

**Superintendent Report to the School Boards
School Administrative Unit 7
February 1, 2022**



School Budget Information

Community feedback concerning school budgets is sought via public hearings in each of our school communities.

School District Public Budget Hearings Schedule:

- January 24: Pittsburg School District 6:00 pm, Auditorium
- February 1: Colebrook School District 6:00 pm, Cafeteria
- February 2: Columbia School District 6:00 pm Town Offices
- February 7: Stewartstown School District 6:00 pm, Multipurpose Room
- February 8: Clarksville School District 6:00 pm Town Hall

School District Annual Meetings Schedule:

- March 1: Colebrook School District: 6:00 pm Gymnasium
- March 2: Pittsburg 6:00 pm Auditorium
- March 7: Stewartstown School District: 6:00 pm
- March 8: Clarksville School District 6:00 pm - Town Hall
Columbia School District 7:15 pm - Town Hall

Comparison - Appropriation Budget Proposals

District	2019-20 Budget	2020-21 Budget	2021-22 Budget	2022-23 Proposed Budget	Variance (current to proposed)	Percentage Inc/(Dec)
Clarksville	\$518,423.	\$486,188.	\$585,957.	\$766,857.	\$180,900.	30.8%
Colebrook	\$6,835,950.	\$6,909,825.	\$7,411,920.	\$7,365,115.	(\$46,805)	(.63%)
Columbia	\$1,580,380.	\$1,465,459.	\$1,462,970.	\$1,417,703.	(\$42,267.)	(3.1%)
Pittsburg	\$3,080,040.	\$3,263,108.	\$3,322,684.	\$3,492,790.	\$160,126.	4.8%
Stewartstown	\$2,624,904.	\$2,759,031.	\$2,834,139.	\$2,988,533.	\$154,395.	5.4%

State Revenue Decrease Anticipated in 2021-22

We anticipate a reduction in revenue for the coming year due to the loss of statewide education property tax. For FY 2023 only, the Statewide Education Property Tax has been reduced by \$100,000. For most communities, this means that the adequacy grant needs to increase to make up for the decrease in the SWEPT grant. The net effect has been an increase in local revenue to make up for this shortfall. FY 2023 Adequacy Grant distributions will include funding stabilization grants at 100% of the original grant in FY 2016, full adequacy funding for kindergartners that attended full-day kindergarten programs in FY 2022, and the "Relief Aid" grant with distributes 17.5 million dollars across the state based on the percentage and number of F&R students. This calculation uses the modified F&R data as prescribed in State Budget Law, HB 2.

School Board Update

We held a Board Policy Committee meeting on December 15. Procurement policies were reviewed and recommended for adoption by the school boards in January. In addition, Internal Controls Procedures and our School Safety Plan were also reviewed.

We are drafting our school calendar for the coming school year. The calendar will be shared with our school boards at individual board meetings in February and will be subsequently adopted by the SAU 7 Board at their next meeting on Thursday, April 7. As in the past, we developed our calendar in consultation with Canaan due to our shared collaborative students and CTE schedule. Our new semester began on January 25. Another new beginning for our high school students!

Our teachers will engage in professional development which continues our focus on curriculum development and instructional improvement during the early release day on Wednesday, February 2. In keeping with our efforts outlined in the SAU 7 School Board Strategic Plan, we are focusing on implementing competency-based education, personalizing teaching and learning, expanding CTE and work-study, and extended learning opportunities for our students. In short, we need multiple pathways for a common destination.

CTE Center and Program Application

Our application for a NH CTE Center and programs was submitted in mid-January. Here are highlights of the proposal for your information:

We believe that Career and Technical Education (CTE) bridges the gap between high school and postsecondary plans. CTE programs include career skills training that helps students become ready for college or work. The CTE curriculum focuses students on academic, employability, and technical skills used in a specific occupation.

CTE is sometimes misunderstood as the vocational education of the past. But today's CTE is much more robust and not just limited to non-college-bound high school students or those interested in trade skills. In fact, in recent years, ever-increasing numbers of CTE students complete the coursework necessary for four-year college attendance. This is because modern CTE has broadened with a greater focus on academics and job market relevance.

The CTE programs we are proposing include Automotive/Powersport, Criminal Justice, Health Professions; Hospitality/Culinary, Teacher Training, and Computer Technology. The Career Pathways that will be available to our students at the North Point Career and Technical Education Center will enhance the knowledge and skills required for a particular career field. CTE also teaches students real-life skills like public speaking, interviewing, and working collaboratively.

The high-quality CTE programs and pathways that we have designed will ensure that coursework is simultaneously aligned to rigorous academic standards and postsecondary expectations and informed by and built to address the skills needed in specific career pathways. Our CTE pathways and programs will use applied, contextual learning to help students see the relevance of what they are learning and its connection to career opportunities and life goals. These pathways and programs also can provide innovative options for supporting students with different learning styles.

We understand that none of our CTE programs can replicate those in the Canaan Center. Therefore, we are only planning programs which are different from theirs, and most importantly which respond to student needs and increases in the local job market.

The School Board and the greater community recognize the need to expand opportunities and update and align the CTE programs with NH expectations and competencies. There are many advantages to our students to participate in CTE programs: (Department of Education website)

- CTE learners and their parents are three times more likely to report that they are very satisfied with their ability to learn real-world skills as compared to non-CTE learners and their parents
- Over 75% of CTE learners enroll in postsecondary education after high school.
- CTE learners have a 10% higher high school graduation rate than non-CTE students.
- 89% of parents think students should receive more education about career choices while in high school.
- Six of the ten hardest-to-fill positions are in technical fields or require a CTE background.
- About half of all CTE learners are enrolled in programs in leading fields such as health care, STEM, and information technology.
- More than twice as many CTE parents report being satisfied with the internship opportunities.

We have conducted an exhaustive study of our region, making lasting partnerships to guide the ongoing development of our programs. We have engaged our School Board, School Staff, and Community in examining the needs, desires, and strong support for the North Point* CTE and the six proposed programs.

In summary, the rationale for our application is threefold:

1. To expand career and technical education student opportunities in response to the increased enrollment, major growth of industry, and resorts in the north country region.
2. To partner with area industries, resorts, post-secondary schools to plan, implement and evaluate CTE programs for students in our region.
3. To respond to the strategic plan of our school system which prioritizes career and technical education programs, integrated into the high school coursework.

We anticipate a response from Commissioner Edelblut by the end of February.

Connecticut River Collaborative Committee

On Thursday, January 6, 2022, the Connecticut River Collaborative Committee voted to disband the committee. The Board agreed to invite School Board Chairs to schedule a conversation with the school board representatives. This occurred on January 18 and articles were published in the Colebrook Chronicle on January 21 and the Colebrook News and Sentinel on January 26. The next step is for the Chair to author a one-page summary statement that summarizes the committee's work and to distribute it to our communities in February or March.

On Tuesday, January 25, the Colebrook School Board held a Board Invitational Meeting where a presentation was provided by the architectural design firm Lavallo and Brensinger. The meeting was held at the Tillotson Center and several board members from the region participated. All interested Board members were then invited by the Colebrook School Board to provide input into the design of the addition. The next meeting is on January 31 at 5:30 pm in the Colebrook Library. All school board members are welcome to attend.