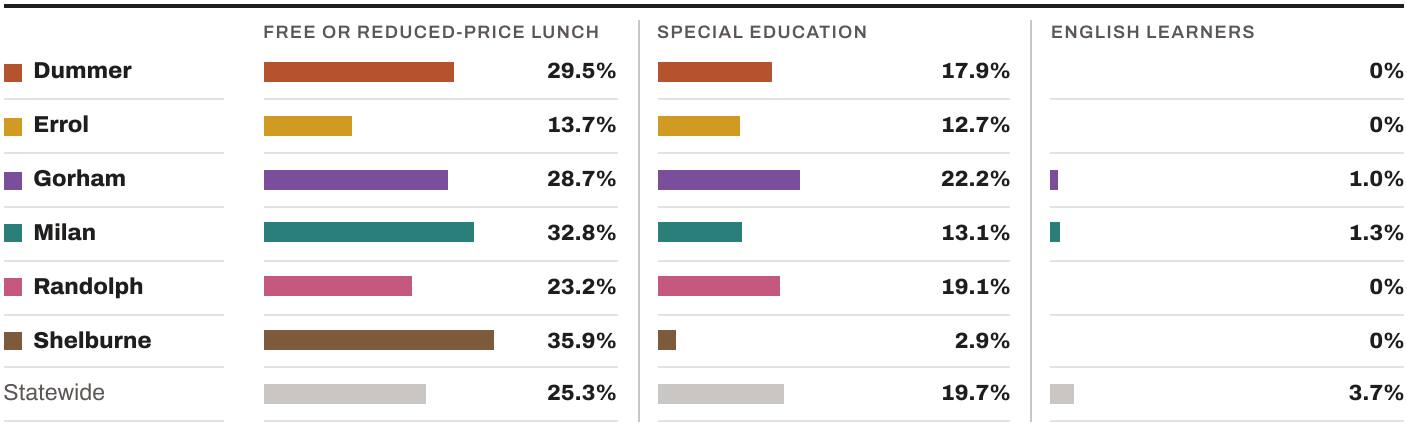
Property wealth and local tax effort

The property value available to support education varies across the six towns. Education tax rates use the NHED's equalized rates, allowing comparisons between different communities with different assessment schedules across the state.



Students and schools

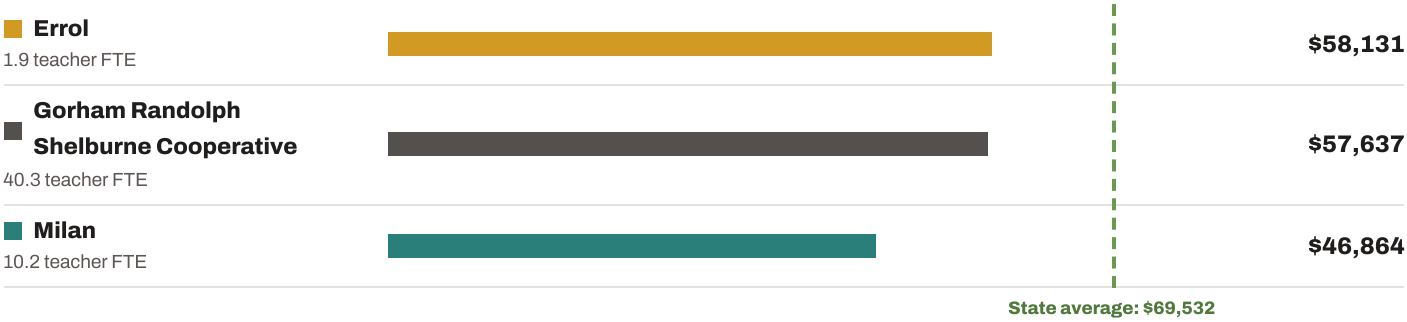
STUDENTS COUNTED FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ENGLISH LEARNER AID



These are funding counts by town of residence, not district enrollment. All three columns share one scale, running to 40%.

TEACHERS AND AVERAGE SALARY

Full-time-equivalent (FTE) teachers include preschool and special education. Salary is the district average, not a starting salary or a salary-schedule measure. Dummer employs no teachers.



Graduation rates

HIGH SCHOOL	CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION RATE
Gorham High School	**97.1%**
New Hampshire, all public high schools	**87.5%**

Students who entered grade 9 in fall 2021.

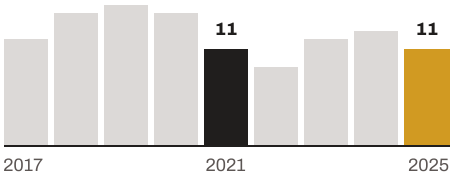
Scale and district structure

Enrollment trends in SAU 20 mirror what is happening statewide: birth rates (and by extension, student enrollment) have gradually declined over the past 20 years. Changes in enrollment impact how fixed costs are spread across remaining students, which means a decrease in students doesn't always translate to a reduction in overall district costs.

Errol

–8%

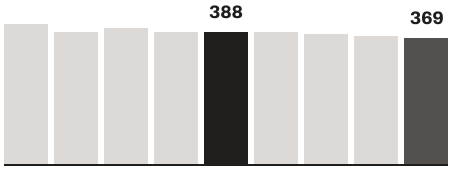
12 in 2017 → 11 in 2025



Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative

–10%

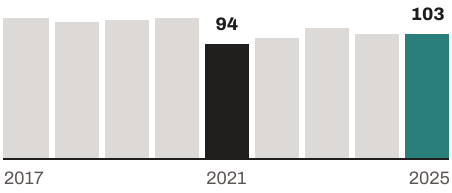
412 in 2017 → 369 in 2025



Milan

–11%

116 in 2017 → 103 in 2025



2021 (2020–21 school year, during COVID) · 2025, in district color · Other years

Dummer is not shown because it operates no schools. This chart shows attendance membership (ADM-A), so figures differ from the October headcount in the snapshot.

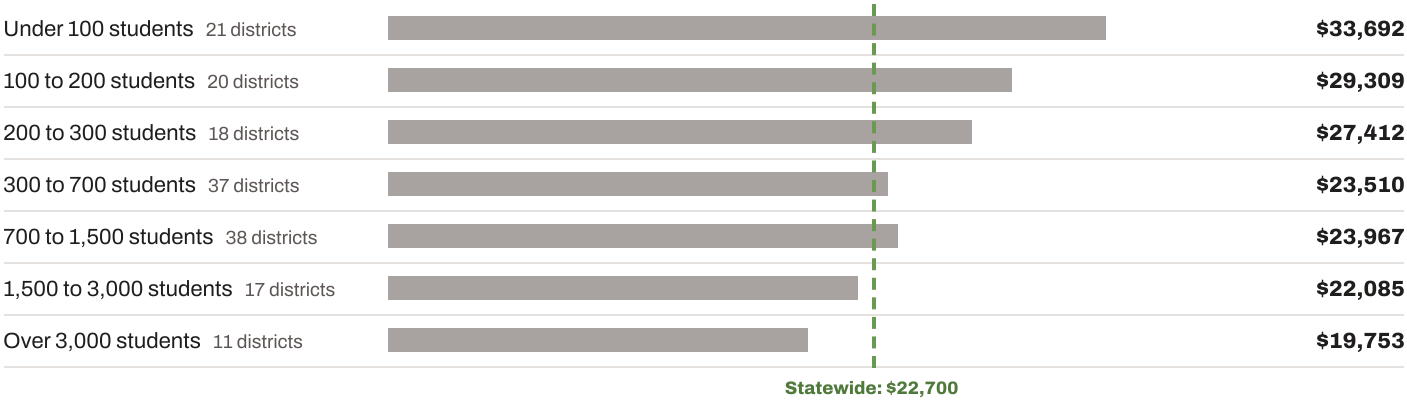
What does it cost to run the schools?

DISTRICT	ANNUAL SPENDING	COST PER PUPIL (CPP)
Dummer	$933,114	Not calculated
Errol	$668,007	**$40,487**
Gorham Randolph Shelburne Cooperative	$10,218,697	**$26,561**
Milan	$4,229,473	**$22,516**
Statewide		**$22,700**

Annual spending is FY 2025 recurring expenditure. CPP calculations are directly from NHED; they divide by attendance membership (ADM-A) and exclude transportation and tuition. Dummer operates no schools, so NHED does not calculate a CPP for it.

How cost per pupil compares by district size

Cost per pupil is highest in New Hampshire's smallest districts, where fixed costs such as buildings, principals and bus routes are spread across fewer students.



Median cost per pupil (CPP) of all New Hampshire school districts in each enrollment size group.

Getting involved

Two places shape school funding in your community: the local school budget process and the State House, which sets the state funding formula.

FOLLOW LOCAL SCHOOL DECISIONS

Attend or watch school board meetings to understand local spending decisions. Most meetings include public comment, giving residents a chance to ask questions and be heard.

TALK WITH YOUR STATE LAWMAKERS

State policy decisions have an outsized impact on how schools are funded and how much our communities must rely on property taxes. Your lawmakers are accessible, and hearing directly from local residents matters.

STAY INFORMED

We track school funding legislation, court cases, and policy changes. Join our newsletter for timely updates and opportunities to learn more and get involved.

SOURCES

New Hampshire Department of Education (NHED); United States Census Bureau (Census); American Community Survey (ACS)