

# SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT THIRTY-NINE

Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts

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## **Amherst School Board Tuition Agreement with the Mont Vernon School Board Frequently Asked Questions**

### *What is the length of the proposed agreement?*

This agreement is for four years. It contains language allowing the school board to withdraw from the agreement within that time. The current contract expires June 30, 2026.

### *Who does the agreement cover?*

The agreement affects 60 to 65 Mont Vernon 7th- and 8th-graders.

### *What considerations guided the Amherst School Board in negotiating this agreement?*

The Board believes that including Mont Vernon 7th- and 8th-grade students is in the best interests – educationally and financially – of all middle school students and the Amherst community. The Board was keenly aware of the Mont Vernon community's efforts to explore keeping 7th- and 8th-grade students at the Village School, which would mean the end of the tuition agreement and its resulting revenue.

### *What are the key financial aspects of the agreement?*

- Under the formula in this agreement, tuition is based on the sum of 60% of the Amherst Middle School cost per student and 40% of the Mont Vernon Village School cost per student for the fiscal year 2 years prior to the current fiscal year. This sum is multiplied by the current school year enrollment.
- A \$400 per-pupil facility “rental” charge is included in the overall tuition cost.
- The Mont Vernon tuition increase is capped at not more than 4% of the prior year calculated tuition rate.

### *What would be the revenue impact if this tuition formula was currently in place?*

About \$158,700 less.

### *What budget reductions would be necessary if Mont Vernon students no longer attend the middle school?*

One or two sections of 7th and 8th grade and one or two sections of unified arts would be eliminated. The budget reductions would not offset the total in lost revenue.

### *What else is in the agreement?*

Mont Vernon students may participate in any athletic, curricular, or co-curricular activities offered at Amherst Middle School.

### *What happens if the voters do not ratify this agreement?*

Mont Vernon would be free to explore agreements to place its students with other districts. Amherst could lose approximately \$1.4-\$1.5 million in revenue, which would necessitate budget reductions.

### *Summary*

This agreement secures a significant revenue source for the Amherst community for four years. The unique design of the tuition formula may be the key to a continued long-term partnership with the Mont Vernon community.