

# Fund the Gap



New Hampshire Citizens' Voice Project  
[www.nhcvp.org](http://www.nhcvp.org)

## Who We Are

The New Hampshire Citizens Voice Project (NHCVP) is a coalition of organizations that have come together to provide information about educational issues and to increase the role of citizens in shaping educational policy. Organizations involved include:

- New Hampshire School Administrators Association
- New Hampshire School Boards Association
- New Hampshire NEA
- New Hampshire Children's Alliance
- Claremont Coalition

## What We Have Done

Over the past year or so we have conducted community forums to engage New Hampshire citizens about successful schools. At the forums, we asked hundreds of New Hampshire citizens what they thought schools needed to be successful and we found some common themes. We learned that New Hampshire citizens value their schools and want schools with quality teachers, quality instruction, and facilities that support learning. They also want schools to forge community partnerships.

New Hampshire citizens expect schools to produce students who are lifelong learners, effective communicators, critical thinkers, and problem solvers that can become productive citizens with post-secondary options such as college.

## The Fund the Gap Campaign

We took some of the findings from our forums and compared them with current state education statutes and regulations including the current State Minimum Standards and proposed changes to the State Minimum Standards.<sup>1</sup> We call these provisions state educational mandates because schools are required by the State to comply with these laws and regulations. We found that many of the common themes that developed at our forums are required by state educational mandates.

We decided to try and determine what it would cost a school to implement some of the most basic educational mandates. To do this, we chose four very basic components:

1. Staff
2. Buildings
3. Transportation
4. System Leadership

## Staff

Staff includes teachers, aides, principals, counselors, nurses, and other professionals like speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists that are required to implement special education requirements. **We did not include all staff in our analysis.** We only included the staff

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<sup>1</sup> The State Minimum Standards are the regulations or rules developed by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Board of Education. All public schools in New Hampshire must comply with the rules and regulations in the Minimum Standards.

needed to implement some of the more basic academic programs and services required by state educational mandates including special education.

**Buildings**

For buildings, we looked only at building costs reported in school budgets under the category of Plant Operations & Maintenance. These costs include maintenance, minor repair, custodial services and utilities, but they do **not** include major repairs or construction, debt service, or other capital costs local school districts incur from constructing a building.

**Transportation**

For transportation, we included the costs of providing transportation for students to and from school, including special education.

**System Leadership**

System leadership includes costs for school superintendent, central office expenditures, business services, some district level special education expenses (but not other school based costs), and school board costs.

**A Bare Bones Approach**

We chose these four components because they are basic building blocks of operating a school and they are required by state law. These building blocks are bare minimum requirements that all schools must provide. We do not believe that these four components are themselves enough for an adequate or quality education because they exclude so many important items as noted in **Table 1**. Most of these excluded items are also required by state educational mandates.

<b>Table 1 Excluded Items</b>		
Furniture	Books and other curriculum related materials	Supplies
Gifted and talented programs	School Facility Construction and Renovations	Classroom aides (Non-special education)
Technology (computers, software, hardware, required technical support and repair)	Professional development for all staff	Assessments (individual student assessments and state, district and local school assessments)
At risk and early intervention programs	School Resource Officers	Preschool programs
All sports including costs for coaches, uniforms, referees, supplies and other things related to sports	All other extra-curricular activities including clubs and all after school hours (drama, band, clubs, activities and other things related to extra-curricular activities)	Special education costs beyond staff (programming costs, summer programs, evaluation costs, out of district placements, legal costs)
Elective courses	School psychologists	Vocational programs
English as a Second Language programs	DARE programs	Summer school programs and staffing
Food	Driver education programs	

## What We Did

We looked at the minimum or the “bare bones” that a school would need to comply with some educational mandates in these four areas. We did this by developing a school at the elementary, middle school and high school level with grade configurations and enrollments near state averages. We then estimated the staffing the schools might need to implement some educational mandates based on our enrollments and class size requirements in state educational mandates. We used statewide average figures to determine the costs for buildings, transportation and system leadership. Professor John Romps, Ph.D., an economics professor at St. Anselm College, helped obtain data and calculate costs.

We also looked at the actual costs in these four areas from 15 schools (5 in each category) and compared the actual costs to our estimates to validate the conservative nature of our estimates.

We found that there is a **Big Gap** between the actual costs of these four basic requirements and what the state provides to fund these requirements.

## Elementary School Estimates

For the elementary school estimates, we chose grades Kindergarten through grade 5 with an enrollment of 375 students total, 50 in Kindergarten and 325 in grades 1-5. We used a class size of 25 to estimate staffing requirements. Our rationale for including Kindergarten was that all but 16 districts provide or offer Kindergarten and the proposed changes to the State’s Minimum Standards will require all schools to do so by 2007. We chose the class size of 25 because current minimum standards require class sizes of 25 in grades K-2 and 30 in grades 3-12. The proposed changes to the minimum standards will reduce class sizes to 20 in K-2, 25 in 3-5 and 30 in 6-12. This change will likely require even more staff than our estimates.

We selected some of the core program and academic areas that are required for elementary schools under state law. These are listed in **Table 2**.

Language Arts	Math
Social Studies	Science
Music	Art
Computer education	Physical education
Guidance	Nurse/health services
Special education and related services	Media services (library)
Physical therapy	Occupational therapy
Speech language services	

We estimated that in order to provide these required programs and services, an elementary school with 375 students would need, at a minimum, the staff listed in **Table 3**.

<b>Table 3 Required Elementary Staff</b>	
2 Kindergarten teachers	13 academic classroom teachers
1 Art teacher	1 computer lab teacher
1 physical education teacher	1 music teacher
2 special education teachers	4 special education aides
1 Reading Specialist	1 media specialist
1 principal	2 administrative support staff
1 guidance counselor	1 nurse
1 physical therapist	1 occupational therapist
1 speech language pathologist	

### **Elementary School Staff Costs**

To determine staff costs, we included the non-support and non-administrative staff such as pathologists, therapists, counselors, etc. in the category of teachers and used a cost of \$58,672 per teacher for salary and benefits. This figure comes from an average teacher salary of \$41,909 for 2002-2003 as calculated by the New Hampshire Department of Education and an estimate of benefits & payroll taxes per teacher of \$16,763 or 40% of salary. This estimate for benefits and taxes is based on the experience of school superintendents and school boards.

To determine the costs for the Principal, we looked at the median salary of a K-4 Principal in 2002-2003 which was \$64,920 according to the New Hampshire Association of School Principals and we estimated benefits & payroll taxes of \$16,230 or 25% of salary. The benefits and tax estimate is based on the experience of school superintendents and school boards. The salary, benefits and taxes combine for a total cost \$81,150.

For the support staff, we estimated administrative staff (year round) cost to be \$20,000 plus benefits of \$8,000 totaling \$28,000 per staff person. The special education aides cost estimate is \$17,000 plus benefits of \$5,100 totaling \$22,100 per staff person. These estimates are based on the experience of school superintendents and school boards.

**Table 4** shows the calculation of the staff costs at the elementary level.

<b>Table 4 Staff Costs</b>		
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Cost Per Staff</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
28 "Teachers"	\$58, 672	\$1,642,8186
1 Principal	\$81,150	\$81,150
2 Administrative staff	\$28,000	\$56,000
4 Special Ed. Aides	\$22, 100	\$88,400
Total Staff Costs		\$1,868,366
<b>Total Staff Cost Per Pupil</b>		<b>\$4,982 per pupil</b>

### **Elementary School Buildings Cost**

To estimate building costs at the elementary school level, we used the statewide average. According to the New Hampshire Department of Education, plant maintenance and operation expenditures averaged 8.3 percent of total school district spending in 2002-2003 which equals **\$705** per pupil at the elementary level.

### **Elementary School Transportation Costs**

To estimate transportation costs at the elementary school level, we used the statewide average. According to the New Hampshire Department of Education, transportation costs averaged 4.4 percent of total school district spending in 2002-2003 which equals **\$381** per pupil at the elementary level.

### **Elementary School Leadership Costs**

To estimate system leadership costs at the elementary school level, we used the statewide average. According to the New Hampshire Department of Education, system leadership costs averaged 4.1 percent of total school district spending in 2002-2003 which equals **\$340** per pupil at the elementary level. These figures are reported as General Administration and Business services in school budgets.

**Table 5** shows the total per pupil elementary costs for the four areas we assessed.

<b>Table 5 Elementary Cost of the 4 Basic Building Blocks</b>	
Block #1 Staff	\$4,982 per pupil
Block #2 Buildings	\$705 per pupil
Block # 3 Transportation	\$381 per pupil
Block #4 Leadership	\$340 per pupil
<b>Total Elementary Cost</b>	<b>\$6,408 per pupil</b>

### **Middle School Estimates**

For the middle school level, we chose a middle school with grades 6-8, a student enrollment of 500 students and a class size of 25. This is a common grade configuration and student enrollment in the state and it is a common practice in the state to have class sizes of 25 in this grade range even though the current State Minimum Standards allow class sizes of 30. We present the cost using both a class size of 25 and 30.

The required program and academic areas we included for our example middle school were similar to elementary school with the addition of industrial arts and family consumer science. They are listed in **Table 6**.

<b>Table 6 Program &amp; Academic Areas Middle School</b>	
Language Arts	Math
Social Studies	Science
Music	Art
Computer education	Physical education
Guidance	Family Consumer Science
Industrial Arts	Special education and related services
Physical therapy	Occupational therapy
Speech-language pathologist	Media services (library)
Health	

We estimated that in order to provide these required programs and services, a middle school with 500 students would need, at a minimum, the staff listed in **Table 7**.

<b>Table 7 Middle School Staff</b>	
20 academic classroom teachers	1 art teacher
1 health teacher	1 computer lab teacher
1 physical education teacher	1 music teacher
1 family and consumer science	1 Industrial Arts teacher
3 special education teachers	3 special education aides
1 media specialist	1 principal
1 assistant principal	2 administrative support staff
1 guidance counselor	1 guidance admin. support staff
1 nurse	.5 physical therapist
.5 occupational therapist	.5 speech language pathologist

**Middle School Estimated Costs**

We calculated the staff costs for middle school with the same approach we used for the elementary schools. We again used a cost of \$58,672 per teacher for teacher salary and benefits. To determine the costs for the Principal, we looked at the median salary of a Principal in grades 4-8 which was \$63,718 in 2002-203 according to the New Hampshire Association of School Principals. We estimated benefits & payroll taxes of \$15, 930 or 25% of salary. The benefits estimate is based on the experience of school superintendents and school boards. This gave a

total cost \$79,648. We used the same approach for the assistant principal and came to a total of \$65,071 for salary, benefits and payroll taxes.

For the support staff we again estimated administrative staff (year round) at \$28,000 per staff person and special education aides at \$22,100 per staff person.

The calculations for middle school staff costs are in **Table 8**.

Changing the **class size to 25** increases the number of teachers to 34.5 which increases the total per pupil cost to **\$4,638 per pupil**.

<b>Table 8 Middle School Staff Costs</b>		
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Cost Per Staff</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
31.5“Teachers” (30 class size)	\$58, 672	\$1,848,168
1 Principal	\$79,648	\$79,648
1 Asst. Principal	\$65,071	\$65,071
3 Administrative staff	\$28,000	\$84,000
3 Special Ed. Aides	\$22, 100	\$66,300
Total Staff Costs		\$2,319,203
<b>Total Per Pupil Cost (30 class size)</b>		<b>\$4,286</b>

For the middle school costs, we again used statewide averages for buildings, transportation, and system leadership from the New Hampshire Department of Education 2002/2003 data. Using this data, we calculated the overall figures in **Table 9** for the four basic building blocks at the middle school level.

<b>Table 9 Middle School Cost of the 4 Basic Building Blocks</b>	
Block #1 Staff	\$4,638 per pupil (25 class size) \$4,286 per pupil (30 class size)
Block #2 Buildings	\$651 per pupil
Block # 3 Transportation	\$369 per pupil
Block #4 Leadership	\$314 per pupil
<b>Total Middle School Cost</b>	<b>\$5,972 per pupil (25 class size)</b> <b>\$5,620 per pupil (30 class size)</b>

**High School Estimates**

For high school, we chose a grade configuration of 9-12 and a student enrollment of 600 with a class size of 30. This is a common grade configuration and student enrollment in the state and the class size of 30 is required by minimum standards. We chose some required programs and academic areas as listed in **Table 10.**

<b>Table 10 Program &amp; Academic Areas High School</b>	
Language Arts	Math
Social Studies	Science
Music	Art
Computer lab	Physical education
Guidance	Family consumer science
Industrial arts	Foreign Language
Special education and related services	Physical therapy
Occupational therapy	Speech-language pathologist
Media services (library)	Health
Business education	

We estimated that in order to provide these required programs and services, a high school with 600 students would need, at a minimum, the staff listed in **Table 11.**

<b>Table 11 High School Staff</b>	
20 academic classroom teachers	3 Foreign Lang teachers
2 Art teachers	2 business education/computer lab teachers
2 physical education teachers	1 music teacher
3 special education teachers	1 family and consumer science (Home Economics)
1 media specialist	1 media specialist aide
3 special education aides	1 Industrial Arts
2 principals (includes 1 assistant principal)	2 administrative support staff
2 guidance counselors	1 in guidance support staff
1 nurse	.5 physical therapist
.5 occupational therapist	.5 speech language pathologist

**High School Estimated Costs**

We calculated the staff costs for high school with the same approach used for the elementary and middle schools using a cost of \$58,672 per teacher for salary and benefits. To determine the costs for the Principal, we looked at the median salary of Principal in grades 9-12 which was \$75,072 in 2002-2003 according to the New Hampshire Association of School Principals. We estimated benefits & payroll taxes of \$18,768 or 25% of salary based on the experience of school superintendents and school boards. This gave a total cost \$93,840. We used the same approach for the assistant principal and came to a total of \$77,528 for salary, benefits and payroll taxes.

For the support staff we again had administrative staff (year round) at an estimated cost of \$28,000 per staff person and special education aides at an estimated cost of \$22,100 per staff person.

The total high school staff costs and calculations are in **Table 12**.

<b>Table 12 High School Staff Costs</b>		
<b>Staff</b>	<b>Cost Per Staff</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
40.5 "Teachers"	\$58, 672	\$2,376,216
1 Principal	\$93,840	\$93,840
1 Asst. Principal	\$77,528	\$77,528
3 Administrative staff	\$28,000	\$84,000
3 Special Ed. Aides	\$22, 100	\$66,300
<b>Total Staff Costs</b>		<b>\$2,697,884</b>
<b>Total Per Pupil Cost</b>		<b>\$4,496</b>

For high school, we again used statewide averages for buildings, transportation, and system leadership from the New Hampshire Department of Education 2002/2003 data. Using this data we calculated the figures in **Table 13** for the four basic building blocks at the high school level.

<b>Table 13 High School Costs for the 4 Basic Building Blocks</b>	
Block #1 Staff	\$4,496 per pupil
Block #2 Buildings	\$790 per pupil
Block # 3 Transportation	\$413 per pupil
Block #4 Leadership	\$381 per pupil
<b>Total High School Cost</b>	<b>\$6,080 per pupil</b>

## **Validate & Compare**

To validate our results and ensure we were being conservative with our estimates, we compared our final results to the actual costs of 15 New Hampshire schools (5 at each level) in the four basic areas we examined. We picked the schools based on two requirements:

1. the actual school had to be the same grade configuration and about the same level of student enrollment as the schools we developed; and
2. the actual school had to meet state educational outcome requirements as measured by making “Adequate Yearly Progress” in 2002-2003 (the most recent year that financial data was available).

Adequate yearly progress or “AYP” is an assessment that measures outcomes in academic areas with results that are maintained by the State. AYP is defined by the New Hampshire Department of Education based on the requirements of the No Child Left Behind federal law. It is based on test scores on the statewide assessment test and on attendance rates or graduation rates. It is a state requirement that all public schools must meet. All schools and school districts must make Adequate Yearly Progress or “AYP” each year. We chose AYP as a mechanism to help select schools because it is an assessment that measures outcomes in academic areas with results that are maintained by the State, and because it is a state requirement that all public schools must meet.

The comparison of our estimates to actual costs shows that our estimates of staffing requirements and costs are very conservative and only cover a small portion of what schools need in order to provide educational services and programs. All of the schools we analyzed employed more staff and had higher expenses than our estimates.

## **Elementary School Actual Costs**

We looked at the following Elementary Schools

- Brentwood - Swasey School
- Epping Elementary School
- Gorham - Edward Fenn School
- Jaffrey Grade School
- Winchester Elementary School

**Table 14** shows the actual per pupil costs for these elementary schools in the four areas we examined and compares the costs to our estimates.

<b>Table 14 Actual Elementary Schools Per Pupil Costs</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Total</b>
Brentwood	\$6,604	\$790	\$264	\$273	\$7,931
Epping	\$5,919	\$739	\$521	\$434	\$7,613
Gorham	\$6,856	\$960	\$113	\$538	\$8,467
Jaffrey	\$7,309	\$1142	\$439	\$631	\$9,521
Winchester	\$8,116	\$988	\$699	\$488	\$10,291
<b>Total Avg.</b>	\$6,960	\$924	\$407	\$472	<b>\$8764</b>
<b>Our estimates</b>	\$4,982	\$705	\$381	\$340	<b>\$6408</b>

### **Middle School Actual Costs**

We took the same approach to validate our estimates for Middle Schools and looked at the following schools:

- Hampton Academy Junior High
- Hooksett Memorial School
- Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School
- Laconia - Memorial Middle School
- Portsmouth Middle School

**Table 15** shows the actual middle school costs in the four areas we examined and compares them to our estimates.

<b>Table 15 Actual Middle Schools Per Pupil Costs</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hampton	\$6,402	\$655	\$336	\$251	\$7,664
Hooksett	\$4,781	\$500	\$346	\$256	\$5,883
Jaffrey-Rindge	\$5,145	\$1,060	\$427	\$322	\$6,954
Laconia	\$5,610	\$547	\$221	\$385	\$6,763
Portsmouth	\$6,992	\$701	\$258	\$507	\$8,458
<b>Total Avg.</b>	\$5,786	\$693	\$318	\$344	<b>\$7,141</b>
<b>Our estimate (25 per class)</b>	\$4,638	\$651	\$369	\$314	<b>\$5,972</b>

### **High School Actual Costs**

To validate our numbers at the high school level, we looked at the following schools:

- Bow High School
- Claremont - Stevens High School
- Dresden - Hanover High School
- Jaffrey - Conant High School
- Pelham High School

Table 16 shows the actual high school costs in the four areas we examined and compares them to our estimates.

<b>Table 16 Actual High Schools Per Pupil Costs</b>					
<b>School</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Leadership</b>	<b>Total</b>
Bow	\$6,868	\$1,138	\$372	\$344	\$8,722
Claremont	\$5,042	\$1,105	\$280	\$351	\$6,778
Dresden	\$8,306	\$845	\$151	\$449	\$9,751
Jaffrey	\$5,920	\$838	\$539	\$419	\$7,716
Pelham	\$5,611	\$998	\$579	\$206	\$7,394
<b>Total Avg.</b>	<b>\$6,349</b>	<b>\$985</b>	<b>\$384</b>	<b>\$354</b>	<b>\$8,072</b>
<b>Our estimates</b>	<b>\$4,496</b>	<b>\$790</b>	<b>\$413</b>	<b>\$381</b>	<b>\$6,080</b>

### Total Comparison of Costs

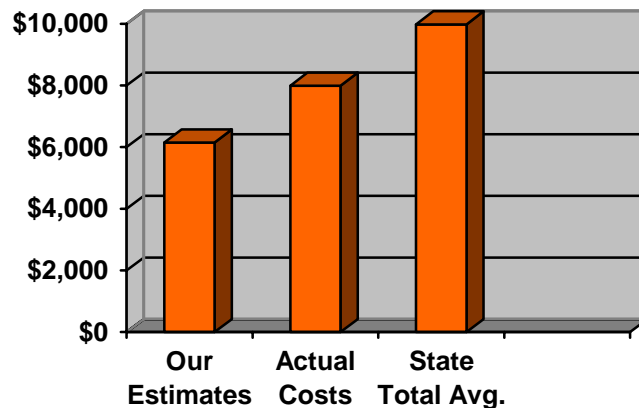
Table 17 shows the comparison of our estimates to the actual costs at the elementary, middle school and high school level.

<b>Table 17 Comparison of Costs</b>		
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Our Estimate</b>	<b>Actual Costs</b>
Elementary	\$6,408 per pupil	\$8,763 per pupil
Middle	\$5,972 per pupil	\$7,141 per pupil
High School	\$6,080 per pupil	\$8,072 per pupil
<b>Total Avg.</b>	<b>\$6,153 per pupil</b>	<b>\$7,992 per pupil</b>

### Only A Portion of the Total Educational Costs

The costs in our estimates and from the fifteen schools actual costs are only a portion of a school's total costs. The average total cost per pupil was \$9,980 in 2002-2003 and exceeded \$10,400 in 2003-2004.

Total Average Educational Costs in New Hampshire Per Pupil in 2002-2003 compared to our estimates and actual costs for the Four Basic Building Blocks.



## State Funding

We compared the costs of these four basic components to what the State provides to fund education in New Hampshire. The State provides \$3,390 as its “Per Pupil Adequacy Costs” which means the State believes an adequate education costs \$3,390 per student in 2004-2005. The State also provides targeted aid as part of its adequate education costs that some communities get and others don’t. The current average targeted aid is \$638 per pupil. That brings the total State funding to cover the four components we assessed to **\$4,028 per pupil** on average statewide in 2004-2005. The State provides some other funding for building construction and very expensive special education placements. We don’t include that funding here because our four components don’t include those costs. Most schools do receive some federal funding. The average is about four percent of a school’s budget.

About half of the “state funding” comes from the “statewide property tax” that many argue is not really state funding. We include this funding in the State funding figures we use. Excluding it would decrease state funding by about one-half.

Our four components are not enough to be an adequate education because of all the important things that are not included. State funding amounts don’t even cover these four bare minimum requirements. A true adequacy cost would be even higher than our estimates.

State representatives have acknowledged that the State Education funding amount is insufficient to operate a school. They discovered this when they realized that charter schools could not operate on their adequacy money alone.

"Adequacy dollars may be adequate for us to comply with the Supreme Court decision, but clearly it is not enough for any school to operate on,"  
Rep. John Hunt, R-Rindge chair of a legislative oversight committee on charter schools. Union Leader  
10/28/04

How can a funding amount that is not enough for a school to operate possibly be enough for a school to provide an adequate education as required by the Supreme Court decisions?<sup>2</sup>

## The Gap Per Pupil Statewide

The difference between our estimated costs for our four basic components and the amount of State funding creates the Gap.

Our estimated costs per pupil	\$6,153
State funding on avg. per pupil	\$4,028
Avg. Gap per pupil	<b>\$2,125</b>

There are about 200,000 students statewide in New Hampshire which leaves a total statewide Gap of about **\$425,000,000.**

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<sup>2</sup> For more information about the *Claremont* Supreme Court decisions, go to [www.claremontlawsuit.org](http://www.claremontlawsuit.org).

The Gap from the actual schools we analyzed is even larger and varies from community to community because the amount of targeted aid provided varies from community to community. **Table 18** shows the actual Gap for the elementary schools we analyzed.

<b>Table 18 Actual Per Pupil Gap Elementary Schools</b>			
<b>School</b>	<b>Actual Costs</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>Gap</b>
Brentwood	\$7,931	\$3,450	\$4,481
Epping	\$7,613	\$4,116	\$3,497
Gorham	\$8,467	\$4,333	\$4,134
Jaffrey	\$9,521	\$4,222	\$5,299
Winchester	\$10,291	\$5,521	\$4,770
<b>Total Avg.</b>	<b>\$8,764</b>	<b>\$4,328</b>	<b>\$4,436</b>

**Table 19** shows the community Gap at the elementary level in these communities. The community Gap is the amount local property taxpayers fund through their local property taxes to make up the difference between the actual costs for the four components we analyzed and the inadequate State funding. Keep in mind that this is the Gap just for the elementary level, these communities also must provide middle school and high school services to their students.

<b>Table 19 Community Gap Elementary Level</b>			
<b>Community</b>	<b>Gap Per Pupil</b>	<b>Elementary Students</b>	<b>Community Elementary Gap</b>
Brentwood	\$4,481	270	\$1,209,870
Epping	\$3,497	433	\$1,514,201
Gorham	\$4,134	204	\$843,336
Jaffrey	\$5,299	330	\$1,748,670
Winchester	\$4,770	265	\$1,264,050

**Table 20** shows the Gap at the middle school level in the middle schools we evaluated:

<b>Table 20 Actual Per Pupil Gap Middle School</b>			
<b>Middle School</b>	<b>Actual Costs</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>Gap</b>
Hampton	\$7,645	\$3,703	\$3,942
Hooksett	\$5,883	\$3,539	\$2,344
Jaffrey	\$6,954	\$4,222	\$2,732
Laconia	\$6,763	\$4,065	\$2,698
Portsmouth	\$8,458	\$3,905	\$4,553
<b>Total Avg.</b>	<b>\$7,141</b>	<b>\$3,886</b>	<b>\$3,254</b>

**Table 21** shows the community Gap at the middle school level in these communities. This is just the Gap for the middle school level and these communities must also provide elementary and high school services to their students.

<b>Table 21 Community Gap Middle School</b>			
<b>Community</b>	<b>Gap Per Pupil</b>	<b>Middle School Students</b>	<b>Middle School Community Gap</b>
Hampton	\$3,942	533	\$2,101,086
Hooksett	\$2,344	501	\$1,174,344
Jaffrey	\$2,732	401	\$1,095,532
Laconia	\$2,698	629	\$1,697,042
Portsmouth	\$4,553	558	\$2,540,574

**Table 22** shows the Gap at the high school level in the five high schools we evaluated.

<b>Table 22 Actual Per Pupil Gap High School</b>			
<b>High School</b>	<b>Actual Costs</b>	<b>State Funding</b>	<b>Gap</b>
Bow	\$8,722	\$3,420	\$5,302
Claremont	\$6,778	\$4,979	\$1,799
Dresden	\$9,759	\$3,411	\$6,348
Jaffrey	\$7,716	\$4,222	\$3,494
Pelham	\$7,394	\$3,472	\$3,922
<b>Total Avg.</b>	<b>\$8,074</b>	<b>\$3,901</b>	<b>\$4,173</b>

**Table 23** shows the community Gap at the high school level in these communities. This is just the Gap for the high school level and these communities must also provide elementary and middle school services to their students.

<b>Table 23 Community Gap High School Level</b>			
Community	Gap Per Pupil	High School Students	Community High School Gap
Bow	\$5,302	611	\$3,239,522
Claremont	\$1,799	678	\$1,219,722
Dresden	\$6,348	754	\$4,786,392
Jaffrey	\$3,494	480	\$1,677,120
Pelham	\$3,922	613	\$2,404,186

**Table 24** shows our estimated Gap and the actual Gap at each level of school and the average of both our estimated Gap and the actual Gap.

<b>Table 24 Estimated and Actual Gap Comparison</b>		
School Level	Gap with our estimates	Gap with actual costs
Elementary	\$2,380 per pupil	\$4,436 per pupil
Middle	\$1,944 per pupil	\$3,254 per pupil
High School	\$2,052 per pupil	\$4,173 per pupil
<b>Total Avg.</b>	<b>\$2,125 per pupil</b>	<b>\$3,954 per pupil</b>

Taking the total average of the actual Gap from these 15 communities and multiplying it by approximately 200,000 New Hampshire students provides a **total statewide Gap of \$790,800,000** as compared to our **estimated Gap of \$425,000,000**.

### **What Is Your Community's Gap?**

You can calculate the Gap in your community by following these steps:

- 1) determine your schools' costs for staff to meet the minimum academic and program requirements we have selected at the elementary, middle school and high school level. This information is in Tables 2, 6 and 10 in this report;
- 2) determine your schools' costs for buildings, transportation and system leadership;
- 3) determine the amount of state adequacy funding your community receives. You can find this information on our webpage at [www.nhcvp.org/fundgap.php](http://www.nhcvp.org/fundgap.php)
- 4) subtract the amount of state funding from the costs for staff, buildings, transportation and system leadership.

The difference is your community's Gap.

### **What Does The Gap Mean To New Hampshire Citizens?**

New Hampshire citizens **currently pay for the Gap with local property taxes**. State decreases in education funding generally mean increases in the Gap and in local property taxes to pay for the Gap. The State is forcing local communities to pay for state requirements through local property taxes.

### **What Does The Gap Cost You?**

You can estimate your local property tax rate to pay for the Gap by:

- 1) taking your community's total Gap amount;
- 2) dividing that number by your community's equalized valuation for school districts for local property taxes. This information is available on our website at [www.nhcvp.org/fundgap.php](http://www.nhcvp.org/fundgap.php)

The resulting number is an estimate of your local tax rate to pay for the Gap.

### **What Does It Mean?**

We think it means that the State is severely under funding education. We think the State should pay for its educational mandates and \$4,028 on average per pupil is not enough to do that. We want the State to **Fund the Gap**.

## **What Can You Do About It?**

If you think the State should Fund the Gap, here are some actions steps you can take:

1) Work with your local school district and local elected officials to calculate your community's Gap and to pass a local resolution asking the State to Fund the Gap.

2) Let your elected state officials know about your Gap and that you want the State to Fund the Gap. You can do this by:

- Writing or emailing your elected state officials
- Calling your elected state officials
- Visiting your elected state officials
- Inviting your elected state officials to a community forum to discuss the Gap
- Asking your elected state officials what they plan to do about the Gap

Our website has a listing of contact information for state representatives, state senators and the Governor's office at [www.nhcvp.org/fundgap.php](http://www.nhcvp.org/fundgap.php).

3) Tell your friends and other people you know to look at this information and to get involved.

4) Have a local community meeting, a house party, or a meeting with groups or organizations you belong to like Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, etc. and show our Fund the Gap Presentation available on our website at [www.nhcvp.org/fundgap.php](http://www.nhcvp.org/fundgap.php). Then discuss the Gap and the things you can do collectively to have the State Fund the Gap.

5) Visit our website at [www.nhcvp.org](http://www.nhcvp.org) and

- Let us know if your elected state officials respond to you and what they say.
- Let us know if you calculate your community's Gap or pass local resolutions so we can post it on our website.
- Join our e-petition on our website to show that you support the State Funding the Gap.
- Exchange your ideas on our website bulletin board.
- Join our email listserves to get information about what we are doing and how you can help.

**Our Contact Information Is:**

NHCVP

PO Box 1803

Concord, NH 03302-1803

[www.nhcvp.org](http://www.nhcvp.org)

[sjohnson@nhcvp.org](mailto:sjohnson@nhcvp.org)