

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT THIRTY-NINE

Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts

MICHAEL BERRY
Superintendent of Schools

ROBERT JOZOKOS
Assistant Superintendent

AMY FACEY
Business Administrator

DR. HEATHER JENNINGS
Director of Student Services



Mont Vernon School Board Tuition Agreement with the Amherst 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 Mont Vernon School Board in negotiating this agreement?

The Board understood the community's desire to have some influence on a significant part of the Mont Vernon budget.

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 pupil and 40% of the Mont Vernon Village School cost per pupil for the fiscal year 2 years prior to the current fiscal year. This sum is multiplied by the current school year enrollment. The Mont Vernon approved budget influences the per pupil tuition cost.
- A \$400 per-pupil facility "rental" charge is included in the overall tuition cost. This provision ends Mont Vernon's financial obligation to contribute to possible bond projects impacting the middle school.
- The tuition increase is capped at not more than 4% of the prior year calculated tuition rate.

What would be the budget impact if this tuition formula was in place now?

About \$158,700 less.

How does this agreement impact the extensive facility plan conducted over the previous four years?

This agreement does not preempt the Mont Vernon Community's long-term consideration and decision about where to school its 7th- and 8th-graders. The agreement ensures these students will receive a strong education over the next four years, while providing time for the School Board to fully evaluate adding 7th and 8th grades to Mont Vernon Village School, receive input from and educate the community and present an article to build an addition, if desired.

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 this agreement is not ratified?

Mont Vernon will not have a guaranteed educational placement for its 7th- and 8th-graders. The Mont Vernon School Board/families will need to seek other educational settings. In the meantime, the cost for sending students to Amherst Middle School could rise. Tuition for students at schools without adopted tuition agreements is governed by NH Department of Education's cost-per-student formula.

Summary

This agreement's unique tuition formula factors in Mont Vernon's school costs, benefiting the Community's taxpayers. The agreement also eliminates possible future bond obligations to Amherst and secures a strong education placement for Mont Vernon students while future plans are developed and considered.