

Addison Northeast Supervisory Union

Fiscal Year 16 Budgets

Frequently Asked Questions

The following is provided in a question and answer format to provide voters and educational stakeholders in the five-town area information regarding Board adopted school district and supervisory union educational spending plans and the anticipated impact on town and union school district property taxes. For additional information, please refer to the web links provided in this document, as well as, to the school district annual report for the town in which you live. School Boards encourage visitor business at meetings so please consider attending a school district meeting as another source of information.

BRISTOL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT				NEW HAVEN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT			
	FY15	FY16	% Change		FY15	FY16	% Change
Education Spending				Education Spending			
Education Expenses	\$4,799,307	\$4,931,996	2.76%	Education Expenses	\$1,795,413	\$1,821,607	1.46%
Less: Local/State/Federal Revenues	\$750,314	\$754,474	0.55%	Less: Local/State/Federal Revenues	\$316,504	\$312,240	-1.35%
Less: Surplus Fund Balance from FY14	\$0	\$85,181	100.00%	Less: Surplus Fund Balance from FY14	\$0	\$82,026	100.00%
Net Educational Spending	\$4,048,993	\$4,092,341	1.07%	Net Educational Spending	\$1,478,909	\$1,427,341	-3.49%
Equalized Pupils (Estimate for FY16)	278	281	1.18%	Equalized Pupils (Estimate for FY16)	97	93	-4.27%
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$14,567	\$14,552	-0.10%	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$15,198	\$15,323	0.82%

LINCOLN TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT				STARSBORO TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT			
	FY15	FY16	% Change		FY15	FY16	% Change
Education Spending				Education Spending			
Education Expenses	\$2,035,197	\$2,170,486	6.65%	Education Expenses	\$2,650,857	\$2,809,709	5.99%
Less: Local/State/Federal Revenues	\$296,331	\$319,071	7.67%	Less: Local/State/Federal Revenues	\$384,810	\$403,091	4.75%
Less: Surplus Fund Balance from FY14	\$0	\$43,236	100.00%	Less: Surplus Fund Balance from FY14	\$0	\$66,998	100.00%
Net Educational Spending	\$1,738,866	\$1,808,179	3.99%	Net Educational Spending	\$2,266,047	\$2,339,620	3.25%
Equalized Pupils (Estimate for FY16)	121	121	0.46%	Equalized Pupils (Estimate for FY16)	159	158	-0.51%
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$14,398	\$14,904	3.51%	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$14,248	\$14,786	3.78%

MONKTON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT				MT. ABRAHAM U.M.H.S			
	FY15	FY16	% Change		FY15	FY16	% Change
Education Spending				Education Spending			
Education Expenses	\$2,578,248	\$2,816,980	9.26%	Education Expenses	\$14,091,304	\$14,058,551	-0.23%
Less: Local/State/Federal Revenues	\$294,093	\$321,960	9.48%	Less: Local/State/Federal Revenues	\$1,983,004	\$1,752,420	-11.63%
Less: Surplus Fund Balance from FY14	\$0	\$137,772	100.00%	Less: Surplus Fund Balance from FY14	\$0	\$165,209	100.00%
Net Educational Spending	\$2,284,155	\$2,357,248	3.20%	Net Educational Spending	\$12,111,136	\$12,140,922	0.25%
Equalized Pupils (Estimate for FY16)	148	150	1.35%	Equalized Pupils (Estimate for FY16)	823	795	-3.40%
Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$15,444	\$15,725	1.82%	Education Spending per Equalized Pupil	\$14,709	\$15,264	3.77%

Q. At a recent school board meeting, I reviewed a budget summary worksheet and am confused about the terms Educational Expenses and Net Education Spending. Could you explain them?

A. *Educational Expenses refers to the total amount of money that is expended for the operation of the school district in any given year. Net Education Spending refers to the amount of money that needs to be raised by taxes.*

Q. Would you please clarify and explain the difference between these figures?

A. *The difference represents the difference between what funds are needed for the operation of the school district, known as educational expenses, less any available federal, local, state, or fund balance revenue. This figure known as net education spending represents the amount of funds needed to be raised by taxes in a given town.*

Q. What does Equalized Pupils mean?

A. *Equalized Pupils refers to a calculation of student enrollment by Vermont town completed by the Vermont Agency of Education. Elementary and secondary students are assigned a mathematical weight based on elementary and secondary school attendance, poverty and other factors.*

Q. What does Education Spending per Equalized Pupils mean?

A. *Education Spending per Equalized Pupils refers to the annual cost of educating a “weighted or equalized” Vermont public school student. This weighting provides a way to compare the impact on property taxes of education spending across school districts in Vermont regardless of school size or physical location.*

Q. When budgets get tight, maintenance is usually cut? Have you made cuts in building and grounds?

A. *No. In each of the member district budgets we have maintained adequate levels of funding for annual maintenance and repairs. In several schools, specific roof maintenance and replacement needs exist which will have to be addressed in future spending plans.*

Q. I have heard that school enrollment is declining but I do not think that is true in my school.

What are the facts?

A. *Overall, enrollment across Vermont has declined and for more than five years, the student population in Addison Northeast Supervisory Union has declined. Since 2010 total student population in the five-town area has declined from 1634 to 1523. The 6.8% reduction in overall student population is now having a significant effect at Mt. Abraham Union High School where actual student enrollment has declined from 752 students in 2014 to 711 in 2015. Based on current data, we anticipate that the 2015 graduating class of 121 students will be replaced by next year’s seventh grade class of 85 students. This anticipated decline of 77 students in a two-year period is also significant.*

**Addison Northeast Supervisory Union
2014-2015 Enrollment
October 1, 2014**

1/30/2015

10/1/2014	BRISTOL			LINCOLN			MONKTON			NEW HAVEN			STARKSBORO			SCHOOL CHOICE IN			SCHOOL CHOICE OUT			TUITION IN			OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT			TOTAL					
	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T	B	G	T
K	19	20	39	8	5	13	14	18	32	3	5	8	19	8	27																63	56	119
Grade 1	19	17	36	13	7	20	13	7	20	12	4	16	15	8	23																72	43	115
Grade 2	16	23	39	10	6	16	9	11	20	7	7	14	16	9	25																58	56	114
Grade 3	17	21	38	12	8	20	11	9	20	6	9	15	7	10	17																53	57	110
Grade 4	26	16	42	13	6	19	7	18	25	8	10	18	19	11	30										2		2	75	61	136			
Grade 5	25	23	48	15	6	21	11	13	24	9	6	15	14	11	25																74	59	133
Grade 6	20	12	32	5	5	10	13	4	17	3	2	5	8	13	21								1	1							49	36	85
Total by Town K-6	142	132	274	76	43	119	78	80	158	48	43	91	98	70	168							0	1	1	2	0	2	444	368				
TOTAL OF ALL K-6 STUDENTS FROM OUR FIVE TOWNS, INCLUDING OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS																											812	ADM K-6					
TOTAL OF ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING ANESU K-6 SCHOOLS, INCLUDING INCOMING TUITION STUDENTS AND EXCLUDING OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS																											811	IN OUR SCHOOLS					
Grade 7	16	17	33	6	7	13	11	7	18	8	5	13	7	12	19																48	48	96
Grade 8	24	12	36	12	6	18	12	19	31	9	10	19	16	6	22																73	53	126
Grade 9	21	21	42	7	5	12	18	16	34	4	12	16	12	9	21		1	1	1							2		2	65	63	128		
Grade 10	32	20	52	9	3	12	13	9	22	4	5	9	8	7	15		2	2	1	7	8		1	1	1	1		1	68	51	119		
Grade 11	17	24	41	11	8	19	8	3	11	15	15	30	3	9	12	4		4	1	3	4				4		4	59	62	121			
Grade 12	27	20	47	5	4	9	13	15	28	9	10	19	5	9	14	3		3	2		2				2		2	63	58	121			
Total by Town 7-12	137	114	251	50	33	83	75	69	144	49	57	106	51	52	103	7	3	10	5	10	15	0	1	1	9	0	9	376	335				
Total by Town K-12	279	246	525	126	76	202	153	149	302	97	100	197	149	122	271	7	3	10	5	10	15	0	2	1	11	0	11	820	703				
TOTAL OF ALL 7-12 STUDENTS FROM OUR FIVE TOWNS, INCLUDING OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS & SCHOOL CHOICE OUT STUDENTS																											711	ADM 7-12					
TOTAL OF ALL 7 - 12 STUDENTS ATTENDING MT. ABRAHAM, INCLUDING INCOMING TUITION & SCHOOL CHOICE IN STUDENTS AND EXCLUDING OUTGOING TUITION & SCHOOL CHOICE OUT STUDENTS																											698	IN OUR SCHOOL					
TOTAL OF ALL K - 12 STUDENTS FROM OUR FIVE TOWNS, INCLUDING OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENTS & SCHOOL CHOICE OUT STUDENTS																											1523	ADM K-12					

Notes: Foreign Exchange Students are counted as School Choice, whether in or out
 Out of District Placements are students from our 5 towns who we send to other schools
 Tuition In students are from outside of our 5 towns and pay tuition to come to our schools (Not school choice)

Q. I have heard that schools will be reducing the number of teachers and staff next year. Is this true?

A. *Yes. It is true that there will be reductions in staff in most schools in the five-town area. Teacher and staff reductions at Mt. Abraham are most noticeable but necessary due to the steep decline in student enrollment and the effect net education spending has on local property taxes. Reductions in support staff, classroom teachers and specialists at elementary schools are also necessary due to a decline in some federal and state grants and enrollment fluctuations.*

Q. Why is this necessary?

A. *The largest factors contributing to the increase in educational expenses are personnel benefits and salaries. Generally speaking, health and disability benefits make up 19% of a school district budget and salaries make up 61% of the budget. The remaining 20% of the budget is needed for operational costs such as, supplies, heating, electricity, repairs, maintenance and insurance. Continued growth in educational expenses threatens the sustainability of high quality instructional programs in our schools.*

Due to the significant increases in school district expenses locally and across Vermont, the biggest challenge that school boards face right now is to find the balance between educational spending and the "right size" of school buildings, classrooms and teacher/student ratios.

Q. How will the staffing reductions take place?

A. *After budgets are approved and prior to support staff letters of intent and teacher contracts being issued, all staff affected by budget reductions will individually meet with the building Principal. Whenever and wherever possible, natural staff turnover such as retirements, reassignments and resignations will be used to minimize the impact of staff reductions on our employees. When necessary, written notification of reduction in force (RIF) will take place upon Board action in accordance with teacher/support staff collective bargaining agreements and school district support staff policies.*

Q. Will this have an effect on the quality of education my child will receive?

A. *No. Our schools employ highly qualified administrators, teachers and Para professional staff and our responsibility is to continue to provide high quality instruction and educational programs to our students. That will not change. From our analysis we know that there will be an increase in class size in some elementary classrooms and the way we provide and schedule student remedial supports is also likely to change.*

For many years, our teachers and support staff have teamed to make our schools safe and exciting places of learning. In response to changes in state level requirements and educational shifts, our administrators have been working together to identify and overcome common challenges and remove barriers to successful student outcomes. Our support staff, teachers, teacher leaders and administrators will continue to collaborate and share resources to meet the needs of students.

Q. What makes up the Supervisory Union Budget?

A. *The ANESU budget consists of two revenue and expense budgets that provide educational and administrative services to the six member district schools in the areas of general operations and special education and early education. The ANESU Food Service Cooperative operational expense and revenue budget is a separate budget. Under Vermont statute these budgets are funded based on enrollment unless otherwise agreed to by member district school boards.*

Q. I have heard that the Supervisory Union budget is increasing much higher than individual school budgets in the five-town area? Is that true? Why are stakeholders confused?

A. *Educational expense budgets for FY 16 ANESU member district budgets adopted by Boards and awaiting voter approval show a range of increases from minus 0.23 percent to 9.26%. The FY 16*

supervisory union budget has increased by 3.04%, which is higher than three member district budgets and lower than three member district budgets.

Q. Is it true that the Supervisory Union is adding staff to central office while area schools are reducing staff?

A. While the supervisory union budget does include funds for additional staff, all of these positions are school-based positions and not located at central office. Although the English Language Learner teacher and Math Coach positions are now reflected in new budget lines in FY 16, these individuals have been supporting students and teachers during this school year.

Q. I have heard that investments are being made throughout the supervisory union to improve instruction. What are they?

A. The planned Literacy Coach and Student Support Coordinator positions are new school based positions funded at the supervisory union level. These positions are designed to have direct benefit on Principal leadership, teaching practices to support Common Core State Standards and overall student outcomes.

Q. When will school districts fully implement Act 166 Universal Preschool?

A. After thoughtful consideration each school board in the five-town area determined that they would implement universal preschool beginning July 1, 2016. While full implementation is not mandated until FY 17, planning for this eventual mandate will reap multiple benefits. Not only will parents and three and four year old children benefit from early intervention from qualified pre school providers, we anticipate that this effort will reduce the need for remedial services and expenses in the future.

Q. I have heard that special education is moving to the Supervisory Union, what does special education consolidation mean for the schools in our community?

A. Beginning in 2010, as a result of Acts 153 and 156, the Vermont Legislature required that specific school district operations (including the provision of special education services) were required to be duties of the supervisory union. The provision and supervision of special education services were moved to ANESU on July 1, 2015 in order to comply with Acts 153 of 2010 and 156 of 2013.

The costs to provide those services were consolidated and shifted from each school district to the supervisory union. Since FY 15, school district budgets decreased and the supervisory union budget and assessments increased to fund special employee salaries and benefits. Past consolidation has also allowed schools to share resources such as technology that once had to be funded by each school.

Following negotiated agreements with the teacher and support staff associations this spring we anticipate that employment for all special education staff will be contracted through the Supervisory Union. The supervisory union budget includes funds set aside for a good faith settlement of these negotiated agreements.

Q. What does special education consolidation mean for me and my child who is on an IEP?

A. We believe the consolidation will have a positive affect for students with special needs. By sharing resources and expertise between and among schools in the supervisory union, the level of service will be greater than before, and expertise can be provided. Children with individualized education programs (IEP) are protected by federal and state regulations obligating the Supervisory Union to provide special education services per IEPs. This change in the way special education is being coordinated will not affect the services provided for your child.

Q. How many students in the ANESU receive special education services?

A. *Our annual Child Count submission to the Vermont Agency of Education on December 1, 2014 reports that the ANESU is providing specialized services and instruction to 217 students. There are 24 preschoolers and 193 children in grades K-12.*

Q. How many staff provide those services?

A. *Currently, a Director of Special Education supervises special education and the department consists of 76 professional and support staff serving children from preschool to grade 12, and 3 to 21 years of age.*

Q. How is special education staffing determined?

A. *Staffing is determined based on special education student needs in each building and the specialized skills of special education teachers, para-educators and specialists.*

Q. Will special education staffing change in the next school year? If so, why?

A. *Yes. For the past two years, we have been moving away from consultant expenses and toward building program capacity to develop specialized skills within our staff to meet diverse student needs. Under the consolidation we have increased special education teacher instructional time and services to high need students. Consolidation provides flexibility through the ability to share resources and respond in a timely way when student needs emerge.*

Q. How do I access services for my child who is struggling in school but is not on an IEP?

A. *Each school provides students with an Educational Support System, which begins with providing high quality first instruction for all students. When a learner is not making progress toward academic and/or behavioral goals, parents and teachers work together with the school's Educational Support Team to design an Educational Support Team (EST) plan that provides academic supports and other interventions to support the learner.*

ANESU Assessment Calculation

	FY15	FY16	% Change
ANESU Education Expenses	\$7,042,595	\$7,256,902	3.04%
Less: SPED Assessment Revenue	\$4,258,800	\$4,188,926	-1.64%
Less: Local/State/Federal Revenue	\$565,033	\$594,301	5.18%
Net ANESU Assessment	\$2,218,762	\$2,473,675	11.49%

School	All School's Enrollment	ADM %	ANE Assessment \$ 2,473,675	SPED Assessment \$ 4,188,926	Food Assessment \$ 195,068	Elementary School's Enrollment	Early Ed ADM %	Early Ed Assessment \$ 389,529
Bristol	275	18.06%	\$ 446,658	\$ 756,372	\$ 35,222	275	33.87%	\$ 131,922
Lincoln	119	7.81%	\$ 193,281	\$ 327,303	\$ 15,242	119	14.66%	\$ 57,086
Monkton	158	10.37%	\$ 256,626	\$ 434,570	\$ 20,237	158	19.46%	\$ 75,795
New Haven	91	5.98%	\$ 147,803	\$ 250,290	\$ 11,655	91	11.21%	\$ 43,654
Starksboro	169	11.10%	\$ 274,492	\$ 464,825	\$ 21,646	169	20.81%	\$ 81,072
Mt. Abe	711	46.68%	\$ 1,154,815	\$ 1,955,566	\$ 91,066			
Total	1523					812		

	FY15	FY16	% Change
NESU Education Expenses	\$7,042,595	\$7,256,902	3.04%
ess: SPED Assessment Revenue	\$4,258,800	\$4,188,926	-1.64%
ess: Local/State/Federal Revenue	\$565,033	\$594,301	5.18%
let ANESU Assessment	\$2,218,762	\$2,473,675	11.49%

	1523 Oct. 1st ADM	ADM %	ANE Assessment \$	SPED Assessment \$
NESU Assessments:			2,473,675	4,188,926
ristol	275	18.06%	\$ 446,658	\$ 756,372
ncoln	119	7.81%	\$ 193,281	\$ 327,303
lonkton	158	10.37%	\$ 256,626	\$ 434,570
ew Haven	91	5.98%	\$ 147,803	\$ 250,290
tarksboro	169	11.10%	\$ 274,492	\$ 464,825
lt. Abe	711	46.68%	\$ 1,154,815	\$ 1,955,566

Food Service Subsidy Calculation

	FY15	FY16	% Change
Food Service Expenses	\$1,071,068	\$1,067,100	-0.37%
ess: Sales/State/Federal Revenue	\$876,000	\$872,032	-0.45%
et Food Service Subsidy	\$195,068	\$195,068	0.00%

	Oct. 1st ADM	ADM %	Food Service Subsidy \$
Food Service Subsidy:			195,068
ristol	275	18.06%	\$ 35,222
ncoln	119	7.81%	\$ 15,242
lonkton	158	10.37%	\$ 20,237
ew Haven	91	5.98%	\$ 11,655
tarksboro	169	11.10%	\$ 21,646
lt. Abe	711	46.68%	\$ 91,066

Early Education Assessment

	FY15	FY16	% Change
Early Education Expenses	\$363,261	\$650,192	78.99%
ess: State/Federal Revenue	\$261,912	\$260,663	-0.48%
et Early Education Assessment	\$101,349	\$389,529	284.34%

	812 Oct. 1st ADM	ADM %	Early Ed Assessment \$
Early Education Assessment			389,529
ristol	275	33.87%	\$ 131,922
ncoln	119	14.66%	\$ 57,086
lonkton	158	19.46%	\$ 75,795
ew Haven	91	11.21%	\$ 43,654
tarksboro	169	20.81%	\$ 81,072

Mt. Abraham is not included in this allocation*

ANESU Budget Notes

January 2015

- ANESU's budget of \$7,042,595 is General Operations, ELL, Math, Literacy and Student Support (shared services) and Special Education only.
- Early Education and Food Service each have their own budgets, not included in the \$7,042,595.
- The increase in Early Education to support pre-K, is for an estimate of 128 students @ \$3,000 each (\$384,000.00). \$42,150.00 will be paid for by grants, and the remaining \$341,850.00 will be paid for by each elementary school in their Early Ed Assessment. That particular budget line has a net increase of \$221,850.00 from the FY15 budget. (this has no impact on ANESU's 3.04% increase)
- The 3.04% increase in ANESU's expenses is a net change of SPED expenses decreasing, and multiple changes in General Operations: Reorganization of Business Office Staff, and the addition of the ELL, Math Coach, Literacy Coach and Student Support Services.

Q. Although I understand that students are counted in different ways for different state reports, how are the actual costs of supervisory union programs allocated to my school district?

A. *Under current state rules, student attendance is recorded as a head count from day 11 through day 30 of each school year. That average is known as the average daily membership (ADM) of each school and is recorded and submitted to the state. The cost allocation for each school is determined by the ratio of their ADM to the supervisory union's total enrollment.*

Q. It is my understanding that the supervisory union expense budget has increased by 3.04%. Why has the Supervisory Union assessment increased by 11.49%?

A. *Although the expense budget has increased by only 3.04%, several factors contribute to the assessment increase. Special education revenue has declined by \$69,874 and services to schools and students have increased causing the overall assessment to increase.*

Q. Can community members vote on the SU budget?

A. *No, in accordance with Vermont statute, supervisory unions are not a taxing entity and supervisory union budgets are not placed on ballots or presented at floor meetings. Voters have indirect representation as they elect town and union district school board members who in turn elect school board members to serve on the supervisory union board. The ANESU Board of School Directors consists of eighteen members with three representatives from each member district. School district size is not a factor in board make up.*

Q. How are school taxes calculated for my town?

A. *The property taxes calculated from your town involve tax calculations from your school district, union high school and the town itself. There are various calculations and criteria used in these calculations. The Vermont Department of Taxes website has a complete set of frequently asked questions that will help you understand how your tax bill is calculated. Please refer to this link shown below.*

<http://www.state.vt.us/tax/pdf.word.excel/pvr/FY15%20FREQUENTLY%20ASKED%20QUESTIONS%20ON%20EDUCATION%20TAX%20RATES-final.pdf>

Q. When I receive my tax bill, I see a bill for my town, my school district and the Mt. Abraham Union School District. How does the Mt. Abraham Union School District budget affect my taxes?

A. *When a town belongs to a union high school district, the same method above is used for the high school portion of the property tax bill and both the town school and the union high school are reported on the same tax bill. If you are a property owner in a union high school district, you will be assessed by the town for the high school. The cost of the town will be the third factor in the total of tax bill. The cost assessed to run the town will also be incorporated into your total tax bill.*

Q. I am living on a fixed income and benefit from the income sensitively provision of Act 68. Do the proposed school budgets affect my property tax?

A. *Homeowners with household income of \$109,000 or more generally do not qualify for a property tax adjustment.*

Homeowners who have household income of less than \$ 109,000, but greater than \$47,000 may qualify for an adjustment of their education property taxes.

Homeowners who have household income less than \$47,000 may be eligible for assistance for both education and municipal property taxes.

Q. How many homeowners qualify for a Property Tax Adjustment Claim and how much can they receive?

A. *Individual property tax information can be obtained from the Vermont Department of Taxes. Approximately two-thirds of Vermont homeowners receive a Vermont Property Tax Adjustment. Although the amount will vary based on household income, the tax adjustment can be as high as \$8,000.*

Q. How can I find out more information about the Supervisory Union Budget?

A. *The ANESU Executive Committee will hold a budget information session at its February monthly meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 5:30 PM in the Mt. Abraham Union High School Library.*

Q. How can I find out more information about my town school budget?

A. *Attend any of the February School Board meetings and Annual School Meetings:*

Tuesday, 2/24 Mt. Abraham Annual Meeting @ 7:00 PM @ Mt. Abe Library

Saturday, 2/28 Starksboro school & town annual meeting @ 9:00 AM w/ school district budget vote from the floor @ Robinson Multi-purpose room

*Monday, 3/2 Bristol school & town annual meeting @ 7:00 PM
Lincoln school & town annual meeting @ 6:00 PM w/ school district budget vote from the floor
New Haven school & town annual meeting @ 6:30 PM
Monkton school district (only) annual meeting @ 7:30 PM
(preceded at 7:00 PM by school budget informational meeting)*

*Tuesday, 3/3 TOWN MEETING DAY with public ballot votes
Bristol: voting 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Lincoln: voting 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Monkton: town annual meeting, 10:00AM w/voting 7:00AM-7:00 PM
New Haven: voting 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Starksboro: voting 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM*