

# Hooksett School Board

Board Chair's Annual Report, 2024-2025

July 2025

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Dear residents of Hooksett,

Thank you for your support of the Hooksett School District, our school community, and our mission.

During the past school year, the Hooksett School Board pursued several initiatives for students, school facilities and infrastructure, and personnel. We welcomed eight new teachers, seven paraprofessionals, and five food service and maintenance staff to the district this year. At the end, we honored three retirees, and recognized 137 eighth grade students who moved on to High School.

The year brought some challenges to town residents and the school district. The 2023 5-year town revaluation, which greatly increased the property taxes for many residential properties, continued to color community sentiment at the March 2025 town and school elections. Proposed operating budgets and most warrant articles were opposed by voters. The School Board proposed a \$44.9 million 2025-26 operating budget but received a \$44.0 million default budget, following last year's \$40.8 million default budget. This year's school maintenance project was reduced in scope to consider just Hooksett Memorial School at \$6.0 million, and was one of the better supported warrants, but failed to achieve the 60% bond vote requirement. The school district saw some higher-than-budgeted expenses - notably special education transportation, and lower-than-anticipated revenue - notably in food service and state special education aid.

## Hooksett School Board Duties, Mission, and Scope

The Hooksett School Board (HSB) is the governing body of the Hooksett School District (HSD). NH State Law, RSA 181:a-1, declares the duty of the school board to:

1. provide, at district expense, elementary and secondary education to all pupils who reside in the district
2. establish the structure, accountability, advocacy, and delivery of instruction in each school operated and governed in its district, and instructional policies that establish instructional goals about the knowledge and skills pupils will need in the future
3. adopt a teacher performance evaluation system

The mission of the Hooksett School District is to develop a community of learners who are intellectually curious, resourceful, creative, and respectful of self and others. Individual growth and academic achievement, through constantly improving standards, is the District's highest priority.

Our district employs around 220 staff members, including teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, maintenance and food service staff, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, and information technology specialists. Our schools are also supported by substitute teachers, contracted specialists, bus drivers, and community volunteers such as Hooksett PTA (Parent Teacher Association).

The Hooksett School Board is composed of seven Board Members elected to three-year terms, or elected or appointed to partial terms. Board Members serve on multiple regular or special committees to facilitate other work between regular meetings.

### **School Board Meetings and Information**

The School Board has regularly scheduled meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, typically at 6:00pm at David R. Cawley Middle School. Some Board committees regularly meet on the first Tuesday each month, but others meet on different schedules. The public is welcome to attend all of these meetings. Meeting agendas, materials, and minutes are posted online:

<https://hooksettschoolboard.sau15.net>

Meeting agendas, minutes, policies, contracts, budget documents, and more!

<https://facebook.com/hooksett.school.board/>

Social media and timely updates

All public meetings are also streamed live and available for later review on YouTube, at the "Hooksett Youtube" channel.

# Hooksett School District Demographics

As of June 2025, Hooksett Schools had 1,883 students, down from 1,936 last year. Overall student outflows exceeded student inflows, and last year saw the graduation of a large senior class. 1,267 students were enrolled in preschool through eighth grade, and 616 students were enrolled in several area high schools, with the majority, 461, at Pinkerton Academy, our high school of record.

Every monthly Hooksett School Board meeting packet has a snapshot of students, teaching staff, and grade allocation for K-8, and school and grade breakdown for our high schools. This does not represent all district teaching

**School Administrative Unit #15  
Hooksett Pupil Accounting  
Monthly Enrollment  
June 2, 2025**

School	Grade	TOTAL	Section	Average Class Size	Paraprof. Per Building	June 2024
Underhill	Preschool	28	3	9	6 E	26
	K	128	7	18	14 C	135
	1	140	7	20		126
	2	129	7	18		136
<b>TOTAL</b>		425	24	18		423
Memorial	3	140	6	23	3 E	158
	4	163	7	23	11 C	131
	5	132	6	22		138
	<b>TOTAL</b>		435	19	23	
Cawley	6	141	7	20	7 E	143
	7	141	8	18	3 C	136
	8	138	7	20		138
	<b>TOTAL</b>		420	22	19	E = Employee C = Contracted
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		1,280	65	20		1,267

**School Administrative Unit #15  
Hooksett Pupil Accounting  
High School Monthly Enrollment**

DATE: June 2, 2025

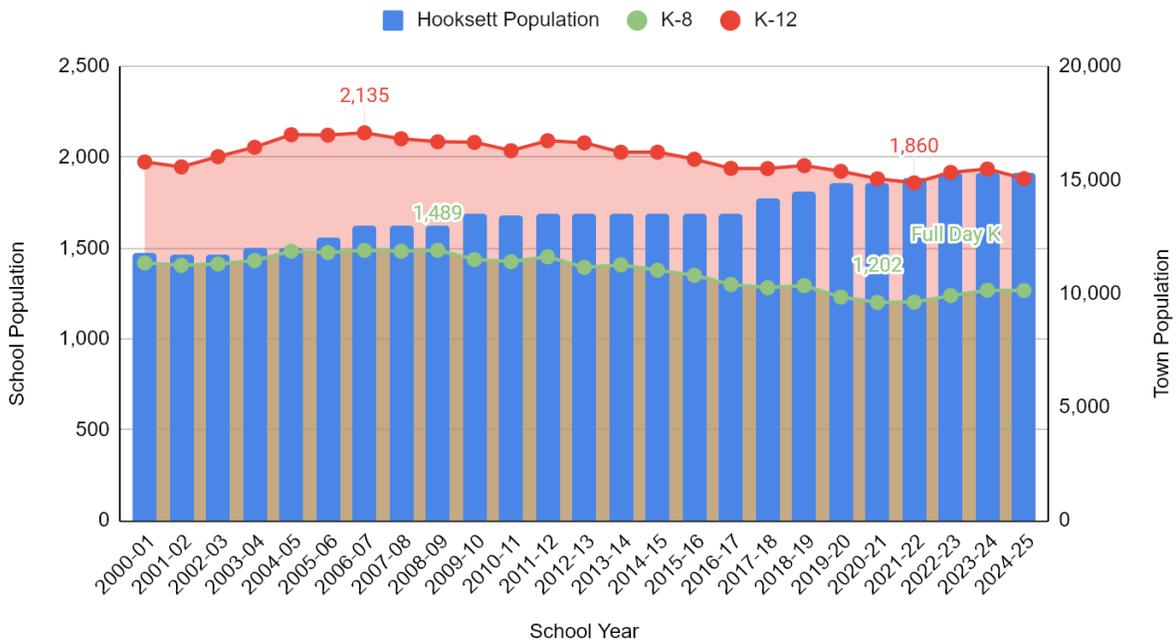
School	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	TOTAL
Pinkerton Academy	120	119	121	101	461
Manchester Central	0	0	0	7	7
Manchester West	0	1	0	3	4
Manchester Memorial	0	1	1	1	3
MST	0	0	0	0	0
Bow High	0	0	1	2	3
Goffstown High	0	1	0	0	1
Londonderry High	13	30	23	28	94
Pembroke Academy	3	2	5	1	11
Other Private/SPED	3	9	6	14	32
<b>TOTAL</b>	139	163	157	157	616

staff, and for Cawley Middle School the class breakdown is for homeroom classes with teams rotating for core subjects of language arts, math, science, and social studies - it does not address classes for additional unified arts subjects like Spanish or technology.

## Town Population and Student Enrollment Since 2000

Utilizing the aggregate reporting in the yearly Hooksett Town and School Report, plus estimates from the NH OSI (Office of Strategic Initiatives), one can see a growth in Hooksett total population from under 12,000 in 2000 to over 15,000 today. However, Hooksett overall student population peaked during 2004-2008, with a high of 2,135 students, falling by 275 to 1,860 in 2021. The Hooksett School Board implemented a transition from half-day kindergarten to full-day kindergarten for the 2022-23 school year.

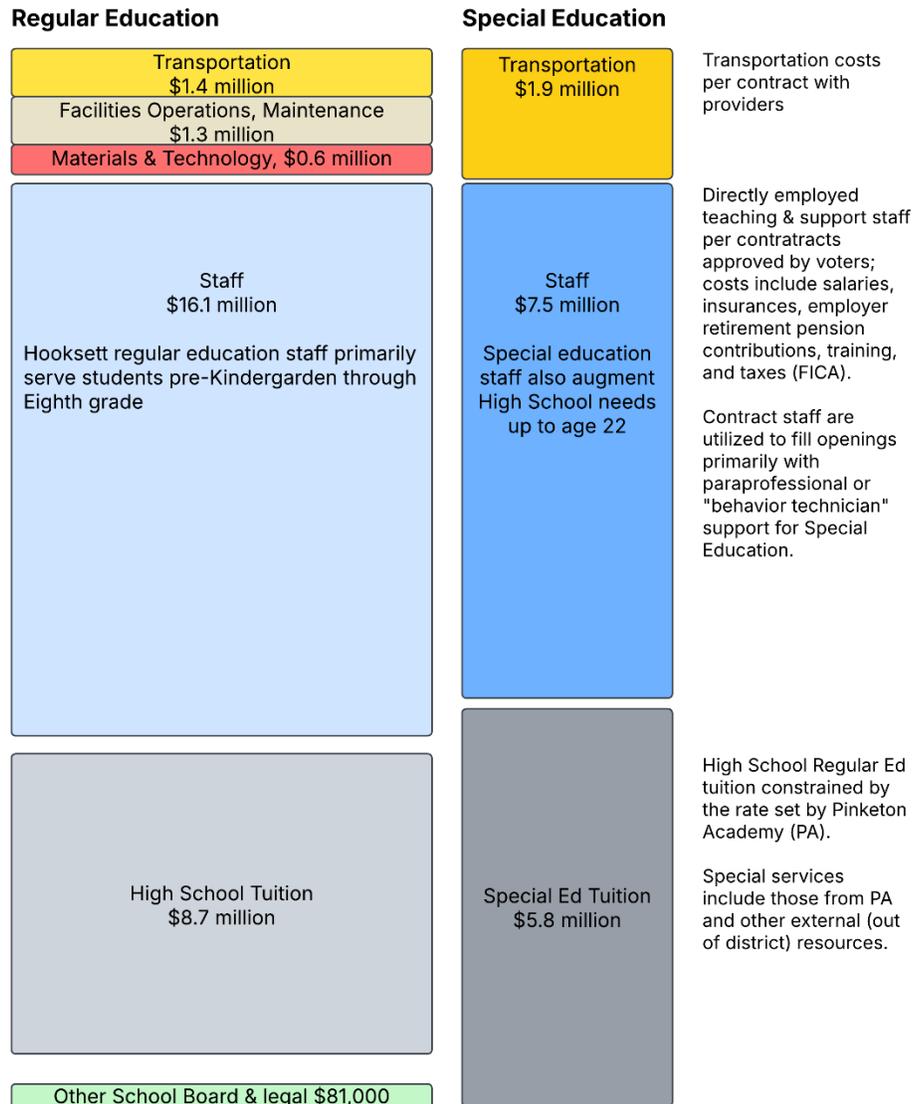
### Hooksett School District & Town Populations



## 2025-26 Proposed Operating Budget Preparation

Other documents in the annual town and school report will provide details around budget categories specified by state law. This diagram endeavors to visually summarize these categories of spending.

With Hooksett being a “SB2” town which voted to “establish a municipal budget committee to assist its voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds”, two operating budgets are offered each year: a “proposed budget” and a “default budget”. The composition of the default budget is specified by state law and regulations, and is briefly summarized as the prior year’s approved budget plus any “contractual obligations” which are “baked in” to future budgets, such as staffing contracts, transportation contracts, or special education needs.



The School Board proposed a \$44.9 million 2025-26 operating budget, but voters approved a \$44.0 million default budget, following last year’s \$40.8 million default budget.

It’s important to note that school expenses are over 70% for staffing, a higher percentage than town governments. For directly employed staff, this includes salary, the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) employer pension contribution of ~20% of salary (for eligible staff), and taxes (FICA), plus significant employer contributions of 80% to 92% to health and other insurance plans. Where we’ve been unable to hire staff, we’ve utilized contract staffing services.

## Maintenance Project Proposal

The Hooksett School Board established a Facilities Committee to prepare a proposal for meeting the district's extensive building maintenance needs. The committee proposed a three-phase plan to address district needs, with the first phase focusing on Hooksett Memorial School. In August, the School Board approved EEI as the general contractor who would solicit bids for individual project components, such as boilers, roofs, and HVAC systems. In October, the School Board voted to offer the Facilities Committee's proposed project as a 2025 warrant article to voters, totaling just under \$6,000,000, to address the most urgent renovations needed at Memorial School.

Structural Improvements	\$500,000
Roofs	\$1,606,640
Replace Ventilation System	\$2,896,760
Upgrade Existing EMS Controls	\$212,500
Install High Efficiency Boilers	\$527,800
Transformers	\$77,298
Weatherization	\$85,000

The School Board specified that project financing would be implemented through a 15-year bond issuance. To facilitate this, the Board partnered with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank (NHMBB), which has a strong credit rating and a proven track record as a bond aggregator for projects across the state. NHMBB bond sales have historically produced highly competitive municipal bond rates. The 15-year term and level-principal repayment schedule were chosen to minimize financing costs, and ensure the bond is fully repaid before an anticipated facilities maintenance project begins in approximately 20 years, aligning with the expected lifespan of the new equipment.

## Budget Committee Review

Hooksett's Budget Committee is held by NH Law, RSA 32, to "ensure the prudent allocation of the public funds", and had purview over the school operating budget and other proposed articles from November until their public hearing in January. School Board Member Lynn Baker was the Board's representative on the Committee. It is noteworthy that the Budget Committee did not modify the School Board's proposed budget or warrant articles for this year's ballot.

## School District Deliberative Sessions

The February School Deliberative Session returned to its Friday night schedule after several years on Saturday, and was very well attended. Proposed school warrant articles were not modified by attendees, although one reduction was proposed.

Town election day in March saw voter rejection of a majority of warrant articles on both the town and school ballots. Voters chose the school district default budget, the smaller of the two options, and also did not meet the 60% threshold required to pass the facilities project bond.

## End of School Year Updates

The Board voted to return any remaining fund balance (not yet finalized at the date of the meeting), to its contingency fund. This followed concerns for upcoming unbudgeted expenses (e.g. facilities repairs), the need to utilize trust/contingency funds this year to meet obligations, and the lack of voter support for the proposed school budget and several warrants.

## 2025-26 Board Goals

At the Hooksett School Board's June retreat, goals were defined for the upcoming school year.

1. Establish sub-committees for areas of focus (facilities, budget, operations)
2. Further improve communication/outreach, including legislative outreach
3. Develop a proposed operating budget that will find broad voter support
4. Robust review of existing policies
5. Implement a Strategic Plan or Facilities Study

## Thank You

The entire town of Hooksett appreciates the time, effort, and commitment put forth by the school administration, staff, and community volunteers who supported our students throughout the year. Parents and guardians - thank you for your commitment to supporting our students outside the classroom. Parent involvement in education is a critical factor for student achievement. The School Board appreciated a wealth of constructive input and feedback given by many Hooksett residents during our meetings and deliberative sessions.

We should all thank the town of Hooksett, who spent nearly \$41 million dollars this year to educate 1,883 students, pre-Kindergarten through High School.

Finally, I would like to thank the School Board Members, and those who supported us this year. This team acted with the utmost concern for our students, staff, and our entire school community. Thank you for your dedication, guidance, and leadership.

### School Board Members

- Wayne Goertel, Chair
- Jillian Godbout, Vice Chair
- Amy Tremblay, Secretary
- James Sullivan
- John Ciempa
- Bob Barker (2025)
- Michael Dullen (2025)

### Departing School Board Members

- Lynn Baker (2022-2025)
- Jonah Schulte (2024-2025)

### School District Clerk

- Kristen Kotrlik

### School District Moderator

- Corri Wilson

### School District Treasurer

- Amy Boilard

### School Board Recorder

- Patricia Jobin

SAU 15 Administration

- William J. Rearick, Superintendent
- Kimberly Sarfde, Assistant Superintendent
- Cheryl DeGennaro, Business Administrator (2024-2025)

Hooksett School District Administration

- Principals: Matt Benson, Brad Largy, Ben Loi
- Directors: Christine Osborne, Dean Farmer, Daniel Roma, Justine Thain, Cindy Nusbaum



The Hooksett School Board at its May 2025 meeting. Left to right: Michael Dullen, Bob Barker, Jillian Godbout, Wayne Goertel, Superintendent William Rearick, Amy Tremblay, John Ciempa, James Sullivan

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Goertel  
Hooksett School Board Chair