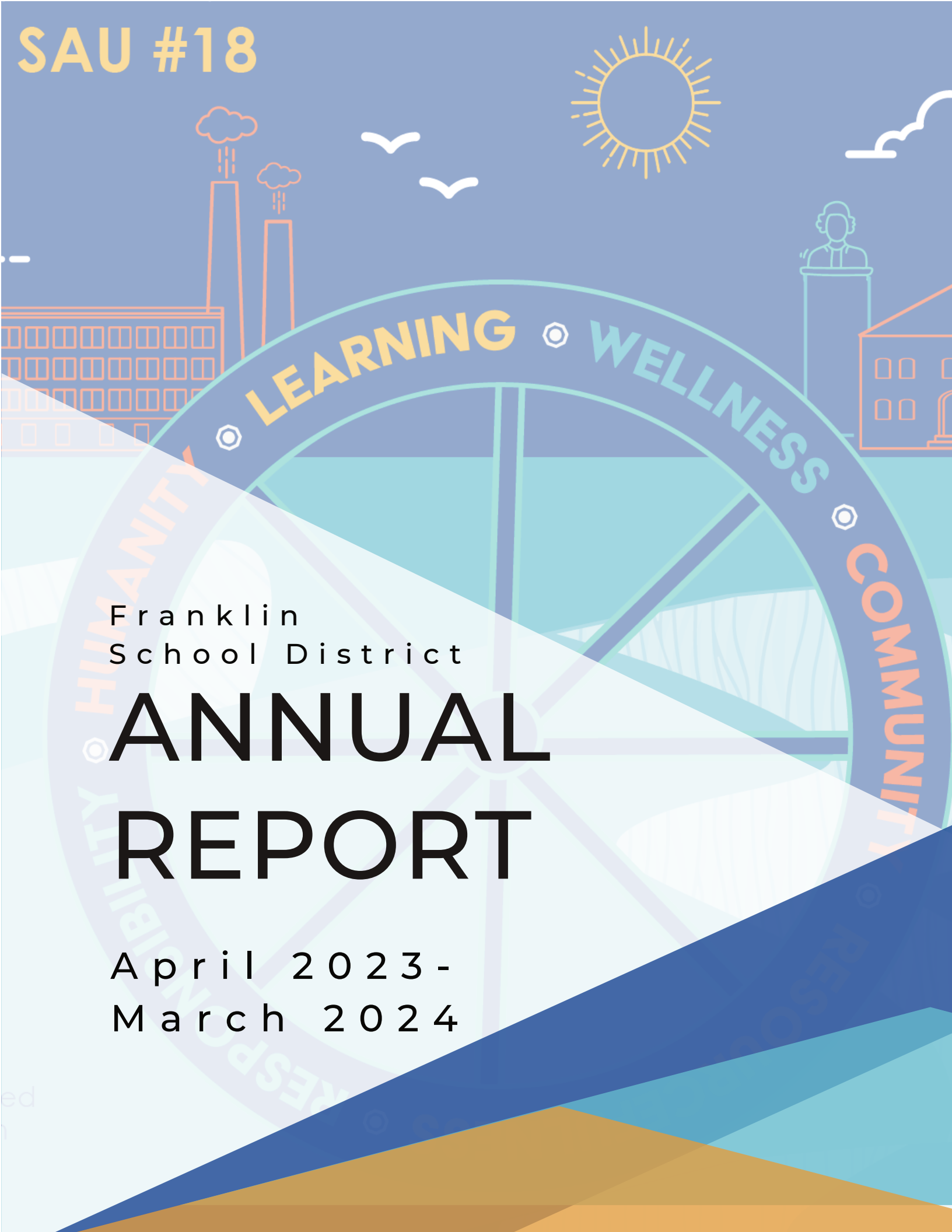


SAU #18

Franklin
School District

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2023 -
March 2024





2024 School Board

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Delaney Carrier, Vice-Chairperson

Jack Finley

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About this Report

We have been producing this annual report since the spring of 2021 as a way to communicate to the wider Franklin community the work that students, teachers, staff and administrators put in to ensure that each student has access to a high quality learning experience. The Innovation and Improvement Committee (I2) of the SAU 18 School Board is responsible for reviewing the content and reports before being sent to the full Board for approval and dissemination to the community.

The report is divided into three sections: Administrator Reports, Student Outcome Data, and Financial Data. Where possible, we include pictures that highlight the day to day life in Franklin schools.

We are always open to feedback. If there is information that you think should have been included in this report or if you feel we should include other information in next year's report please reach out to Superintendent LeGallo.

Administrative Team

Daniel LeGallo, Superintendent

Jefferson Braman, Business Administrator

Jule Finley, Curriculum Coordinator

Rebecca Butt, Director of Special Education

Barbara Slayton, Coordinator of School Wellness

David Levesque, FHS Principal

Shawn Quinn, FHS Assistant Principal

Virginia Everett, FMS Principal

Vicki Schinaman, FMS Assistant Principal

Jay Lewis, PSS Principal

Robyn Dunlap, IT Director

Dan Clark, Facilities Director

Brenda Petelle, Food Service Director

Danny Sylvester, Athletic Director

Carisa Corrow, Educating for Good Consultant

From the Superintendent

In the spring of 2023, high school principal, Dave Levesque; and middle school principal, Virginia Everett along with myself as the acting Principal at the elementary school planned all of our end of year celebrations and graduations. Notably, we celebrated the 99th year of the Class Day Parade. We are excited about the 100th year of the Class Day parade which will be held on June 13th, 2024.

At the end of the 22-23 school year we were pleased to hire Jay Lewis as the new principal of the elementary school. Jay came to us with previous experience in the Franklin School District as an Assistant Principal at the high school level and as the principal of the Jennie D. Blake School in Hill.



Our priority over the summer months was the development of School Improvement plans at all three schools based on our state test scores. These plans were developed with facilitation from the NH Department of Education who contracted with a firm called WestEd. Highlights of our plans included professional training for teachers, a partnership with Plymouth State University to provide professional development and coursework to our teachers, and the implementation of a new math program at the elementary and middle school titled Eureka Squared.

As we prepared to open our schools in the fall we were impacted by the nationwide teacher shortage and were unable to fill fourteen teaching positions at the high school and middle school. This impacted the high school most significantly where upper level math and science courses were only able to be offered virtually through VLACS, at Winnisquam High School through our partnership, or with Lakes Region Community College through Dual enrollment. We continue to run short of math and science teachers at the high school level. Fortunately our new high school project based schedule accommodated this shift and ultimately has accelerated our improvement efforts at the high school.

At the middle school, we addressed the teacher shortage by starting with class sizes that were larger than we would have liked if we were fully staffed. To date we have been able to fill all of our open middle school classroom positions and reduce the class sizes. We continue to be two special education teachers short at the middle school.

In late fall we received our state test score results from the prior spring testing. The elementary and middle schools continue to be identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools and the high school continues to be identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement School. We continue to implement our improvement plans and look forward to the state testing this spring.

In December, the School Board and City Council unanimously approved a two year teacher contract with a robust salary increase. The hope is that the increased salaries will help with our teacher retention and recruitment efforts in regard to the shortages we are experiencing. The contract runs through the 2025-2026 school year.

Annual Report

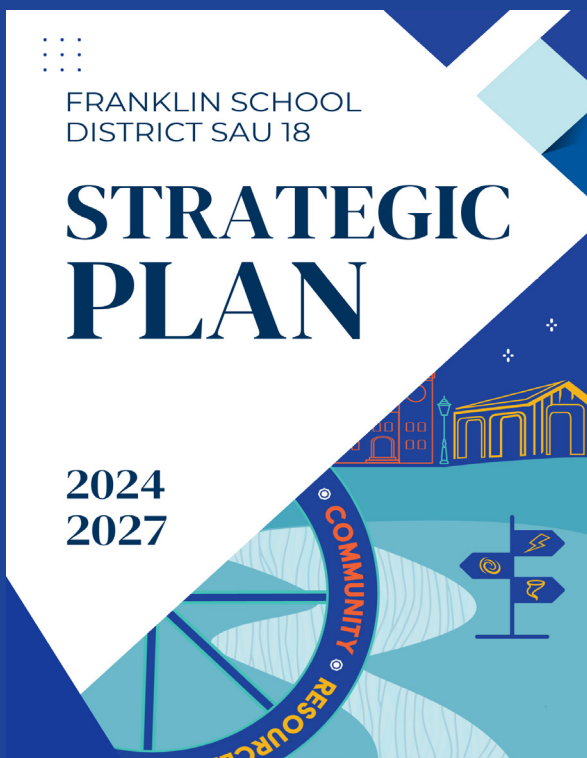
A major accomplishment of the Franklin School District was the approval of the new three year Strategic Plan which was launched in January of 2024. The plan was developed by teachers, administrators, parents, community members and students over the course of six months of data collection and focus meetings. The plan is a guiding document for the District over the next three years. The plan articulates our three core values to support students, educators and the community. We will be updating the community quarterly throughout the year on the Strategic Plan webpage on our website at www.sau18.org.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at dlegallo@gm.sau18.org . Please know that we appreciate your continued support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan LeGallo, SAU 18 Superintendent

STRATEGIC PLAN



We encourage the Franklin community to follow along as we implement our Strategic Plan over the next three years by periodically checking our Plan Tracker.

Use QR Code or visit

www.sau18.org/page/strategic-plan-2024-2027



Putting the Portrait into Practice

In the summer of 2019, Franklin applied for a grant with the Barr Foundation to develop a Portrait of a Franklin Graduate, which is a process to identify what skills and knowledge the community hopes students will develop by the time they graduate high school. That initial grant turned into four more rounds of funding to help Franklin put the portrait into practice, so it's not just a poster on the wall. Here's how we're doing it!

Community is Our Campus

We recognize the value our community can have in the learning experiences of students, from the people that live and work in Franklin, to all the amazing natural resources, to our many businesses. To help students develop their [commitment to community](#), we're committed to finding learning experiences outside the four walls of the schools including field trips, service learning opportunities and guest speakers.

Our Extended Learning Opportunities have increased in number and variety over the last year.



Students learning with Franklin Fire department

Project Based Learning

After many site visits across the country and feedback from current and former students, it is clear that project based learning is more engaging than sitting for lectures and filling out worksheets.

As students develop their [commitment to learning](#), we've committed to project based learning. This year students are applying math and science skills in 15 Minutes in Space. They are creating art and analyzing literature in a class co-taught by the Art and English teachers. They have made quilts, learned to crochet and even learned how the principles of physics can help them become better athletes in Physics and Sports project block.



Oliver creating a doll in an English/Art class

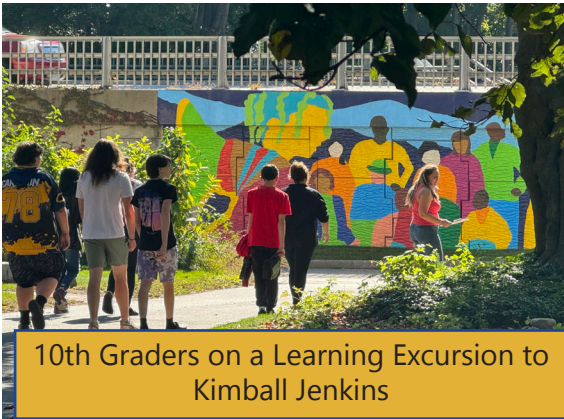
We are committed to sharing the work of students and teachers with the community at Franklin Learning Exhibition or FLeX Events. Franklin High School held two of these events in May 2023 and February 2024. Starting in the Spring of 2024, Paul Smith School and Franklin Middle School will also hold FLeX events where the community can come see how students are demonstrating the Portrait of a Graduate Commitments including [commitments to wellness and humanity](#).

A photograph of a classroom where students are leading a brainstorm session. A group of students is seated in blue chairs on a large rug with a circular pattern, facing a whiteboard. One student is standing and presenting to the group. The room has a large window with colorful flags hanging below it, and an American flag is visible on the wall. The whiteboard has some writing on it, and there are other educational materials visible in the background.

Student voice is an important part of the change work happening at Franklin High School. Students are encouraged to be part of the process providing input and feedback along the way. The Culture and Climate Crew (C3), the School Change Class and Youth Leadership Through Adventure were three groups that meet regularly to improve the school through projects, events and collaborative learning. Students often demonstrate their [commitments to resourcefulness and responsibility](#) when they lead the learning .

"With the new environment in our school it has opened me to new connections that will stay with me even after highschool!" Student, Brooke Cornell

Franklin High School



Franklin High School, home of the Golden Tornadoes, has an enrollment of 275 students in grades 9-12. The 2023-24 school year has seen a lot of changes both academically and within the building itself.

As we welcomed new faculty and staff to FHS, the focus continued with improving our school culture and climate related to our school community. Our efforts remained connected to the six attributes of Portrait of a Graduate.

Commitment to Community: Our commitment to community resulted in activities both in and out of the classroom at FHS. With the addition of a school van, we were able to have over 200 trips for our students to build real-life experiences in their courses. This includes a “Youth and Government” presentation with the city, a school-wide field trip to various community partners and trips to local and state competitions in music, academics and athletics.

Commitment to Humanity: With the increase in Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO), we saw over 50 different students participate in activities related to potential future endeavors. Students were able to spend time at both the elementary and middle school supporting teachers. We had students work at Benson Auto, City Hall and other locations within the city. Our clubs hosted a variety of evening events for students in the elementary and middle schools ranging from “Trunk or Treat” to “Kids Night Out”.

Commitment to Learning: With the change in schedule and adding a Project Block, we were able to create new courses that supported hands-on learning. Some of the new courses include Theatre Immersion, Mindfulness, Honors English 11/12, 15 Minutes in Space and Literary Analysis. Along with students, the faculty participated in over 40 hours of Professional Development related to Critical Skills. This is the key component of teaching Project Blocks while connecting Portrait of a Graduate Skills to everyday teaching and learning.



Students are guided down the river by Outdoor New England team



Students in public art pose with their submission to the Festival of Trees

Commitment to Responsibility: While changing to Project Blocks, we also updated our Student Handbook to reflect changes in attendance, grading, behavior and advisories. Because of these changes, we saw a higher attendance rate and a decrease in behavioral referrals. The expectations of Focused, Honest, and Safe (FHS) were embedded in our work and shared consistently throughout the school.

Commitment to Resourcefulness: 2023-24 brought a lot of physical changes to the high school. Through the support of grants and district funding, FHS was able to renovate the Media Center. Creating a brand new Maker Space and Esports room. A room was renovated to support Multi-Media Productions while students used their creativity to paint murals throughout the building.

Commitment to Wellness: Students and teachers have been thinking carefully about mental health and balance this past year. A Mindfulness project block was created that explored practices to help calm minds during stressful situations. As part of that class students created videos and murals to teach others. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate movement breaks during class, and participation in our fitness center has increased with the addition of new equipment donated by SNHU and a permanent substitute who helps students in the center during the afternoons on Tuesday and Thursday.

David Levesque, Franklin High School Principal

FROM THE STAFF

"I have enjoyed the opportunity that project blocks have given us to co-teach and collaborate with our colleagues. I think that gives students a unique experience to get different perspectives and styles from teachers they are used to seeing in a solo classroom."

Kevin DeLange, Social Studies

"My first year here at FHS has been exceptional. I have felt welcomed by students and staff alike, and made to feel as though I am a valuable member of this very special community."

Tammy Noyes, English

"Our students have leadership skills ingrained in their being and I feel like we are helping them have the opportunities to feel like they can step outside their comfort zone and take risks that help them grow. I recently asked a kid about the work we are doing here and they said 'This is a safe space for alternative learning.'"

Jamie Smith, Climate Specialist

Franklin Middle School

The summer of 2023 found teachers and students engaged in a variety of learning activities. Our first ever Summer Art Program ran for five weeks, alongside extended school year programs and summer school. Teachers enjoyed professional learning through our annual Educators Summer Institute while our custodial staff worked tirelessly to facilitate the rearrangement of classroom furniture to ready us all for the fall.

As the leaves began to turn, the 2023-2024 academic year began at Franklin Middle School with the building layout which brought the youngest students (grades 4 & 5) moving to the top floor.



Students in science class as FMS

This move allowed them to be closer to the office, the library, Title One, the music room, gym and cafeteria. The youngest students also have their own wings which encourages community and better supports them both socially and academically. Grades 6 through 8 moved to the lower level.

As a part of our overall goals for student success, all teaching staff have been trained in the Responsive Classroom management methods to ensure consistency and community in all of the classrooms. The framework supports our social emotional learning which includes self regulation and community building.

In early fall FMS was contacted by Starbase New Hampshire, a collaborative program designed to immerse fifth grade students in a rigorous STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program to ignite interest in young learners for these fascinating academic areas. The number of career paths open to students who are interested in STEM are astounding. We transported all fifth grade students to the National Guard Campus in Pembroke where they were able to experiment with robots, rocketry, circuitry, coding and more. This opportunity was amazing for our students and we hope to continue this partnership moving forward.

Afterschool programming has grown this year. The addition of our drama and theater program last year has continued to gain momentum and we are now also offering cooking classes through collaboration with New Hampshire 4-H. Along with the existing Games Club, "Dungeons and Dragons" club, Snowboard and Ski Club, and Franklin Diverse, FMS offers a Birding Club to begin expeditions this spring with avian aficionado- Mr. Goodin.

As we continue to set high expectations for our students, we assess the students three times a year in math and reading to see how they are learning. These assessments help teachers pinpoint exactly what the kiddos are struggling with- so they can provide the right support as well as letting teachers know who is ready to move on to new skills! Every child is unique and develops in their own time and in their own way.

FROM THE STUDENTS

"I like the teachers and the social interactions with other students. Field Day and hurricane days are fun. I value that the teachers really care about their students."

Grade 8 Student

"I love the theater program."

Grade 7 Student

"I value the whole school, I like making art, I love playing at the gym, I enjoy making new friends and hanging out with friends."

Grade 4 Student

"My favorite thing about school is gym class with Mrs Robbins, and I also like having a Chromebook to use. I liked building stuff with Mrs Davis too."

Grade 8 Student

"One thing I enjoy about school is the routine of it, coming to school everyday is a nice constant. The work is typically manageable and nice to keep busy with. I also like most of my teachers, they're good at what they do and have a good sense of humor. The schedule this year with our split block is a welcome break in that class as well."

Grade 8 Student



Project Based Learning at FMS



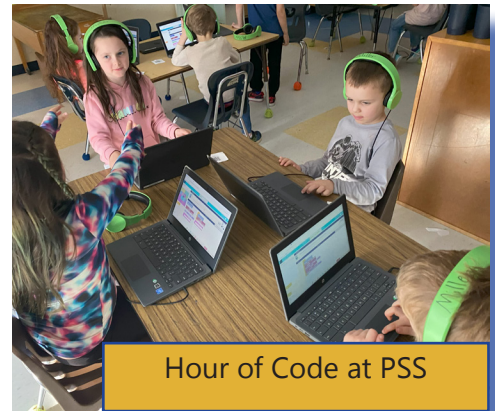
Academic Awards at FMS

Paul Smith School

Paul A. Smith Elementary has an enrollment of 282 students in grades preschool through grade three. welcomed several new team members this year, including Mr. Jay Lewis as principal. Ms. Selena Stewart and Ms. Jessica McGregor both filled grade 2 teaching vacancies. In December, Ms. Jade Gizzi filled a special education position vacancy.

During the summer we had a successful combined Title I and Extended School Year program engaging students in literacy and math instruction. A highlight of the summer school work had the students learning the entire process of how wheat is turned into flour. Using the flour that had been made, the student created homemade pasta and baked goods. This was such a significant event that it was highlighted at a School Board meeting showcasing the incredible learning experiences that PSS students have. The baked goods were a big hit with the Board!

"I am most proud of the level of support the PSS team provides to one another and the students. In addition, I am thankful that the members of the PSS team are always willing to try a new idea to help the students grow academically."



"Hour of Code" is a global learning event designed for all learners. Students, teachers and in some cases parents/guardians are welcome to participate in this experience. During the "Hour of Code" event students learn how to program computers for the purposes of completing a specific task. This event in December 2023 built upon the other programming work they've been engaged in all year. We hope to continue student learning and growth in this 21st century learning activity by obtaining small robots that the students will learn to program.

Students in grades K-3 take benchmark assessments on Aimsweb three times a year, along with progress monitoring through both Aimsweb and the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System. This data informs instructional groupings and helps to determine the specific, designated supports and student needs. Grade level teams meet monthly to engage in data informed curriculum discussions. A new initiative implemented at Paul Smith School this year couples grade level standards-based curriculum instruction with tiered instructional support. This model has two parts. In part one all students receive grade level instruction in math and reading from the classroom teacher. In part two, students work with a different teacher to target specific learning gaps. The targeted instruction noted in part two of the model is driven by the previously mentioned data and data team discussions.

PSS students benefit from a very active and successful MTSSB (Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavior) Team. The team worked throughout the summer of 2023 to design and implement school-wide changes and strategies focused on improving student behaviors that impact learning. The Fly Five curriculum is being used in all classrooms to help form the foundation of social emotional skills.

Annual Report

Significant work is being done to raise students' academic achievement scores. In addition to the previously mentioned data team and MTSSB meetings PSS is also working with educational leaders from Plymouth State University specifically for mathematics and reading achievement. The District Reading Specialist is working with teachers to improve student reading achievement using a program from the University of Florida as well as a program that focuses on writing. While there is much work to be done, PSS is focusing on small, sustainable gains that will benefit students for years to come.

Jay Lewis, Paul Smith School Principal



Reading in the quiet corner



PSS students love school

FROM THE PTO

"In the past 6 months I have seen some amazing changes within the school, from the boost in morale to the level of support the PTO has gotten from the administration. I have seen, first hand, how the climate of the school as a whole has changed. Teachers and students are getting the support they need and deserve and that really plays a pivotal role in creating a good learning environment. I am proud to be in a supportive role for PSS because I believe in this little school, in this little city. Our relationship is symbiotic. We are supported by the administration, teachers and staff which allows us, in turn to support the students, teachers and staff. When we work as a village to take care of our community we thrive. I am proud to be a part of this village."

Justine Hoppe, PSS PTO President

Curriculum and Professional Development

Curriculum

All of our Curriculum teams continued their work this year. English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science and Allied Arts with representatives from all three schools, met in the fall to collaborate, share ideas and work on aligning and improving our curriculum K-12. The goal for many was to share ideas, work on improving our alignment across the district and to discuss tools and strategies with each other. ELA started a discussion on looking at a new curriculum and tasked the team with looking at a variety of programming available that better fits the needs of our students in Franklin. Every team enjoyed the conversations and the time to communicate what is happening in their schools and how we can continue to work together to improve instruction in Franklin.



The curriculum drives that these teams created last year were reviewed for all five curriculum areas. The drives house all the tools and resources that can support current teachers and be a valuable asset to a new teacher's first year. Our curriculum team members can add information and resources and all staff can access those items.

We are now using Eureka Squared as a new K-8 math program. We started last year with piloting programs with interested staff in the spring and provided resources and tools for those staff who wanted to begin exploration. Over the summer, any staff who wanted

further time to work with the new program were provided that same support. At the start of the school year, all teachers in our K-8 math classrooms were given full days of professional development support to ensure they felt comfortable with beginning of year implementation. This support was provided again in October and we also hired two staff members, Kate Rose at PSS and Abigail Yelle at FMS, to serve as Math Coaches. They both felt very comfortable with the program and were willing to help support other teachers to provide one on one as well as group instruction for staff.

We have also begun using IXL as an instructional tool districtwide. This online resource provides support in all subject areas and can show diagnostic as well as individualized data for student needs. Although we are just in the beginning stages of implementation, the hope is that as this tool is utilized more, it will help students gain confidence in their learning as well as allow teachers to track their progress across all disciplines and all grades. Teachers can get immediate feedback on where students struggle and adjust accordingly to allow them to provide more exact support.

Professional Development

We once again spent the end of the 2022- 2023 school year immersed in professional development. Although our school year went well into the end of June, staff spent their last few days working on math and literacy training, MANDT training, Restorative Justice and Critical Skills. We also began a powerful partnership with Plymouth University which provided a few opportunities for our teachers. We began to offer Masters level courses on campus free of charge taught by Ken Logan. We had 20 staff members sign up for the first course we offered and similar numbers for the second. The other portion of this partnership, included Ken and two other PSU staff members, Vicky Kelly and Joey Rino, spending time during the summer working with our teachers on specialized math and ELA instructional support. Specifically, Vicky was able to talk to them about writing and Joey was able to provide support predominantly surrounding Eureka Math Squared, as well as best practices in math instruction.

Our two week Summer Institute included more options for MANDT training, as well as numerous opportunities for Special Education training. Nancy Rose from Discovery Ed and the NHDOE came for three days to work with people at specific grade levels on how to utilize this free online tool from the state. We offered a full day of Restorative Discipline training through the Bureau of Educational Research, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Rock Climbing skills facilitation and had Dr. Bethany Bilodeau back for a second summer to share her Nurtured Heart Approach with staff.

During the school year, that partnership continued with all three PSU professors spending time each week at Paul Smith and at the middle school, working with teachers, doing observations and spending time having conversations about strengthening their instructional skills and providing colleague support. The partnership with Plymouth has proven to provide significant support as well as interns who then wish to continue their journey with Franklin when they are ready to pursue a job.

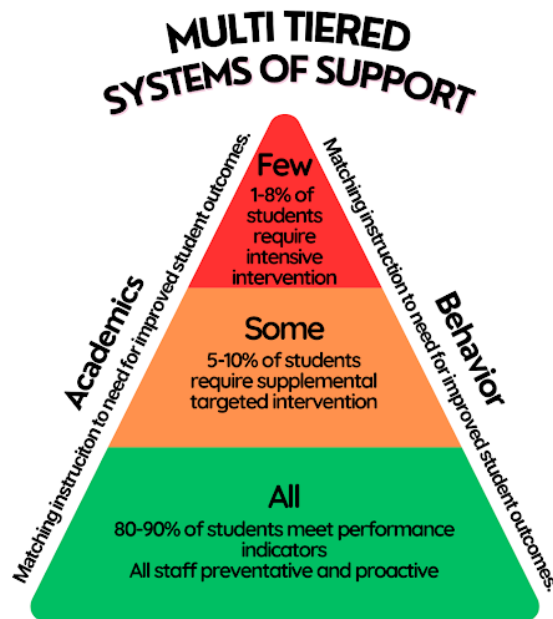
We continue to strive to provide support for all of our staff through professional development. We had a variety of staff who found various opportunities that supported their own goals and work. We provided some opportunities through the Bureau of Educational Research (BER) for teachers to attend workshops on handling behaviors and classroom management, which is a continual request. We specifically sent seven staff members across the district to a BER workshop that focused on supporting trauma in the classroom. We worked through year three of our mentor program which matches an experienced teacher with a new teacher to provide a supportive partnership and also provides both parties with professional development hours.

We continue to try to find the best ways to meet all the various needs of so many different people in every way that we can. We are creative in the ways that we find to meet together, to find support and to find solutions. We look forward to seeing new ways that we move ahead in 2024-2025.

Jule Finley, Curriculum Coordinator

Office of School Wellness

The primary focus of the Office of School Wellness continues to be on increasing effectiveness of our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior at all levels. This approach centers on every adult in the building being responsible for supporting expected, positive behaviors. When done well, this allows our counselors and social workers to focus on the students in need of most intensive services while improving culture and climate across the entire school community.



All three buildings have formed Universal Teams that focus on:

- CLARIFYING EXPECTED BEHAVIOR AND TEACHING, AND ENCOURAGING EXPECTED BEHAVIORS
- DISCOURAGING INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR AND
- PROVIDING RE-TEACHING AND SUPPORT AS NEEDED TO CORRECT
- USING DATA TO MONITOR PROGRESS
- A CLEAR AND WELL KNOWN SYSTEM TO ACCESS ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS AS NEEDED

This year we have prioritized the effective use of data, from how information is collected to how it is used, in making decisions. Our Universal Teams are looking at attendance, reports of negative behavior, survey feedback from staff, and how all of that impacts the students' readiness for academic learning.

We are working toward having all staff trained in Mandt in order to create a positive learning environment. The first level focuses on relational skills, recognition of when someone might be entering a crisis cycle, and the appropriate level of response based on where the student is on that cycle. A second level training includes understanding how trauma impacts a person's ability to interact safely and learn in a school environment and how to support a healthier space to do both. Finally, staff who support students who might have unsafe behaviors are taught how to safely manage those behaviors with minimal physical intervention (only to keep self or others safe from physical harm).

The Office of School Wellness facilitates the involvement of community partners in meeting the needs of our students by inviting providers into the school to meet with their clients when appropriate. This helps families who might not have transportation or time to otherwise get those services. Key partners include Riverbend Community Mental Health Center, HealthFirst, Archways, Crisis Center of Central New Hampshire, Franklin VNA and Franklin Partners in Prevention. Partners provide individual services, informational sessions for students, and more during or after the school day, with the school providing the physical space to make it happen.

Barbara Slayton, LICSW, Coordinator of School Wellness



Student shares work with staff

The Mandt philosophy of "Putting People First" means that we support people, not just their behavior. The focus of the Mandt System is to focus on interaction with people, starting with ourselves. We teach others to change their attitudes and beliefs by the way we interact with each other and with the people we serve.

Universal Teams at each school organize events and activities such as this pancake breakfast at the high school.



FHS staff serves pancake breakfast



Teachers at Rock Wall Training at FMS

With funding received from our Student Assistance Program grant, we have trained six teachers in the safe use of the indoor climbing wall at Franklin Middle School. We can now support learning core skills like self-awareness, social awareness and cooperation, communication, decision making, and self management through this hands-on, movement oriented activity.

Athletics

The Franklin Middle and High School athletic programs are under the leadership of 10th year Athletic Director Dan Sylvester (MSAA, CMAA) who is in his 23rd year in the district. FMS and FHS had a total of 343 athletes participate in 2023-2024 seasons and the highlight by far was when we received the Division IV Championship banner for Sportsmanship from the NHIAA for the second year in a row! We were chosen from a pool of 26 total schools in Division IV.



"Zeke McCoy became the 14th player in Franklin's school history to reach the coveted 1,000 point plateau."

Our participation numbers were steady after a rise in '22-'23. FMS teams continue their competition against other Lakes Region schools and our high school teams are settling in nicely to Division IV competition. We are currently playing in the Southern Conference of Division IV and qualified for the playoffs in basketball for the second year in a row.

We also had an athlete (Ezekiel McCoy) become just the 14th player in school history to reach the coveted 1,000 point plateau. We also added winter cheer back and started a wrestling club.

Our focus will be to continue to follow our FSD athletic philosophy that athletics are an essential and integral part of the overall educational experience. We will strive to develop and build positive character in each athlete and team by displaying good sportsmanship, work ethic, competitive spirit, as well as team, school and community pride and loyalty.

We continued with our special recognition programs; My Jersey-Your Impact where each Senior in our fall season recognizes a staff member that has a positive impact in their lives and Al's Village Pizza continued their sponsorship of our FHS Athlete Of The Week (AOTW) program. We name a female and a male varsity AOTW for each week of each sports season. We will recognize almost 60 athletes of the week by the end of the school year. Each athlete gets a formal Certificate from the Athletic Director and a \$10 gift certificate from Al's Village Pizza. Also, our Student Athletic Leadership Team (SALT) raised over \$700 for Mix 94.1's Annual Cash 'N Cans Food Drive from our spaghetti dinner.

Danny Sylvester, Athletic Director



The NHIAA Sportsmanship Award recognizes all athletes, coaches and fans who participated at our events throughout the year.



Theater

As usual, our Theatre Arts Department was working year round once again, with some students working on multiple productions at once. Between the FHS Players, Franklin Area Children's Theater (FACT), Franklin Footlight Theatre, the District Wide Musical and other projects between FMS and FHS, there are many opportunities for our students to perform and work in the live theatrical arts in Franklin.



Zoe Nagle as Wednesday Adams

The shows go on!
Despite the temporary closing of the Franklin Opera House, theater still remains an important aspect of the student life in Franklin.

In spring 2023 our high school students attended the 2023 New Hampshire Educational Theater Festival at Kingswood Regional where they then advanced to the State level and performed again at Gilford High School in early April. The production was student directed by seniors Nick Gammela and Angelia LaBrecque. Individual students were recognized for their personal achievements as juniors Leah Cote and Olivia Sylvester both earned All Star Acting Awards at Regionals, while senior Angelia LaBrecque won an award in Make-up and Costume Design and Olivia Sylvester earned another State level All Star Acting award. On top of that, two Franklin students were elected to serve on the NH Educational Theater Guild (NHETG) State Board for the 2023- 2024 year. There are only three students elected statewide, and Franklin took two of the three seats in an election at the festival. In addition to directing this festival piece, seniors Nick Gammel and Andy Emery took on a performance role with the community theater production of Carol Burnett Skits in mid- March, performing with numerous adults from all over Central NH.

All during the months of March and April, while they were working on their festival piece, the high school students also began working on resuming the first District Wide Musical production since Covid. In the ten years prior to Covid the high school had spent each spring combining with the middle and elementary school to produce a full scale musical K-12. Between onstage performers and production team members, the production of The Wizard of Oz included sixteen high schoolers, thirty middle school students and seventeen students from Paul Smith School. Three faculty members and eight community volunteers supported the students in their five amazing performances.

Annual Report

In the summer of 2023 many students K-12 participated in the Franklin Footlight Community Theatre production of *Beauty and the Beast*, which is always an amazing experience which allows students to work with adults and many experienced people to learn from their vast years of knowledge in performance and production skills. This particular production was extra special because it became (without prior awareness) the last show that many of the older students would perform in their beloved Opera House as the doors were shut due to fire code

violations. Many city meetings were attended and students spoke eloquently about what the Opera House meant to them and how much they needed that space to create and work in. The students who remain, and even those who will be graduating, know that there is much more work to be done on this topic, but for now, they are making due with other creative options.

Many students also participated in FACT (Franklin Area Children's Theater), which was the first creative option for another performance location, the middle school cafeteria. It was hot, as the camp runs in July and August, but twenty teen interns and forty-five children in grades K-8 performed a very successful production of *Finding Nemo Jr.* for two sold out performances.

As the school year 2023- 2024 began all the theater organizations in Franklin had to collaborate creatively. The FHS Players and Franklin Footlight Theatre came together (as they have done in the past) to produce an incredible version of *The Addams Family* in early December. The cast and crew, made up of all high school students and community members, worked in just five short weeks to put on a high caliber, professional level production in a school cafeteria. While the conditions and the climate were not the best, the high quality of the performance did not change.

The middle school started a new theater program last year, which included the help and support of a few high school theater students. They successfully produced *The Little Mermaid Jr.* at the Opera House in February of 2023. This year, the program has literally doubled in size and there are numerous high school theater students helping the program to succeed and thrive as they performed. *Willy Wonka Jr.* to sold out audiences in February 2024. The hope is that this new found passion for theater in middle school will carry into high school.

Outside of performing, the high school students ventured on numerous trips to see professional theater outside of their own productions. They took trips to Manchester, NH at the Palace theater to see *Kinky Boots*, *Rent*, *Grease* and *Legally Blonde* and also took journeys into Boston to see *Beetlejuice*, *Chicago*, *Moulin Rouge* and *Les Miserables*. Looking forward, the group continues to prepare for this year's NHETG Festival on March 23 in Bedford, their production of *Mean Girls* in May and a student led ELO project of *SIX the Musical* in June! To say our theater students stay busy and immerse themselves in their craft would be an understatement!!

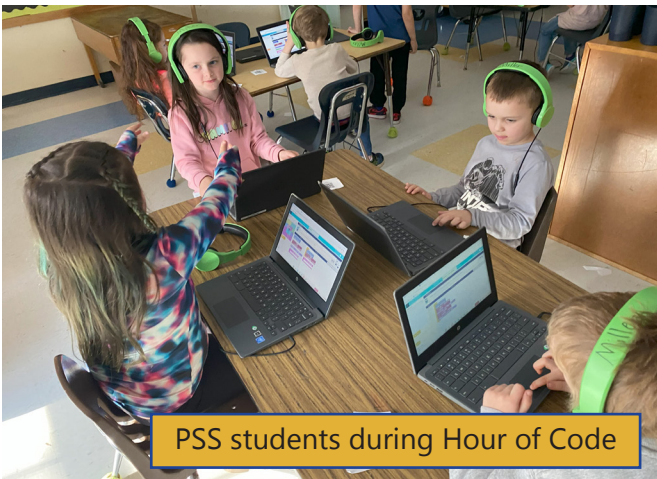


Students from FHS Players at different events throughout the year

Technology

We had many updates to our technology hardware, programs and processes that impacted students, staff and families at all levels.

IXL: We launched IXL district-wide this year, in all grades, K-12. The IXL platform is a personalized digital learning platform that covers the K-12 curriculum. IXL is the world's most popular subscription-based learning site for K-12, with over 9,000 skills in Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. With actionable analytics, real-time diagnostics, and individualized guidance, educators are given the tools to help students target specific learning goals. Thus, it can be used to differentiate and support personalized learning plans.



Apptegy Rooms - SAU18 has adopted Apptegy Rooms as our district-wide communication tool. Rooms allows parents/guardians to communicate securely with teachers and coaches, on a two-way communication platform linked to our SAU18 website and app.

Frontline - This year we launched a new way for professional staff to document and track their professional development, through the use of Frontline Education's Professional Growth portal.

Great Minds / Eureka Squared: We launched a new, comprehensive math curriculum for grades K-8, complete with comprehensive digital component.

Incident IQ: As of the start of this school year, we have moved into a new Help Desk program called IncidentIQ. In addition to being an easier to manage system, it also brings new features to the table, including asset management and the ability to have teachers submit Help Desks on behalf of students with chromebook issues.

New Printers: As of this year, the IT department has gotten all new printers for each school. We reduced the number of printers we had in order to better control our paper waste, and we also set up the printers to work in conjunction with our ID Cards from Verkada, allowing users to keep prints secure and confidential.

Staff Chromebooks and Chromecast: All staff have been successfully transitioned to new full-size Chromebooks, allowing for easier integration with our district-wide digital resources. Additionally, all school projectors have been fitted with Chromecast devices, making projection from Chromebooks simpler than ever. By transitioning to an all Chrome environment, we have greatly reduced the time it takes to finish repairs, and to get new software and resources out to the entire district.

Swank: As of the start of 2024, the District has upgraded its Swank Licensing. As a result of this improvement, we now have increased flexibility with movie approvals, and we can now use Swank for in-house events in all three schools.

Families Hub: We’ve created a Families Hub page on our websites and Mobile App to help families find the resources they need. This is a one-stop-shop for parents, guardians and families. Just click “Families” from any of our websites, or the mobile app, or click here to preview the Families Hub - <https://www.sau18.org/page/families> . If you don’t see a link you want on the Families Hub, you can find a link at the bottom of the page where you can make suggestions.

Hour of Code: SAU18 students took part in the Hour of Code this year, during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 4-10), joining over 100 million students worldwide who have participated. This year all Kindergarten through 3rd grade students at Paul Smith School participated for the first time, led by Library Media Specialist, Kara Cole, who taught all PSS students computer programming basics prior to the event. This is an annual, global event designed to demystify code and show that computer science is not rocket science, and anybody can learn the basics.

A NEW HUB FOR FAMILIES

There is a lot of information on the SAU18.org website, so we created a Hub for families so that they can easily find the information and resources they need quickly.



Families Hub 2023-2024

To help families find the resources they need

Calendars

- [District Calendar 2023-2024](#)
- [District Calendar 2024-2025](#)
- [PSS Calendar](#)
- [FMS Calendar](#)
- [FHS Calendar](#)

Academic

- [Tutor.com](#)
- [Clever](#) - student links to academic tools
- [Eureka Math Squared - Family Engagement](#)

Special Schedules

- [PSS Early Dismissal Schedule](#)
- [FMS Early Dismissal Schedule](#)
- [PSS Delayed Opening Schedule](#)
- [FMS Delayed Opening Schedule](#)

Menus and Busses

- [Bfast and Lunch Menus - Food Services](#)
- [FMS/FHS Bus Routes](#)

Communication & Athletics

District Data

Population Trends

School Year	Enrollment	Free/Reduced Lunch Rate		Special Education Rate	
	Franklin	Franklin	State	Franklin	State
2022-23	935	54.26%	24.11%	33.16%	19.7%
2021-22	917	52.60%	21.50%	29.77%	19.10%
2020-21	920	49.02%	21.55%	26.09%	18.60%
2019-20	942	61.59%	24.77%	21.98%	18.72%
2018-19	949	60.70%	27.16%	21.92%	18.14%

Attendance Rates

School Year	Attendance Rate	
	Franklin	State
2022-23	87.5%	92.3%
2021-22	86.6%	90.9%
2020-21	86.0%	93.1%
2019-20	93.9%*	95.1%*
2018-19	89.1%	94.1%

* COVID shutdown in March 2020

Dropout Rates

School Year	Dropout Rate	
	Franklin	State
2022-23	3.65%	1.33%
2021-22	1.50%	1.51%
2020-21	4.78%	1.34%
2019-20	8.33%*	0.92%
2018-19	4.67%	1.02%

Science Assessments

Science Proficiency as Measured by NH SAS

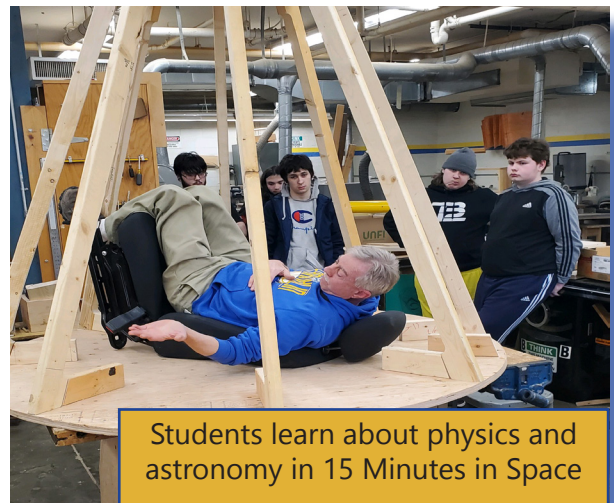
SAS	2017-18		2018-19*		2020-2021**		2021-2022		2022-2023	
Grade	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH
5	30%	43%	20%	38%	17%	35%	25%	38%	20%	36%
8	26%	42%	17%	39%	20%	34%	20%	33%	18%	35%
11	20%	41%	18%	41%	16%	43%	23%	40%	18%	35%

* 2019-2020 no testing due to COVID

**2020-2021 students returned to full time in person learning on 4/19/21 and were tested in May



Science was a focus of summer enrichment at the middle school



Students learn about physics and astronomy in 15 Minutes in Space

Educators at all three schools are finding creative ways to get students excited about science. At Paul Smith School, students regularly participate in Mystery Science activities and in the spring all classes contribute to a community garden. Fifth grade students participated in an extensive science learning experience with Granite State Starbase, a NH National Guard STEM program. At the high school project blocks include Physics and Sports, 15 Minutes in Space and Neuroscience. Students from FHS are also taking Chemistry at Lakes Region Community College this year to satisfy science requirements.

Math and ELA Assessment Results

English Language Arts/Reading Proficiency as Measured by NH SAS

SAS Test	2017-2018		2018-2019*		2020-2021**		2021-2022		2022-2023	
Grade	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH
3	30%	54%	23%	52%	23%	44%	15%	45%	4%	46%
4	43%	55%	27%	55%	23%	49%	7%	48%	19%	50%
5	47%	61%	33%	57%	27%	54%	27%	54%	20%	54%
6	42%	55%	41%	56%	32%	51%	25%	53%	32%	53%
7	46%	60%	33%	57%	25%	51%	26%	49%	35%	54%
8	46%	58%	25%	53%	37%	49%	31%	46%	28%	51%

Mathematics Proficiency as Measured by NH SAS

SAS	2017-2018		2018-2019*		2020-2021**		2021-2022		2022-2023	
Grade	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH	Franklin	NH
3	46%	55%	25%	57%	20%	45%	24%	51%	10%	53%
4	34%	53%	27%	52%	10%	41%	6%	48%	15%	51%
5	22%	45%	16%	43%	2%	33%	11%	38%	10%	31%
6	16%	46%	14%	47%	11%	35%	10%	39%	17%	39%
7	26%	48%	17%	47%	13%	34%	18%	37%	15%	39%
8	35%	47%	17%	45%	20%	33%	20%	33%	17%	35%

High School Proficiency as Measured by SATs

School Year	Math		English, Reading, Writing	
Year	FHS	NH	FHS	NH
2023	7%	35%	30%	60%
2022	10%	37%	36%	61%
2021	30%	42%	41%	63%
2020	Data not available due to COVID restrictions			
2019	14%	40%	36%	60%

* 2019-2020 no testing due to COVID

**2020-2021 students returned to full time in person learning on 4/19/21 and were tested in May

Another View of the Data

Below is the same math and ELA assessment results from a different angle. Follow the proficiency rates across a row to easily compare year to year scores for the same cohort of students. Note that there is a difference in the type of tests for Grades 3-8 and Grade 11. The high school proficiency test is the SAT.

English/Language Arts/ Reading Proficiency as Measured by NH State Assessment Tests**

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	**Grade 9/10	Grade 11
Class of 2032	4%						No Testing	
Class of 2031	15%	19%					No Testing	
Class of 2030	23%	7%	20%				No Testing	
Class of 2029	*	23%	27%	32%			No Testing	
Class of 2028	24%	*	27%	25%	35%		No Testing	
Class of 2027	31%	30%	*	32%	26%	28%	No Testing	
Class of 2026	45%	47%	35%	*	35%	31%	No Testing	
Class of 2025	46%	34%	49%	42%	*	37%	No Testing	
Class of 2024	30%	45%	38%	45%	36%	*	No Testing	32%
Class of 2023	65%	35%	32%	39%	46%	25%	No Testing	36%
Class of 2022	78%	67%	47%	49%	53%	47%	No Testing	37%

Mathematics Proficiency Scores as Measured by NH State Assessment Tests**

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	**Grade 9/10	Grade 11
Class of 2032	10%						No Testing	
Class of 2031	24%	15%					No Testing	
Class of 2030	20%	6%	10%				No Testing	
Class of 2029	*	10%	11%	17%			No Testing	
Class of 2028	26%	*	2%	10%	16%		No Testing	
Class of 2027	46%	28%	*	11%	18%	17%	No Testing	
Class of 2026	48%	36%	19%	*	13%	20%	No Testing	
Class of 2025	44%	19%	24%	13%	*	20%	No Testing	
Class of 2024	32%	27%	21%	18%	17%	20%	No Testing	5%
Class of 2023	57%	33%	29%	24%	26%	18%	No Testing	10%
Class of 2022	65%	66%	25%	32%	35%	35%	No Testing	29%
*19-20 no testing Covid		**No State Testing Grades 9/10/12				22-23 test scores		

**Over the last ten years, NH has used a variety of different assessments and proficiency determination formulas. In 2013 and 2014, students took the NECAP. In 2015 and 2016, students took the Smarter Balanced Assessment. In 2017, NH switched to its first all computer based assessment with the NH SAS. The 11th grade test is the SAT.

Other Outcomes

Learning Beyond the Traditional Classroom

Year	Running Start	Lakes Region Community College	Huot Technical Center	Advanced Placement	Extended Learning or Internship
Class of 2023	37%	12%	21%	16%	26%
Class of 2022	29%	22%	7%	15%	5%
Class of 2021	40%	19%	23%	19%	21%*
Class of 2020	42%	10%	26%	28%	3%*
Class of 2019	19%	21%	18%	21%	32%

**Remote Learning and Covid Restrictions impacted opportunities*

Post High School Outcomes

Senior Exit Survey Data	4 Year College	2 Year College	Military	Workforce	Other
Class of 2023	29.31%	12.07%	5.17%	43.10%	10.34%
Class of 2022	39.50%	18.40%	0.00%	26.30%	15.80%
Class of 2021	48.10%	13.00%	1.90%	20.40%	16.70%
Class of 2020	42.90%	11.90%	7.10%	11.00%	19.00%
Class of 2019	53.80%	12.80%	2.60%	20.50%	10.30%

New Hampshire Scholars

Students who complete a rigorous course of study throughout their four years at Franklin High School will receive the designation of "New Hampshire State Scholar". This designation is recognized nationally and could entitle the bearer to additional financial aid for his/her post-secondary education. To be eligible for NH Scholars all required courses must be passed with a minimum GPA average of no less than a 3.2 or better. Students are also eligible to receive the designation of NH Scholars Course of Study designation in either Core, STEM, or Arts. For more information please visit <http://www.nhscholars.org>

Year	Original	Distinction Scholars			Total
		STEM	Art	Both	
2023	6	3	0	0	9
2022	5	3	0	0	8
2021	0	0	5	5	8
2020	4	1	0	2	7



Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues		22-23 Actuals
<i>Revenue from State Sources</i>		
	Special Education Aid (Catastrophic)	\$170,006.48
	Charter School Aid	\$44,912.24
	Vocational Transportation Aid	\$6,552.90
	Adequate Education Grant	\$8,630,460.72
	Extraordinary Need Grant	\$360,164.89
	NHRS Refund	\$92,214.90
	EFA Phase Out Grant	\$8,053.84
	Building Aid	\$81,944.16
	Indirect Costs	\$119,254.28
<i>Revenue from Federal Sources</i>		
	Medicaid Reimbursement	\$148,507.59
	E-Rate Funding	\$30,245.48
<i>Local Revenue Other than Taxes</i>		
	Tuition	\$18,931.94
	Earnings on Investments	\$39,315.73
	Other Local Revenue	\$15,339.16
	Insurance Premium Holidays	\$102,300.03
	Athletic Receipts	\$3,186.15
	NH Charitable Foundation (Aware)	\$0.00
	Prior Year Encumbered Fund Balance	\$445,706.97
	Unreserved Fund Balance	\$1,281,869.59
<i>Total Revenues and Credits</i>		
	City Tax District Appropriation	\$4,943,755.00
	Statewide Education Property Tax	\$886,084.00
<i>Total General Fund</i>		
	Food Service Transfer	\$774,301.13
Total Revenues		\$18,203,107.18

EXPENDITURES BY FUNCTION

Regular Education	\$ 5,412,783
Special Education	\$ 3,034,450
Vocational	\$ 64,242
Extra-Curricular/Athletic	\$ 253,015
Adult Education	\$ 22,533
Student Support Services	\$ 1,851,832
Curriculum	\$ 118,447
Library and Media Services	\$ 164,049
Computer Assisted Instruction	\$ 109,063
School Board & SAU Services	\$ 385,658
School Administration	\$ 1,106,266
Business Office	\$ 332,452
Facilities	\$ 1,961,150
Transportation	\$ 709,020
Operation of Information Systems	\$ 264,594
Debt Service	\$ 306,455
General Fund Transfer	\$ -
Food Service Fund Transfer	\$ -
Grant Funds Transfer	\$ 4,398,068
Capital Reserve Transfer	\$ -
Special Education Reserve	\$ -
Food Service	\$ 815,519
TOTAL	\$ 21,309,596

EXPENDITURES BY OBJECT

Salaries & Benefits	\$ 11,920,802	55.94%
Contracted Services	\$ 3,174,909	14.90%
Books, Supplies, Equipment, etc.	\$ 1,224,161	5.74%
Debt Service/Fund Transfers	\$ 4,704,524	22.08%
Utilities	\$ 285,199	1.34%
Total	\$ 21,309,596	100.0%

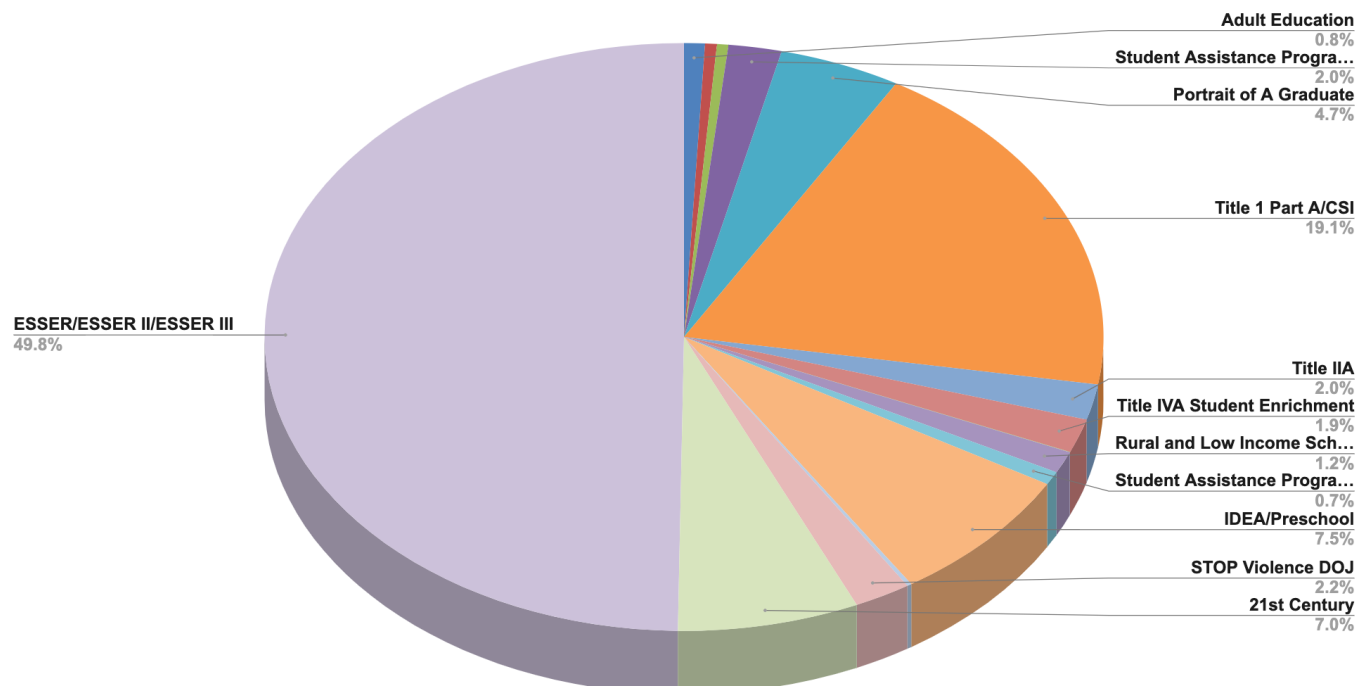
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE HISTORY

Fiscal Year	Expenditures	Revenues
2022-2023	\$16,911,527.53	\$18,203,107.18
2021-2022	\$15,457,621.24	\$16,387,095.00
2020-2021	\$14,941,391.46	\$16,464,661.87
2019-2020	\$15,188,611.56	\$15,768,596.94
2018-2019	\$13,976,916.49	\$15,184,163.27
2017-2018	\$14,261,954.30	\$15,031,039.38

Grant Revenues

Grant Revenue from State and Local Sources		Grant Revenue from Federal Sources	
Adult Education	\$35,171.02	Title 1 Part A/CSI	\$842,037.05
Robotics	\$20,032.80	Title IIA	\$85,814.60
SAFE HSEM Grant	\$19,296.33	Title IVA Student Enrichment	\$81,999.90
Student Assistance Program (SAP)	\$90,112.09	Adult Education	\$500.00
Portrait of A Graduate	\$206,620.18	Rural and Low Income Schools (RLIS)	\$52,662.86
		Student Assistance Program (SAP)	\$32,109.90
		IDEA/Preschool	\$331,974.02
		Preschool	\$7,501.85
		STOP Violence DOJ	\$96,119.01
		21st Century	\$307,238.09
		ESSER/ESSER II/ESSER III	\$2,188,878.85
Total State/Local	\$371,232.42	Total Federal	\$4,026,836.13
GRAND TOTAL GRANT REVENUE \$4,398,068.55			

GRANT FUNDS from STATE and FEDERAL SOURCES



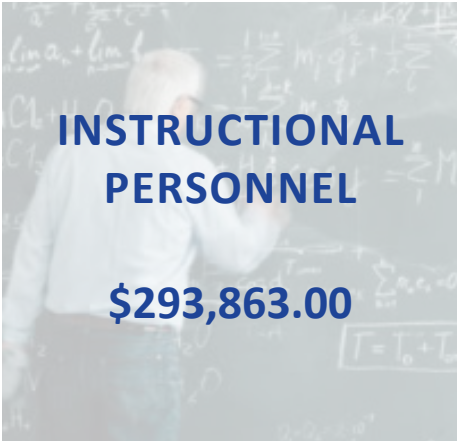
Digging Deeper into ESSER Funds

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund is one of the national relief bills passed during the pandemic. Also referred to as ESSER, this part of the American Rescue Plan Act earmarked funds for the safe reopening and operations of schools while meeting the academic, social, emotional and mental health needs from the pandemic.

The Franklin School District continues to use the federal ESSER funds to support relief efforts from the pandemic that were initially generated by the federal government in 2021. These funds are set to expire in September of 2024. Below is a summary of the use of these funds from September of 2022 through February of 2024 totalling \$2,933,049.00.

A photograph showing a person working on a window frame, with a bright light source creating a lens flare effect.

**HVAC WINDOW
REPLACEMENT
PROJECT**
\$2,242,549.00

A photograph of a person standing in front of a chalkboard filled with mathematical equations.

**INSTRUCTIONAL
PERSONNEL**
\$293,863.00

A photograph of hands writing in a notebook with a pencil, with colorful highlighters in the foreground.

TUTORING
\$3, 047.00

A photograph of hands working with a complex structure made of sticks and string.

**Instructional Tools
and Programs**
\$18, 387.00

A photograph of two modern chairs with a geometric pattern, one of which has a small plant on it.

**SOCIAL
WORKERS**
\$255,301.00

A photograph of hands writing on a piece of paper with a pen, with a laptop and other papers in the background.

**SPECIAL
EDUCATION
SERVICES**
\$17, 443.00

A photograph of a man standing and speaking to a group of people in a classroom setting.

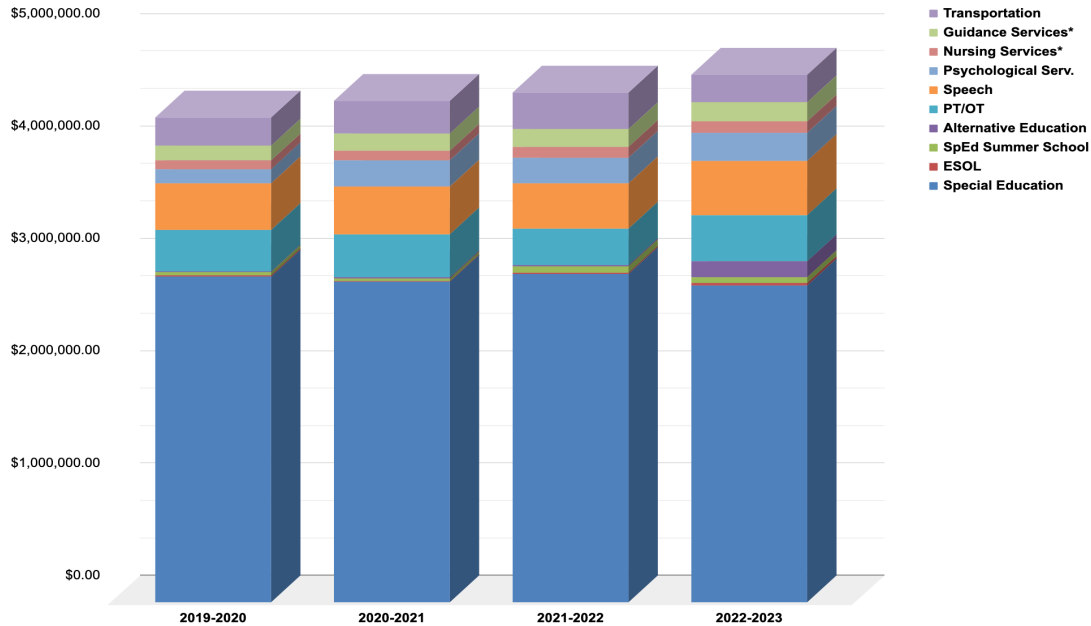
**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**
\$33, 036.00

A photograph of a person sitting at a desk with a computer monitor, working on a project.

**TECHNOLOGY
EQUIPMENT AND
SOFTWARE**
\$35, 986.00

A photograph of a person wearing a dark t-shirt with the text 'FHS MY SCHOOL' on it, working on a wall.

**FACILITIES
PERSONNEL
COST**
33, 427.00



SPECIAL EDUCATION 4 YEAR COST COMPARISONS				
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Special Education	\$2,900,228.65	\$2,854,521.08	\$2,921,611.65	\$2,818,477.32
ESOL	\$7,524.03	\$1,211.55	\$11,942.99	\$24,525.83
SpEd Summer School	\$29,222.77	\$22,939.78	\$55,437.11	\$51,669.12
Alternative Education	\$9,448.20	\$11,239.62	\$11,130.17	\$139,777.83
PT/OT	\$366,574.15	\$382,316.83	\$322,225.18	\$409,284.21
Speech	\$413,859.11	\$429,353.48	\$404,919.55	\$483,782.96
Psychological Serv.	\$124,850.07	\$232,863.22	\$230,438.21	\$249,794.62
Nursing Services*	\$82,836.14	\$80,806.50	\$93,883.92	\$100,672.92
Guidance Services*	\$131,174.51	\$154,693.07	\$159,113.75	\$173,197.70
Transportation	\$247,488.76	\$289,019.01	\$326,753.90	\$242,334.00
Special Ed Total	\$4,313,206.39	\$4,458,964.14	\$4,537,456.43	\$4,693,516.51
<i>Increase over last year</i>		3.38%	1.76%	3.44%
<i>Increase over last year</i>		\$145,757.75	\$78,492.29	\$156,060.08
* Health & Guidance 40% of total cost is special ed related				

City of Franklin Tax Rate History



CITY OF FRANKLIN TAX RATE HISTORY				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Municipal	11.87	12.00	13.12	8.76
County	2.57	2.67	2.69	1.58
Local Education	6.45	6.62	7.16	4.73
State Education	1.95	1.92	1.42	1.19
Total Tax Rate	22.84	23.21	24.39	16.26

ADEQUACY AID HISTORY		
Fiscal Year	Adequacy Aid	Net Change
2018-2019	\$7,080,826.27	
2019-2020	\$7,687,744.00	\$606,917.73
2020-2021	\$8,701,824.36	\$1,014,080.36
2021-2022	\$8,268,687.00	(\$433,137.36)
2022-2023	\$8,630,460.72	\$361,773.72
Total Change Past Five Years		\$1,549,634.45