



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Christian M. Elkington

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

May 10, 2024

RSU 9 Budget for Fiscal Year 2025: Investing in Our Students' Future

Spring has arrived, and with it comes RSU 9's budget season! You should have or will soon receive budget documents outlining our plans for the upcoming school year (FY25).

These documents detail our current spending (2023-2024) and requested increases for 2024-2025. While the overall budget increases by 8.26%, we've utilized Balance Forward savings from previous budgets to reduce the impact on taxpayers to an average of 4.45%. (Specific town increases are included in the budget documents sent from the District Office.)

This budget prioritizes the needs of our students and families. We're making adjustments and improvements to existing programs to better support everyone. A key focus area is our youngest learners.

- **Expanding Pre-K:** We plan to convert our Pre-K program to full-time and add more classrooms.
- **Enhanced Kindergarten Support:** By providing additional resources, we can offer more individualized attention in Kindergarten.

These investments will create a stronger foundation for our students, leading to improved reading, math skills, and opportunities to explore their interests and talents.

Public budget meetings have concluded, but we encourage you to review the documents sent from the RSU 9 District Office. This will give you a deeper understanding of our plans for the upcoming year, made possible with your support.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at celkington@mtbluersd.org

Thank you!

COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR (CTOY) FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY

Congratulations go to our very own Vickie Lailer, 2nd grade teacher at W.G. Mallett School! Vickie was recently selected as the 2024 County Teacher of the Year for Franklin County.

She is one of 16 selected (one for each county), of more than 600 teachers across Maine, nominated by a member of their school community.

Vickie's response when asked why she teaches:

"I teach because I want every student to believe they deserve a seat at the table. I see potential in every child and it is a privilege to encourage and push them to find their voices and develop their self confidence. There is no finer work than being a part of cultivating a strong classroom community."

Congratulations Vickie! You have made RSU 9 VERY PROUD!!





WHEELS OF EXCITEMENT: OUTDOOR CLASS AT FOSTER TECH GIFTS ALL-TERRAIN TRIKE TO MBC LIFE SKILLS PROGRAM!

The MBC life skills program recently received a wonderful gift! The Foster Tech Outdoor Leadership class generously donated a brand new all-terrain trike, opening up a world of possibilities for outdoor exploration for everyone in the program. This thoughtful gift will undoubtedly bring smiles and enjoyment for a long time to come.

Travis Tierney's Outdoor Leadership program purchased the bike using funds from a Rethinking Responsive Education Ventures (RREV) award, and JMG Instructor Matt Reynolds assembled it, with hopes to help students assemble a 2nd bike.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr. Tierney, Mr. Reynolds and their students for making this special donation.



UMF Emery Community Arts Center Welcomes Mt. Blue High School Art Show, May 16th - June 1st (click the above link for more info)

Mt. Blue art teachers Pam Chernesky and Kim Jacques are thrilled to see students' work return to the Emery Community Arts Center Gallery as the exhibit provides them with a wonderful opportunity to share their work with the community.



| IMPORTANT DATES | |
|--|--|
|  | <p>School Board Meeting Tuesday, 5/14/24 - 6:30pm - MBC Forum</p> |
| | <p>Annual District Budget Meeting/Vote Tuesday, 5/21/24 - 7:00pm - Bjorn Auditorium</p> |
| | <p>Late Arrival Wednesday (LAW) Wednesday, 5/15/24</p> |

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