

The mission of the Epping School District is to focus on the potential of every student and engage them to be passionate, confident learners who demonstrate competence and have strength of character to reach their highest aspirations and thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world.



EPPING SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT CARD 2010

The intent of the Epping School District Report Card is to share successes and challenges in meeting the district student learning, professional learning, and accountability goals. Student demographic and educational data and financial data are routinely monitored to determine our successes and challenges. Detailed student demographic and learning data and financial data may be accessed on the Epping School District website www.sau14.org under Superintendent. Please note that data may be from several school years due to the availability of information from the NH Department of Education.

Demographically our schools continue to change due to the economy and changing town population. In order to maintain low class sizes, next year's budget will include an additional elementary and kindergarten teacher. The rising charter school population has the potential of significantly affecting student enrollment and program. The district will be assessing why students elect to attend charter schools and what charter school practices may be adapted in Epping schools, especially the high school.

The intense educational focus on reading and writing has produced the intended result of increased student proficiency. Mathematics will need a similar focus and plan. The district has formed committees with the purpose of designing district curriculum in alignment with existing state standards and the newly adopted Common Core State Standards. Mathematics, science, and unified arts committees have begun this work. Language arts and social studies committees will follow later this school year. Epping High School graduates have surpassed state average in post-secondary attendance with 79% going on to two and four year institutions. Epping graduates have continued to demonstrate their patriotism with 7% entering the armed forces. Although the number of high school dropouts has reached the lowest level in recent history, the high school dropout rate continues to be a challenge.

Financially, the district has continued the practice of returning funds in the form of fund balance. The cost per pupil has continued to be higher than state average due to the southeast region and the size of our schools. However, it must be noted that the high school cost per pupil is average when compared to other small NH high schools. Benefit costs continue to be a budget area of concern and the district has taken action to reduce these costs in next year's budget. Epping taxpayers continue to contribute 74% of the school budget. Thank you for supporting Epping schools!

Student Demographic Information

- Student enrollment in the elementary and middle schools has increased for the second year in a row while high school enrollments have continued to decline. Data indicates that the district may have ended the enrollment decline. An additional teacher has been added to the 2011-2012 budget to address rising class sizes in the elementary school.
- Epping schools have continued to be predominately white with only 4% of our students meeting the criteria for ethnic/race diversity.
- The economy has significantly impacted our student body with 24% of our students identified as socio-economically disadvantaged. This is the largest percentage in 13 years. Title 1 services for our socio-economic population have also increased as a result.
- The district has continued to lag behind the state in limited English proficiency students. However, the district is projecting 19 students for 2011-2012 in comparison to a few students in years past.
- For the second year in a row special education student enrollment has declined to 16.5% for the 2010-2011 school year.
- The home school student population has stabilized in the 20 to 25 range. Home school students have continued to participate in our schools in various different ways.
- The charter school population has continued to increase with 30 Epping students attending one of four area charter schools. Special Services has reported that the 2011-2012 special education budget will include a charter school component for the provision of special services to charter school students.

Student Learning Information

- The elementary school entered year one after being identified as a school in need of improvement (SINI) due to the educational disability population failing to meet math targets. The middle school has continued to be a school in need of improvement in math. The middle school made adequate yearly progress (AYP) this school year. Additional professional development funds, for improving mathematics instruction, have been added to the 2011-2012 budget.
- Reading proficiency has continued to increase in grades 3 to 8 with 78% of students testing proficient. Reading proficiency in grade 11 increased significantly with 74% of students testing proficient. Epping has continued to perform above state average in reading proficiency. This is attributed to the continued focus on reading and writing supported by professional development, classroom libraries, and other resources.
- Mathematics proficiency has produced inconsistent results with 69% of our students in grades 3 to 8 testing proficient in mathematics. The high school has continued to produce poor results as did the entire state. This school year the elementary school is implementing a SINI plan to address mathematics. A district mathematics committee has been formed to review standards and recommend a district mathematics curriculum. Next school year the same intensity and focus will be brought to mathematics. The 2011-2012 budget has included additional professional development for mathematics.
- In the elementary and middle grades writing was not tested. Grade 11 significantly improved to 58% demonstrating proficiency. Epping has continued to perform at or above state average in writing proficiency due to the reading and writing initiatives.

- Elementary students tested at state average with 54% demonstrating proficiency in science. The upper grades have continued to lag behind state average. A district science committee has been formed to review standards and recommend a district science curriculum. This work will continue into next school year.
- In 2008-2009 Epping high school graduates surpassed the state average with 79% of students planning to pursue post-secondary attendance.
- In 2008-2009 Epping high school graduates demonstrated their patriotism surpassing state average with 7% of students planning on entering the armed forces.
- Students dropping out of Epping High School have reached the lowest level. However, the 3.6% Epping dropout rate is still a concern. The high school has instituted a student data team to monitor these results and a school-wide conversation to discuss and reduce the dropout rate.

Financial Information

- The assessed tax rate increased significantly this year partly due to a property reevaluation. Epping schools accounted for 79% of the tax rate.
- This year the equalized tax rate showed Epping's tax rate to be \$2.16 higher than the state median.
- The district continued to return a healthy fund balance of \$432,401. Under-expenditures were realized in teacher salaries due to rehiring, health insurance due to the rate setting process, and special education due to the nature of changing student need.
- The district cost per pupil continued to be higher than state average with a significant difference in high school. An analysis of the 25 smallest NH high schools found Epping High School to have an average cost per pupil.
- The district starting teacher salary has reached a ranking of 86 out of 160 school districts. This has significantly affected our ability to attract qualified candidates.
- The district has continued to strive for class sizes of 20 or less in the primary grades and 25 or less in upper grades. An additional classroom teacher has been added to meet the class size goal. This school year kindergarten class sizes have reached the 20 student level. An additional classroom teacher has been added to keep kindergarten class sizes low and to meet the need for full day kindergarten.
- This school year the regular education portion of the budget continued to decrease to its lowest level at 23% since 2004-2005. Benefit costs have continued to increase with 21% of this year's budget designated for staff benefits. The 2011-2012 budget has been significantly impacted by retirement costs being shifted down to the local level by the state. Health insurance is a major contributor and next year the district has proposed higher contributions and changes to health care coverage.
- This school year Epping taxpayers have directly contributed 74% of the school budget with the federal government contributing 5% and the state contributing 21%.

December 2, 2010