



2026

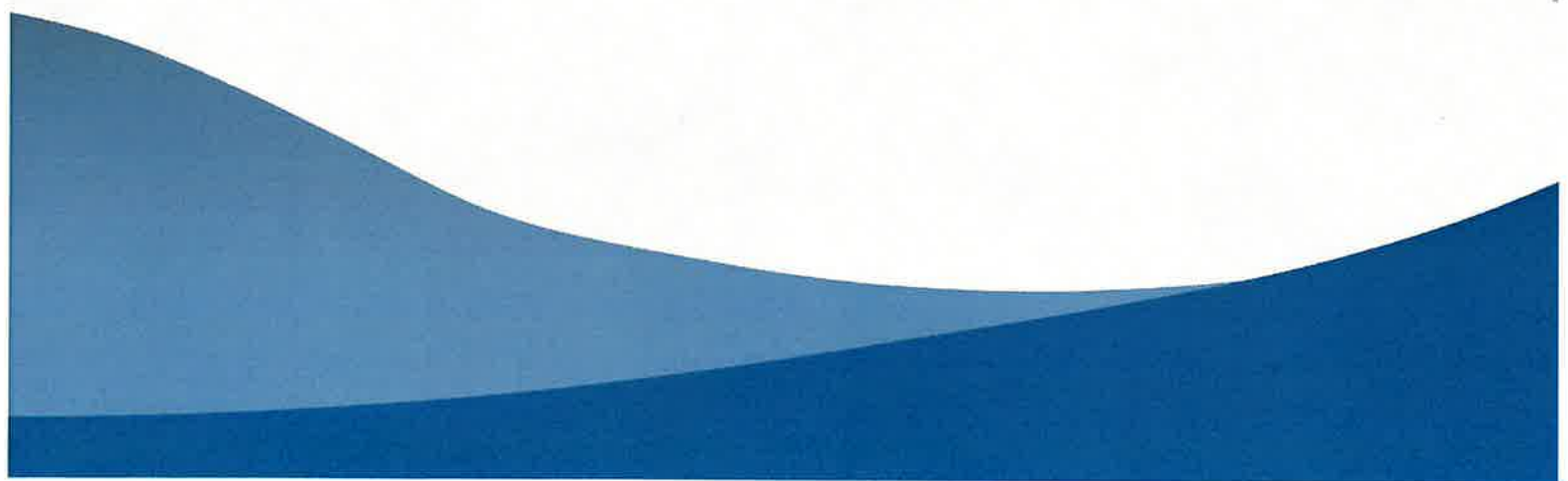
ANNUAL REPORT



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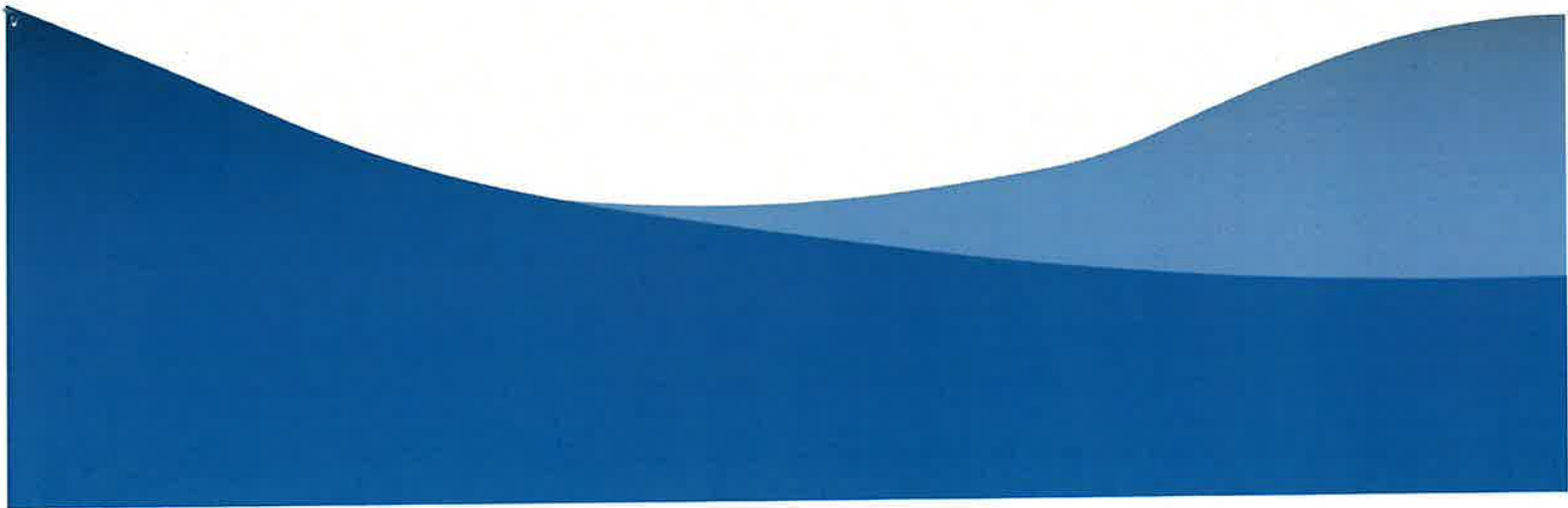
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More budget details can be found on the the Budget Information Page at mvsdschools.org



FY2026 BUDGET

PROPOSAL





FY2027 Proposed School Budget

Letter from the School Board

Dear Swanton, Franklin, and Highgate Community Members,

The Missisquoi Valley School District Board is proud to present this year's proposed budget, which once again ranks among the most conservative in Vermont. This budget maintains strong educational programming while keeping the impact on taxpayers as low as possible. We are confident it supports continued improvement in student outcomes and reflects the priorities of our community.

Affordability has been a central focus throughout this process. MVSD is already one of the lowest-spending districts in the state, and through careful planning and fiscal discipline, we have continued to see positive student outcomes while keeping costs in check which is reflected in this level serving budget proposal. It is important to note that the education funding system is decided at the state level by legislators in Montpelier. While we understand the frustration around rising education costs statewide, the Board remains committed to controlling what is within our local authority and minimizing the burden on taxpayers based on our current system.

This proposed FY27 budget reflects that commitment, with a per-pupil increase of just **1.3 percent**, well below the statewide average of **6.8 percent**. We believe this strikes the right balance between fiscal responsibility and educational excellence.

We respectfully ask for your support on Town Meeting Day and encourage everyone to participate in the voting process.

Additionally, **Elaine Nester of Highgate** is up for re-election to the School Board. I confidently endorse her continued service.

Please feel free to reach out to me, **Renick Darnell-Martin, (Chair)** with any questions. We are honored to represent our community and remain committed to strong schools and responsible stewardship.

Very Respectfully,
Renick Darnell-Martin
Chair, MVSD Board of Directors

Budget Summary (Excluding MVU Parking Lot Special Article)

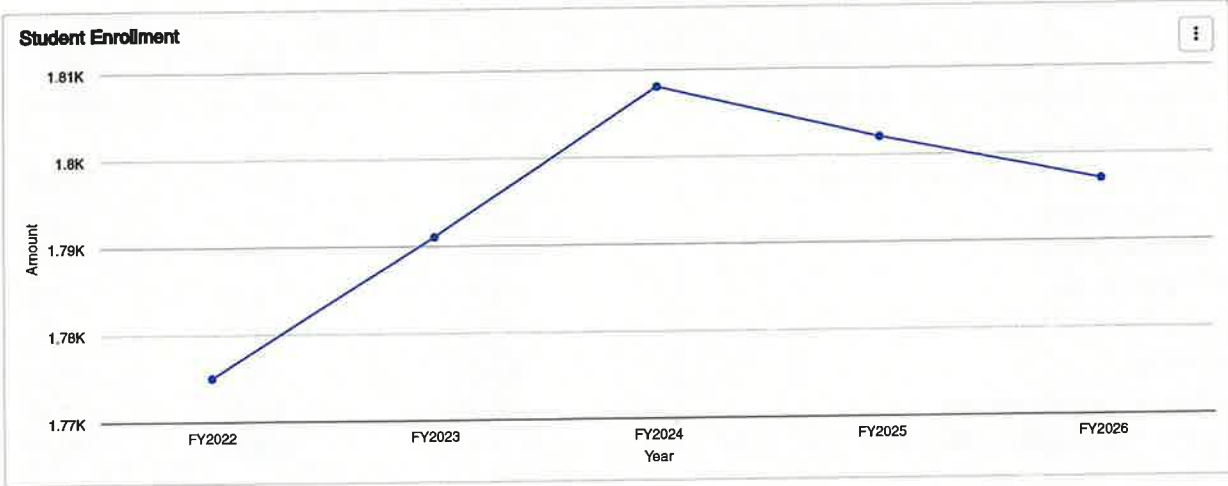
MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT		
ESTIMATED REVENUES & TAX RATE CALCULATION		
2026 - 2027		
	Current Year	NEXT YEAR
	FY2026	FY2027
Missisquoi Valley School District Operating Budget	\$50,956,879	\$52,440,854
Special Article(s) - MVU MS & HS Parking Lot and Lighting	\$0	
	\$50,956,879	\$52,440,854
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES:		
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$997,203	\$2,219,780
Tuition - students	\$689,000	\$715,000
Interest Earnings	\$325,000	\$675,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$75,000	\$75,000
Medicaid Funding	\$750,000	\$615,000
Federal Grant Funding	\$1,046,100	\$889,185
Federal Indirect Funding	\$203,000	\$50,000
Small Schools Grant / Merger Support	\$68,169	\$68,169
Transportation Reimbursement	\$621,874	\$790,848
Vocational Transportation Reimbursement	\$28,000	\$61,645
Ag Program Tuition Grant	\$90,000	\$90,000
Act 127 ELL Support	\$50,000	\$50,000
Other State Revenues	\$23,690	\$23,690
Special Education State Aid:		
SpecEduc Census Block Grant	\$4,173,222	\$4,282,523
Extraordinary Cost Reimbursement	\$1,822,000	\$1,750,000
Excess Cost Reimbursement	\$98,491	\$0
EEE Grant	\$213,085	\$214,967
	\$11,273,834	\$12,570,806
PROJECTED REVENUES:		
EDUCATION SPENDING PreK-12	\$39,683,045	\$39,870,048
Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership(LTW ADM)	3255.49	\$3,228
Spending per LTW ADM	\$12,190	\$12,351
Property Yield per \$1.00 (with Statewide Adjustment FY26 72.36% FY27 TBD)	\$8,596	\$8,849
PreK-12 Tax Rate Equivalent:	\$1.4181	\$1.3957
PROJECTED TAX RATES AFTER COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL ADJUSTMENT		
Projected Homestead Tax Rates		
Franklin FY26 (65.23%/72.36%)=90.15%, FY27 (59.12%/70.33%)=84.06%	\$1.5730	\$1.6604
Highgate FY26 (73.21%/72.36%)=101.17%, FY27 (67.09%/70.33%)=95.39%	\$1.4017	\$1.4632
Swanton FY26 (69.91%/72.36%)=96.61%, FY27 (62.67%/70.33%)=89.11%	\$1.4678	\$1.5663

Based on Estimated Property Yield figure of **\$8,849** provided for tax rate calculation purposes - actual tax bills will be based on rate(s) set by Legislature.

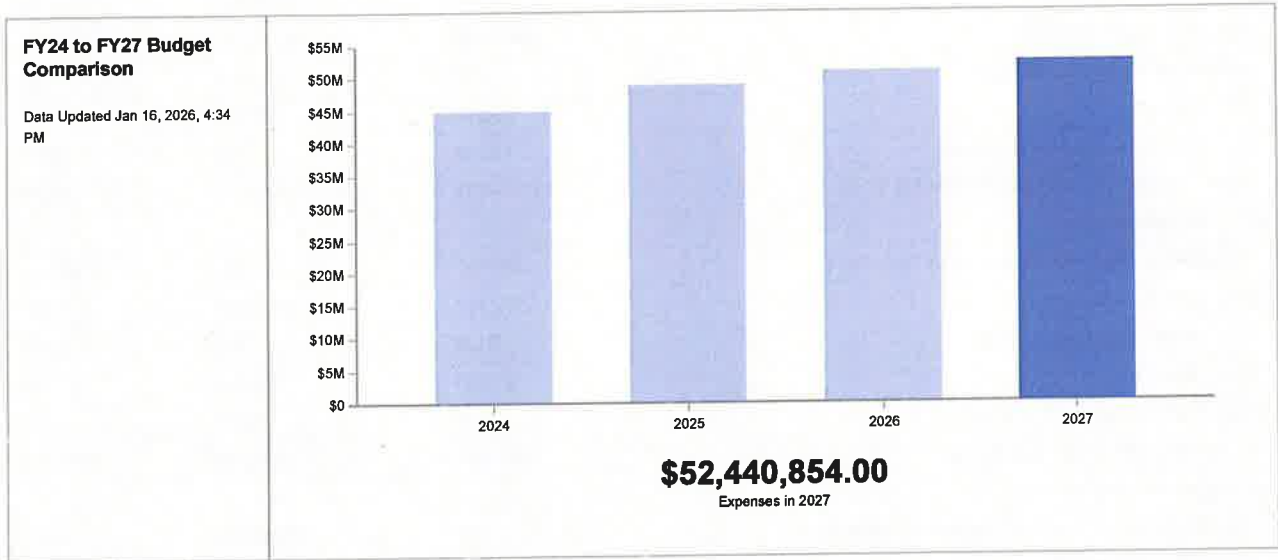
Budget Summary (Including MVU Parking Lot Special Article)

MISSISQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT		
ESTIMATED REVENUES & TAX RATE CALCULATION		
2026 - 2027		
	Current Year	NEXT YEAR
	FY2026	FY2027
Missisquoi Valley School District Operating Budget	\$50,956,879	\$52,440,854
Special Article(s) - MVU MS & HS Parking Lot and Lighting	\$0	\$1,270,500
PROJECTED EXPENDITURES:	\$50,956.879	\$53,711,354
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$997,203	\$2,219,780
Tuition - students	\$689,000	\$715,000
Interest Earnings	\$325,000	\$675,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	\$75,000	\$75,000
Medicaid Funding	\$750,000	\$615,000
Federal Grant Funding	\$1,046,100	\$889,185
Federal Indirect Funding	\$203,000	\$50,000
Small Schools Grant / Merger Support	\$68,169	\$68,169
Transportation Reimbursement	\$621,874	\$790,848
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Ag Program Tuition Grant	\$90,000	\$90,000
Act 127 ELL Support	\$50,000	\$50,000
Other State Revenues	\$23,690	\$23,690
Special Education State Aid:		
SpecEduc Census Block Grant	\$4,173,222	\$4,282,523
Extraordinary Cost Reimbursement	\$1,822,000	\$1,750,000
Excess Cost Reimbursement	\$98,491	\$0
EEE Grant	\$213,085	\$214,967
PROJECTED REVENUES:	\$11,273.834	\$12,570.806
EDUCATION SPENDING PreK-12	\$39,683.045	\$41,140.548
Long Term Weighted Average Daily Membership(LTW ADM)	3255.49	\$3,228
Spending per LTW ADM	\$12,190	\$12,744
Property Yield per \$1.00 (with Statewide Adjustment FY26 72.36% FY27 TBD)	\$8,596	\$8,849
PreK-12 Tax Rate Equivalent:	\$1.4181	\$1.4402
PROJECTED TAX RATES AFTER COMMON LEVEL OF APPRAISAL ADJUSTMENT		
Projected Homestead Tax Rates		
Franklin FY26 (65.23%/72.36%)=90.15%, FY27 (59.12%/70.33%)=84.06%	\$1.5730	\$1.7133
Highgate FY26 (73.21%/72.36%)=101.17%, FY27 (67.09%/70.33%)=95.39%	\$1.4017	\$1.5098
Swanton FY26 (69.91%/72.36%)=96.61%, FY27 (62.67%/70.33%)=89.11%	\$1.4678	\$1.6162

Based on Estimated Property Yield figure of **\$8,849** provided for tax rate calculation purposes - actual tax bills will be based on rate(s) set by Legislature.



Data Updated: Jan 08, 2026, 2:35 PM



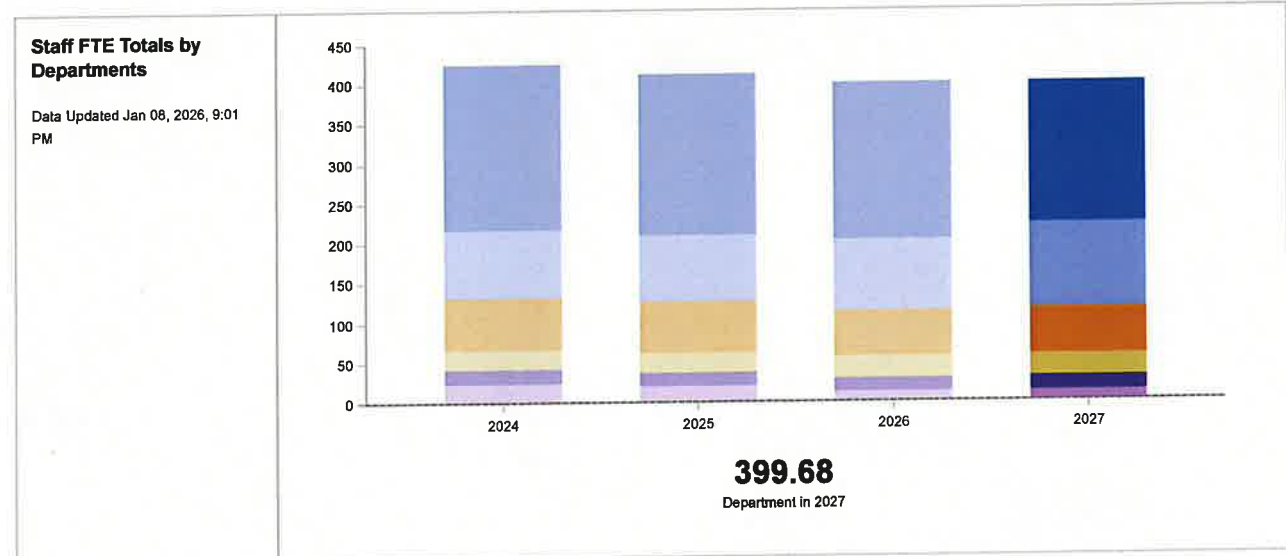
	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 BUDGET	Variance
	FY2026	FY2027	
Operating Budget			
1101 - Instructional Programs			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$12,214,965	\$12,129,425	-\$85,540
200 - Employee Benefits	\$4,719,151	\$4,709,991	-\$9,160
300 - Purchased Services	\$42,550	\$36,038	-\$6,512
400 - Property Services	\$110,135	\$118,175	\$8,040
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$780,298	\$719,783	-\$60,515
600 - Supplies	\$390,088	\$371,815	-\$18,273
700 - Equipment	\$0	\$6,600	\$6,600
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$18,232	\$24,462	\$6,230
1101 - INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS TOTAL	\$18,275,419	\$18,116,289	-\$159,130
1201 - Special Ed Instructional Programs			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$3,910,262	\$4,823,620	\$913,358
200 - Employee Benefits	\$1,857,469	\$2,124,041	\$266,572
300 - Purchased Services	\$1,784,967	\$1,397,950	-\$387,017
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$2,570,736	\$2,272,318	-\$298,418
600 - Supplies	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$1,201	\$1,201	\$0

	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 BUDGET	
	FY2026	FY2027	Variance
1201 - SPECIAL ED INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS TOTAL	\$10,150,635	\$10,645,130	\$494,495
1401 - Interscholastics / Co-Curriculars			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$397,527	\$412,530	\$15,003
200 - Employee Benefits	\$110,270	\$110,899	\$629
300 - Purchased Services	\$62,035	\$62,785	\$750
400 - Property Services	\$57,970	\$58,870	\$900
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$2,775	\$2,825	\$50
600 - Supplies	\$71,410	\$77,935	\$6,525
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$17,578	\$17,837	\$259
1401 - INTERSCHOLASTICS / CO-CURRICULARS TOTAL	\$719,565	\$743,681	\$24,116
2120 - Guidance / Social Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$736,145	\$758,750	\$22,605
200 - Employee Benefits	\$336,347	\$351,703	\$15,356
300 - Purchased Services	\$192,020	\$158,310	-\$33,710
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$150	\$150	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$9,210	\$4,310	-\$4,900
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$1,020	\$1,390	\$370
2120 - GUIDANCE / SOCIAL SERVICES TOTAL	\$1,274,892	\$1,274,613	-\$279
2132 - Health Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$356,547	\$435,520	\$78,973
200 - Employee Benefits	\$132,507	\$195,493	\$62,986
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$100	\$300	\$200
600 - Supplies	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$150	\$150	\$0
2132 - HEALTH SERVICES TOTAL	\$498,554	\$640,713	\$142,159
2140 - Psychological Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$231,757	\$238,650	\$6,893
200 - Employee Benefits	\$74,671	\$74,215	-\$456
300 - Purchased Services	\$78,100	\$69,337	-\$8,763
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$500	\$500	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$1,360	\$1,360	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$340	\$340	\$0
2140 - PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES TOTAL	\$386,728	\$384,402	-\$2,326
2151 - Speech & Audiology Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$309,938	\$303,000	-\$6,938
200 - Employee Benefits	\$172,813	\$154,641	-\$18,172
300 - Purchased Services	\$140,588	\$267,113	\$126,525
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$300	\$300	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$2,430	\$2,430	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$1,140	\$1,140	\$0
2151 - SPEECH & AUDIOLOGY SERVICES TOTAL	\$627,209	\$728,624	\$101,415
2160 - Occupational Therapy Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$79,058	\$81,429	\$2,371
200 - Employee Benefits	\$47,713	\$50,873	\$3,160
2160 - OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES TOTAL	\$126,771	\$132,302	\$5,531
2170 - Physical Therapy Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$84,263	\$86,791	\$2,528
200 - Employee Benefits	\$48,435	\$51,642	\$3,207
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0

	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 BUDGET	
	FY2026	FY2027	Variance
600 - Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
2170 - PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES TOTAL	\$134,698	\$140,433	\$5,735
2190 - Student Support Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$828,274	\$834,557	\$6,283
200 - Employee Benefits	\$283,463	\$255,640	-\$27,823
300 - Purchased Services	\$249,457	\$639,531	\$390,074
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$250	\$300	\$50
600 - Supplies	\$1,141	\$1,141	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$250	\$250	\$0
2190 - STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES TOTAL	\$1,362,835	\$1,731,419	\$368,584
2212 - Curriculum & Instruction			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$87,310	\$86,470	-\$840
200 - Employee Benefits	\$33,070	\$34,695	\$1,625
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
2212 - CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION TOTAL	\$124,880	\$125,665	\$785
2213 - Instructional Staff Prof Dev			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
200 - Employee Benefits	\$186,272	\$181,162	-\$5,110
300 - Purchased Services	\$14,250	\$14,250	\$0
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$17,250	\$12,250	-\$5,000
2213 - INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF PROF DEV TOTAL	\$219,772	\$209,662	-\$10,110
2219 - Mentoring Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$56,500	\$46,500	-\$10,000
200 - Employee Benefits	\$7,682	\$3,766	-\$3,916
2219 - MENTORING SERVICES TOTAL	\$64,182	\$50,266	-\$13,916
2220 - Library Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$317,321	\$303,000	-\$14,321
200 - Employee Benefits	\$157,294	\$164,255	\$6,961
300 - Purchased Services	\$300	\$300	\$0
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$1,299	\$1,299	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$31,059	\$31,233	\$174
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$132	\$132	\$0
2220 - LIBRARY SERVICES TOTAL	\$507,405	\$500,219	-\$7,186
2230 - Student Technology Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$426,878	\$447,349	\$20,471
200 - Employee Benefits	\$164,743	\$157,161	-\$7,582
400 - Property Services	\$90,250	\$173,750	\$83,500
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$250	\$200	-\$50
600 - Supplies	\$208,356	\$197,833	-\$10,523
2230 - STUDENT TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TOTAL	\$890,477	\$976,293	\$85,816
2290 - Instructional Support Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
200 - Employee Benefits	\$162	\$162	\$0
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$350	\$350	\$0
2290 - INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES TOTAL	\$2,512	\$2,512	\$0
2310 - Board of Education			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$28,500	\$24,500	-\$4,000

	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 BUDGET	
	FY2026	FY2027	Variance
200 - Employee Benefits	\$2,308	\$1,984	-\$324
300 - Purchased Services	\$58,750	\$61,500	\$2,750
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$1,350	\$1,350	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$0
2310 - BOARD OF EDUCATION TOTAL	\$106,908	\$105,334	-\$1,574
2320 - Administration			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$805,465	\$798,012	-\$7,453
200 - Employee Benefits	\$268,595	\$281,806	\$13,211
300 - Purchased Services	\$21,000	\$1,000	-\$20,000
400 - Property Services	\$8,608	\$8,608	\$0
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$28,720	\$28,720	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0
2320 - ADMINISTRATION TOTAL	\$1,151,888	\$1,137,646	-\$14,242
2410 - Principal's Office			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$1,523,379	\$1,588,498	\$65,119
200 - Employee Benefits	\$616,131	\$680,937	\$64,806
300 - Purchased Services	\$18,000	\$21,250	\$3,250
400 - Property Services	\$1,190	\$1,590	\$400
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$154,831	\$154,851	\$20
600 - Supplies	\$47,024	\$48,546	\$1,522
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$27,989	\$34,288	\$6,299
2410 - PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE TOTAL	\$2,388,544	\$2,529,960	\$141,416
2510 - Fiscal Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$396,673	\$403,455	\$6,782
200 - Employee Benefits	\$228,309	\$233,296	\$4,987
300 - Purchased Services	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$225,900	\$225,900	\$0
2510 - FISCAL SERVICES TOTAL	\$858,882	\$870,651	\$11,769
2570 - Personnel Services / Human Resources			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$230,925	\$233,696	\$2,771
200 - Employee Benefits	\$140,210	\$148,280	\$8,070
300 - Purchased Services	\$24,950	\$24,950	\$0
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$21,500	\$21,500	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$750	\$750	\$0
2570 - PERSONNEL SERVICES / HUMAN RESOURCES TOTAL	\$423,335	\$434,176	\$10,841
2580 - Administrative Technology Services			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$181,470	\$182,915	\$1,445
200 - Employee Benefits	\$22,378	\$22,975	\$597
300 - Purchased Services	\$2,500	\$4,000	\$1,500
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$200	\$200	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$173,295	\$281,886	\$108,591
2580 - ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES TOTAL	\$379,843	\$491,976	\$112,133
2590 - Districtwide Services			
200 - Employee Benefits	\$288,962	\$300,450	\$11,488

	FY26 BUDGET	FY27 BUDGET	
	FY2026	FY2027	Variance
300 - Purchased Services	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$0
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$187,783	\$197,172	\$9,389
2590 - DISTRICTWIDE SERVICES TOTAL	\$485,245	\$506,122	\$20,877
2610 - Plant Operation & Maintenance			
100 - Professional Salaries & Support Staff Wages	\$1,519,510	\$1,653,925	\$134,415
200 - Employee Benefits	\$682,327	\$734,584	\$52,257
300 - Purchased Services	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
400 - Property Services	\$963,829	\$935,536	-\$28,293
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$1,130,300	\$1,208,300	\$78,000
700 - Equipment	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0
2610 - PLANT OPERATION & MAINTENANCE TOTAL	\$4,321,366	\$4,572,745	\$251,379
2711 - Student Transportation			
500 - Other Purchased Services	\$3,135,563	\$3,051,212	-\$84,351
2711 - STUDENT TRANSPORTATION TOTAL	\$3,135,563	\$3,051,212	-\$84,351
3100 - Food Services			
200 - Employee Benefits	\$33,154	\$33,192	\$38
300 - Purchased Services	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
600 - Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
3100 - FOOD SERVICES TOTAL	\$35,154	\$35,192	\$38
4700 - Construction / Renovations			
400 - Property Services	\$1,921,350	\$906,768	-\$1,014,582
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	-	\$1,014,582	\$1,014,582
4700 - CONSTRUCTION / RENOVATIONS TOTAL	\$1,921,350	\$1,921,350	\$0
5020 - Long Term Debt			
800 - Debt Service & Miscellaneous	\$382,267	\$382,267	\$0
5020 - LONG TERM DEBT TOTAL	\$382,267	\$382,267	\$0
OPERATING BUDGET TOTAL	\$50,956,879	\$52,440,854	\$1,483,975



Staff FTE Totals by School

	Districtwide	Franklin	Highgate	MVU Middle & High	Swanton
FTE					
FTE	34.46	33.7	65.33	156.52	109.67
FTE	34.46	33.7	65.33	156.52	109.67

SALARY AND WAGE SCHEDULES 2026-2027

PROFESSIONAL						
	BA/BS	BA/BS+15	BA/BS+30	MA	MA+15	MA+30
1	\$51,750	\$53,250	\$54,750	\$56,250	\$57,750	\$59,250
2	\$53,250	\$54,750	\$56,250	\$57,750	\$59,250	\$60,750
3	\$54,750	\$56,250	\$57,750	\$59,250	\$60,750	\$62,250
4	\$56,250	\$57,750	\$59,250	\$60,750	\$62,250	\$63,750
5	\$57,750	\$59,250	\$60,750	\$62,250	\$63,750	\$65,250
6	\$59,250	\$60,750	\$62,250	\$63,750	\$65,250	\$66,750
7	\$60,750	\$62,250	\$63,750	\$65,250	\$66,750	\$68,250
8	\$62,250	\$63,750	\$65,250	\$66,750	\$68,250	\$69,750
9	\$63,750	\$65,250	\$66,750	\$68,250	\$69,750	\$71,250
10	\$65,250	\$66,750	\$68,250	\$69,750	\$71,250	\$72,750
11	\$66,750	\$68,250	\$69,750	\$71,250	\$72,750	\$74,250
12		\$69,750	\$71,250	\$72,750	\$74,250	\$75,750
13		\$71,250	\$72,750	\$74,250	\$75,750	\$77,250
14			\$74,250	\$75,750	\$77,250	\$78,750
15			\$75,750	\$77,250	\$78,750	\$80,250
16				\$78,750	\$80,250	\$81,750
17				\$80,250	\$81,750	\$83,250
18				\$81,750	\$83,250	\$84,750
19				\$83,250	\$84,750	\$86,250
20					\$86,250	\$87,750
21					\$87,750	\$89,250
22						\$90,750
23						\$92,250

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
Pay Grade	Receptionist, Secretary, Guidance Secretary
1	\$19.65
2	\$20.65
3	\$21.65
4	\$22.65
5	\$23.65
6	\$24.45
7	\$25.25
8	\$26.05
9	\$26.85
10	\$27.65
11	\$28.45
12	\$29.25
13	\$30.05
14	\$30.65
15	\$31.25
16	\$31.85
17	\$32.45
18	\$33.05
19	\$33.65
20	\$34.25

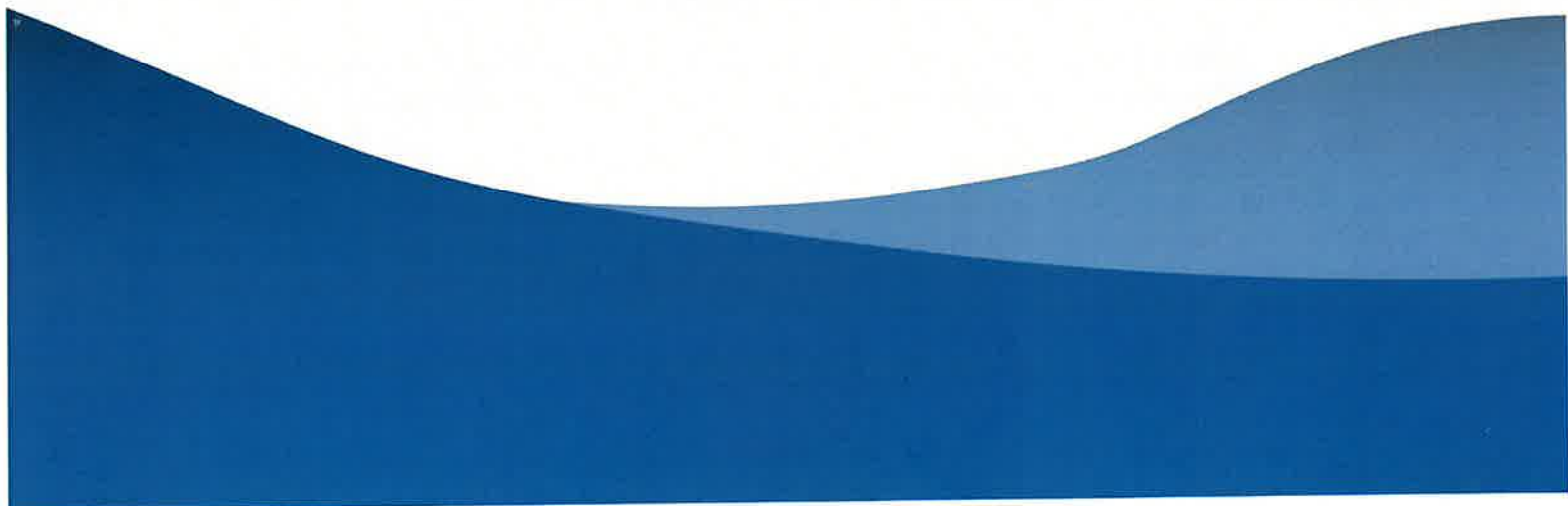
STUDENT SUPPORT			
Pay Grade	Highly Qualified	Associates Degree / Equivalent Credits or Portfolio	Bachelors Degree / Equivalent Credits or Portfolio
1	\$19.05	\$20.25	\$20.85
2	\$20.05	\$21.25	\$21.85
3	\$21.05	\$22.25	\$22.85
4	\$22.05	\$23.25	\$23.85
5	\$23.05	\$24.25	\$24.85
6	\$23.85	\$25.05	\$25.65
7	\$24.65	\$25.85	\$26.45
8	\$25.45	\$26.65	\$27.25
9	\$26.25	\$27.45	\$28.05
10	\$27.05	\$28.25	\$28.85
11	\$27.85	\$29.05	\$29.65
12	\$28.65	\$29.85	\$30.45
13	\$29.45	\$30.65	\$31.25
14	\$30.15	\$31.35	\$31.95
15	\$30.85	\$32.05	\$32.65
16	\$31.55	\$32.75	\$33.35
17	\$32.25	\$33.45	\$34.05
18	\$32.95	\$34.15	\$34.75
19	\$33.65	\$34.85	\$35.45
20	\$34.35	\$35.55	\$36.15

FACILITY SUPPORT		
Pay Grade	Custodial	Maintenance
1	\$20.55	\$20.85
2	\$21.55	\$21.85
3	\$22.55	\$22.85
4	\$23.55	\$23.85
5	\$24.55	\$24.85
6	\$25.35	\$25.65
7	\$26.15	\$26.45
8	\$26.95	\$27.25
9	\$27.75	\$28.05
10	\$28.55	\$28.85
11	\$29.35	\$29.65
12	\$30.15	\$30.45
13	\$30.95	\$31.25
14	\$31.55	\$31.85
15	\$32.15	\$32.45
16	\$32.75	\$33.05
17	\$33.35	\$33.65
18	\$33.95	\$34.25
19	\$34.55	\$34.85
20	\$35.15	\$35.45

FY27 Support Staff Wage Schedules Currently Under Negotiations

SHARED SERVICES

DEPARTMENT REPORTS





Superintendent's Office

By Julie Regimbal, Superintendent

The 2025-2026 school year has been a period of significant achievement and focused growth for the Missisquoi Valley School District (MVSD). I am proud to share that our collective efforts—from the classroom to the board room—are yielding tangible results for our students and staff. We continue to see steady enrollment across all our schools, which reinforces the vitality of our region and the trust our families place in our educational system.

This year marked a major milestone with the formal adoption of our Strategic Plan. Building on our shared mission and "Portrait of a Learner," this plan now serves as our roadmap for excellence. I am thrilled to report that our focus on evidence-based instruction is working: we have seen increased student academic outcomes in most grade levels, with particularly significant gains at the Middle High School level.

To maintain this momentum, the MVSD Board has established clear annual goals to guide our District Improvement:

- Academic Achievement: Increasing overall student achievement while closing gaps for children who struggle.
- Postsecondary Readiness: Improving outcomes through professional credentials, apprenticeships, internships, and clear graduation plans for college or employment.
- Staff Retention: Prioritizing the stability and growth of our talented workforce.
- Attendance: Reducing the percentage of students with attendance rates at or below 90% from 18% to a target of 15% by the end of this school year.

We remain committed to ensuring efficient, safe, and sustainable learning environments. A highlight of our facility improvements this year was the completion of the Swanton Babcock Building upgrade this past winter. By investing in capital improvements and optimizing our technology and human resources, we are ensuring our physical spaces match the high quality of the instruction happening within them.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the MVSD board, led by Renick Darnell-Martin this past year. The board's continued collaboration is essential to our success in supporting positive outcomes for all of our students.

Finally, I want to thank all of the talented and committed administrators, educators, and staff here at MVSD. Our teacher retention rate has increased significantly, which is a testament to the supportive culture we are building together. I am honored to lead such an amazing group of professionals who ensure that our schools are places where children come first and families are valued.

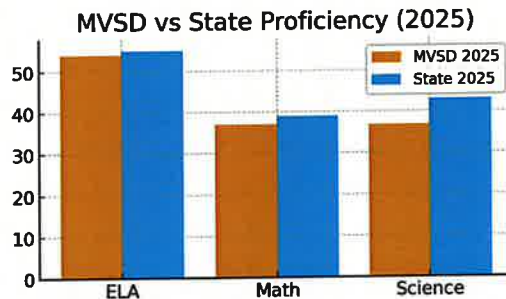
MVSD Curriculum & Instruction

MISSISSQUOI VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

By Kosha Patel, Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction Director

We are excited to share with you the growth that MVSD schools have made in the last year. In spring 2025, the statewide VTCAP (Vermont Comprehensive Assessment Program) assessment data showed:

- In English Language Arts, MVSD proficiency was **54%** and the state average was **55%**. ELA proficiency rose from **48% in 2024 to 54% in 2025**, bringing us within 1 point of the state average. This improvement reflects the success of our literacy initiatives and district-wide teaching strategies.
- In math, the district is 2% below the state average. MVSD was **37%** and the state average was **39%**. Math proficiency improved from **35% in 2024 to 37% in 2025**.
- In Science, MVSD increased from 34% in 2024 to **36.8% in 2025**. The state average was **43%**. Science proficiency increased from **34% in 2024 to 36.8% in 2025**. Grade 5 matched the state average (43%).



This shows that the adoption of our new evidence-based math and literacy programs is having a positive impact on our student outcomes. We continue to provide our teachers with high-quality instructional materials and professional development to build their expertise in teaching the curriculum. Our principals and instructional coaches are providing strong leadership to support the implementation of the MVSD curriculum.

We also saw some amazing gains in the grade 9 math and ELA VTCAP proficiency scores.

Amazing Gains in Grade 9!!

Content Area	2024			2025		
	Students	Percentage of Proficiency (State)	Percentage of Proficiency (MVSD)	Students	Percentage of Proficiency (State)	Percentage of Proficiency (MVSD)
English Language Arts	120	47	36	128	46	56*
Math	120	39	32	128	40	43*

★ 20% increase in ELA from 2024
★ 11% increase in math from 2024

So, as we celebrate the fact that MVSD is trending upward in all subjects we continue to focus on improving classroom instruction through professional development with expert consultants in literacy and math and our instructional coaches. Additionally, we are providing interventionists and special educators professional development with experts based on research to close achievement gaps for all students.

We thank you for your support in our continuous improvement efforts in providing our students from Highgate, Franklin, and Swanton the best, well-rounded education we can to ensure they are all thriving and college and career ready



Special Education

by Wendy Cunningham, Director of Special Education and Early Childhood

The Missisquoi Valley School District serves 402 special education students, representing approximately 21.12% of our total enrollment across PreK-21. While our prevalence rate remains above the 2023-2024 state average of 19.6% reported by the Vermont Agency of Education, we have observed a downward trend from previous years, suggesting that our focus on robust Tier 1 and Tier 2 supports is stabilizing referral patterns. Our student population is seeing a shift in disability categories, with 25.62% of students eligible for special education identified under Other Health Impairment and a rise in Autism Spectrum Disorder from 7% during the 2024-2025 school year to 10.19% this year. Conversely, Specific Learning Disabilities have decreased to 14.42%. This data indicates a growing need for specialized environmental accommodations and neurodevelopmental supports rather than traditional remedial interventions.

Our district continues to demonstrate strong procedural adherence and commitment to inclusion. In the most recent Local Annual Performance Report, we achieved perfect 100% compliance scores in Child Find, Early Childhood Transition, and Post-Secondary Transition. We also exceeded the state target for the Least Restrictive Environment, with 89.76% of our students being educated inside the regular classroom for the majority of the day. To address areas where we "need assistance," such as state-wide proficiency testing and parent survey participation, we have enhanced our data collection processes and expanded family outreach efforts. We also conduct rigorous data reviews each spring to determine eligibility for Extended School Year services, ensuring students at risk of significant regression maintain their educational progress.



Student Support Services

By Tania Hayes, Director of Student Services

Student Support Services in MVSD schools are situated within the Multi-Tiered System of Support available to students based on their unique needs with regards to access to, and progress in, the curriculum. Students receive support and intervention within the context of general education as well as through special education and Section 504 if they have qualifying disabilities. These services in MVSD include those provided by interventionists, related services (occupational, physical and speech language therapists), school psychologists, contracted mental health and behavioral support specialists, Multilingual Learner teacher, Special Educators, Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), Engagement and Attendance Coordinator, Alternative Teachers and Paraprofessionals.

Our goal in MVSD is to ensure that all students have equitable access to high levels of academic and social learning, therefore our system includes instruction and intervention in both academic and social and emotional areas. While MVSD provides universal social emotional instruction, some students may also receive targeted intervention at “Tier II” or “Tier III” if they are lagging in social skill development. For example, students may receive additional instruction to develop social problem solving skills or self regulation if deficits in these skills are creating barriers to learning. Additionally, MVSD contracts with Northwest Counseling and Support Services (NCSS), our regional designated mental health agency, for the most specialized behavioral services that are provided within the mainstream setting, for consultative services and for alternative programming. In some instances, the district may access services outside of Franklin county. In all, MVSD currently contracts with six different alternative schools to support the specialized needs of about 23 students.

In effort to continue our work to increase capacity to serve more students with complex learning needs in-district, we have reallocated resources to enable the addition of more targeted Social Emotional Behavioral alternative programming at the elementary level, have allocated an additional professional at the high school level to provide highly individualized programming, and continue to work to refine the high school alternative program, RISE.

Through our continuous improvement planning processes, we continue to work towards ensuring a robust continuum of services to meet the range of needs of our learners as reflected by district, school and individual student data.



Afterschool and Summer Programs

By Beth Ann Miller, Director of Expanded Learning

Funding Highlights	Program Highlights*
<p>40% of total budget: 21st Century Learning Center grant</p> <p>38% of total budget: Local School Budget/Medicaid</p> <p>22% of total budget: Other grants/contributions</p> <p>\$74k added to '25-'26 Sustainability Plan</p>	<p>8,768 meals served</p> <p>308 students enrolled (Fall session)</p> <p>248 students enrolled (Summer session)</p> <p>20+ MVU students hired</p> <p>8 MVU interns placed (summer)</p> <p><i>*Reflects July 1st - November 30th, 2025</i></p>

In addition to maintaining the **\$450,000** 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant (After School & Summer Programs) and the **\$68,000** State Afterschool Center Track grant (Teen Leadership), MVSD's Director of Expanded Learning, Beth Ann Miller, and After School Administrative Manager, Holly Fortune, successfully wrote and received a **2026-2029 competitive State Afterschool Program grant at \$74,000** a year for 3.5 years. The funding will become available in early February 2026 and is written to support performing arts programs in MVSD. It is designed to:

- Develop a "traveling" performing arts program
- Employ two part-time performing arts leaders
- Create a youth-lead advisory performing arts council
- Host four large drama performances a year, rotating between schools
- Host multiple STEM classes during the after school sessions

Special partnerships and collaborations included: Northwest Access TV, Maple City Candy, Fournier's Farm Equipment, Boat Headquarters, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Franklin County Bookmobile, Swanton Recreation, Swanton Library, Highgate Recreation, Highgate Library, Haston Library, Agents of Influence, Vermont Afterschool, Shedrick Martial Arts, Ernie Hemingway Dramatics, Franklin Homestead & Carriage House, etc.

Special programs included: Jr. Iron Chef state competition, Destination Imagination state competition, CATALYST Future Readiness Center, Summer Internship Program, Teen Leadership Program, ECHO-sponsored summer field trips, Crazy8s Math, MilestoneC Robotics, ARC Grab & Go Literacy Kits, etc.



By Derrick Garceau

In 2025, the Technology Department focused on improving district cybersecurity, strengthening operational reliability, and expanding tools that support communication and staff training. A major security milestone this year was the replacement of firewalls at all schools. This work improved the district's security posture while also making our environment easier to manage and maintain. We also added cloud backups for critical data to improve resilience and recovery readiness. In addition, vulnerability scan results improved dramatically over time—areas that previously contained numerous findings were addressed, and the district's current vulnerability scan status is now at zero threats detected.

This year also marked the successful district-wide rollout of ParentSquare as MVSD's unified communication platform. ParentSquare has helped standardize school-to-home communications and strengthen outreach across the district. As of 2025, MVSD families are 100% contactable in ParentSquare. During the year, 30,946 direct messages were sent, 1,324 posts were published across the district, and 3,132 photos and videos were shared. To maintain accuracy and reliability, the district will continue sending a test message at the beginning of each school year to verify contact information and ensure the system is functioning as expected.

Operationally, the Technology Department continued to provide daily support and service for students, staff, and district systems. In 2025, the department closed 2,036 support tickets, up from 1,816 the previous year, while also improving responsiveness. Average response time improved by 50% compared to last year, reflecting both increased demand and stronger internal processes. The department also continued its work managing technology assets across MVSD, maintaining an inventory of over 3,500 devices. Chromebooks remain on a six-year replacement cycle, with the final two years of that cycle used strategically as spares and extras for testing and parts when needed.

MVSD also expanded staff compliance and training support through the implementation of PublicSchoolWorks. This platform provides consistent district-wide training delivery and tracking, supporting required trainings. Working closely with Bonnie helped ensure a smooth transition and a successful district-wide rollout. In 2025, staff completed 4,816 trainings through the system.

Looking ahead to next year, MVSD Technology priorities include a phone system upgrade with Fidium to move the district onto the ProConnect system, which will modernize communications and improve reliability and support. The district also plans to move away from the current athletic registration software and transition to a new, improved platform that better serves families and staff. Finally, MVSD will continue to navigate the rapidly changing AI landscape and develop guidance and support for appropriate, responsible use of AI in schools for teaching, learning, and operations.



Business Department

By Lora McAllister, Director of Finance and Operations

The Missisquoi Valley School District (MVSD) Business Office provides this high-level overview of district finances for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26), along with key considerations for the FY27 budget. Our focus remains on responsible stewardship of public funds, transparency, and supporting student learning while remaining mindful of taxpayers.

Vermont Public School Finance – A Brief Overview

Vermont funds public education primarily through a **statewide Education Fund**, supported largely by property taxes and supplemented by other state revenues and federal grants. Local school budgets are influenced by statewide formulas designed to promote equity among districts.

Key concepts:

- **Equalized Pupils:** Funding and tax rates are based on student counts adjusted for educational needs. Enrollment changes can significantly affect tax rates.
- **Local Budgets & Tax Rates:** School boards adopt budgets locally, but tax impacts are determined through statewide calculations, not solely local spending decisions.
- **Oversight & Accountability:** Districts must comply with Vermont statutes, Agency of Education guidance, and federal grant requirements.

FY26 Financial Overview

In FY26, MVSD operated within its voter-approved budget and maintained a balanced financial position.

- **Sound Budget Management:** State education funding, federal grants, and local revenues supported instructional programs, student services, and daily operations.
- **Cost Controls:** Ongoing monitoring helped manage rising costs related to health insurance, transportation, utilities, and special education.
- **Fund Balance:** Available fund balance was used strategically for one-time needs and to help stabilize future tax impacts, consistent with best practices.

Audit and Accountability

- **Independent Audit:** MVSD received a clean audit with no material findings, reflecting strong internal controls and accurate financial reporting.
- **Transparency:** Financial information is shared regularly with the School Board and the public through meetings and reports.

Key Financial Priorities

- **Facilities & Capital Planning:** Continued investment in building maintenance and long-term planning protects the community's assets and avoids larger future costs.
- **Staffing & Programs:** Salaries and benefits represent the largest share of the budget. MVSD balances competitive compensation with affordability while prioritizing core academic areas such as literacy and mathematics.
- **Student Services:** Special education and related services are essential but can be unpredictable; careful planning and monitoring remain critical.

FY27 Budget Outlook

Planning for FY27 is shaped by several key factors:

- Enrollment and equalized pupil trends
- Inflationary pressures on health insurance, transportation, and utilities
- Potential statewide policy or funding changes
- Ongoing consideration of taxpayer impact

The FY27 budget process will continue to emphasize transparency, community engagement, and alignment with district goals.

Looking Ahead

The MVSD Business Office remains committed to long-term financial sustainability, operational efficiency, and clear communication. By balancing educational priorities with fiscal discipline, the district aims to support student success while honoring the trust of the community.



Human Resources Department

By Bonnie Moulton, Director of Human Resources

The MVSD Human Resources Department is dedicated to providing the structural foundation necessary for our district to thrive. By managing the complexities of employment and district compliance, we ensure that faculty and staff can direct their full attention to instruction and student achievement.

Beyond Recruitment: The Scope of Our Work

While hiring is a visible part of our role, the Human Resources team manages a vast array of critical functions essential to district operations. Daily responsibilities include ensuring strict compliance with state and federal labor laws, managing professional licensure and certifications, and overseeing labor relations and contract administration. Additionally, we handle complex leave management (FMLA/medical), workers' compensation, and maintain the integrity of all personnel records to mitigate risk and ensure district stability.

2025 Fiscal Year Highlights

- **Recruitment & Onboarding:** We successfully recruited and onboarded **30** professional staff, **32** support staff, and filled **five (5)** key administrative roles. We also refined our New Teacher Orientation and group sessions to ensure all new hires achieved operational readiness immediately upon arrival.
- **Retention Growth:** Through targeted retention strategies and improved workplace stability measures, we increased employee retention from **88%** in FY24 to **90% in FY25**.
- **Benefits Administration:** We executed a data-driven open enrollment period. By rigorously evaluating vendor options, we secured competitive benefits packages that balance high-quality employee coverage with fiscal responsibility for the district.
- **Process Optimization:** We continued to streamline the employee lifecycle, improving workflows for professional development tracking, benefits management, and internal transfers to reduce administrative burden on staff.
- **Employee Relations:** We prioritized accessibility and responsiveness. Through regular site visits and direct communication channels, we ensured that staff inquiries and concerns were addressed promptly, maintaining a supportive professional environment.

Looking Ahead

The HR Department remains focused on continuous improvement. In the coming year, we will continue to modernize our processes and strengthen the support systems that empower our employees to excel in their roles.



Facilities and Maintenance

Facility Reports for Highgate, MVU and Swanton

by Jason Butler, Highgate, MVU, and Swanton School Facility Director

MVU:

The D pod bathrooms underwent a major update. This project consisted of removing the walls separating the boys and girls bathrooms and constructing 6 new individual bathrooms that can be used by anyone in the building. There is now a common sink area that is accessible to all. This project was kicked off by the MVU facilities crew doing the demolition and then EEI oversaw the project. The overall project went great and the project was an overall success with so much positive feedback from students and staff. The roof above commons and administration or B pod was replaced in our 4th phase of the roof replacement project. Summer 2025 was definitely a challenge as we dealt with a good amount of rain and had to tie the membrane into the previous phases. We were able to complete our 3-acre stormwater construction project. There were 3 large areas on the property that received the new stormwater containment areas. Science rooms A44 and A41 saw the removal of the old cabinets and our maintenance department staff were able to install the new cabinets, sinks and paint the walls. Summer 2026 we look forward to our next phase of roof which will be E pod and over the theater. We also hope to potentially pave and add lighting to the main parking lot.

Swanton:

The Mary S. Babcock building underwent the largest construction project since the back wing was added in 1979. We have been working with EEI for several years on this project and with their lead we were able to undergo a fantastic renovation. The renovation happened over the course of 6 months broken up into 2 phases. Phase one saw the Electrical system get upgraded and HVAC units installed. The parking lot was reworked and repaved. Tons of exterior work including new ADA sidewalks, new support columns and a new exterior facade that completely changed the look of the building. Inside bathrooms were updated, the gym was updated and all new ceilings and floors in our main corridors. Phase 2 consisted of new boilers and the HVAC systems coming online which now offer heating and cooling to our building. More bathroom upgrades, more flooring upgrades and classroom insulation above the new ceilings. Other updates include all new paint in the gym and halls, new doors in the main wing and ceilings throughout that give an overall seamless appearance. I would consider the project a huge success that will be enjoyed for years to come. It came with many obstacles but overall it was one of the best projects I have been involved with at MVSD. We were also able to complete our stormwater 3 acre construction project. There were several areas of our Central building that were affected and there was a good amount of coordination between the summer programs and the construction projects this summer. Overall as busy as 2025 was, the year was a huge success. Summer 2026 looks to be a little less hectic with smaller projects at Babcock being finished up that were not completed due to the winter weather.

Highgate:

Highgate Elementary saw some great improvements in 2025. We were able to install insulation and a new roof on the Brick building. This project has been talked about and in the works for many years and it was great to see it happen. Adding new roof insulation and a durable membrane creates a more comfortable, energy-efficient, and well-protected learning environment, helping maintain consistent temperatures and a healthier space for students and staff throughout the school. We were also able to install new energy-efficient windows in the oldest part of the school, which improves comfort, reduces energy loss, and enhances the learning environment while preserving the building's longevity. New interior classroom doors were added as part of our yearly updates. The parking lot received a fresh new coat of pavement sealer and the lines were repainted for a brand new look and also adding a layer of protection to protect our past investment of the new parking lot. The Brick building received a brand new addressable fire alarm system replacing the outdated system that was in place. In 2026 the gym will receive new basketball hoops replacing the old outdated equipment. 2026 also looks to be quieter from a construction standpoint and we hope to continue with our interior improvement plans that we have been working towards for the past several years.

Facility Report for Franklin

by Steven Reynolds, Franklin School Facility Director

2025 was another busy year full of accomplishments and improvements to our school! In January we had a state mandated Radon test performed. Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. (Fuss & O'Neill) performed a radon measurement event utilizing passive radon collection devices. Radon testing is a requirement under Vermont Act 72 – Section 12 Radon Testing: School Facilities. This Act requires testing for radon in every public school and approved independent school facility that has not had a test completed in five or more years. Fuss & O'Neill conducted initial measurements using a short-term test. Short-term measurements were made in all frequently occupied rooms in contact with the ground, or above unoccupied ground contact rooms for newly constructed or previously untested buildings. In addition, ANSI/AARST requires 10% of upper-level rooms to be tested as well, even though they may not be in direct contact with the ground. All rooms were tested simultaneously. The laboratory results indicate the radon concentrations within the school building were below the EPA Action Level of 4.0 pCi/L for the dates and times of sampling.

In the Spring the district purchased a new commercial Z-turn Mower as we are now handling all mowing & trimming in house since the contract expired of having the town of Franklin provide mowing to the school. By handling the landscaping in house we are able to spend as much time making the outdoor appearance of the school very attractive.

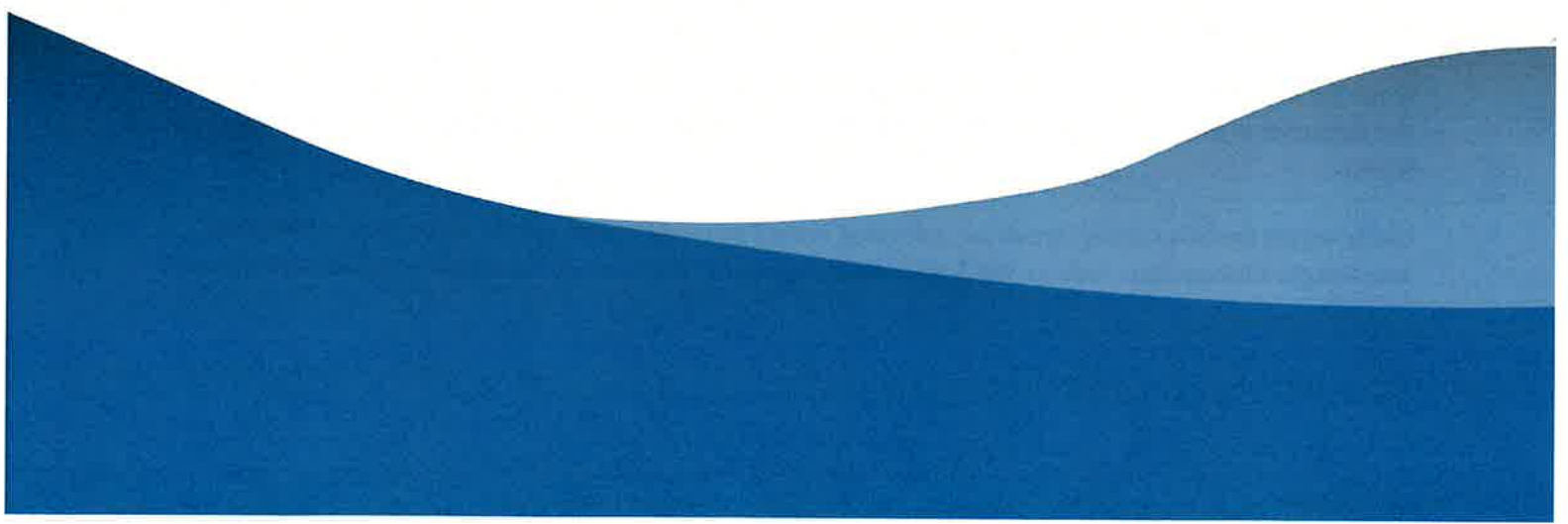
We made a purchase of a Gaga pit flooring that was installed in house. This was a much needed item as before the grass would soon be trampled down to dirt/mud just days after moving it to a grassy location therefore making it slippery to play.

Once the kids were on summer break we hired Cold Hollow tree service to remove MANY trees that were along the perimeter of the playgrounds & parking lot that were dead, dying or overhanging into the areas in danger of falling.

Lastly, during the kids summer break we renovated room 7 by replacing the carpet, baseboard, repainted & installed modular partition walls for the 3 specialists that work in the room. All work again was handled in house.

SCHOOLS

PRINCIPAL REPORTS





Franklin Elementary School

By Joyce Hakey, Franklin Central School Principal

"Knowledge brings the opportunity to make a difference." — Claire Fagin

Our staff continues to be very dedicated and committed to professional learning that directly benefits students. We continue to focus on high quality first instruction, targeted interventions, and monitoring student growth closely. Teachers have been engaged in training on the district-wide literacy program (ARC) beginning last year; completed the second year implementation of the Illustrative Math program, continued training on real-world mathematical problem solving and fact fluency, and several teachers completed a "Brain Research on Math Instruction" course; expanded hands-on science and engineering experiences; implemented executive function teaching strategies for skills such as task initiation and time management, to help students become more independent learners; and strengthened our PE program utilizing the new state standards with an emphasis on lifelong health and physical activity. We value this professional development and the evidence based instructional programming that provides exciting learning opportunities that benefits our students and teachers! Equally important, we continue to prioritize engaging families in their children's education as we believe that all students will be most successful when home and school are working together. Parents know their children best, and when we collaborate, it makes a lasting positive difference for our students—both in school and beyond.

Highlights since our last annual report included retired teachers from Franklin coming to our rescue covering for a teacher's medical leave; the large number of parents/grandparents/community members chaperoning for the ski program; Annual Senior Dinner with "Winter Wonderland" theme; students presenting projects on Vermont economics; STEM (Science/Tech/Engineering/Math) Fest; grant-funded Friendship Puppet Program; Four Winds Nature Science Program; Spring Concert and Art show; Memorial Day activities that this year included tributes in memory of Val Shepard, our 4th grade teacher for 36 years and a veteran; band participating in the Dairy Festival Parade; activities with Haston Library and Carriage House/Homestead; and end of year trips with so many family members participating!

This past fall, MVSD had a memorable visit by Supaman (Native American dancer and hip hop artist) made possible by Chief Brenda Gagne and the Parent Advisory Committee. The music, dancing, and powerful message of resilience and hope were enthusiastically received by grades 4–6 students and staff. Other fall highlights included a Reading Recognition Assembly for summer readers with more students than ever before; two students' art work selected for the Robert Howe Fire Safety Calendar yearly art contest open to all third graders statewide; an engaging and educational presentation called "Up Close with Raptors" chosen by students to celebrate academic achievement; continued collaboration with our local veterans on various activities including our Veterans Day assembly with speaker Eric Beauregard (it's an honor to have the opportunity to show appreciation to our veterans for all they have done and all that they continue to do!); Fire Safety presentations; collaboration with Franklin Rec; Farm to School activities; continuation of 100% parent-teacher conference participation; and Alita Boomhower, our school nurse, being chosen as the MVSD Outstanding Elementary Educator for 25-26!

We appreciated how hard our students worked and how seriously they took local and state assessments. Our school surpassed the district goals for reading and math proficiency as measured by Star 360. Also, our school continued to exceed the state average for grades 3-6 on statewide testing (VTCAP) in math, literacy, and science! Congratulations to students, parents, staff, school board, and community!

We could never express enough gratitude for all you do and the support you give in so many ways! Thank you for helping us have another great year!



Highgate Elementary School

By Justina Jennett

As we share information about the school budget, I wanted to take a moment to provide an update on the many positive developments at Highgate School. It has been a pleasure stepping into this role, and I am truly grateful for the support you have shown in welcoming me into your community.

Inside our classrooms, teachers continue to engage in high-quality professional learning to strengthen instruction. In literacy, K–6 teachers are in Year 2 of implementing the American Reading Company (ARC) Core Reading program. With support from ARC coaches, teachers are refining their use of the IRLA, strengthening lesson planning, and engaging in collaborative reflection to continuously improve instruction.

In mathematics, K–6 teachers are in Year 3 of implementing Illustrative Mathematics through Imagine Learning. Embedded professional development focuses on the 5 Practices for Organizing Productive Mathematical Discussions, which promote meaningful, problem-based learning. Teachers receive ongoing support through classroom coaching, PLCs, and feedback from math consultants and our Highgate math coach. In addition, special educators and interventionists are participating in professional learning focused on strengthening Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions to better connect student readiness with grade-level instruction.

We remain committed to supporting the whole child through universal social emotional learning. SEL Wednesdays continue this year, with all classrooms teaching SEL skills during morning meetings using the Second Step curriculum. We are also increasing our focus on Tier 2 social-emotional supports, using data to identify students who may benefit from additional small-group or individual support.

Over the past year, we have made important improvements to our facilities to better support students, staff, and families. These projects include a new roof on the brick building, consolidation of student services and offices into the main building, new exterior windows and doors in the Grades 4, 5, and 6 wings, and asphalt sealcoating and lining in the parking lots. These investments help ensure Highgate School remains a safe, functional, and welcoming place for learning.

We are also proud to celebrate our students and community. This year, a Highgate student was selected as Vermont's first-ever Kid Governor—an exciting achievement that reflects the leadership and civic engagement we strive to foster. We continue to value our partnership with the PTKO, an active group of parents leading fundraising efforts and pursuing updated playground structures through a thoughtful, phased implementation plan.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Highgate School. We are proud of the work happening here and look forward to continuing this important work together on behalf of our students.



MVU Middle & High School

By Dan Palmer, High School Principal,

Christie Martin, Middle School Principal,

Jenn DeSorgher, Director of Teaching and Learning

The Missisquoi Valley Union (MVU) Administrative Leadership Team would like to express our gratitude and thanks to our communities and families for their support of our school and students. We want to acknowledge the on-going efforts of our students, families, staff, Central Office personnel, and the MVSD School Board to help us continue providing meaningful learning opportunities while working towards our goal of having a safe, respectful, and responsible school community for all.

We are proud of the many activities and events that we offer including the Indigenous Peoples' Day celebration, the annual Homecoming parade, over 3,000 hours of community service to our local communities, and the Division II Baseball Championship. This year, 43% of our students participated in a fall sport or activity. Throughout the year, we are proud to offer 16 clubs and organizations to which over 400 students belong, as well as 29 boys and girls sports at the middle and high school.

Our faculty and staff are engaged in an ongoing commitment to increase career and college readiness for all students. We continue to increase post high school and secondary education training opportunities for students. We are in year 4 of our Pathways initiative which is integrated with MVSD's Portrait of a Learner and focused on helping students find "success on any chosen path."

On behalf of our entire MVU school community, we extend our heartfelt thanks for the many ways you enrich and strengthen our school. Most importantly, we are grateful for the trust, support, and opportunity you give us each day to work with and care for your children.



Swanton Elementary School

By Yeshua Pastina, Principal

Jessica Bourbeau, Assistant Principal

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” --William Butler Yates

At Swanton Schools we are incredibly grateful for our partnership and continued support from our Swanton Community. We are fortunate to work with staff and families who care about the well being of each of our students to best support them in their future endeavors beyond their time in our classrooms. Swanton is incredibly lucky to have an extremely dedicated and talented teaching staff. Each day we work hard to help our students achieve and to support them and their families in doing so. We are fortunate to educationally raise our students in a wonderful and supportive environment.

There are a few key areas that we have focused on during this school year and one of those was a master schedule that focused on increasing instructional time as well as supporting a “What I Need” (WIN) time twice a day for 30 minutes in math and literacy. During these times teachers can plan instruction to help support students who need more time to develop a skill and other teaching staff like special educators and interventionists can also work with students to give them a little more support that might be needed. We are seeing some wonderful outcomes from this time built in our master schedule.

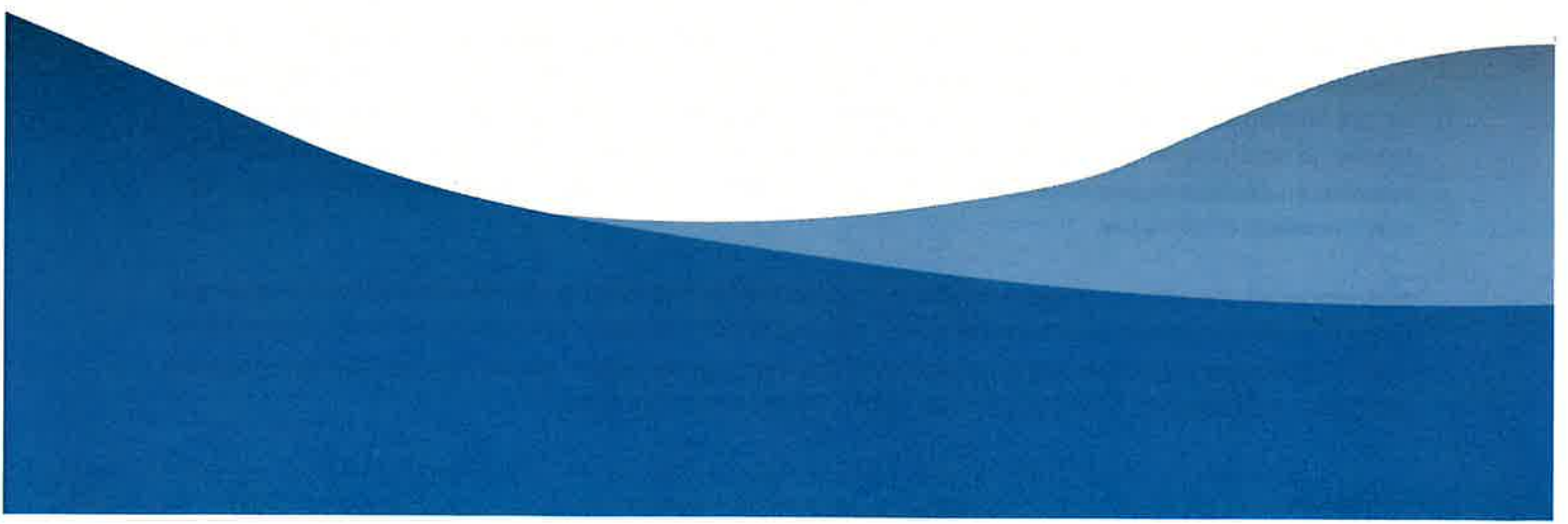
To help make a larger impact during our WIN time, we are also consulting with Sarah Ward to help improve executive functioning skills in all of our students. Sarah Ward is a national expert in the field and we are fortunate to have her in all of our classrooms and consult with her to improve our instruction. Through Sarah Ward's consultation, we are able to help foster independence in our students and to help them take accountability in their learning. This helps in the classrooms so that as WIN time is happening other students are doing independent tasks while small groups of students get what they need.

This year as a school we are working on being more consistent with our behavior expectations which included a behavior matrix which was rolled out to families in August. By having this specific system of behavior response we are holding students more accountable with their behavior. We are also working on collaborating with families to best support their students to meet expected behaviors at school. This also includes Swanton heavily focusing on attendance and collaborating with families to get students more consistently in school when they reach ten days of absences.

As a school we are also working to revitalize our school culture and focus on Community Engagement! We are trying to foster a sense of pride and love for our learning community. We also could not be more grateful for the new HVAC system in our Babcock building and for the new look and feel it has with the construction which was completed in December! Thank you for your continued support of our schools!

INDIAN EDUCATION

COUNTY PROGRAM REPORT





Franklin County Indian Education Program

The Franklin County Indian Education Program funding does not come from the MVSD Budget. It is a county wide program that is 100% grant funded.

Program Report

By Jeff Benay, Director of Indian Education

Several years ago, the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs was visited by a student from Alburgh. She hoped the Commission would support her idea that public schools remain open on Indigenous Peoples' Day, so that lesson plans could focus on Native Americans. Sage Gould, granddaughter of Missisquoi Chief Brenda Gagne, and now a sophomore at MVU, explained that her classmates had little idea why school was closed to celebrate a holiday they were unfamiliar with. They were aware of the controversy surrounding Columbus Day and its discontinuation in Vermont. Yet, they were relatively uninformed about the history, culture, or context surrounding Native peoples. Sage suggested that schools remain open so students could learn about the importance of the Native American presence in Vermont.

Commission members enthusiastically concurred with Sage that more emphasis on Native studies was needed, with a particular focus on Abenaki history and culture, as the Abenaki are considered the original inhabitants of Vermont. In a short time, several schools in Franklin and Grand Isle counties committed to remaining open on Indigenous Peoples' Day. These schools were part of the Indian Education Consortium, which included the long-time lead school district, Missisquoi Valley, along with Maple Run and Grand Isle districts, where approximately 520 students were Abenaki. While Commissioners were pleased that these schools were open, they knew that school administrators wanted resources to share with teachers so educators could incorporate accurate information into lesson plans specifically designed for Indigenous Peoples' Day. The Commission initiated contact with Vermont's four state-recognized tribes to explore developing an American Abenaki curriculum for use in public schools throughout the state. [American Abenaki Curriculum](#).

Thus, a grassroots initiative took shape, with our consortium's Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) playing a very active role in developing the project. It was this local group that had extensive experience with grassroots networking and collaboration. It was the PAC that knew how to create a bare-bones budget and solicit considerable in-kind contributions.

Three years later, we are pleased that the completed curriculum is available online, with printed copies coming later this year. By prioritizing tribal input to ensure accuracy throughout the curriculum, the Abenaki of Vermont were confident that people who had been marginalized for generations finally had a vehicle to share their stories with Vermont students.

Vermont Social Studies teachers are responsible for researching, understanding, and conveying basic facts to students while teaching them critical thinking skills. According to the State-adopted “3C” standards for social studies, young people should be taught to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse democratic society in an interdependent world. Vermont Social Studies 3C. Those involved in creating these standards believe that students must be encouraged to actively construct their knowledge and understanding through experience, reflection, and interaction with their environment. The authors of the American Abenaki curriculum share that belief. Facts are facts, but our curriculum, in alignment with Vermont standards, asks what the facts mean in the context of history.

During a time when “evidence-based” educational materials are being scrutinized, we believe that history can be a great teacher. Ideas must be explored when taught in the spirit of rich conversation, and artistic expression must be appreciated for its intrinsic beauty and worth. Children will be encouraged to develop the skills to challenge commonly held assumptions. This curriculum centers on inquiry-based learning, with questions and discussions becoming more sophisticated as students develop and grow cognitively over time.

If successful, students and teachers alike will share a newfound appreciation for a culture and history spanning thousands of years. In learning about Abenaki art, history, culture, and customs, students may develop curiosity and a desire to learn about other tribes and civilizations throughout their state, nation, and the world. If our curriculum has piqued such an interest, we will have accomplished a milestone in developing lifelong learning. Such hope sustains those of us committed to the vibrancy of the American Abenaki experience.

A link is included above and here for those interested in perusing the new curriculum:
<https://www.abenakieducationvt.org/>