

Oyster River Cooperative School District

WORKSHOP MEETING – Meet District Delegates

December 21, 2022

ORMS Recital Hall

6:00 – 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER (6:00 PM)

II. DISCUSSION ITEM:

- Introductions
- What makes a coop unique
- Top legislative issues of concern
- Legislation the targeted coops last term
- Legislation that targeted education last term
- Legislation of greatest concern this cycle (new LSRs)
- How adequacy adds up in Oyster River
- Open discussion

III. ADJOURNMENT to Regular Meeting

The School Board reserves the right to take action on any item on the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Superintendent



OYSTER RIVER STATE DELEGATION & SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP

December 21, 2022

AGENDA



- Introductions
- What makes cooperative school districts unique (and K12 coops even more unique)
- Legislation targeting coops last term
- Legislation of greatest concern so far in 2023 (New LSRs)
- "Adequate Education" funding
- Open discussion

WELCOME TO OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE COOPERATIVE



- Established 1954 – part of the first wave of coops formed.
- Stabilized enrollment at just over 2000 resident students.
- Strong community support.
- Exceptional graduation rates and special education services.
 - At or near 100% of students graduate.
 - At or near 100% of special education students graduate.

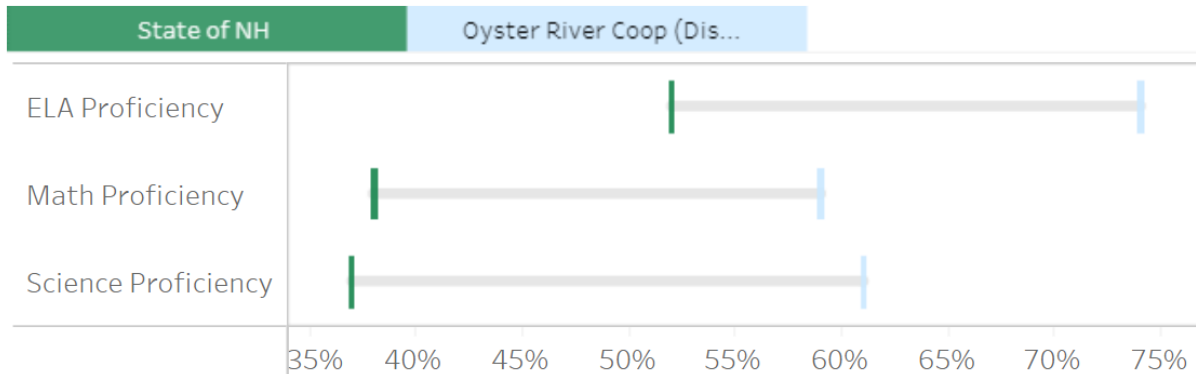
WELCOME TO OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE



Consistently High Performing Students

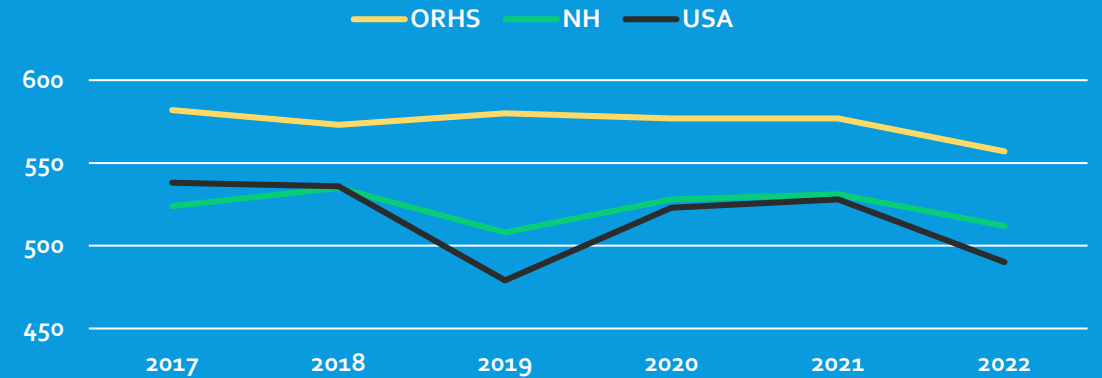
Assessment Proficiency in Context

Proficiency as compared with the district (including all schools in the district) as well as the state of NH (including all schools) across all three subject areas.

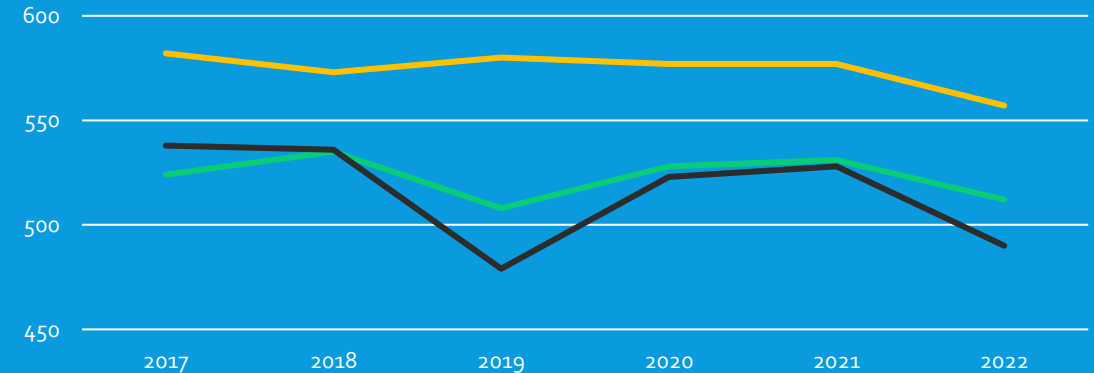


To view indicators across entities, visit [iExplore](#)

Average SAT scores - Reading & Writing



Average SAT scores - Math



CURRENT ISSUES IN EDUCATION AFFECTING ALL DISTRICTS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



- Lowest state funding for education in the country.
- Diversion of public funds for private educational institutions (and Amazon)
- Lower standards with more oversight
 - Increasing data collection by NH DOE
 - New proposed rules to reduce licensing requirements for administrators, teachers
 - Removing certification requirements for Business Administrators
 - Often done through DOE rulemaking
- Intimidation of teachers and limits on teaching “divisive concepts”

NEW HAMPSHIRE HAS...



- 234 cities and towns
- 151 school districts
- 120 single-town districts (includes districts without a high school)
- 31 cooperative or regional school districts
 - 9 serve only upper or lower grades
 - 22 “full” cooperative districts serving grades K-12
 - 17 “complete” cooperative districts where one K12 school district is the entire SAU

FULL K-12 COOPERATIVE DISTRICTS REPRESENT ONLY 5% OF NEW HAMPSHIRE STUDENTS



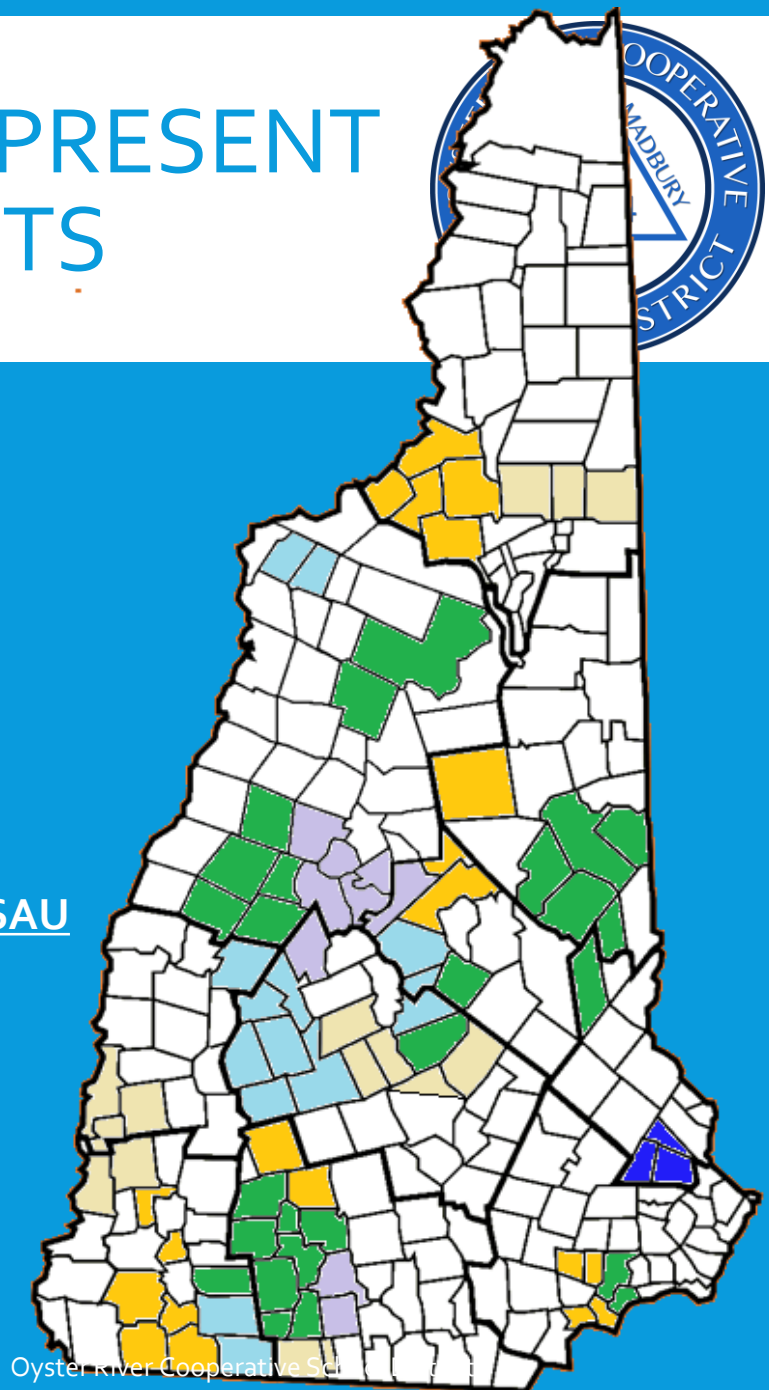
COMPLETE single district SAUs

- Contoocook Valley
- Fall Mountain Regional
- Governor Wentworth
- Jaffrey-Rindge
- Kearsarge Regional
- Lincoln-Woodstock
- Mascenic Regional
- Mascoma Valley Regional
- Monadnock Regional
- Newfound Area
- Oyster River

- Sanborn Regional
- Shaker Regional
- Timberlane Regional
- White Mountains Regional
- Wilton-Lyndeboro
- Winnisquam Regional

K12 coops that are part of a larger SAU

- Gorham-Randolph-Shelburne
- Hillsboro-Deering
- Inter-Lakes
- Lisbon Regional
- Merrimack Valley



WHAT MAKES COOPERATIVE DISTRICTS UNIQUE



Functions as a municipality

Offer students more options than towns alone

Stability for smaller towns

Broader community to draw leadership from

Processes already exist in law for joining/leaving coops

WHAT MAKES COMPLETE K-12 COOPERATIVE DISTRICTS UNIQUE



All the advantages of a coop and more

Functions as a single Municipality

One school board and administration = simplicity, efficiency, accountability

Stability for smaller towns

No tuition uncertainty

Builds broader community: We identify as "Oyster River" beyond school

CHALLENGES OF THE COOP: CANNOT DIRECTLY CONTROL TAX RATE IMPACT



Revenues can be town-specific

- Number of students from each town and level of educational need affects Adequate Education calculation
- Equalized property assessment affects how much Adequacy aid comes from State (as opposed to the "state education tax" portion of property tax bill)

External factors affect apportionment*

- Number of students changes each year
- Equalized assessment changes each year
- New construction valuation differs from town-to-town

*apportionment = formula for dividing local school property tax burden between towns



2022 PROPOSED LEGISLATION TARGETING COOPS

HB 1366	HB 1399	HB 1646	HB 1679-FN
Relative to cooperative school board reapportionment	Relative to school district withdrawal from a cooperative school district	Relative to representation on a cooperative school board	Relative to the dissolution and repeal of cooperative school districts
Lower signatures to put reapportionment on the ballot from 10% to 50 names – we might be debating the formula every year.	Generally gives financial advantage in division of assets to towns leaving a coop.	Each school board member elected from a specific town or ward (not voted on at-large)	Would have dissolved all school districts by June 30, 2025
Sent for interim study	Sent for interim study	Tabled	Sent for interim study



WHAT'S COMING IN 2023?

NHSBA is already tracking 245 bills based on LSR title as of 11/28

- Supporting school nutrition programs (Thank you, Rep. Horrigan!)
- Limiting ability of municipalities to engage with state lawmakers
- Requiring teaching of nature and history of communism
- Firearm regulation or deregulation around schools
- How Adequate Education aid is calculated
- Public tuition money to private institutions, including religious institutions

WHAT'S COMING IN 2023?



Comprehensive study commission looking at cooperative school districts?

LSR 0667 – Relative to the organization of cooperative school boards.

LSR 0708 – Relative to the cooperative school district budget committee.

LSR 0738 – Relative to withdrawal from a cooperative school district.

WHAT DOES ADEQUATE EDUCATION FUNDING MEAN?



\$20,185

Oyster River spending per student (2020-21)¹

\$14,330

National average per-student spending (2020-21)²

\$9,053

Idaho average per-student spending (2020-21), lowest of all states²

\$4,773

NH Cost of Adequate Education per student (2023-24)³

\$3,817

Amount NH expects to send districts per student (2023-24)³

\$2,746

Amount Oyster River expected to receive from State per student (2023-24)³

Sources:

¹ NH DOE <https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/sonh/cpp-fy2021.pdf>

² US Census Bureau <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2021/econ/school-finances/secondary-education-finance.html>

³ NH DOE <https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/inline-documents/sonh/estimate-fy-24-adequacy-aid-by-muni-11.15.22.pdf>

LOOKING FORWARD



- **THANK YOU** for representing us in Concord!
- Please watch out for attacks on public education and cooperatives.
- Please let us know how we can help you!
- You're welcome here any time.



OPEN DISCUSSION