

# School Configuration: Community Information Session

## Our Schools, Our Future

October 27, 2026



# Our Why, How & What

## THE WHY

Improve student experiences and academic outcomes.

Rebuild trust and foster a positive district culture and community pride.

## THE HOW

Prioritize greatest needs and high academic standards.

Strengthen leadership, professional learning, relationships, and family engagement.

## THE WHAT

A district-wide plan with clear milestones.

Open communication, student success, and renewed public trust.

Our shared commitment: stronger schools and a brighter future for every student.

# Projected Student Enrollment (NESDEC)



## Projected Enrollment

School District: Rivendell Interstate School District, NH VT

1/22/2026

Note: Lower grade level enrollments are less statistically reliable due to the small grade level cohort size.

| Enrollment Projections By Grade* |         |        |             |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |         |      |       |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------|------|-------|
| Birth Year                       | Births* |        | School Year | PK | K  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | UNGR    | K-12 | PK-12 |
| 2020                             | 36      |        | 2025-26     | 54 | 22 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 30 | 35 | 30 | 30 | < 10 ** | 350  | 404   |
| 2021                             | 33      |        | 2026-27     | 54 | 32 | 22 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 26 | 28 | 32 | 28 | < 10 ** | 344  | 398   |
| 2022                             | 28      |        | 2027-28     | 54 | 27 | 32 | 21 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 30 | < 10 ** | 335  | 389   |
| 2023                             | 33      |        | 2028-29     | 54 | 32 | 27 | 31 | 21 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 21 | 22 | 24 | < 10 ** | 331  | 385   |
| 2024                             | 30      | (est.) | 2029-30     | 54 | 29 | 32 | 26 | 31 | 21 | 25 | 26 | 28 | 23 | 24 | 23 | 19 | 21 | < 10 ** | 330  | 384   |
| 2025                             | 32      | (est.) | 2030-31     | 54 | 31 | 29 | 31 | 26 | 31 | 21 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 23 | 22 | 21 | 18 | < 10 ** | 333  | 387   |
| 2026                             | 31      | (est.) | 2031-32     | 54 | 30 | 31 | 28 | 31 | 26 | 32 | 21 | 25 | 25 | 27 | 21 | 20 | 20 | < 10 ** | 339  | 393   |
| 2027                             | 31      | (est.) | 2032-33     | 55 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 28 | 31 | 26 | 32 | 21 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 19 | 19 | < 10 ** | 343  | 398   |
| 2028                             | 31      | (est.) | 2033-34     | 55 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 32 | 26 | 31 | 21 | 25 | 23 | 23 | 18 | < 10 ** | 348  | 403   |
| 2029                             | 31      | (est.) | 2034-35     | 55 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 30 | 28 | 32 | 26 | 30 | 21 | 23 | 21 | 22 | < 10 ** | 353  | 408   |
| 2030                             | 31      | (est.) | 2035-36     | 55 | 30 | 30 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 31 | 28 | 31 | 25 | 30 | 19 | 21 | 20 | < 10 ** | 354  | 409   |

Note: Ungraded students (UNGR) often are high school students whose anticipated years of graduation are unknown, or students with special needs - UNGR not included in Grade Combinations for 7-12, 9-12, etc.

  Based on an estimate of births

  Based on children already born

  Based on students already enrolled

\*Birth data provided by Public Health Vital Records Departments in each state.

\*\* < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

| Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations* |      |     |     |     |     |     |      |     |      |      |
|---------------------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|------|
| School Year                                 | PK-5 | K-5 | K-2 | 3-5 | 6-8 | K-8 | PK-8 | 7-8 | 6-12 | 9-12 |
| 2025-26                                     | 203  | 149 | 74  | 75  | 74  | 223 | 277  | 49  | 199  | 125  |
| 2026-27                                     | 210  | 156 | 79  | 77  | 72  | 228 | 282  | 48  | 186  | 114  |
| 2027-28                                     | 213  | 159 | 80  | 79  | 72  | 231 | 285  | 49  | 174  | 102  |
| 2028-29                                     | 216  | 162 | 90  | 72  | 75  | 237 | 291  | 47  | 167  | 92   |
| 2029-30                                     | 218  | 164 | 87  | 77  | 77  | 241 | 295  | 51  | 164  | 87   |
| 2030-31                                     | 223  | 169 | 91  | 78  | 78  | 247 | 301  | 53  | 162  | 84   |
| 2031-32                                     | 232  | 178 | 89  | 89  | 71  | 249 | 303  | 50  | 159  | 88   |
| 2032-33                                     | 230  | 175 | 90  | 85  | 78  | 253 | 308  | 46  | 166  | 88   |
| 2033-34                                     | 234  | 179 | 89  | 90  | 78  | 257 | 312  | 52  | 167  | 89   |
| 2034-35                                     | 231  | 176 | 89  | 87  | 88  | 264 | 319  | 56  | 175  | 87   |
| 2035-36                                     | 233  | 178 | 89  | 89  | 84  | 262 | 317  | 56  | 174  | 90   |

\*Projections should be updated annually to reflect changes in in/out-migration of families, births, and similar factors.

| Projected Percentage Changes |      |       |       |
|------------------------------|------|-------|-------|
| School Year                  | K-12 | Diff. | %     |
| 2025-26                      | 350  |       |       |
| 2026-27                      | 344  | -6    | -1.7% |
| 2027-28                      | 335  | -9    | -2.6% |
| 2028-29                      | 331  | -4    | -1.2% |
| 2029-30                      | 330  | -1    | -0.3% |
| 2030-31                      | 333  | 3     | 0.9%  |
| 2031-32                      | 339  | 6     | 1.8%  |
| 2032-33                      | 343  | 4     | 1.2%  |
| 2033-34                      | 348  | 5     | 1.5%  |
| 2034-35                      | 353  | 5     | 1.4%  |
| 2035-36                      | 354  | 1     | 0.3%  |
| Change                       | 4    |       | 1.1%  |

# Three Options Being Explored

## **Tuition Grades 9–12**

School choice for district-resident high school students

## **One PreK–5 School**

Combine two district elementary schools at one location

## **Shared Services/Merger**

Explore collaboration with neighboring districts

These options reflect surveys, forums, Board discussions, committee work and community feedback.

# Option 1: Tuition Students in Grades 9–12

District-resident students would have school choice, subject to current state guidelines.

## Potential benefits

- More family choice and expanded high school courses
- Better access to CTE and extracurricular programs
- Potential reduction in long-term facility costs

## Potential challenges

- Estimated tax increase of \$1,010,639 (7.96%)
- Loss of Rivendell Academy high school program and reduced local control
- Longer travel and transportation/access concerns
- Reduced community connection; offerings vary by receiving school

Would apply to district residents, including currently homeschooled students; not out-of-district students.

# Tuition Grades 9–12: Operating Assumptions

## Operating assumptions

- Grades 9–12 tuition to external high schools
- FY27 average area tuition: \$23,703.82
- Grades 6–8 move to the Academy east wing
- District Office moves to the Academy east wing
- Current homeschool count used as wild-card placeholder

## Wild card

Number of homeschool and/or private-school students who would choose school choice

## Cost summary

Expense increase: \$557,839

Revenue reduction: \$452,800

Net tax increase: \$1,010,639

Net percentage increase: 7.96%

# Tuition Grades 9–12: Detail of Changes

| Staffing Changes                     |                   |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Position/Function                    | Estimated Savings |
| Secondary Education - 9 positions    | ~\$940,789        |
| Guidance                             | ~\$88,295         |
| Office of Principal                  | ~\$185,645        |
| Special Education (1 teacher/3 para) | ~\$202,907        |
| Multi-Lingual                        | ~\$34,301         |
| Athletics (AD plus Coaching)         | ~\$78,280         |
| Co-Curricular Stipends               | ~\$23,224         |
| Food Services                        | ~\$19,125         |
| Operations                           | ~\$157,503        |
| Total Staffing Reductions            | ~\$1,730,069      |

| Revenue Changes           |                |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Category                  | Estimated Loss |
| Tuition                   | ~\$172,000     |
| Athletics Receipts        | ~\$6,000       |
| VT Transportation Aid     | ~\$120,000     |
| NH VOC Transportation Aid | ~\$1,800       |
| Title I Grant             | ~\$50,000      |
| Food Services             | ~\$103,000     |
| Total Revenue Loss        | ~\$452,800     |

| Other Expense Changes        |                |                   |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Description                  | Estimated Cost | Estimated Savings |
| Tuition 9-12                 | ~\$2,986,681   |                   |
| Tuition Voc (included above) |                | ~325,856          |
| Supplies, Books, etc.        |                | ~\$74,871         |
| Drivers Ed (MAYBE)           |                | ~\$30,000         |
| Guidance                     |                | ~\$250            |
| Health                       |                | ~\$600            |
| Library                      |                | ~\$16,375         |
| Office of Principal          |                | ~\$6,550          |
| Athletics/Co-Curricular      |                | ~\$30,600         |
| General Operational Costs    |                | ~73,500           |
| Voc Ed Trans                 |                | ~94,213           |
| Food Services                |                | ~45,958           |
| Total                        | ~\$2,986,681   | ~698,773          |
| Net Cost                     | ~\$2,287,908   |                   |

# Option 2: One District PreK–5 School

Bring all district-resident elementary students together at one location.

## Potential benefits

- Improved educational outcomes and larger peer groups
- More efficient building use, staffing and centralized services
- Estimated net tax reduction of \$305,556 (2.4%)

## Potential challenges

- Reduced Pre-K capacity by 50% and student support services
- Multi-age classes for grades 2/3 and 4/5 (three each)
- Transportation and community connection impacts
- Facility suitability, space requirements and possible construction

# Combining Elementary Schools: Operating Assumptions

## Operating assumptions

- Reduction to two Pre-K classrooms
- Multi-age classrooms for grades 2–5, based on class-size requirements
- Limited staffing efficiencies due to class-size requirements

## Cost summary

Expense change: –\$427,156

Revenue change: –\$121,600

Net tax reduction: \$305,556

Net percentage reduction: 2.4%

# Elementary Consolidation: Detail of Changes

## Staffing Changes

| Position/Function            | Estimated Savings |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Pre-K Teachers             | ~\$195,600        |
| 2 Pre-K Classroom Assistants | ~\$41,400         |
| Guidance                     | ~\$105,410        |
| Principal Reduction          | ~\$21,738         |
| After-Care (PK)              | ~\$41,400         |
| Afterschool Program          | ~\$16,280         |
| Total Staffing Reductions    | ~\$421,920        |

## Revenue Changes

| Category           | Estimated Loss |
|--------------------|----------------|
| ECP Tuition        | ~\$8,000       |
| ECP After-Care     | ~\$112,500     |
| Food Services      | ~\$1,100       |
| Total Revenue Loss | ~\$121,600     |

## Other Expense Changes

| Description               | Estimated Cost | Estimated Savings |
|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ECP Tuition               | ~\$100,000     |                   |
| ECP Supplies, Books etc   |                | ~\$2,950          |
| Health                    |                | ~\$700            |
| Library                   |                | ~\$5,600          |
| General Operational Costs |                | ~73,486           |
| Field Trip Trans          |                | ~2,500            |
| Other Trans               |                | ~20,000           |
| Total                     | ~\$100,000     | ~105,236          |
| Net Savings               |                | ~5,236            |

# Option 3: Shared Services or Merger

Explore cooperation with other districts. Vermont and New Hampshire approaches differ, and interstate coordination adds complexity.

## Potential benefits

- Shared staffing and services
- Purchasing and transportation collaboration
- Broader student support and expertise

## Potential challenges

- Possible limits on local control
- Larger service area
- More complex coordination
- Costs and savings remain uncertain

# Shared Services or Merger: Information Needed

## Current status

Insufficient data is currently available to analyze either option.

## Information needed

- How an interstate school district might merge with another district
- District costs of merging with a supervisory union or supervisory administrative unit
- Cost of CESA membership
- Ability of CESA to provide needed services
- Ability of CESA to positively affect the budget

# Community Impact: Comparison

Elementary consolidation: positive tax impact, mixed facility/community identity effects.

Tuition grades 9–12: expanded opportunities, higher taxes and reduced local connection.

| Impact Area           | Combine Elementary | Tuition 9-12                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tax Impact            | Positive (-\$306K) | Negative (+\$1.01M)              |
| Community Identity    | Mixed              | Significant Change               |
| Student Opportunities | Mixed              | Expanded                         |
| Local Control         | Maintained         | Reduced                          |
| Transportation        | Some Increase      | Greater Increase                 |
| Facility Utilization  | More efficient     | High School repurposing required |

# Conclusions

## Elementary consolidation

Provides fiscal savings and modest educational tradeoffs.

Tax reduction: \$305,556 (−2.4%)

## Tuition grades 9–12

Expands student options but significantly increases the tax burden.

Tax increase: \$1,010,639 (+7.96%)

# Who Makes the Decision?

## **Combining elementary schools**

The Board can act to combine elementary schools into one location.

## **School buildings**

The District can stop using a building. Selling or disposing of school property would require voter approval.

## **Tuition grades 9–12**

Changing the grades served requires voter approval. We would seek further legal review in Vermont and New Hampshire.

## **Shared services or merger**

Requirements depend on the proposal. Changes to district structure may require voter and state approvals per the Articles of Agreement.

Preliminary guidance from the Secretary of State's Office and district legal counsel; final procedures require confirmation.

# Thank You for Being Part of the Conversation

## Your questions and feedback matter.

We appreciate your participation as the district considers the future of our schools.