



Regional School Unit #57

86 West Road

Waterboro, ME 04087

"Preparing students for success in an ever-changing world."

**CARRIER ROUTE
PRESORT
POSTAL PATRON**

**RSU # 57 Budget Validation
Tuesday June 10, 2025**

ALFRED

Alfred Town Hall
16 Saco Road
Alfred, ME 04002

8:00am - 8:00pm
Sarah Hewitt, Town Clerk

LIMERICK

Limerick Municipal Building
55 Washington St
Limerick, ME 04048

8:00am - 8:00pm
Deedee Tibbetts, Town Clerk

LYMAN

Lyman Town Office
11 South Waterboro Rd
Lyman, ME 04002

8:00am - 8:00pm
Susan Bellerose, Town Clerk

NEWFIELD

Newfield Town Hall
23 South Effingham Rd
West Newfield, ME 04095

8:00am - 8:00pm
Justine Perkins, Town Clerk

SHAPLEIGH

Shapleigh Community Building
24 Back Rd
Shapleigh, ME 04076

8:00am - 8:00pm
Kayla Moulton, Town Clerk

WATERBORO

Waterboro Town Hall
24 Townhouse Rd
East Waterboro, ME 04030

7:00am - 8:00pm
Kimberly Howard, Deputy
Town Clerk

**Regional School Unit #57
Superintendent of Schools**

Dear Citizens,

I am pleased to present to you the proposed budget for Regional School Unit No. 57 for the 2025-2026 school year. As your Superintendent, I am deeply grateful for the continuous support of our students, staff, and community members. Together, we have cultivated an environment where excellence in education is not just an aspiration but a shared commitment to preparing our students for success in an ever-changing world.

Over the past year, the collective efforts of individuals from all corners of our community have played an integral role in supporting public education. Collectively, we have made significant strides in student engagement, seen remarkable increases in participation in athletics and extracurricular activities, and successfully attracted and retained exceptional staff. In addition, our instructional staff and administrative team have made a tangible impact on the school culture, fostering a climate of accountability and prioritizing student wellness.

This proposed budget is a direct reflection of the continued pursuit of these goals. Our budget development process, initiated by the School Board Finance Committee and the District Leadership Team in early January, aimed to enhance the quality of current programs and staffing while being mindful of the tax impact on our community. The primary objective was to align the budget with the four pillars of our Strategic Plan, ensuring both short-term progress and long-term sustainability. Central to this budget is the investment in hiring, retaining, and developing exemplary staff during a time of labor shortages and rising operational costs.

It is important to acknowledge that our budget development process has required us to confront several significant challenges. The most notable is ongoing small increases in state subsidy driven by the drastic rise in property valuations across our six communities and minimal changes in overall student enrollment. This relatively low increase in state funding is further exacerbated by state-mandated local tax increases. Additionally, the geographic spread of our district presents ongoing fiscal challenges in terms of both overhead costs and staffing. Despite these hurdles, we remain committed to finding innovative, fiscally responsible solutions to ensure the financial sustainability of our district without compromising the quality of education we offer.

As we move forward in the budget process, we recognize that difficult decisions had to be made. While the state subsidy for fiscal 2026 increased by \$795,815 (4.91%), it has not historically kept pace with the growing costs associated with operating schools. As a result, we made considerable reductions in staffing and operational costs to balance the needs of our students, staff, and the impact on taxpayers. These reductions were carefully reviewed and implemented through attrition and strategic realignment of staff and programs. Although these decisions were difficult, they were necessary to maintain fiscal responsibility while continuing to prioritize the goals outlined in our strategic plan.

The key cost drivers in this budget include wages due to collective bargaining agreements, a significant increase in health insurance premiums, utilities, and the rising costs of services and supplies—trends that mirror the economic challenges faced by households across our community, state and nation.

In closing, I encourage you to review this proposed budget and engage with us in discussions about the future of our schools as we strive to prepare our students for success in an ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Marquis, PhD.
Superintendent of Schools



Per Pupil Total Expenditures

How RSU #57 compared with other school districts in 2023-2024.

1	York	\$ 26,109
2	RSU #23 Old Orchard Beach	\$ 25,440
3	Falmouth	\$ 23,834
4	South Portland	\$ 22,560
5	Kittery	\$ 22,397
6	RSU#21 Kennebunk	\$ 22,340
7	Cape Elizabeth	\$ 21,703
8	Yarmouth	\$ 21,678
9	RSU #51 Cumberland	\$ 21,155
10	Scarborough	\$ 20,944
11	RSU #75 Topsham	\$ 20,895
12	Portland	\$ 20,568
13	Brunswick	\$ 20,309
14	Westbrook	\$ 20,176
15	Lewiston	\$ 19,501
16	Sanford	\$ 18,451
	STATE AVERAGE	\$ 18,316
18	Auburn	\$ 18,233
19	Acton	\$ 18,178
20	RSU#5 Freeport	\$ 18,029
21	Biddeford	\$ 17,964
22	Saco	\$ 17,348
23	RSU #14 Windham	\$ 17,177
24	RSU #35 Marshwood	\$ 17,087
25	RSU #6 Bonny Eagle	\$ 17,042
26	RSU #19 Newport	\$ 16,778
27	Gorham	\$ 16,661
	RSU #57 MASSABESIC	\$ 16,031
29	RSU #60 Noble	\$ 15,848
30	RSU #17 Oxford Hills	\$ 14,210
31	RSU #55 Sacopee Valley	\$ 14,150

Nearly **76.9%** of all available funds go to cover Salaries & Benefits. Less than **6.7%** covers items that can be described as “discretionary”. The remaining **16.4%** covers fixed expenses, such as debt service and energy costs.

Regional School Unit #57

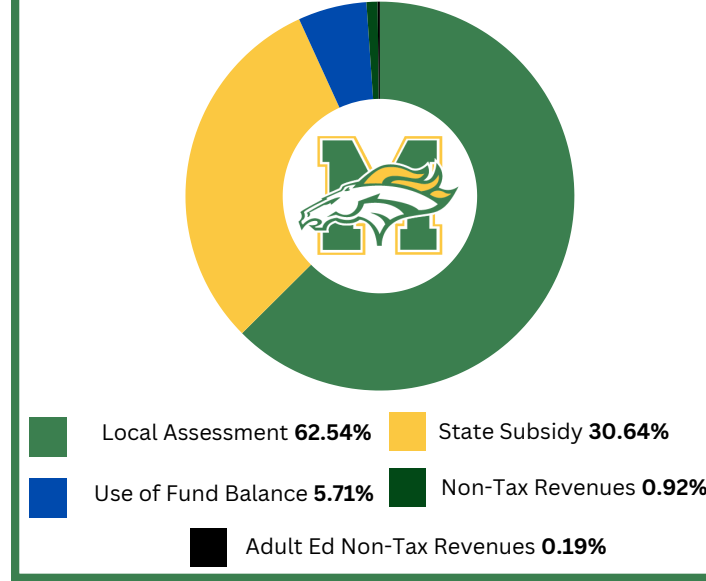
“Preparing students for success in an ever-changing world.”

Local Assessments* *Includes Adult Education

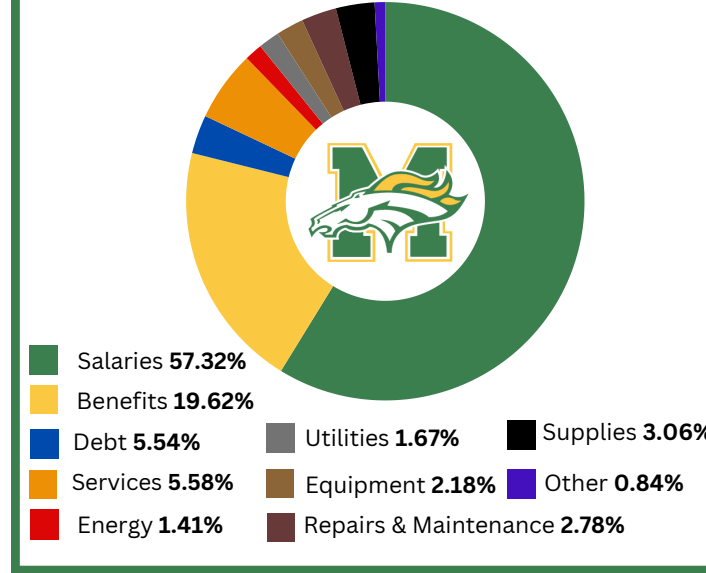
Town	Actual Local Share 2024-2025	Proposed Budget Local Share 2025-2026	\$ Difference 2025-2026	% Difference 2025-2026
Alfred	\$3,934,973	\$4,087,077	\$152,104	3.87%
Limerick	\$4,262,312	\$4,581,462	\$319,150	7.49%
Lyman	\$5,990,607	\$6,345,445	\$354,838	5.92%
Newfield	\$2,532,466	\$2,619,564	\$87,098	3.44%
Shapleigh	\$5,100,119	\$5,504,352	\$404,233	7.93%
Waterboro	\$11,187,439	\$11,773,795	\$586,356	5.24%
TOTALS	\$33,007,916	\$34,911,695	\$1,903,779	5.77%

Expenditures	2024-2025 Fiscal Budget	Proposed 2025-2026 Fiscal Budget	\$ Variance	% Variance
Regular Instruction	\$19,525,926	\$20,249,860	\$723,934	3.71%
Special Education	\$9,039,317	\$9,547,031	\$507,714	5.62%
Career & Tech Ed	\$92,000	\$110,000	\$18,000	19.57%
Other Instruction	\$1,145,790	\$1,302,231	\$156,441	13.65%
Student & Staff Support	\$5,054,926	\$5,309,028	\$254,102	5.03%
System Administration	\$1,299,617	\$1,376,915	\$77,298	5.95%
School Administration	\$2,401,955	\$2,619,914	\$217,959	9.07%
Transportation & Buses	\$4,624,555	\$5,066,817	\$442,262	9.56%
Facilities Maintenance	\$7,845,247	\$8,266,339	\$421,092	5.37%
Debt Service	\$1,303,072	\$1,298,872	\$-4,200	-0.32%
School Lunch	\$220,000	\$250,000	\$30,000	13.64%
Sub Total	\$52,552,405	\$55,397,007	\$2,844,602	5.41%
Adult Education	\$455,050	\$430,473	\$-24,577	-5.40%
TOTALS	\$53,007,455	\$55,827,480	\$2,820,025	5.32%

Where the Money Comes From...



Where the Money Goes...



Per Pupil Total Expenditures vs. *State Average

**Per Maine Department of Education*

	State Average	RSU #57	% Below State Average
2023-24	\$18,316	\$16,031	-12.5%
2022-23	\$17,655	\$15,206	-13.9%
2021-22	\$16,248	\$14,439	-11.1%
2020-21	\$15,648	\$15,326	-2.1%
2019-20	\$14,943	\$14,337	-4.1%

RSU #57 School Board Members

Melissa Bacon
Board Member, Newfield

Carmen Barski
Board Member, Limerick

Suzanne Bauer
Board Member, Lyman

Mark Cartisano
Board Member, Limerick

Elizabeth Day
Board Member, Alfred

Michelle Felicitti
Board Member, Lyman

Anastasia Ferguson
Vice Board Chair, Limerick

Eric Garrison
Board Member, Newfield

Jodi Laine
Board Chair, Newfield

Thomas Lee
Board Member, Waterboro

Jennifer Mayo
Board Member, Waterboro

Amie Morrison
Board Member, Alfred

Clinton “Wes” Phinney, Jr.
Finance Chair, Shapleigh

Adam Tanguay
Board Member, Waterboro

Angela Tardif
Board Member, Lyman

Judith Vasalle
Board Member, Alfred