NH SCHOOL Funding Fairness Project

# Community Profile: SAU 35

## Bethlehem · Easton · Franconia · Landaff · Sugar Hill

Five towns share school administration through SAU 35, 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

| Bethlehem | Lafayette Regional | Landaff | Profile |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Bethlehem Elementary School** · P–6 | **Lafayette Regional School** · K–6 | **Landaff Blue School** · P–4 | **Profile School** · 7–12 |
| **127** students | **98** students | **13** students | **216** students |
| | SERVES<br>Easton<br>Franconia<br>Sugar Hill | | SERVES<br>Bethlehem<br>Easton<br>Franconia<br>Sugar Hill |

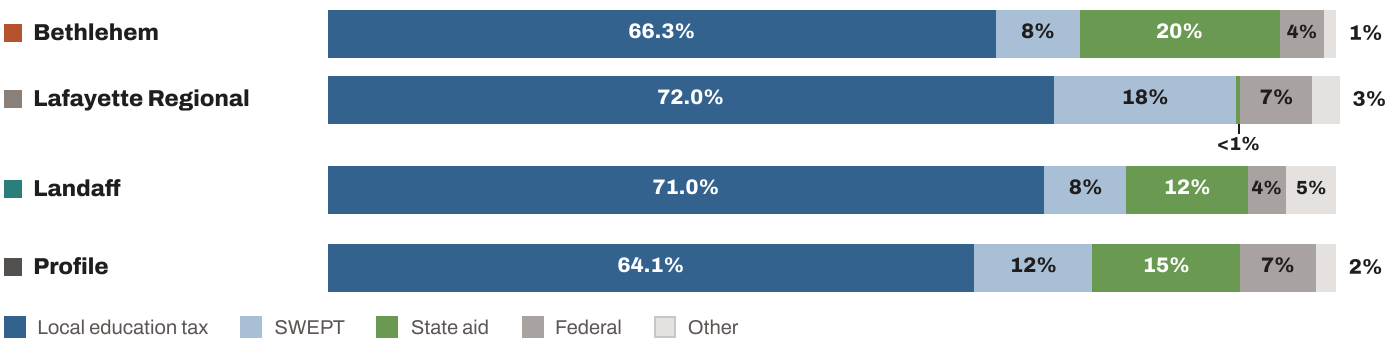
| STUDENTS IN SAU 35 SCHOOLS | TOTAL POPULATION |
|---|---|
| **454** | **5,182**<br>2025 town estimates |

Table shows data for 2024-2025 school year; all figures in this profile are FY 2025 unless otherwise noted. School counts: Oct. 1, 2024 K–12 headcount.

**Landaff today.** Following the closure of Blue School (Grades P-4) in 2026, all Landaff students are now tuitioned to neighboring schools. This report captures district data from fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025 before this change happened.

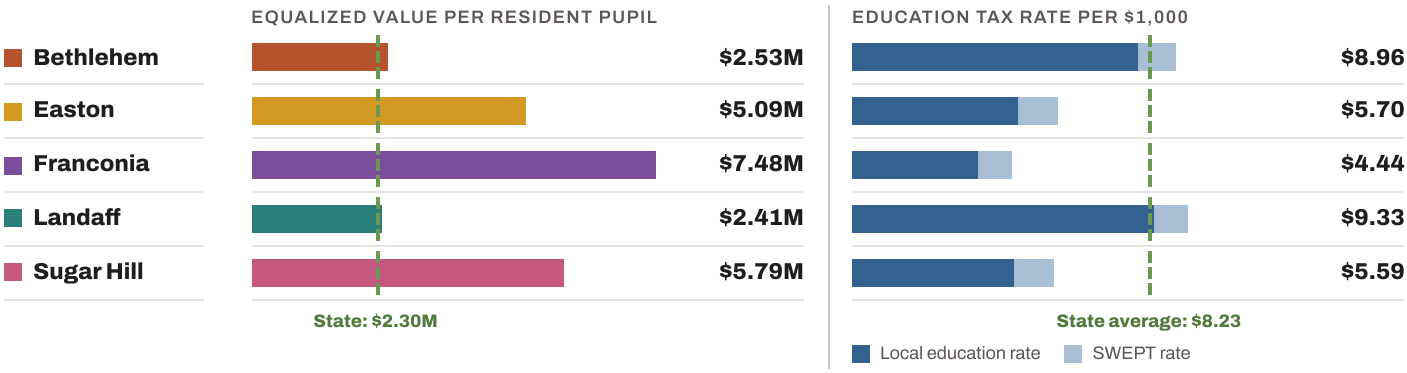
## Where does the money come from?

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 five 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

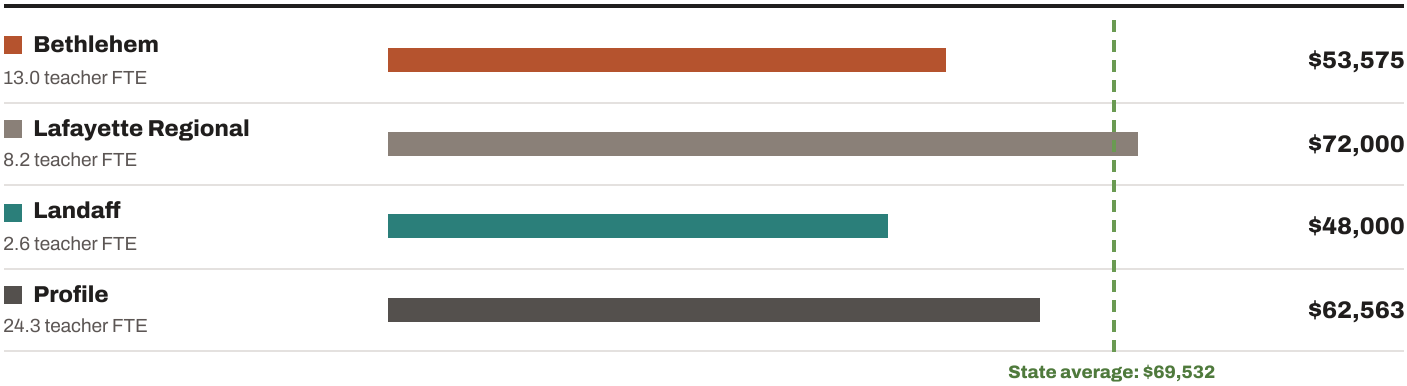
STUDENTS COUNTED FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH, SPECIAL EDUCATION AND ENGLISH LEARNER AID

| | FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH | SPECIAL EDUCATION | ENGLISH LEARNERS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bethlehem | 33.2% | 14.5% | 0% |
| Easton | 32.3% | 3.6% | 0% |
| Franconia | 15.3% | 11.9% | 0% |
| Landaff | 24.5% | 12.2% | 2.4% |
| Sugar Hill | 16.6% | 22.7% | <1% |
| Statewide | 25.3% | 19.7% | 3.7% |

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.



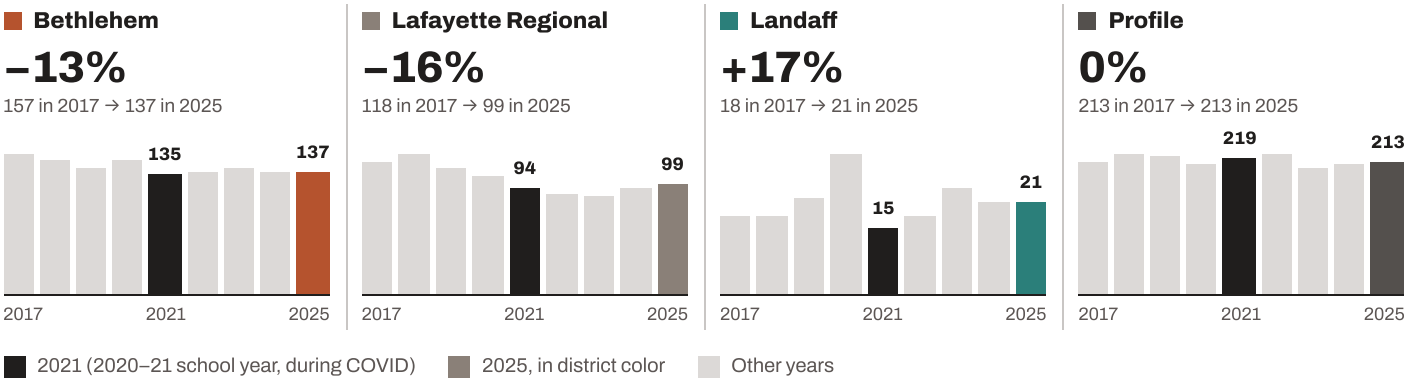
## Graduation rates

| HIGH SCHOOL | CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION RATE |
|---|---|
| **Profile Senior High School** | **88.2%** |
| **New Hampshire, all public high schools** | **87.5%** |

Students who entered grade 9 in fall 2021.

## Scale and district structure

Enrollment trends in SAU 35 largely mirror what is happening statewide: birth rates (and by extension, student enrollment) have gradually declined over the past 20 years. Landaff's enrollment rose slightly, from 18 to 21 students, and Profile's held steady at 213. 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.




Landaff's decline predates its current tuition-only arrangement. This chart shows attendance membership (ADM-A), so figures differ from the October headcount in the snapshot.

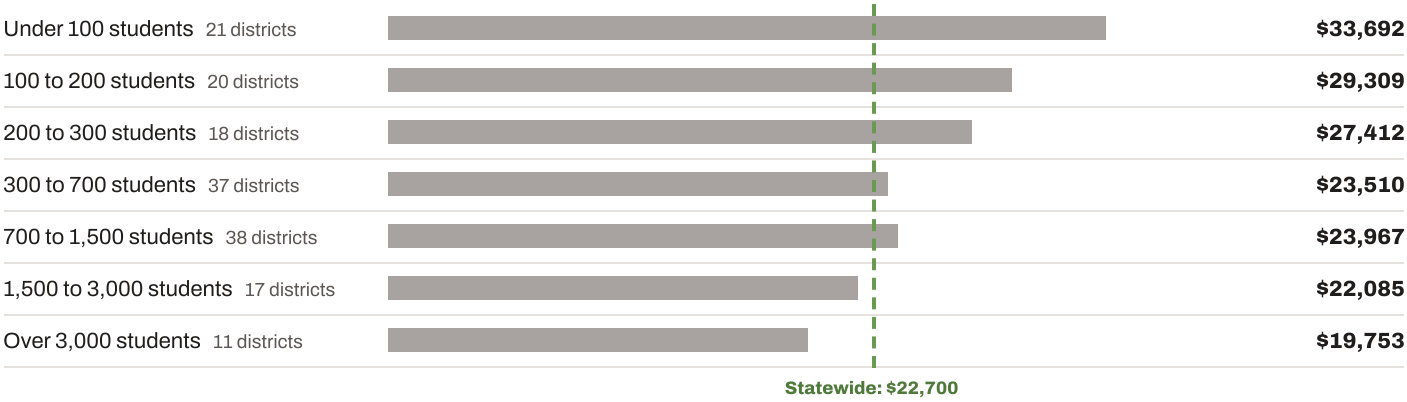
## What does it cost to run the schools?

| DISTRICT | ANNUAL SPENDING | COST PER PUPIL (CPP) |
|---|---|---|
| **Bethlehem** | $3,622,094 | **$25,103** |
| **Lafayette Regional** | $3,376,404 | **$31,788** |
| **Blue School (Landaff)** | $1,135,172 | **$22,974** |
| **Profile Jr/Sr High School** | $6,662,225 | **$29,876** |
| **Statewide** | | **$22,700** |

These calculations are directly from NHED; they divide by attendance membership (ADM-A) and exclude transportation and tuition.

## 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)