


# PHASE II SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont regional school districts

# AGENDA

- 
- Charge and Problem
  - Update of Ongoing work
    - Steering Committee
    - Advisory Teams
    - Community Outreach
    - Educational Indicators/quality
  - Feedback questions



# CHARGE

Support ongoing study and analysis of the operating and organizational structures of the two Regional School Districts



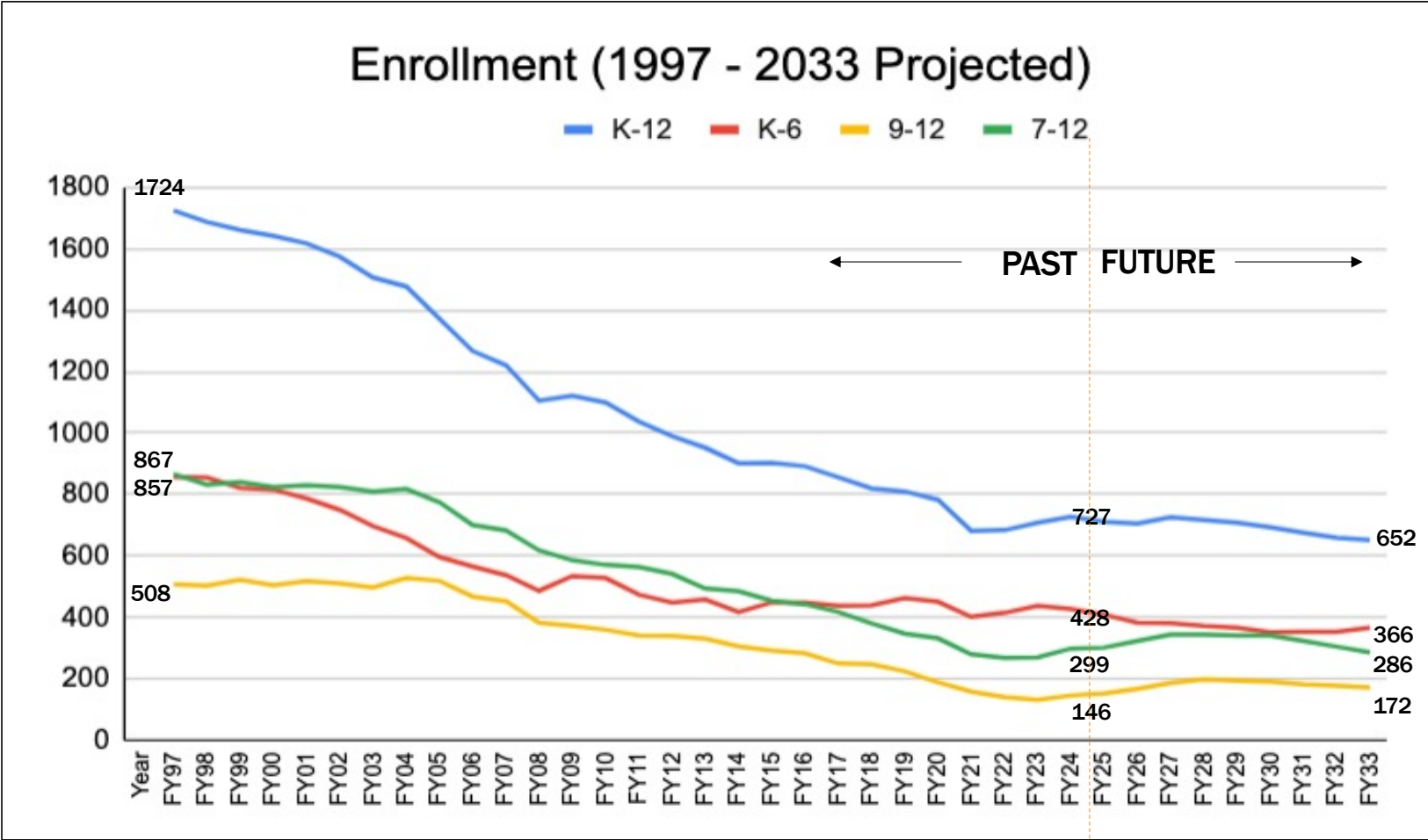
# THE PROBLEM

Our region, like many rural areas across the northeast, faces educational and fiscal challenges associated with:

- declining enrollment,
- rising operational costs,
- relatively flat state aid, and
- increasing needs of our student body.

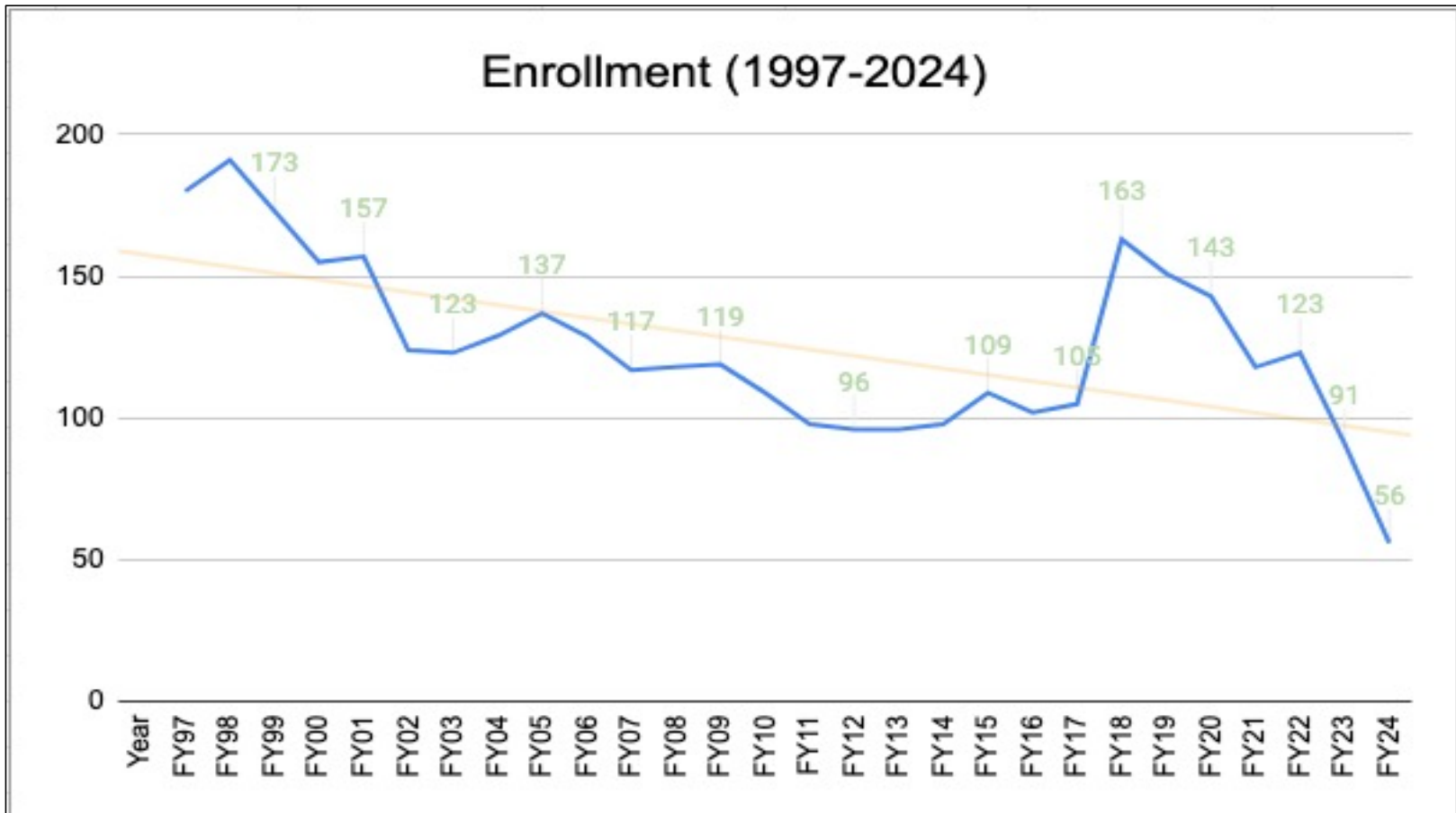
We must continue to explore options and opportunities - in light of these challenges - to ensure our students receive a **high-quality set of educational experiences** (academics, co-curricular, services and supports) they need to ensure success in college, career and life.

# MOHAWK TRAIL RSD

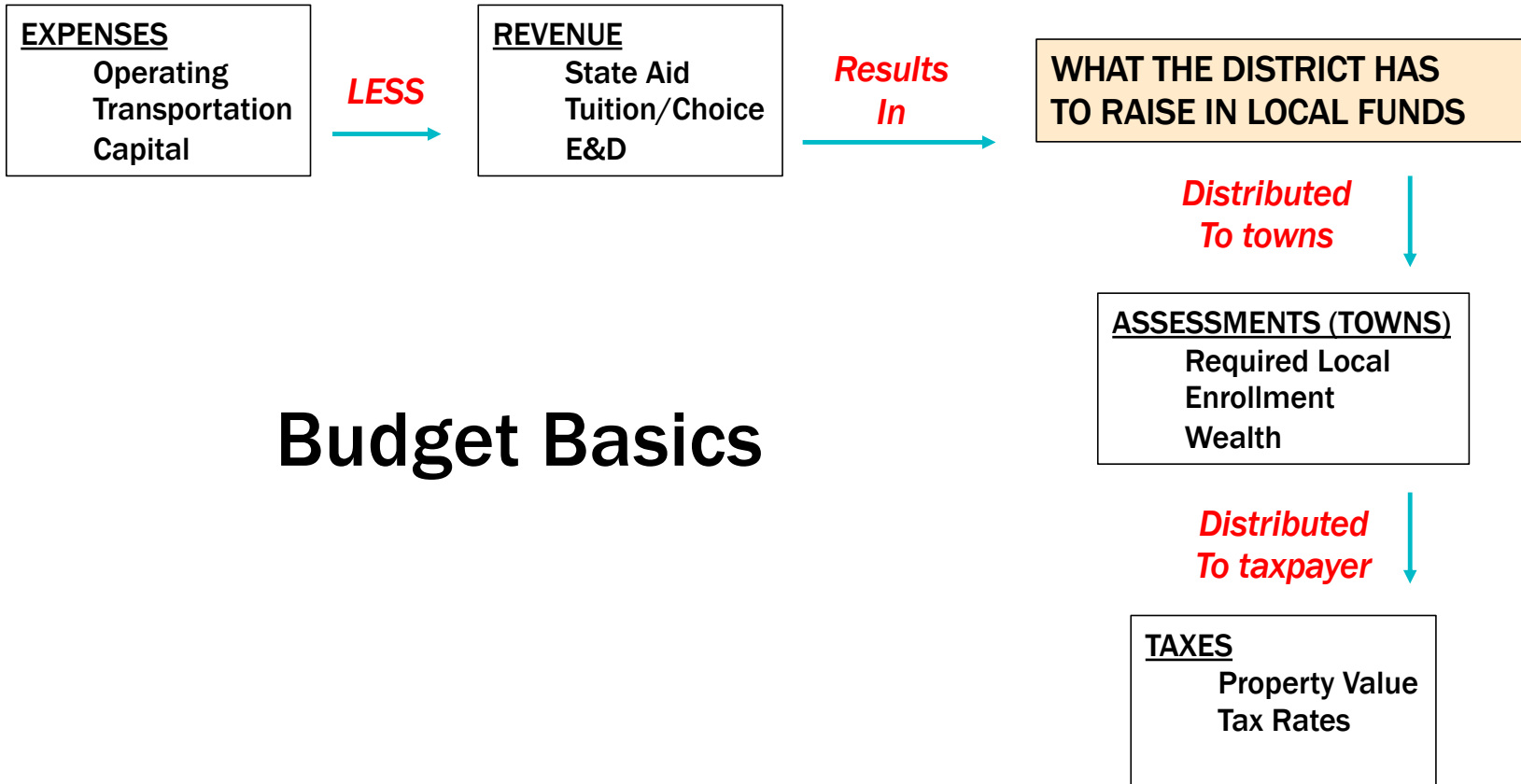


SOURCE: DESE, MARS/NESDEC

# HAWLEMONT RSD



SOURCE: DESE



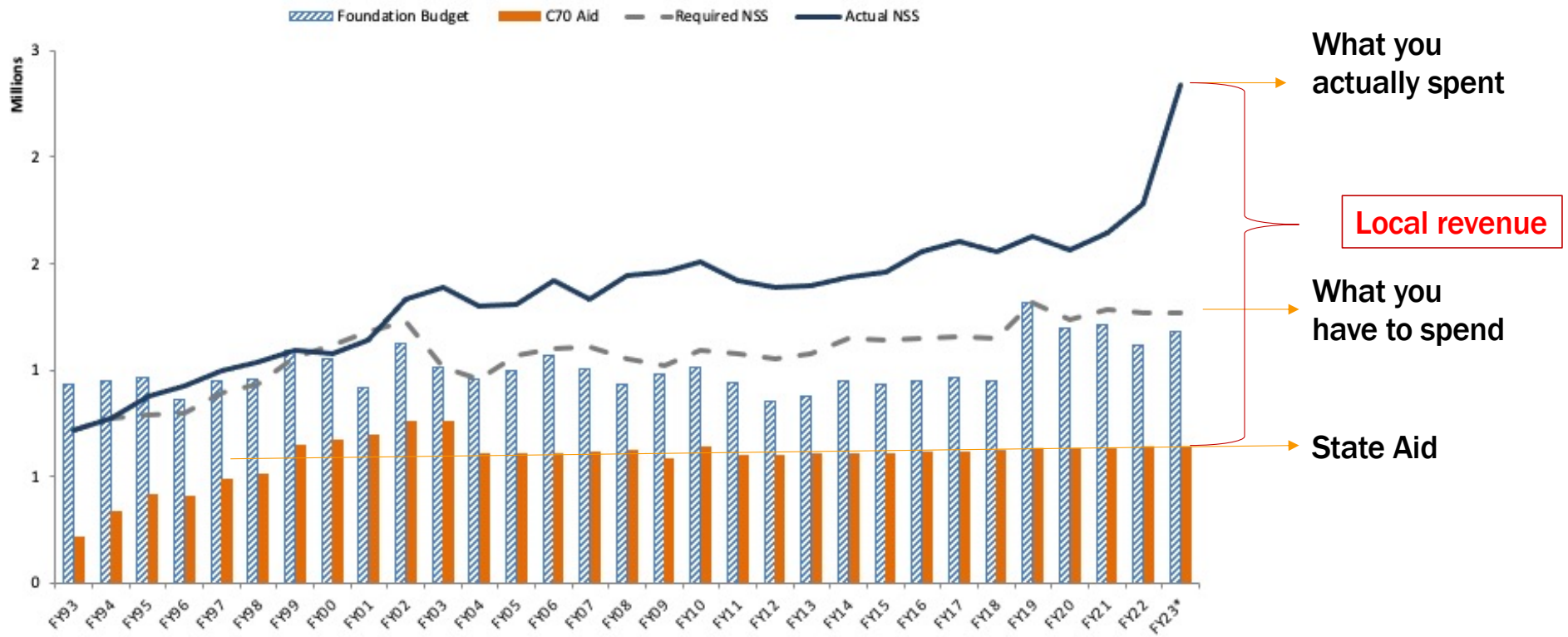
# Budget Basics



# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Chapter 70 District Profile

7/25/23

0685 Hawlemont



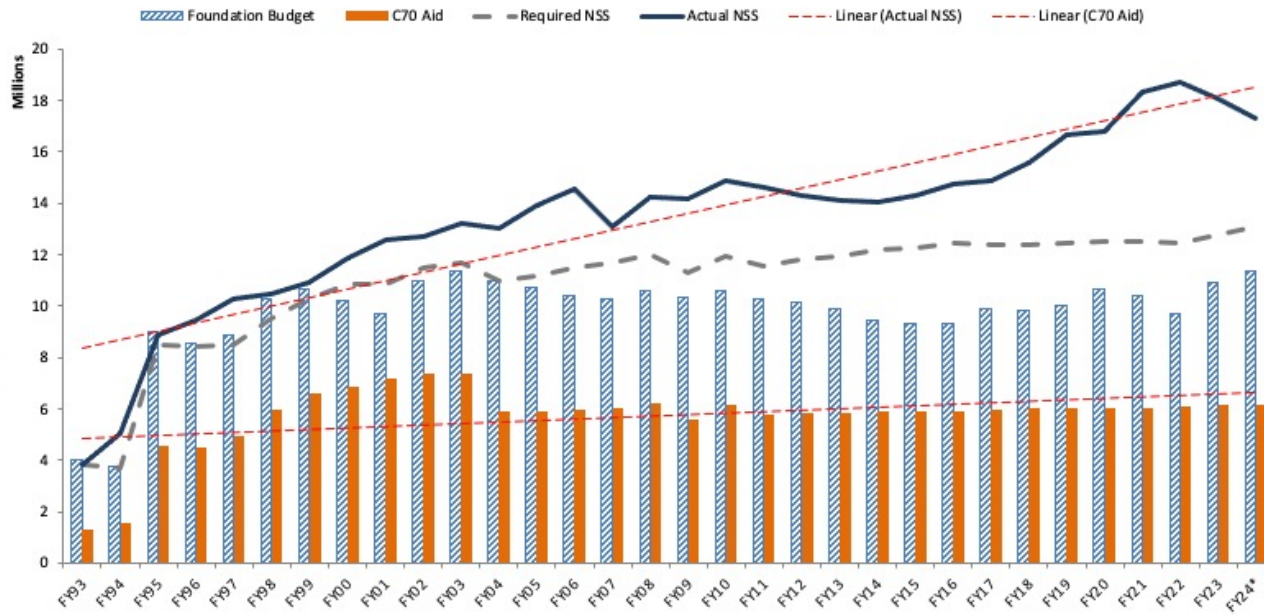




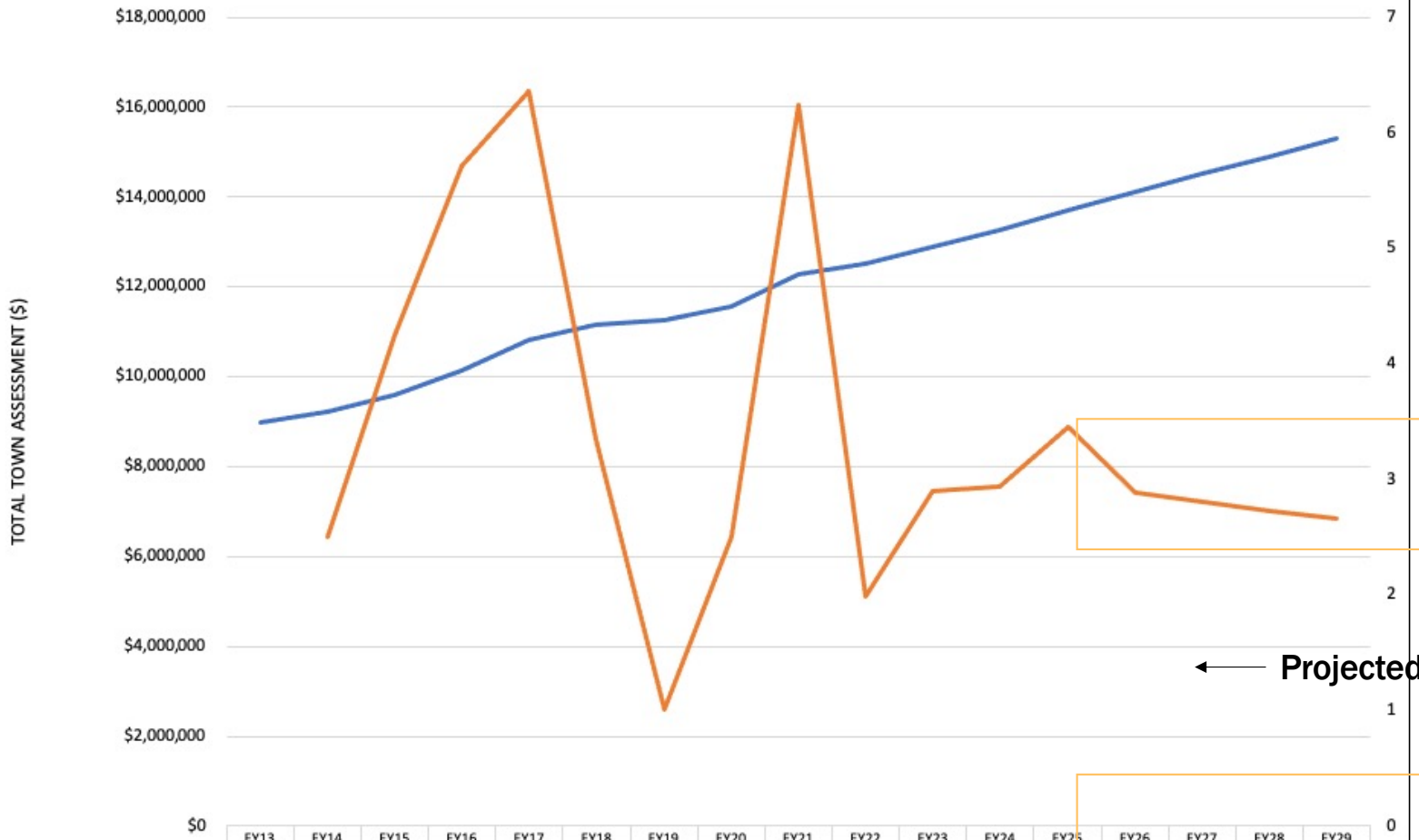
### Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Chapter 70 District Profile

2/21/24

#### 0717 Mohawk Trail



**TOTAL TOWN ASSESSMENTS (FY13-FY29)**  
**TOTAL/% CHANGE**



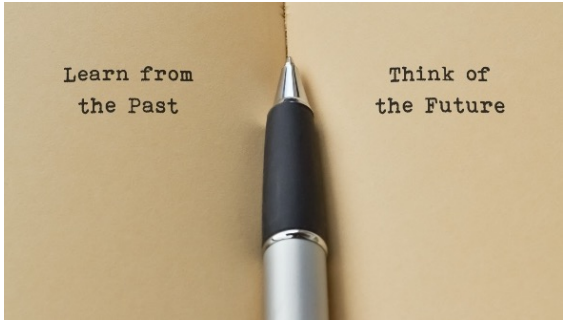
**% Change 24-25 (All\*)**

- Ashfield: 7.41%
- Buckland: 4.34%
- Charlemont: 5.58%
- Colrain: 6.03%
- Heath: -0.02%
- Hawley: 19.09%
- Plainfield: 4.28%
- Shelburne: 5.19%

**Total: 5.34%**

← **Projected** →

\*Operating+Transport+Capital



# BUILDING UPON PRIOR WORK.

- Interim Planning Committee (2007)
- Potomac Reports (2013)
- Long Range Planning Committee (2015)
- BEST Study (2016/2017)
- Jetzon Data Presentation (2022)
- Phase I: MARS (2023)

**MANY IDEAS TO BUILD UPON**

Mohawk Trail Regional  
School District



Data Collection  
(current and projected)



Enrollment  
Fiscal conditions  
Educational programming  
Building infrastructure

Long-term sustainability plan (obstacles, observations, options)....**foundation for developing specific strategies** to make the district sustainable.

# OUR PLAN.

CONTEXT

**Stage 1.** Process Organization, Context Setting, Community Engagement (A)  
*Target dates: January 1, 2024 through May 1, 2024*

OPTIONS

**Stage 2.** Deep Data Dive & Analysis, Option Generation  
*Target dates: May 1, 2024 through August 1, 2024*

MODELING

**Stage 3.** Preferred Models, Community Engagement (B), Final Report/Next Steps  
*Target dates: August 1, 2024 through January 15, 2025*

***Final Report Delivery: SPRING, 2025***



**Future Town Actions**

# ONGOING WORK

Organization and submission of work plan

Weekly meetings with districts lead team, ongoing communication with chairs and superintendent

Research team meetings – group and individual

Historical review, contact with regional stakeholders

Two-day visits with educational/outreach team to all five schools

**Steering committee formed; advisory teams being planned**

Further school visits planned with classroom observations and teacher focus groups

Launch of initial data organization (enrollment, finance, buildings, educational indicators)

Comprehensive document review of historical reports, synthesis and organization of themes

All administrative work (contracts, required paperwork, invoices)

Community outreach ongoing (Towns & Schools) – Initial Survey/Intel

# STEERING COMMITTEE LAUNCHED ON FEBRUARY 3

Thought partners

Review/critique/enhance deliverables

Evaluate (Options and opportunities)

Communication (to-from) and advocacy

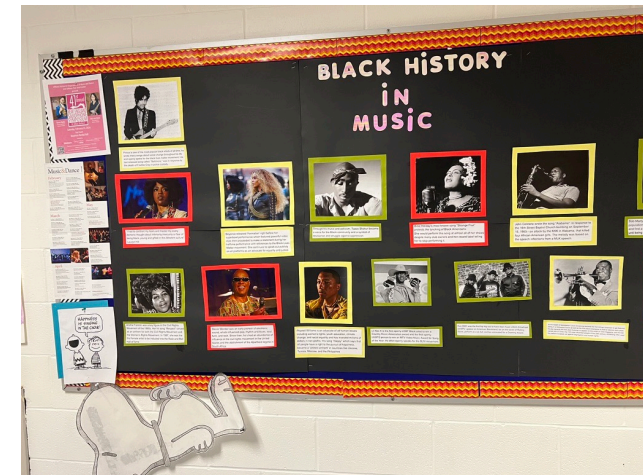
Two meetings held; next meeting 3/21, 5:30



# STEERING COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

**Ashfield**, Greg Lilly, District Athletic Director  
**Paula Consolo**, Buckland, Finance Committee  
**Jenny Van Wyk**, Colrain, Parent and Educator  
**Open seat**, **Charlemont**  
**Ellen Purinton**, Hawley, Community Member  
**Elizabeth Finn**, Heath, Parent  
**Judy Cole**, Plainfield, Select Board  
**Paul Hollings**, Shelburne, Community Member  
**Robin Pease**, Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Director of Facilities and Transportation  
**Kristen Tilona-Baker**, Executive Director, Mary Lyon Foundation  
**Sheryl Stanton**, Mohawk Trail/Hawlemont Superintendent of Schools  
**Martha Thurber**, Chair, Mohawk Trail School Committee  
**Elizabeth Van Iderstine**, Chair, Hawlemont School Committee





# ADVISORY TEAMS

Sign up if interested

## Community Outreach

Publicity  
Engaging the community  
Social media, website  
Surveys

## Finance

School costs  
Financial models  
Town contributions

## Educational Quality

Academics  
Vocational education  
School activities

# ADVISORY TEAM



2Districts8Towns

HOME WHO WE ARE RESOURCES CONTACT

SEARCH



Interested?



## 2 DISTRICTS, 8 TOWNS SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

### OUR CHARGE.

To support ongoing study and analysis of the operating and organizational structures of the two Regional School Districts: Mohawk Trail & Haverment



### News from Our Team

- **ADVISORY TEAMS.** The **2D8T Steering Committee** will be assembling advisory teams in the areas of Community Outreach, Educational Quality, and Finance. If you are interested in learning more and providing feedback on these topics... drop us a note [HERE](#).

# EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS/ QUALITY

Educational Indicators,  
5 year historical

Classroom observations at each  
school

Teacher focus groups

Springpoint classroom visit tool

Educational Quality report  
completed by the end of June

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Meetings with town managers

Initial meeting with School Committee

Met with legislative delegation

Meetings with all eight select boards/finance comm.  
(5 completed, 3 to go)

Regular updates to local press (monthly update)

Community Outreach Advisory Team

Meeting planned with faculty/staff

Community Engagement sessions at each school

Website and social media

Surveys to come

# 2districts8towns.org



## 2Districts8Towns

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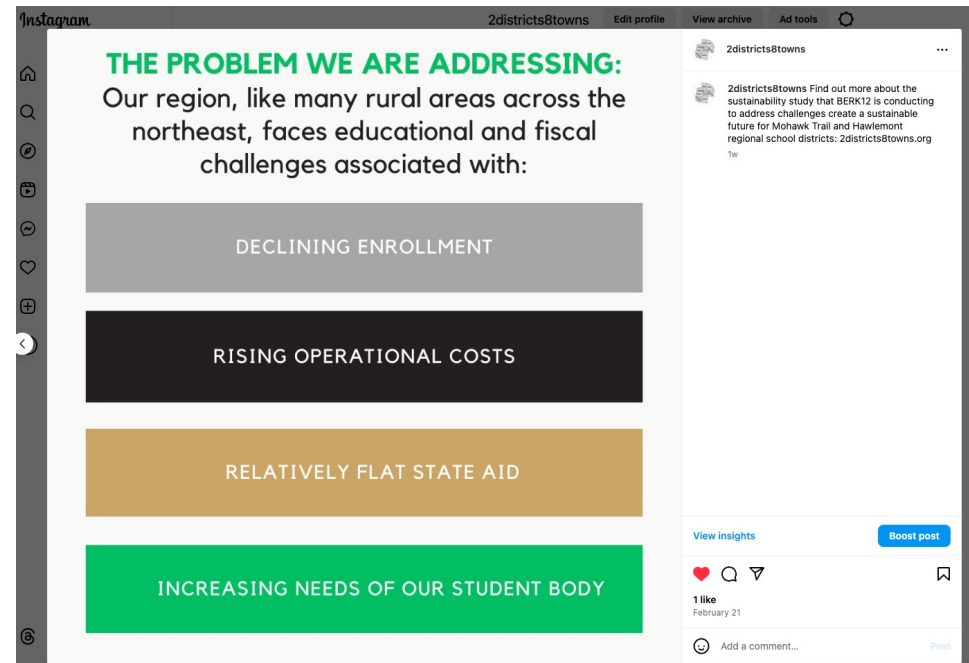
**2 DISTRICTS, 8 TOWNS  
SUSTAINABILITY STUDY**



[News from Our Team](#)

# FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

## 2DISTRICTS8TOWNS



# SCHOOL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

Please  
spread the  
word!

School	Dates, times
Buckland Shelburne Elementary	March 11, 6-7:15 pm, cafeteria, with Zoom option
Colrain Central School	April 9, 6-7:15 pm, cafeteria, with Zoom option
Sanderson Academy	April 11, 6-7:15 pm, all virtual on Zoom
Mohawk Trail Regional School	April 24, 6-7:15 pm, superintendents' conference room with Zoom option
Hawlemont Elementary	April 25, 5:30 – 7:00 pm, cafeteria, with Zoom option, dinner and childcare to be provided

# FEEDBACK QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on question
2. Brief discussion – 5 minutes
3. Those on Zoom raise hand to speak or write comments in chat box

5 Questions, 2 Closing Prompts





# YOUR FEEDBACK: Q1

## 1. What are the strengths of the districts and/or schools?

- what the districts and schools do well
- what you highly value and appreciate

# YOUR FEEDBACK: Q2

## 2. What are the challenges and/or weaknesses of the districts/schools?

- tension points
- gaps
- things you'd like to change/improve

# YOUR FEEDBACK: Q3

**3. What would you protect at all costs and could not do without (your non-negotiables)?**

# YOUR FEEDBACK: Q4

4. What options and potential solutions should be considered to build upon the district's/school's strengths while addressing challenges and gaps?

# YOUR FEEDBACK: Q5

**5. What is your vision for the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont districts in 10 years?**

# QUESTIONS

- **What questions do you have now or would you like us to address in the future?**
- **Is there anything else we should know?**

# CONTACT



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