Regional School Unit No. 10
799 Hancock Street, Suite 1
Rumford, ME 04276
Telephone: 207-369-5560
Fax: 207-562-7059

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Regional School Unit No. 10 Budget Newsletter

Buckfield● Hanover ● Hartford ● Mexico ● Roxbury ● Rumford ● Sumner



It is with a combination of nostalgia and anticipation that I present my final annual budget publication as I retire from RSU 10. I carry with me cherished memories of the past decade, including the successes achieved and the challenges overcome. Above all, I value the exceptional support from the communities of the western foothills as we worked together for the betterment of our schools. I am incredibly enthusiastic about the future of RSU 10 as I pass the torch to Matthew Gilbert, our next Superintendent of Schools!

This year has been exceptionally busy. The late fall and winter marked a significant undertaking: the move into our new Mountain Valley Community School. This monumental task was accomplished through the dedicated efforts of our staff and the valuable contributions of community members, who generously volunteered their time and expertise. While there's still work to be done both inside and outside the building, which will continue throughout the coming fall, we are continually making adjustments to ensure everything functions as intended.

In late spring of last year, we learned that our application for the Hartford-Sumner Elementary School (HSES) construction project placed 43rd out of over 90 applications through the Maine Department of Education. Unfortunately, this means a state-funded new school or renovation isn't on the immediate horizon. Consequently, the School Board decided to relocate the 6th grade from HSES to Buckfield Junior/Senior High School middle school. This strategic move allows us to establish full-time PreK education at HSES this fall, alongside Mountain Valley Community School. In addition, this will provide the necessary space to address the special education needs of 3 and 4-year-olds.

As you know, funding our schools and providing for the educational needs of all our students is a major financial commitment. We strive to ensure they can learn in a healthy and secure environment. You will find detailed information on the 2026-2027 RSU 10 budget proposal on page 4. This year, we worked diligently to reduce our budgeted expenditures by $3 million. This represents a 4.89% budget to budget increase and equates to an overall tax increase of approximately 4.13% across the towns in our District. It's understandable that the varying property valuations across our seven towns can lead to frustration for many. Furthermore, our medical insurance costs increased by 8.65% this year.

I sincerely appreciate your unwavering support of our students, staff, and schools. It is through our combined efforts that we can maintain excellent public schools, which serve all our children and help them achieve their full potential. We eagerly anticipate seeing you at our Annual Budget meeting on May 27th and appreciate your continued backing at the polls in your town on June 9th.

Sincerely,

Deborah A. Alden

Deborah A. Alden,
Superintendent of Schools



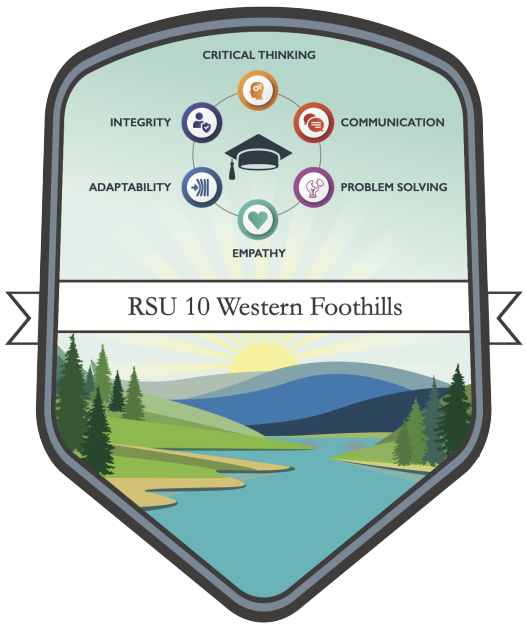
MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS

Mission

RSU 10 Schools will engage all students to maximize their potential to lead fulfilling lives.

Vision

An RSU 10 education will enrich the life of each student through meaningful learning opportunities that inspire critical thinking, communication, problem solving, empathy, adaptability, and integrity.



CORE VALUES

Critical Thinking
RSU 10 students and staff objectively analyze and evaluate facts, evidence, observations, and arguments in order to form a judgment.
Communication
RSU 10 students and staff demonstrate the ability to share and understand information, ideas and feelings successfully.
Problem Solving
RSU 10 students and staff are able to work together to identify problems, brainstorm and analyze answers, and implement the best solutions.
Empathy
RSU 10 students and staff strive to understand the feelings and perspectives of all others, and use that understanding to guide their own.
Adaptability
RSU 10 students and staff put forth their best effort and work toward their goals as they adjust to their environment.
Integrity
RSU 10 students and staff are honest, sincere, trustworthy, ethical and fair.

2026-2027 Budget information can be found on Page 4 and Page 5.

RSU 10 Schools Show Gains in Academics and Attendance

Written by Matthew Gilbert, Assistant Superintendent

Regional School Unit 10 is entering the 2025–26 school year with cautious optimism, as first-half data shows meaningful progress on academic achievement in math and reading, while chronic absenteeism remains a work in progress.

The district's Comprehensive Needs Assessment sets clear benchmarks: push math achievement from 42% to 47%, lift reading from 51% to 56%, and reduce chronic absenteeism from 35.24% to 28%. Trends after the first half of the school year suggest the academic targets are within reach.

Math achievement district-wide has risen from 35% in Spring 2024 to 50%, already surpassing the end-of-year goal. Reading has followed a similar curve, climbing from 42% to 54% over the same period. The percentage of students meeting individual NWEA growth targets has also increased sharply, suggesting students aren't just performing better, they're growing faster.

Several schools stand out. Buckfield Junior/Senior High School has posted dramatic reading gains, jumping from 41% to 65% achievement over two years. Rumford Elementary School (now Mountain Valley Community School) saw its reading growth target rate leap by 34 percentage points in a single year, the largest single-school jump in the district.

Chronic absenteeism tells a more complicated story. Spring 2025 district-wide absenteeism actually rose to 35.24%, up from 31.9% the prior year. However, 2025-26 figures show sharp drops at most schools, with BJSHS falling from 36.5% to 18.7% and RES dropping from 36.7% to 18.5%, encouraging signs heading into the end of the year.

The data snapshot is meant to track progress rather than offer a full analysis, but the overall trajectory heading towards the end of the school year is encouraging.

Buckfield Junior/Senior High School (BJSHS): Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO)

Written by Troy Eastman, Principal

As principal of Buckfield Junior/Senior High School, I am proud to share the many ways our school continues to grow, innovate, and prepare students for success beyond graduation. This year, one of our most impactful areas of focus has been the expansion of our Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) program. Through ELOs, our students are engaging in meaningful, real-world experiences that connect classroom learning to future careers.

Our students have participated in a wide range of internships, job shadowing experiences, and college visits. These opportunities allow them to explore potential career paths, build professional skills, and develop a clearer vision for their futures. Whether working alongside local businesses, visiting college campuses, or observing professionals in action, students are gaining invaluable insights that help them transition confidently into life after high school. This work would not be possible without the strong partnerships we've built with our community, and we are deeply grateful for that support.



Looking ahead, we are excited about an important expansion within our school. Beginning next year, Buckfield Junior/Senior High School will welcome sixth-grade students into our building. This addition marks a significant change for our students and their families. We are eager to welcome these students and help guide them through a successful transition into middle school. This transition will open new academic, social, musical and athletic opportunities for them to participate in with their peers.

In addition to programmatic growth, we are also making important investments in our facilities. Over the summer, our school will receive all new windows and several new exterior doors. These upgrades will improve energy efficiency while also enhancing the safety and security of our building—an investment that benefits both our current students and future generations.

None of this progress would be possible without the dedication of our staff and the ongoing support of our families. I want to extend my sincere thanks to our teachers, support staff, and parents for helping make Buckfield Junior/Senior High School a safe, welcoming, and supportive place to work and learn. Your commitment to our students is what makes our school truly special.

Together, we are building a strong foundation for the future—one that prioritizes opportunity, growth, and the well-being of every student. I look forward to seeing everyone at graduation as we celebrate and send off our incredible seniors!

2026-2027 Budget information can be found on Page 4 and Page 5.

Opening of Mountain Valley Community School (MVCS-ES)
An Amazing Opportunity For Our Communities

Written by Jim Hodgkin, MVCES Principal

On Monday, January 26, 2026, the Mountain Valley Community School (MVCS-ES) opened for students in grades PK-5. However, that day was a snow day and the first official day became Tuesday, January 27th. The opening of this new school followed months of anticipation and preparation. Right from the very beginning our students were amazing. This brand new school was huge and students were nervous about navigating the hallways. However, our staff was equally awesome and met the students when they entered the building and led the students to their new classrooms. In a few short days, the students had it all worked out and acted as if they had always been in this building. It became theirs.



Merging the Meroby Elementary staff and the Rumford Elementary staff was nearly seamless. These dedicated teachers started working together as if they had been together for a long time. The same was true for the students. Many of them already had friends from both schools and those who did not know each other, quickly became acquainted with one another.

Now that we are over four months into this transition, we have worked out most of the bugs of scheduling, recess, lunch, bussing and more. As we prepare for next year, more integration of students will happen and more celebration of MVCS as one school will happen.

A big thank you to the community for your patience throughout this process. You have understood when we had the expected “growing” pains and understood as we ironed out bus routes, parent pick up/drop off, recess, and more. Your support has been greatly appreciated.



Mountain Valley Community School

Photograph Credit

Architect: Harriman

Photographer: Blind Dog Photography











2026-2027 Budget information can be found on Page 4 and Page 5.

Public Informational Hearing on the RSU No. 10 School Budget
All school systems are required to hold an Annual Budget Meeting to be followed by a Budget Validation Referendum Vote.

At the Annual Budget Meeting on May 27, 2026 at Mountain Valley High School in the auditorium, the voters will vote on the warrant article amounts and total budget approved by the RSU No. 10 Board of Directors on April 13, 2026. Once a budget is approved at the Annual Budget Meeting, it must then be approved by a Budget Validation Referendum Vote in each community of the RSU.

May 18, 2026	Nezinscot Region Informational Meeting	Buckfield Jr./Sr. High School	6:30 p.m.
May 27, 2026	RSU No. 10 Annual Budget Meeting	Mountain Valley High School	6:30 p.m.
June 9, 2026	Budget Validation Referendum Vote	Town polling places	See Below for Your Town

Budget Validation Referendum Vote

The Budget Validation Referendum Vote will be held on June 9, 2026. Voting hours vary by town. The ballot asks for a yes or no response regarding approving the budget. If the voters approve of the action taken at the Annual Budget Meeting, then the budget is considered adopted. If the voters vote no regarding the action taken at the budget meeting, then the board must go back and approve a new budget and repeat the entire process.

	June 9, 2026 Budget Validation Referendum Voting Hours by Town	
Buckfield	Buckfield Municipal Center, Room 34, Turner Street	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Hanover	Hanover Town Office, 21 Ferry Road	10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Hartford	Hartford Town Hall, 1190 Main Street	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Mexico	Calvin P. Lyons Meeting Hall, 134 Main Street	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Roxbury	Roxbury Town Hall, 1095 Roxbury Road	9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Rumford	American Legion, 184 Congress Street	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sumner	Sumner Town Office, 633 Main Street	8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

RSU 10 FY 26-27 TOTAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS $45,045,746.32

Town	Local Allocation	Current Add'l Local	Total to be Raised FY 26-27
Buckfield	$1,160,423.84	$996,340.23	$2,156,764.07
Hanover	$368,336.25	$273,746.96	$642,083.21
Hartford	$1,045,265.84	$827,123.47	$1,872,389.31
Mexico	$826,051.66	$956,141.11	$1,782,192.77
Roxbury	$402,049.42	$678,443.29	$1,080,492.71
Rumford	$3,865,790.09	$3,279,238.05	$7,145,028.14
Sumner	$638,073.16	$521,433.89	$1,159,507.05
Totals	**$8,305,990.26**	**$7,532,467.01**	**$15,838,457.27**

Town	Adult ED Local Share	Food Service Local Share
Buckfield	$8,803.75	$0.00
Hanover	$9,307.67	$0.00
Hartford	$7,930.09	$0.00
Mexico	$32,116.27	$0.00
Roxbury	$23,167.71	$0.00
Rumford	$111,030.35	$0.00
Sumner	$4,840.85	$0.00
Totals	**$197,196.69**	**$0.00**

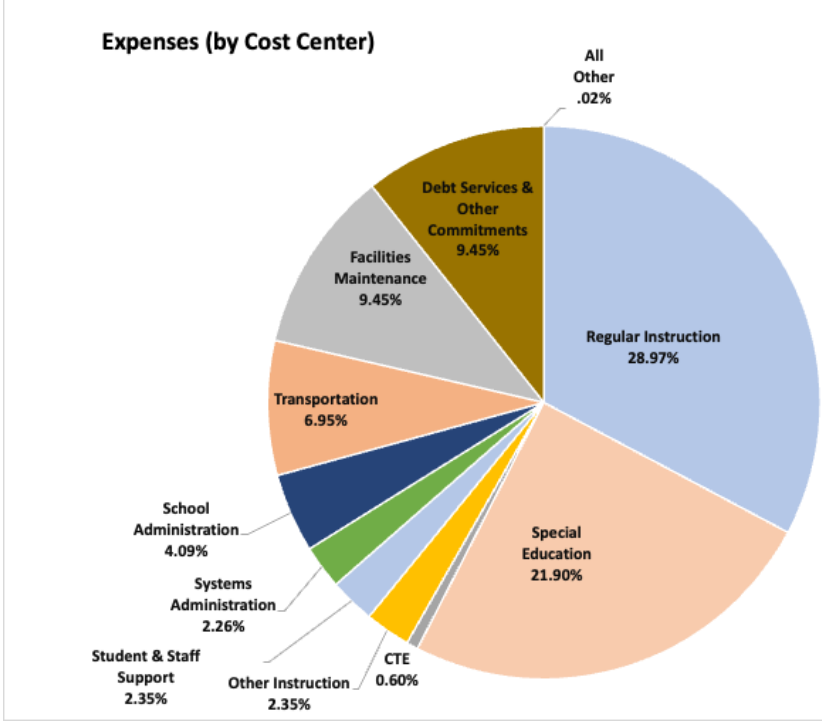
State Mandated Formula for Distributing Local Cost of Budget:

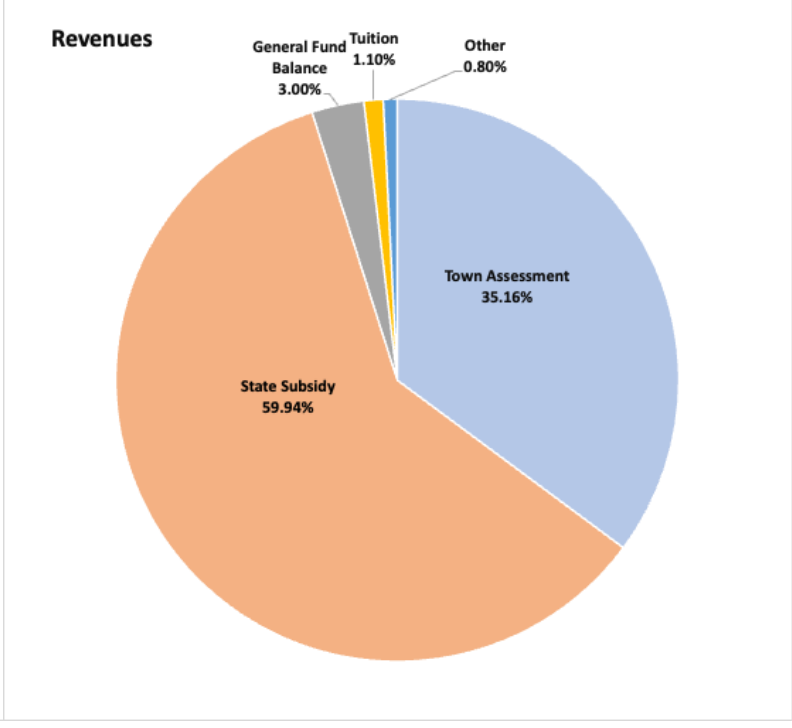
Revenue	FY 26-27
Allocation - State Share	$19,421,556.15
Allocation - State Share Mountain Valley Community School	$7,467,136.57
Allocation - State Share Service	$111,070.40
Allocation - Local Share	$8,305,990.26
Tuition From Other LEA's	$273,340.79
Special Education Tuition From Other LEAs	$222,385.14
MaineCare	$0.00
Payments From Other SAU's For Services (ELL)	$0.00
Miscellaneous Revenue (Transportation, Facilities)	$81,800.00
Excess Balance Forward Previous Year	$1,350,000.00
Bus Bond Payments	$280,000.00
Additional - Local Share	$7,532,467.01
Total - General Appropriations	**$45,045,746.32**

Towns' Percentage of Current Additional Local

Town	75% Based on Valuation	25% Based on Students	Percentage of Costs
Buckfield	$205,566,667.00	$231.50	13.227%
Hanover	$65,250,000.00	$36.00	3.634%
Hartford	$185,166,667.00	$146.50	10.981%
Mexico	$146,333,333.00	$382.50	12.694%
Roxbury	$182,433,333.00	$24.00	9.007%
Rumford	$684,816,667.00	$736.00	43.535%
Sumner	$113,033,333.00	$104.00	6.922%
Totals	**$1,582,600,000.00**	**$1,660.50**	**100.00%**

Town	Approved Budget Local Taxes FY 25-26	Variance FY 25-26 Minus 24-25	Total To Be Raised FY 26-27	Variance FY 26-27 Minus 25-26	Percentage Increase
Buckfield	$2,056,804.59	$160,871.43	$2,156,764.07	$99,959.48	4.86%
Hanover	$596,443.32	$34,634.01	$642,083.21	$45,639.89	7.65%
Hartford	$1,675,215.89	$115,166.19	$1,872,389.31	$197,173.42	11.77%
Mexico	$1,686,594.75	$98,783.87	$1,782,192.77	$95,598.02	5.67%
Roxbury	$1,163,567.20	$57,041.98	$1,080,492.71	($83,074.49)	-7.14%
Rumford	$6,974,932.75	$193,383.47	$7,145,028.14	$170,095.39	2.44%
Sumner	$1,056,619.03	$84,553.23	$1,159,507.05	$102,888.02	9.74%
Totals	**$15,210,177.53**	**$744,434.18**	**$15,838,457.27**	**$628,279.74**	**4.13%**





Article 1A: To elect a moderator to preside at the meeting.

ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 11 AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURES IN COST CENTER CATEGORIES

ARTICLE 1: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Regular Instruction.
School Board Recommends $13,051,257.80
ARTICLE 2: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Special Education.
School Board Recommends $9,866,365.73
ARTICLE 3: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Career and Technical Education.
School Board Recommends $270,839.81
ARTICLE 4: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Other Instruction.
School Board Recommends $1,060,349.64
ARTICLE 5: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Student and Staff Support.
School Board Recommends $3,084,947.02
ARTICLE 6: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for System Administration.
School Board Recommends $1,016,314.62
ARTICLE 7: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for School Administration.
School Board Recommends $1,842,589.01
ARTICLE 8: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Transportation and Buses.
School Board Recommends $3,130,446.67
ARTICLE 9: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Facilities Maintenance.
School Board Recommends $4,255,499.45
ARTICLE 10: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for Debt Service and Other Commitments.
School Board Recommends $7,467,136.57
ARTICLE 11: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will be authorized to expend for All Other Expenditures.
School Board Recommends $0.00

ARTICLES 12 AND 13 RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 12: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.
Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):		Total Raised (and Regional School Unit assessments by municipality)	
Town of Buckfield:	$3,865,219.97	Town of Buckfield:	$1,160,423.84
Town of Hanover:	$601,687.76	Town of Hanover:	$368,336.25
Town of Hartford:	$2,445,569.59	Town of Hartford:	$1,045,265.84
Town of Mexico:	$6,388,426.69	Town of Mexico:	$826,051.66
Town of Roxbury:	$402,049.42	Town of Roxbury:	$402,049.42
Town of Rumford:	$12,288,848.57	Town of Rumford:	$3,865,790.09
Town of Sumner:	$1,735,744.41	Town of Sumner:	$638,073.16
Total Appropriated: (Sum of above)	**$27,727,546.41**	**Total Raised: (Sum of above)**	**$8,305,990.26**

Explanation: The Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the Regional School Unit must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

ARTICLE 13: (Written ballot required.) To see what sum the Regional School Unit will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**Recommend $7,532,467.01**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**Recommend $7,532,467.01**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board Recommends **$7,532,467.01**, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **$7,532,467.01**. The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model: This amount is needed to cover costs of RSU schools that the state's funding model does not recognize including the following: 1) costs of maintaining student-teacher ratios, 2) costs of special education programming, 3) costs of extra-curricular and co-curricular programs, and 4) transportation costs.

Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the Regional School Unit's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the Regional School Unit budget for educational programs.

ARTICLE 14 SUMMARIZES THE PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 14: To see what sum the Regional School Unit will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 from the Regional School Unit's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from pre-kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, local funds for non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.
School Board Recommends $45,045,746.32

ARTICLE 15 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Regional School Unit will appropriate **$41,001.15** for adult education and raise **$20,079.39** as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

ARTICLE 16 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES OF GRANTS AND OTHER RECEIPTS

ARTICLE 16: In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

ARTICLE 17 AUTHORIZES TRANSFERS AMONG COST CENTERS

ARTICLE 17: Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

ARTICLE 18 AUTHORIZES THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL REGION BUDGET

ARTICLE 18: Shall Vocational Region 11 (Oxford Hills Technical School) approve a budget for vocational education in the amount of of **$5,234,129.00** for the year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its vocational education program?

ARTICLE 19 AUTHORIZES THE OXFORD HILLS TECHNICAL SCHOOL ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

ARTICLE 19: Shall Vocational Region 11 (Oxford Hills Technical School) approve a budget for adult education in the amount of **$355,678.00** for the year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program, and shall Regional School Unit 10 raise **$1,495.30** as its share of the adult education budget for Vocational Region 11 (Oxford Hills Technical School)?

ARTICLE 20 AUTHORIZES THE ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET FOR REGION 9 SCHOOL OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND RAISES THE LOCAL SHARE

ARTICLE 20: Shall Region 9 School of Applied Technology approve a budget for adult education in the amount of of of **$417,221.00** for the year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and well-being of its adult education program, and shall Regional School Unit No. 10 raise **$175,622.00** as its share of the adult education budget for Region 9 School of Applied Technology?

ARTICLE 21 AUTHORIZES BONDS TO PURCHASE TWO NEW SCHOOL BUSES

ARTICLE 21: Shall the School Board be authorized to issue bonds or notes in the name of the RSU for purposes of purchasing two new school buses in an amount not to exceed **$280,000.00** for a term not to exceed approximately three years and appropriate the same?

ARTICLE 22 AUTHORIZES EXPENDITURES FROM THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND

ARTICLE 22: Shall the School Board be authorized to expend from the existing Capital Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

Hartford-Sumner Elementary School (HSES): "Amazing America"

Written by Ryan Wilkins, Principal

In April, all Hartford-Sumner Elementary students participated in the annual school-wide integrated learning theme, "Amazing America." This year's theme aimed to honor the semi-quincentennial (250th birthday!) of our country.

A main hallway of the school was transformed into a timeline of American history, featuring folk and patriotic songs from our past. Each classroom chose a National Park or historic site to study and displayed their students' learning. At weekly Monday Morning Meetings, students learned about our national symbol, the bald eagle, by following two young eagles, Kai and Eve via the livestream of their nest in Florida through the American Eagle Foundation.

On April 17th, everyone enjoyed sessions on the "Amazing America" finale day. Students played American themed Bingo, created patriotic crafts, tried contradance with guest staff from the Maine Fiddle Camp, and learned songs of westward expansion and cowboys with guest performer Skip Gorman.

The whole school gathered for an afternoon assembly with the musicians - featuring some of HSES's own fiddle players! The fun continued that evening with an open house showcasing student work, a community pot-luck dinner and free evening contradance with Ellen Gawler, Greg Boardman and Friends.

The school-wide integrated learning theme has been a staple at Hartford-Sumner since 2010, making this our 15th year! These events began through the efforts of the Nezinscot Valley Music Boosters and arts team staff with a goal of exposing students to the music, art, dance, history and cultures of amazing places in our world.



Past Annual HSES School-Wide Integrated Learning Themes

2010	Asia Will Amaze Ya	2019	Marvelous Mexico
2011	Castles, Kilts and Kings	2020	(Covid - no event)
2012	Captivating Canada	2021	(Covid - no event)
2013	South American Sojourn	2022	Magnificent Maine
2014	African Adventure	2023	Sensational 60's
2015	The Fabulous 50's	2024	Castles, Kilts and Kings
2016	Cruisin' the Caribbean	2025	Cruisin' the Caribbean
2017	Willkommen to Germany	2026	Amazing America - Semiquincentennial!
2018	Asia Will Amaze Ya		

Mountain Valley High School (MVHS) Holds 3rd Annual Student Wellness Day

Written by Thomas Danylik, Principal

On the Friday before February vacation, Mountain Valley High School again held its annual Student Wellness Day. Similar to the previous two years, this day included a keynote speaker and a variety of different breakout sessions of which students could select topics that interested them the most. In addition to this, a resource fair was held in the gymnasium providing students with an opportunity to make connections with local and regional community partners. The day was planned in coordination with Melissa Harding, Program Manager at River Valley Healthy Communities Coalition.

This year's keynote speaker was Kyle Poissonnier. Kyle is the founder of Catalyst for Change Wear based in Biddeford, Maine. His company which launched in 2013 has donated tens of thousands of dollars to numerous charities throughout Maine and beyond. His message was one based around mental health and building resilience. He spoke to our students about the importance of accepting and celebrating themselves while also developing healthy lifestyles.

Along with attending a session with Kyle, as mentioned previously, our students attended two different workshop sessions of their choosing. This year's topics included but are not limited to; Resilience through Stories, Healthy vs. Unhealthy Relationships, Cannabis and your Health, Youth Leadership, Homelessness Support and Fueling Your Body and Mind. Sessions ranged from just a few students to 15 or more and professionals were on-site to support students throughout the day.

The feedback regarding the day from students and staff was immensely positive. The large majority of MVHS students found the day a worthwhile experience. Students described the day as, "inspiring", "eye opening" and "meaningful". Presenters were again impressed with our student body and how engaged they were throughout the day. MVHS staff were also active participants throughout the day and helped to guide individual sessions.

Mountain Valley High School concluded their day with our first semester awards ceremony. It was a great conclusion to an impactful and rewarding day.



RSU No. 10: Counts Subsidy October Enrollment															
Counts Subsidy	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
October 1, 2021	54	154	120	122	145	114	118	127	138	146	147	148	120	139	1792
October 1, 2022	77	119	160	116	117	149	122	121	126	130	136	138	147	106	1764
October 1, 2023	65	115	131	161	108	122	147	130	119	127	132	135	149	137	1778
October 1, 2024	63	115	110	135	165	106	121	147	121	126	120	124	129	146	1728
October 1, 2025	59	110	122	105	140	158	107	124	139	124	128	126	122	124	1688

2026-2027 Budget information can be found on Page 4 and Page 5.

A New School, the Same Commitment to Our Students at Mountain Valley Community School (MVCS-MS)

Written by Dr. Carrie Luce, Principal

This year marks an exciting new chapter for students, staff, and families at MVCS as we settle into our new school building. Walking through the halls each day, it is clear how much this space means to our students. Bright classrooms, welcoming common areas, and modern learning spaces create an environment where students can focus, collaborate, and grow.



While the building is new, the heart of MVCS remains the same. What makes our school special has always been the people inside it—our dedicated teachers, hardworking support staff, and the students who bring energy and curiosity to their learning each day.

The new building provides opportunities that support the important work already happening in our classrooms. Our middle schoolers now have spaces designed for collaboration, hands-on learning, and meaningful connections with their peers and teachers. These environments help foster engagement, creativity, and a sense of belonging—key ingredients for student success.

At the same time, a building alone does not create a great school. The relationships formed between students and staff, the commitment of educators to their craft, and the partnership with families and community members are what truly make the difference. Every day, the middle school staff at MVCS works hard to support students academically while also helping them develop confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of community.

As our district prepares for the upcoming budget vote, it is important to remember that the school budget supports far more than a building. It supports the people, programs, and opportunities that help our students learn, grow, and prepare for their futures.

We are grateful for the continued support of our RSU 10 community. The investment in this new school reflects a shared commitment to providing students with the environment and resources they need to succeed.

Together, we look forward to continuing the work of supporting every student, every day at MVCS.

V O T E



In memory of Heidi Brennick

We honor and remember two valued members of our school community, Heidi Brennick and Debbie Buotte.

Heidi, a dedicated teacher, and Debbie, a caring and committed secretary, each made a lasting impact on the students, staff, and families they served.

Their kindness, professionalism, and unwavering support will not be forgotten.

They will be deeply missed and always remembered.





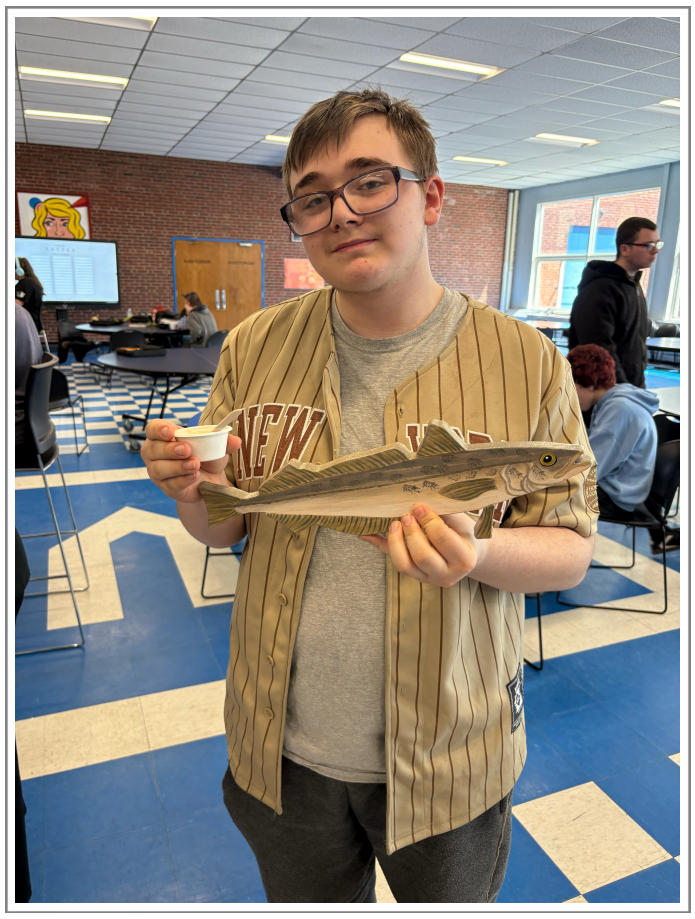
In memory of Debra Buotte

2026-2027 Budget information can be found on Page 4 and Page 5.

School Nutrition Services: Positive Partnerships

Written by Jeanne LaPointe, Nutrition Director

Last week, students at Mountain Valley High School sampled a new soup featuring locally harvested hake that is part of a project of the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA) to introduce more seafood to Maine's K-12 students. RSU 10 is one of the partner districts in MCFA's project, meaning that these students were among the very first to sample the new chowder. The *Hake Corn Chowder* the students sampled is one of several ready-to-serve products created by partner businesses to highlight underutilized species and build markets for local catch. The soup, which features local hake and Maine potatoes, is produced by Hurricane's Premium Soups & Chowders, a multigenerational family-run business in Greene, Maine.



The new soup was a hit. "I'm bolding my check", said one student while making his check mark in the "I loved it" column of the sampling board. "If I could have another, I would," said another. With more than 90% of students giving the soup a positive review, you can bet this soup will make another appearance in RSU 10 cafeterias.

But, this isn't the first time that students in the district have sampled local seafood. MCFA's project began with its Fishermen Feeding Mainers (FFM) program that provides free groundfish filets to schools and food banks throughout the state. Students in RSU 10 have often tried this fish on their lunch menu and will be dining on donated haddock this spring.

Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA) is grateful for partnerships with RSU 10's school nutrition staff, administration and students. They look forward to helping to facilitate serving more seafood on school menus this spring including a future sampling of a new Flounder Fish Tot made by Rockport-based Graffam Brothers' Seafood.

Join our RSU 10 Team!!

Scan the QR code below to view our current job opportunities.

Click Sign In/Register to apply!!

Notification of Destruction Special Education Records

RSU 10 is taking this opportunity to notify community members who attended RSU 10 schools and have the following dates of birth that their special education records will be destroyed by a certain time.

Dates of Birth
Born prior to June 30, 2000

Destruction of Records
RSU 10 may have special education records in its possession for those students and will destroy such records after July 1, 2026. If you would like to have these records rather than having them destroyed, please contact Melanie Calden at RSU 10 Special Education Office, 799 Hancock Street, Suite 1, Rumford, ME. 04276. (369-5560 ext. 8230) Prior to July 1, 2026, to make arrangements to obtain these records.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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