Maine School Administrative District No.27

A Valley Unified Education Service Center Administrative Unit
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Annual District Report
School Year 2026-27

Dear MSAD 27 Stakeholders,

Every school year carries its own rhythm. The energy of a fresh start, the challenges that sharpen us, and the moments that remind us why this work matters. As you read through this year's annual report, I want to take a moment to step back and share the larger story our schools are telling together.

Our Valley Unified journey has always begun in the same place: our Core Values. Respect. Responsibility. Honesty. Engaged and invested learning. These are not aspirational words on a wall. They are the daily commitments that define who we are as a community of educators, learners, and families.

From Handle with Care to School of Engagement



Last year, we deepened our collective work through the *Handle with Care* framework by Jimmy Casas and Joy Kelly. That work called each of us to be merchants of hope, to expect excellence from every student, to carry our school banner with pride, and to champion the young people in front of us. It was a year of building the relational foundation that makes everything else possible.

This year, we build on that foundation. Our 2026 to 2027 theme, *All In: Rooted in Care, Ready to Engage*, takes the care we have cultivated and puts it into action. Grounded in Jonathan Alsheimer's *School of Engagement*, this theme challenges every educator in our PreK to 12 community to move beyond compliance and content delivery toward genuine, relationship driven participation where every student feels seen, valued, and activated as a learner.

The connection to our Core Values runs through everything we do. Respect calls us to build bridges rather than drive wedges. Responsibility calls us to own our role in designing engaging learning experiences. Honesty calls us to collaborate with intention and transparency. And being engaged and invested means asking ourselves the question Alsheimer puts to every educator: *How do you want to be remembered?*

What This Looks Like in Our Schools

This year, all PreK to 12 classroom teachers are working toward a shared districtwide goal: intentionally implementing at least one student engagement strategy each week, documenting their practice, and reflecting quarterly on its impact. This is not a checklist. It is a sustained, professional commitment to the kind of teaching that students carry with them long after they leave our classrooms.

Our administrators are equally committed. Each building leader has set a goal to conduct 176 informal, non evaluative classroom walkthrough visits across the school year, one per student day, not to evaluate, but to affirm, connect, and celebrate the engagement happening in our classrooms every day.

An Invitation

We share this work with you because you are part of it. The culture of care and engagement we are building inside our schools is sustained by the partnerships we hold with families and communities. Your belief in our students, and in the people who show up for them each day, makes this journey possible.

Thank you for your continued trust and investment in MSAD 27. We are all in.

With gratitude,



Benjamin Sirois
Superintendent of Schools
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Mission Statement

We are driven by the core values of respect, responsibility, honesty, and engaged and invested learning. At our foundation, we believe that effective communication, meaningful relationships, and trust are elevated through strong partnerships with our community. We are dedicated to providing diverse opportunities that empower each and every one of us to learn, grow, and reach our full potential.



MSAD No. 27 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
SUBDISTRICT 1 **Kristine Thibodeau** Email: kristinethibodeau@sad27.org Term Expires: 2027	SUBDISTRICT 4, 5, 6, 7 **Rosemary Collings** Email: rosemarycollings@sad27.org Term Expires: 2027
SUBDISTRICT 2 **Shannon Lugdon** Email: shannonlugdon@sad27.org Term Expires: 2028	SUBDISTRICT 4, 5, 6, 7 **Toby Jandreau** Email: tobyjandreau@sad27.org Term Expires: 2029
SUBDISTRICT 3 **Joe Voisine** Email: joevoisine@sad27.org Term Expires: 2029	SUBDISTRICT 4, 5, 6, 7 **Tanya Voisine** Email: tanyavoisine@sad27.org Term Expires: 2028
SUBDISTRICT 4, 5, 6, 7 **Donna Pelletier** Email: donnapelletier@sad27.org Term Expires: 2028	

For a description of each sub-district ward, including resident zones, please click here.

Budget Information

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 27				
FY 2026-27 Cost Center Summary				
	FY 2025-26	**FY 2026-27**	**DIFF**	**% DIFF**
ARTICLE 1 - REGULAR INSTRUCTION	6,389,430	6,539,040	149,610	2%
ARTICLE 2 - SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTION	2,576,380	2,674,885	98,505	4%
ARTICLE 3 - CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION INSTR.	0	0	0	0%
ARTICLE 4 - OTHER INSTRUCTION	413,255	429,905	16,650	4%
ARTICLE 5 - STUDENT & STAFF SUPPORT	1,257,930	1,343,615	85,685	7%
ARTICLE 6 - SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION	740,450	793,385	52,935	7%
ARTICLE 7 - SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	798,935	849m640	50,705	6%
ARTICLE 8 - TRANSPORTATION AND BUSES	946,570	941,060	(5,510)	-1%
ARTICLE 9 - FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	1,174,360	1,790,470	26,110	1%
ARTICLE 10 - DEBT SERVICE & OTHER COMMITMENTS	0	0	0	0%
ARTICLE 11 - ALL OTHER EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0%
ARTICLE 14: (TOTAL OF ARTICLES 1 TO 11)	14,887,310	15,362,000	474,690	3%
ARTICLE 15 – SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAM	822,930	876,665	53,735	7%
ARTICLE 16 – CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM	330,840	344,290	13,450	4%
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	**16,041,080**	**16,582,955**	**541,875**	**3.4%**

FUNDING / REVENUE for BUDGET YEAR 26-27				
	A	B	C = B - A	D = C/A*100
	2025-26 APPROVED BUDGET	2026-27 APPROVED BUDGET	DIFF from 2025-2026	% DIFF from 2025-2026
Total Cash Balance	1,023,565	1,050,000	26,435	2.59%
Total Local Taxes	5,377,730	55,634,046	256,316	4.77%
Total Tuition & Fees	1,535,365	1,572,951	37,586	2.45%
Total Other Local Rev.	244,750	242,515	(2,235)	0.91%
Total State Revenue	7,844,669	78,073,443	228,774	2.92%
Medicaid Reimbursement	15,000	10,000	(5,000)	-33.3%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	**16,041,080**	**16,041,080**	**541,876**	**3.38%**

School Year 26 Information

1. Total Weeks Schools Were in Operation: 38 weeks
2. Total Number of Student Days Completed for FKES: 176 days
3. Total Number of Student Days Completed for CHS/VRMS: 175 days*

* Note 1: One student day was waived by the MSAD27 board of directors for the students at CHS/VRMS due to a bomb threat early release.

4. Total Number of Snow / Inclement Weather Days: 1*

* Note 2: We had a total of 1 snow / inclement weather day this school year on April 3, 2026. This day was made up on June 18, 2026.

Student Enrollment SY26

1. Grade Level Enrollments

Grade Level	2024 Official October 1 Count	2025 Official October 1 Count
PreK	40	38
Kindergarten	60	46
Grade 1	51	62
Grade 2	63	50
Grade 3	60	61
Grade 4	57	62
Grade 5	59	58
Grade 6	63	58
Grade 7	57	65
Grade 8	61	61
Grade 9	45	58
Grade 10	65	44
Grade 11	75	62
Grade 12	55	74
Totals	811	799

Daily Average Attendance Report SY26

	School Year 2024-25	School Year 2025-26
Fort Kent Elementary School	94%	94%
Valley Rivers Middle School	93%	94%
Fort Kent Community High	92%	92%

Student Truancy Report SY26

All Attending Students (Includes Tuition Students from Allagash, Eagle Lake and Winterville)		
	Number of Truancy Incidents	**Number of Unexcused Absences**
Truant Students who have not completed Grade 6 (PreK - 6)	28	366
Truant Students who have completed Grade 6 (7-12)	10	126
Total	38 (+2 from SY25)	492 (+45 from SY25)
District Students (Includes only students from Fort Kent, New Canada, St. John, St. Francis, and Wallagrass)		
	Number of Truancy Incidents	**Number of Unexcused Absences**
Truant Students who have not completed Grade 6 (PreK - 6)	24	323
Truant Students who have completed Grade 6 (7-12)	8	103
Total	32 (+0 from SY25)	226 (-21 from SY25)

Student Drop Out Report SY26

Organization Name	Dropout Total
District Totals:	**0**
Fort Kent Community High School	0
Fort Kent Elementary School	0
Valley Rivers Middle School	0

State Assessment Data SY25

The most recent State Assessment data provided by the Maine Department of Education is the 2024-25 data which comes from the Spring NWEA assessment conducted in 2025. This data is available on the Maine ESSA Website: https://www.maine.gov/doe/dashboard. The following is the district data for English Language Arts and Mathematics. **When the 2025-26 data becomes available, we will update this section of the report.**

	Students Required to Test	Students Tested	% Students Tested	English Language Arts ◀ Below Expectations | At or Above Expectations ▶
All Students	371	363	97.8%	28.4% / 71.6%
Female	174	169	97.1%	25.4% / 74.6%
Male	197	194	98.5%	30.9% / 69.1%

	Students Required to Test	Students Tested	% Students Tested	Mathematics ◀ Below Expectations | At or Above Expectations ▶
All Students	371	363	97.8%	43.0% / 57.0%
Female	174	169	97.1%	40.8% / 59.2%
Male	197	194	98.5%	44.8% / 55.2%

Special Education Information SY26

MSAD 27 has a 14% total student population of Special Education students. (According to the Kids Count Data Center, Maine had a 19.5% special education percentage in 2022.) Here is MSAD 27's breakdown of special education identification:

Autism	8
Deaf - Blindness	0
Developmental Delay	2
Emotional Disturbance	4
Hearing Impairment	1
Intellectual Disability	6
Multiple Disabilities	8
Orthopedic Impairment	0
Other Health Impairment	31
Specific Learning Disability	38
Speech or Language Impairment	13
Traumatic Brain Injury	0
Visual Impairment	0
Total Students with Disabilities	111

Early College Information FY26

Fort Kent Community High School continues to offer a variety of early college options for our students. Dual enrollment opportunities are available right here at the high school, where some of our teachers are approved by UMFK to offer dual enrollment classes right in their classrooms. Other opportunities exist through online college courses. Our students attending the St. John Valley Technology Center also have the opportunity to earn college credit through articulation agreements with UMFK, NMCC, and EMCC.

- 89% of the Class of 2026 successfully completed at least one college course.
- 41 out of 59 students in the Class of 2027 have taken at least one college class 69%
- 19 out of 41 students in the Class of 2028 have taken at least one college class 46%
- 0 out of 57 students in the Class of 2029 have taken at least one college class 0%

Graduating Class Information FY26

Fort Kent Community High School graduating class of 2026 had 71 students that graduated on June 12, 2026. Here are some statistics regarding that class:

- 89% of the Class of 2026 successfully completed at least one college course.
- The Class of 2026 earned a combined 1,085 college credits during their four years of high school, for a savings of $282,100.00
- 74% of the Class of 2026 plan to attend college during the fall semester.
- The dollar amount of scholarships announced at graduation was $1,773,024.00

Staff Information FY26

- Total number of employees: 169
- Total number of full time employees (35 or more hours per week): 166
- Four (4) employees retired in 2025-26: (Marian Bouchard, Grace Sirois, Peter Caron, Leonard Plourde)
- Nine (9) employees resigned in 2025-26: (John Edwards, Tamielee Sutherland, Sarah Mulchay, Alexandra Martinez, Kayla Meyers, Mason Drolet, Amanda Danico, Mandie Morin, Jamie Harkins)
- 100% of MSAD27 staff were certified and/or licensed for the job they are hired to perform.



Staff and Student 2025-26 Highlights

MSAD27 District	
Joshua Nichols: PE Teacher/Athletic Director	Community High School Athletics were very successful this year with three State championship teams (Boys Basketball, Boys Alpine Ski, and Boys Nordic Ski) and three State Runner up teams (Girls Soccer, Girls Alpine, and Girls Nordic). We had a Boys Individual alpine gs champion, a boys individual nordic champion, a pvc soccer player of the year, a pvc basketball coach of the year. We also had two teams win sportsmanship awards.
Melanie Lagasse: Food Service Director	Our kitchen staff won the Healthy Meals Incentives Awards for both Rural/Small Trailblazer Breakfast Award and the Innovation in the Preparation of School Meals Award.
Jocelyn Saucier: CHS Art Teacher	Throughout the 2025–26 school year in the art room, students demonstrated creativity, collaboration, and pride through a variety of meaningful projects and accomplishments. Our annual art show highlighted the incredible range of talent from Pre-K through grade 12, celebrating student voice and artistic growth across all levels. Students also contributed to the design and creation of the MSAD 27 Bus Garage sign, showcasing real-world application of their artistic skills. Two of the most engaging projects were the tape people installation and the animal paper mache heads, which brought energy and excitement to the school as students worked together to create life-sized figures. In addition, the seasonal installations in the main entrance transformed the space throughout the year, reflecting both the changing seasons and the strong sense of community within our school. These experiences not only enriched the school environment but also gave students opportunities to take ownership of their work and connect art to the world around them.
Ricardo Whitely: CHS Educational Technician	It's great to have community-building events where the entire student body celebrates a collective goal, such as their teacher. The staff work hard to bond with students and help them grow as well and to be respectful and responsible.
Jamie Pelletier: MSAD27 Gifted and Talented Teacher	We wrapped up some units of STEM study with field trips to UMPI to visit a geologist and an ornithologist, then on to the NOAA Weather Center in Caribou to visit with meteorologists and separately, a trip to NASA's Challenger Center to complete a simulated space mission and then on to the Versant Planetarium on the Orono campus for a show.

Kathryn Naude: CHS English Teacher	We participated in the annual Poetry Out Loud competition for the first time and had a 9th grade student win the regional competition and participate at the state level. 11th grade English students completed a mock trial. Special thanks to Toby Jandreau for his assistance. Members of the Fort Kent historical society visited the 10th grade English classes to assist students with writing well-researched local historical fiction stories.
Doug Dorman: CHS Social Studies Teacher	Presidential 1776 Award - We had 2 out 4 students from the State of Maine that qualified for regionals in Boston (every State sent their top 4). The event was held at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library. The two students from CHS were Alexander Grange and Liam Harlor. The usual events but still important: We have the major of the State Student Council positions: Kaylen Theriault will be the State of Maine Student Council President Mercedes Horst will be the future President for the State (2027-2028 school year). She is referred to as the President-Elect. Logan Theriault - Northern Maine Representatives Arabella Grott - Student Council Vice President Ella Dubois - Media Relations Also, Kaylen Theriault is currently applying for a "National" Student Council representative position. She will only know at the end of June for this position. Gifted / Talented - Student Council Trip - (to Philadelphia for our 250th celebration) - a total of 19 individuals Annual United States Travel Trip - (to San Francisco) - a total of 29 individuals J.A. Titan Challenge (Statewide Competition in business/economics/marketing) - We had one team in the top ten spots out of 100 teams. Annual College Trip - 41 students attended
Lynn Plourde: FKES 3rd Grade Teacher	The third grade team/learners took part in a Service Learning Project in which the children planted flowers and the pots were distributed to various places within our community. Our learners also took part in a multicultural unit entitled "Christmas Around the World" in which numerous subject areas were cross cut, while highlighting various traditions and culture throughout the world.

Stacey Cyr: Continuing Education Director	Although this has been a tough year and not all students reached their goals, one student stands out this year in Fort Kent. HL has attended our adult education program for 2 years. Her growth was minimal and her motivation low over that time. After she had time to expand some of her skills while earning several high school diploma credits over those 2 years, we encouraged her to switch gears and try the HiSET Equivalency exam. This exam is broken into 5 subtests, each subtest taken separately. For some students this can be a quicker path, while for others it can seem unattainable due to the high level of test content. She excelled beyond our expectations and hers, especially in math. She clearly already had many of the skills she needed to pass the exam as seen through her practice scores. Once she saw "the light at the end of the tunnel", her motivation and confidence grew with each successful score. She completed her equivalency diploma and we all celebrated with her. The smile on her face, a student who rarely showed her emotions outwardly, was evident and we can't wait to see what she does next.
Shelly Pelletier: FKES 4th Grade Teacher	At the end of October, we had a Glow Day to celebrate our learning. Students had challenges to complete - it was a day of fun, but a huge day of learning! Throughout the month of March, we read one higher-level picture book a day and had our own Tournament of Books based upon the college basketball bracket. After every 2 books, students voted for their favorite until we had a winner. This year's winner was "Blizzard" by John Rocco! Mystery Science is a fan-favorite - students love to explore science through hands-on learning and have proven their growth by their pre & post assessment scores. This class has truly come together as a family - it's a hard group to say "goodbye" to!
Nicole Guimond: Jobs for Maine Grads (JMG) Instructor	22 Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) completed, 20 Credentials and 184 Micro-Credentials earned by JMG students. JMG's total roster was 51 for the 25-26 school year.
Stacy Belanger: FKES 2nd Grade Teacher	My second graders participate in the Trash to Treasure Fashion Show which is an event for the entire school body. Here's the link to the video: https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=_FhtK39Tnmc&pp=0gcJCUACo7VqN5tD&ra=m
Marie Roy: FKES Title I Teacher	This year we had two students complete the entirety of the SLANT System program. Both students had been working through this Structured Language Training reading intervention program for several years. They both wrapped up the final of the seven stages this year marking the end of a reading intervention journey that not just strengthened their confidence but helped them learn to thrive as a reader, writer, and speller. Hooray for them!

Danielle Reardon: CHS Science Teacher	Alex Martinez and I chaperoned a 5-day field trip in September with 13 students from CHS to Hurricane Island's Center for Science and Leadership. This immersive learning experience was fully funded by the Center through grant money and private donations. Students collected and analyzed biological data, explored coastal marine habitats and learned about the history of Hurricane Island. They learned about the Island's self-sustaining systems for water collection and treatment and waste management, helped with daily chores and learned how to rock climb. Students were disconnected from technology for the duration of the program. The freshman team planned and chaperoned the Freshman Aspirations Day at UMFK in April. This day allows students to engage in career exploration, hear personal experiences of how to overcome challenges and adversity, interact with past CHS graduates, and learn about employer expectations while in high school and beyond. It also introduces them to the option of completing early college credits while in high school. Dr. Neil Thompson (Irving Woodlands Forestry Associate Professor and Applied Forestry Management program lead at UMFK) visited my Earth and Space Science classes in February to review dendroclimatology. He brought in multiple tree cookie samples from various species to highlight growth patterns, factors that influence tree growth, and shared research findings with students.
Benjamin Sirois: Superintendent	MSAD27 initiated the We Are Warriors campaign for the 2025-26 school year, kicking off in January of 2026. This was an amazing opportunity to highlight all things Warrior Strong. The campaign proved to be a very positive initiative for the district as we had many stakeholders reach out with their approval and appreciation. We hope to continue on with this work in the 2026-27 school year! Go Warriors! #WeAreWarriors27 