

**REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 9
SCHOOL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE**

PUBLIC HEARING PART 1: PROPOSED SCHOOL BUDGET FOR FY 2021-2022

The School Board of the RSU has proposed a school operating budget for fiscal year 2021-2022. Pursuant to Order of the Governor, the budget meeting where these articles are presented has been replaced by a remote public hearing. The budget recommended by the School Board consists of the following Articles 1 through 15. Together, these articles constitute the proposed school operating budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 to be presented to the voters as Article 1 at a budget referendum election scheduled for June 8, 2021.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

Proposed Expenditures by Cost Center		
ARTICLE 1:	Regular Instruction	\$ 11,158,023
ARTICLE 2:	Special Education	\$ 7,206,386
ARTICLE 3:	Career and Technical Education	\$ 2,981,628
ARTICLE 4:	Other Instruction	\$ 508,293
ARTICLE 5:	Student and Staff Support	\$ 2,950,024
ARTICLE 6:	System Administration	\$ 1,219,986
ARTICLE 7:	School Administration	\$ 1,545,858
ARTICLE 8:	Transportation and Buses	\$ 2,485,762
ARTICLE 9:	Facilities Maintenance	\$ 4,295,891
ARTICLE 10:	Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 4,503,158
ARTICLE 11:	All Other Expenditures	\$ 5,500

STATE SUBSIDY AND LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 12: The School Board recommends that the RSU appropriate the amounts set forth below for the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and raise and assess the amounts set forth below 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.
Recommended amounts set forth below:

Total Appropriated (by municipality):		Total Raised (and RSU assessments by municipality):	
Town of Chesterville	\$ 2,382,259.01	Town of Chesterville	\$ 781,968.33
Town of Farmington	\$ 11,850,858.11	Town of Farmington	\$ 3,574,355.00
Town of Industry	\$ 1,367,734.77	Town of Industry	\$ 730,091.67
Town of New Sharon	\$ 2,583,709.81	Town of New Sharon	\$ 807,643.33
Town of New Vineyard	\$ 1,466,722.36	Town of New Vineyard	\$ 608,563.33

Town of Starks	\$	890,350.86	Town of Starks	\$	416,461.67
Town of Temple	\$	1,067,690.94	Town of Temple	\$	338,646.67
Town of Vienna	\$	900,526.05	Town of Vienna	\$	557,476.67
Town of Weld	\$	349,734.91	Town of Weld	\$	334,440.31
Town of Wilton	\$	7,973,358.30	Town of Wilton	\$	2,069,536.67
Total Appropriated (sum of above)	\$	30,832,945.12	Total Raised (sum of above)	\$	10,219,183.65

State Mandated Explanation: 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 is the amount of money determined by state law to be the minimum amount that the RSU must raise and assess in order to receive the full amount of state dollars.

OTHER LOCAL TAX REVENUES FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 13: The School Board recommends that the RSU raise and appropriate **\$534,783** 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.

State Mandated Explanation: Non-state-funded debt service is the amount of money needed for the annual payments on the RSU's long-term debt for major capital school construction projects that are not approved for state subsidy. The bonding of this long-term debt was previously approved by the RSU voters.

ARTICLE 14: The School Board recommends that the RSU raise and appropriate **\$2,711,688** in additional local funds, which exceeds the State's Essential Programs and Services allocation model by **\$2,711,688** as required to fund the budget recommended by the School Board.

The School Board gives the following reasons for exceeding the State's Essential Programs and Services funding model by \$2,711,688: EPS does not fully support all of the necessary costs of a comprehensive K-12 educational program, such as (1) athletics/co-curricular program costs; (2) transportation for rural school systems and athletics/co-curricular programs; (3) special education costs, (4) system administration costs, (5) costs of maintaining class size smaller than are recognized by the Essential Programs and Services funding model, and (6) student supports, such as counseling.

State Mandated Explanation: The additional local funds are those locally raised funds over and above the RSU's local contribution to the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12 as described in the

Essential Programs and Services Funding Act and local amounts raised for the annual payment on non-state funded debt service that will help achieve the RSU budget for educational programs.

SUMMARY OF TOTAL 2021-2022 SCHOOL BUDGET

ARTICLE 15: The School Board recommends that the RSU authorize the School Board to expend **\$38,860,509** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 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.

PUBLIC HEARING PART 2: REFERENDUM ARTICLES

The following school budget and other questions will be submitted to referendum on June 8, 2021:

Article 1: School Budget. Shall Regional School Unit No. 9 appropriate the sum of **\$38,860,509** and raise the sum of **\$13,465,656** for the 2021-2022 school budget? *School Board Recommends a “Yes” Vote.*

VOTER INFORMATION FOR ARTICLE 1

The Regional School Unit No. 9 school budget submitted in this Article 1 totals **\$38,860,509**. It includes locally raised funds in the amount of **\$13,465,656**, to be assessed in shares to member municipalities in accordance with the RSU’s cost sharing formula and state law. The locally raised amount exceeds the State’s Essential Programs and Services funding model by **\$2,711,688**. This budget includes these cost centers and amounts:

Cost Center	Amount Appropriated
Regular Instruction	\$ 11,158,023
Special Education	\$ 7,206,386
Career and Technical Education	\$ 2,981,628
Other Instruction	\$ 508,293
Student and Staff Support	\$ 2,950,024
System Administration	\$ 1,219,986
School Administration	\$ 1,545,858
Transportation and Buses	\$ 2,485,762
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 4,295,891
Debt Service and Other Commitments	\$ 4,503,158
All Other Expenditures	\$ 5,500
Summary of Total Authorized School Budget Expenditures:	\$ 38,860,509

Article 2: **RSU Adult Ed Program.** Shall the RSU be authorized to appropriate \$477,406 for adult education and raise \$223,453 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?

School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Article 3: **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?

School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.

Article 4: **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 2021-2022 fiscal year, provided that transfers shall not be permitted to increase the authorized total school budget?

School Board Recommends a "Yes" Vote.