

# RSU 9 2022-2023 (FY23) Budget Review

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We hope you find the information presented in our RSU 9 Budget Review helpful, transparent, and easy to understand. We look forward to your attendance and questions at the Annual Budget Hearing at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 in the Bjorn Auditorium on the Mt. Blue Campus.

## Budget Details

Our 2022-2023 RSU 9 Budget is based on the following areas of focus:

- Supporting student and staff supply, book, and furniture needs
- Managing and adjusting our present positions as needed for 2022-2023
- No new program creation in 2022-2023 as RSU 9's Strategic Plan will drive future student program decisions
- Improving professional development supports for new and veteran staff
- Stop the further delay of certain building needs while transitioning to a 10-year Maintenance Plan
- Use Federal ESSER funds for allowable Maintenance and Operations projects so as to somewhat mitigate 2022-2023 increases in staff salaries
- Be transparent in following a fiscal responsibility mindset

## General Budget Summary

Our General Fund Budget is \$39,991,944. This is a 2.91% increase, or \$1,131,435, over the present fiscal year (FY22). RSU 9 received an increase in State aid of \$1,011,012 (district and CTE combined) which contributed to a smaller overall local tax impact from 2.91% in FY22 to 0.62% in the FY23 school budget.

Five budget cost centers represent programs and services specifically for our students and account for our largest expenditures at a combined total of \$25,328,253. Regular Education, Special Education, and Career and Technical Education are familiar to most. Other Instruction is co- and extra-curricular and Student and Staff Support which includes school guidance and social work, health, instructional technology, tuition, professional development, library services, and student assessment. Beyond these five cost centers, much of the remaining budget provides safe learning facilities and transportation for our students at \$4,932,080 and \$2,707,999, respectively.

Debt Service is at \$4,072,831. Of this amount, \$203,898 is locally funded.

## FY 2023 Revenue

RSU 9 will be receiving an increase of \$1,011,082 in state subsidy funding and will be using funds no longer needed from the MBMS renovation project. We will also draw \$1,250,000 from our Fund Balance to reduce the impact of our budget on local taxpayers. Our revenue chart follows:

	2021-2022 Budget	2022-2023 Proposed	Increase/Decrease
State Allocation	23,241,852	24,252,935	1,011,082
Local Contribution	13,465,657	13,538,635	72,978
Balance forward	1,200,000	1,250,000	50,000
CTE Donation & Carryover	490,000	372,374	-117,626
Other Revenue	463,000	578,000	115,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>38,860,509</b>	<b>39,991,944</b>	<b>1,131,435</b>

## 2022-2023 Proposed Budget Summary

The following Table corresponds to Articles 1 - 11

To see what sum the RSU will be authorized to expend for *individual cost centers*:

Budget Category	Current Budget 2021-2022	Proposed Budget 2022-2023	Increase/Decrease	Percentage Change
1. Regular Education	11,158,023	11,352,273	194,250	1.74%
2. Special Education	7,206,386	7,478,402	272,016	3.77%
3. Career & Technical Ed	2,981,628	3,004,159	22,531	0.76%
4. Other Instruction	508,293	524,331	16,038	3.16%
5. Student & Staff Support	2,950,024	2,969,088	19,064	0.65%
6. System Administration	1,219,986	1,239,971	19,985	1.64%
7. School Administration	1,545,858	1,669,758	123,900	8.01%
8. Transportation & Buses	2,485,762	2,707,999	222,237	8.94%
9. Facilities Maintenance	4,295,891	4,932,080	636,189	14.81%
10. Debt Service	4,503,158	4,072,831	-430,327	-9.56%
11. All Other Expenditures	5,500	41,052	35,552	646.40%
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>38,860,509</b>	<b>39,991,944</b>	<b>1,131,435</b>	<b>2.91%</b>

**Article 12 - Appropriated and Raised funds** - To see what sum the RSU will appropriate for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and to see what sum the RSU will raise and assess as each municipality's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act in accordance with the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15688.

School Board Recommended amounts set forth in table below.

Municipality	Total Appropriated (by Municipality)	Total Raised (and District Required Assessment by Municipality)
Chesterville	2,620,557.17	717,455.00
Farmington	12,091,539.50	3,304,103.34
Industry	1,338,379.36	684,913.34
New Sharon	2,555,440.10	756,150.00
New Vineyard	1,375,589.11	573,443.34
Starks	787,036.82	389,553.34
Temple	902,717.91	324,470.00
Vienna	958,532.56	5519,246.66
Weld	386,048.43	367,042.76
Wilton	7,992,292.59	1,895,463.34
<b>Totals (Sum of Columns)</b>	<b>31,008,133.55</b>	<b>9,531,841.12</b>

**Article 13 - Locally Funded Debt** - To see what sum the RSU will raise and appropriate for the annual payments on debt service previously approved by the RSU voters for non-state-funded school construction projects or non-state-funded portions of school construction projects in addition to the funds appropriated as the local share of the RSU's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12.

School Board Recommends \$203,898

**Article 14 - Additional Local Appropriation** - (Written ballot required.) To see what sum the RSU will raise and appropriate in additional local funds (**School Board Recommends \$3,802,896**), which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by (**School Board Recommends \$3,761,844**) as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

**Article 15 - Summary Budget Article** To see what sum the RSU will authorize the School Board to expend for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 from the RSU's contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act, non-state-funded school construction projects, additional local funds for school purposes under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15690, unexpended balances, tuition receipts, state subsidy and other receipts for the support of schools.

School Board Recommends \$39,991,944.00

**Article 16 - Adult Education** - To see if the RSU will appropriate \$508,652 for adult education and raise \$238,290 as the local share, with authorization to expend any additional, incidental, or miscellaneous receipts in the interest and for the well-being of the adult education program.

	Current Budget 2021-2022	Proposed Budget 2022-2023	Increase/Decrease
<b>16. Adult Education</b>	<b>477,406</b>	<b>508,652</b>	<b>31,246</b>

Adult Education programs include Literacy, High School Completion, HiSet (formerly GED), and instruction at the Franklin County Corrections facility.

**Article 17 - Grant and Other Expenditures** - In addition to amounts approved in the preceding articles, shall the School Board be authorized to expend such other sums as may be received from federal or state grants or programs or other sources during the fiscal year for school and other program purposes, provided that such grants, programs or other sources do not require the expenditure of other funds not previously appropriated?

**Annual Budget Hearing  
May 24, 2022 at 6:30pm  
Bjorn Auditorium  
Mt. Blue Campus  
129 Seamon Road, Farmington**

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Additional information for the 2022-23 district budget can be found online at [www.mtbluersd.org/about/budget-information/22-23-budget-information](http://www.mtbluersd.org/about/budget-information/22-23-budget-information)

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**Article 18 - Cost Center Transfers** - Shall the School Board be authorized to transfer amounts exceeding 5% of the total appropriation for any cost center to another cost center or among other cost centers for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

**Article 19 - Additional State Subsidy** - In the event that the RSU receives more state education subsidy than the amount included in its budget, shall the School Board be authorized to use all or part of the additional state subsidy to increase expenditures for school purposes in cost center categories approved by the School Board and/or decrease the local cost-share expectation, as defined in Title 20-A, section 15671-A(1)(B), for local property taxpayers for funding public education as approved by the School Board?

## Articles 20 - 23 – Creation of Reserve Accounts

**20 - Capital Reserve** - Shall the School Board be authorized to establish a new **Capital Reserve Fund** for maintenance of school facilities, to pay costs of capital equipment and projects, and to transfer up to **\$300,000** to said Reserve Fund from available fund balances at the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

**21 - Special Education** - Shall the School Board be authorized to establish a new **Special Education Reserve Fund** to pay unanticipated special education costs, and to transfer up to **\$350,000** to said Reserve Fund from available fund balances at the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

**22 - Instructional Technology Reserve Fund** - Shall the School Board be authorized to establish a new **Instructional Technology Reserve Fund** to pay costs related to technology equipment for student instruction, and to transfer up to **\$300,000** to said Reserve Fund from available fund balances, including revenues from sales of RSU-purchased electronic devices, at the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and to expend from said Reserve Fund as needed in the discretion of the School Board?

**23 - Fuel Reserve Fund** - Shall the School Board be authorized to establish a new **Fuel Reserve Fund** to pay unanticipated fuel costs exceeding amounts budgeted for fuel in the Transportation cost center and Facilities Maintenance cost center, and to transfer up to **\$100,000** to said Reserve Fund from available fund balances at the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and to expend from the Fuel Reserve Fund to offset heating and transportation fuel costs that exceed budgeted amounts?

## Cost of the RSU 9 Budget to Taxpayers Including Adult Education

A town's contribution to a school system is based on State property assessed values. The amounts below are determined by the State funding formula.

Municipality	2021-2022 Assessment	2022-2023 Proposed Assessment	Increase / Decrease	Percentage Change
Chesterville	1,045,934	1,036,028	-9,906	-.095%
Farmington	4,781,262	4,770,546	-10,716	-.022%
Industry	976,478	989,095	12,617	1.29%
New Sharon	1,080,244	1,091,672	11,428	1.06%
New Vineyard	814,168	828,126	13,958	1.71%
Starks	535,798	554,345	18,547	3.46%
Temple	452,881	468,337	15,456	3.41%
Vienna	745,830	749,819	3,989	0.53%
Weld	490,912	552,369	61,457	12.52%
Wilton	2,768,242	2,736,588	-31,654	-1.14%
<b>TOTAL ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>13,691,749</b>	<b>13,776,925</b>	<b>85,176</b>	<b>0.62%</b>

## 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 COVID Relief Grants

The following is a summation of the use of federal grant funds which are benefiting our students, staff, and district. These funds are assisting in reducing our local budget for FY23, in addition to providing much-needed upgrades and resources to keep students in school as much as possible during the 2021-22 school year and moving forward. Whenever time permitted, the use of these funds was a collaborative process, but because some of the grants had very short application timelines it limited some RSU 9 stakeholder collaboration. This past summer, a grant in the amount of \$5,412,679.14 was written to address specific needs based on Federal and State guidance. Most of these funds will be used during 2022-23 and 2023-24. All of these grants require projects and expenditures that follow predetermined uses such as instructional interventions for students, improved air quality, extra student classroom spacing, and COVID protections.

## CRF Grants & ESSER Grants totaling \$7,589,700

Our focus has been on items needed to help prepare our schools to safely open and stay open, which included some upgrades to our facilities, supplies for students, and the purchase of improved technology to support remote student learning.

Past, Present and Future Projects Include:

- Personal protective equipment
- Disinfectant and cleaning supplies
- Signage
- Buses
- Vehicles for lunch and supply deliveries
- Classroom books and supplies
- Creation of a remote academy
- Additional staff time for nurses, computer technicians, teachers, and custodians
- Student learning interventions
- Additional social worker and nurse support and family outreach
- MBMS cafeteria rebuild
- Academy Hill kitchen upgrades
- Student technology device replacements
- Modular classroom units for Adult Ed and MBMS
- District technology infrastructure upgrades
- Substitute staffing to assist with staff absences related to COVID
- Storage units to hold classroom furniture and supplies to improve social distancing
- Packaging for school lunch program
- Additional summer programs for learning recovery
- Additional outdoor learning and lunch spaces
- HVAC engineering and equipment to improve airflow

## Message from the RSU 9 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of RSU 9 - Mt Blue Regional School District presents the proposed 2022-2023 District Budget. It is the result of a transparent process that has welcomed public participation throughout its development.

While some budgets have included “wants” this budget lacks frills and concentrates on “needs”. It includes the essential pay increases negotiated last year which are already helping our district to retain valued staff and attract new people to RSU 9.

The 2021-2022 school year has been a challenging but productive one. RSU 9 has welcomed new teachers and support staff, a new superintendent, and a new business manager. Some internal structures have been changed, software improved, and there have been improvements to our staff recruitment and onboarding systems. Our district has also engaged in a comprehensive Strategic Planning process to be completed this summer.

Our district has also done a commendable job in its utilization of COVID relief funds in alignment with all state and federal expectations to improve ventilation, have more effective and efficient cleaning, improve outdoor learning spaces as well as increase space within our classrooms to better protect our students and staff.

RSU 9 began this past year in solid financial shape and this proposed budget is crafted to assure that we continue to provide future fiscal stability for our district and its students.

Our families are the heart and soul of RSU 9. The families of our ten towns have been our focus as we sought to create a fiscally responsible budget that would support the best public education possible for all of our children.

**Annual Budget Hearing**  
**May 24, 2022 at 6:30pm**  
**Bjorn Auditorium**  
**Mt. Blue Campus**  
**129 Seamon Road, Farmington**

June 14, 2022 Referendum Voting Hours by Municipality		
Chesterville	8:00am – 8:00pm	Town Office 409 Dutch Gap Road
Farmington	8:00am – 8:00pm	Community Center 127 Middle Street
Industry	8:00am – 8:00pm	Town Hall 1033 Industry Road
New Sharon	8:00am – 8:00pm	Town Office 11 School Lane
New Vineyard	8:00am – 8:00pm	Community Hall 20 Lake Street
Starks	8:00am – 8:00pm	Community Center 57 Anson Road
Temple	8:00am – 8:00pm	Town Hall 258 Temple Road
Vienna	8:00am – 8:00pm	Community Room 16 Kimball Pond Road
Weld	10:00am – 8:00pm	Town Office-Multi-Purpose Rm 23 Mill Street
Wilton	8:00am – 8:00pm	Town Office 158 Weld Road