



**SAU 7
SUPERINTENDENT'S
REPORT**

10-1-22

ESSER Funds

The majority of ESSER funds have now been obligated. We hold regular stakeholder meetings to gauge the effectiveness of our grant programs and plan for expenditures. Our last meeting was held on September 28. We have set aside ESSER III funds in each school district to improve heating and ventilation systems. Engineering studies have been completed and bids will be prepared and distributed later this fall in preparation for annual school meeting warrant approval of summer construction.

Budget Process

This month, we will initiate the budget process. The school budget involves many different individuals and entities across several levels. At the local/district level, budget discussions and work will involve school administrators, school boards, school employees and community members. Budgeting is the process of using information to allocate finite resources to prioritize organizational needs. In school districts, budgeting requires using information about school staff, students, and facilities to meet student learning needs and goals.

School districts must work within their capacity to produce budgets that support the needs of their students and community. Common problems district leaders face are typically related to budgeting around the following areas: targeting achievement gaps; alignment of resources to support learning improvement agendas; prioritizing learning-focused leadership; and, developing the human capital of the school or district.

Fiscal responsibility is of primary importance in our school communities. This summer I completed my certificate in Education Finance. This training included school administrators across the state and country. Here are some of my new learnings. + Analyze school finance from the numbers, building up from the school and classroom levels. + Be creative and innovate in how school revenues are generated, what money can buy and consider tradeoffs in spending choices. + Identify key finance figures for making relevant cost comparisons across different schools. + Consider equity in education finance and apply it to different levels of the system for both revenues and expenditures. + Consider the challenge of increasing productivity in an environment of finite education dollars.

Teachers will submit requests to principals by the end of October. Principals will draft their initial budget. The SAU and School Administrators will finalize their draft budget proposals in November. The SAU Board will review and approve the SAU 7 budget on November 10th and the SAU 7 Public Hearing will be held on December 10. District budgets will be approved by their respective School Boards in January and District Public Hearings will be held in February.

Adequacy Aid

Four of our five school districts received additional adequacy aid from the NH DOE that was allocated by the legislature this year. School Boards will all retain the funds and some are considering calling a special meeting to apportion the funds to the current budget or a district trust fund. An additional amount will be made available to school districts next fall. The amounts are as follows:

District	22-23 Additional Adequacy Aid Amount
Clarksville	\$4,590.00
Colebrook	\$67,230.89
Columbia	\$5,704.00
Stewartstown	\$20,245.00

Leadership

The Superintendent visits schools and classrooms at least weekly and the leadership team meets monthly for a half day to address progress toward the strategic plan and a variety of instructional and school operations issues. Most recently we discussed plans for open house, parent conferences, professional learning communities, and staffing shortages for substitute teachers. This month we are working with School and Central office administrators on budget development.

Fall Back to School Report

This year we have recruited five new substitute teachers. However we are still experiencing a substitute teacher shortage. We are continuing our substitute teacher recruitment efforts.

Our additional Board approved COVID leave expired on June 30, 2022. We will provide a report to the school board at the November SAU Board meeting concerning the rate of staff absenteeism and whether or not additional COVID leave will be recommended. We are monitoring COVID Cases and following protocols and recommendations of NH DHHS as shared last month.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Jenn Mathieu now works full time as our Curriculum Director through a shared contract with member districts. She continues to visit schools and classrooms, supporting our sixteen new teachers, leading our professional learning community work and presenting at school board meetings. We have received very positive feedback from our staff and Jenn is enjoying the challenge of working with teachers and administrators to improve curriculum and instruction for our students in SAU 7. She has also organized all SAU professional development and worked diligently to focus our grant efforts on improved teaching and learning.

Teachers will participate in professional development on Oct 14. Topics include CPR training, curriculum development, social emotional learning and wellness.

We are pleased to bring back more parent collaboration opportunities in our schools. This year we welcomed parents back to school with social events at the start of the year, held open house in each school in September and October and will provide Parent Conferences from 3-7 pm on November 9 with an early release for students and staff on November 10 prior to the Veteran's day holiday.

Colebrook Building Project Update

The Colebrook School Board has refined the design of the building project to centralize HS and CTE classrooms. The building aid application was updated to include the new design, budget and deficiencies from the Old Academy and Tech Building. Communication and public meetings will be held in October through December. The NH DOE will inform us of their building aid decision by January 15, 2023.

Board Updates

The SAU Policy committee will meet on October 17 at 5:00 pm at Colebrook School Library.

The next SAU 7 Board Meeting will be held on November 10 at 6:00 pm in Columbia Town Hall.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Taylor, Ph.D.
Superintendent