


PHASE II SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont regional school districts

Introductions



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



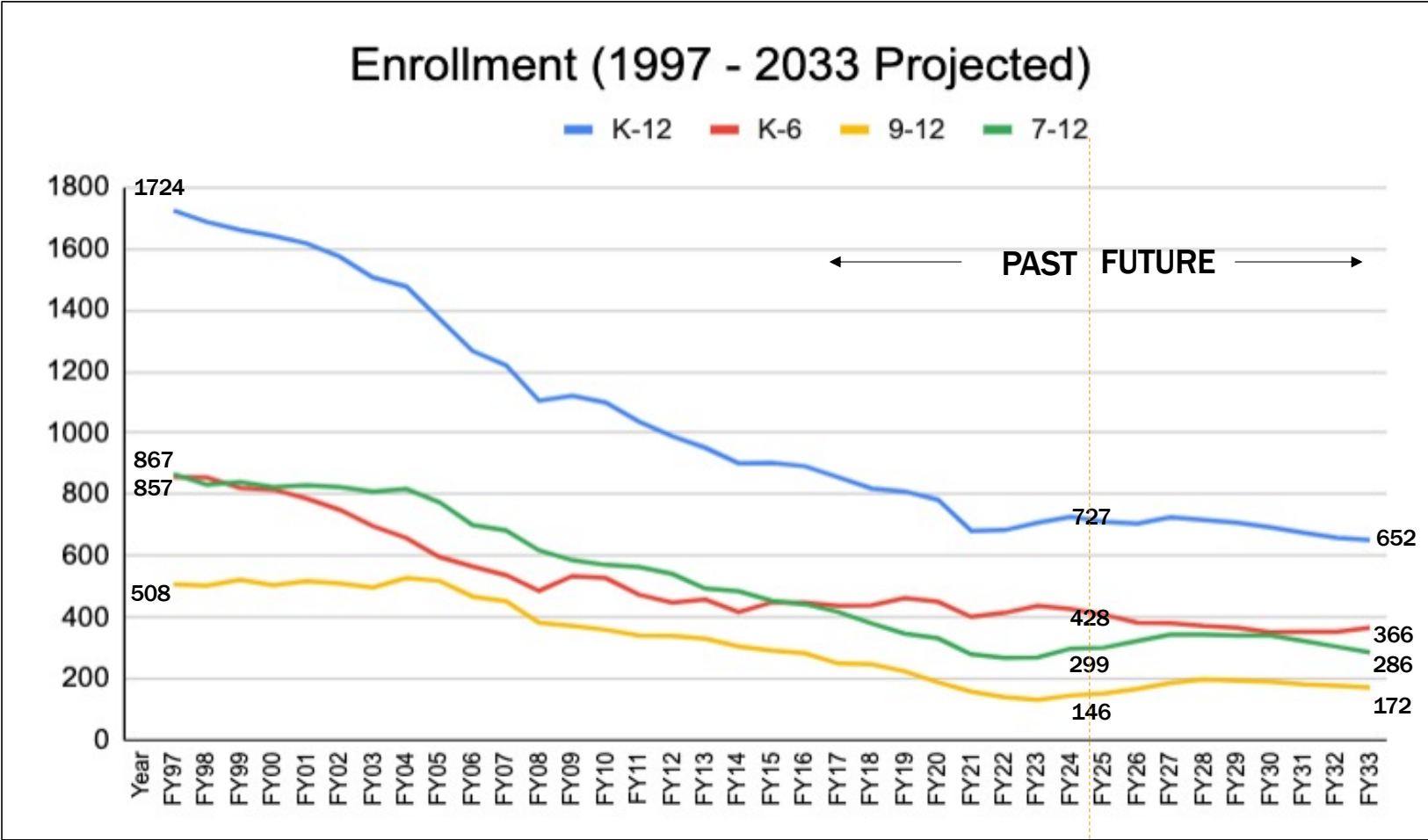
THE PROBLEM

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.

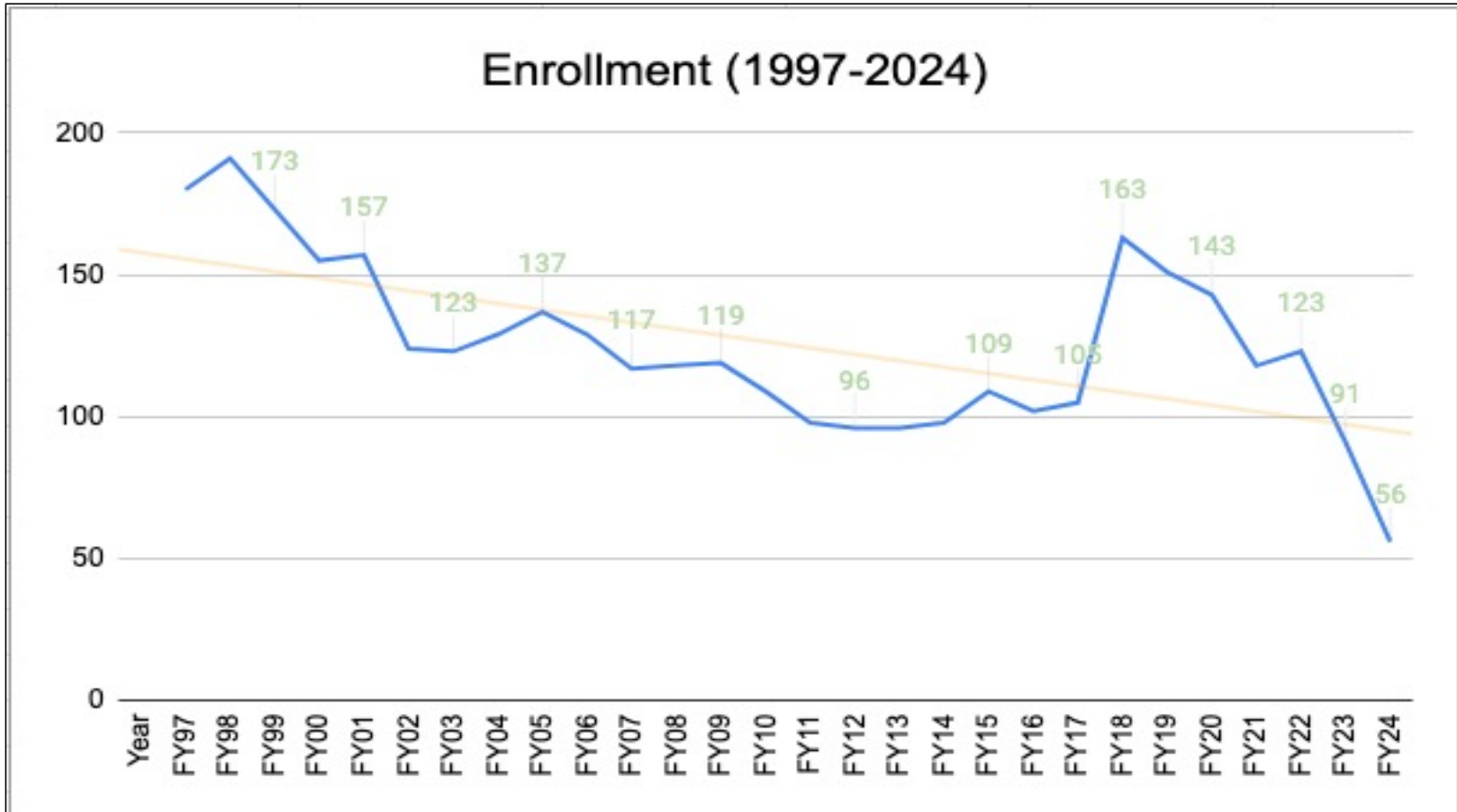
We must continue to explore options and opportunities - in light of these challenges - to ensure our students receive a **high-quality set of educational experiences** (academics, co-curricular, services and supports) they need to ensure success in college, career and life.

MOHAWK TRAIL RSD

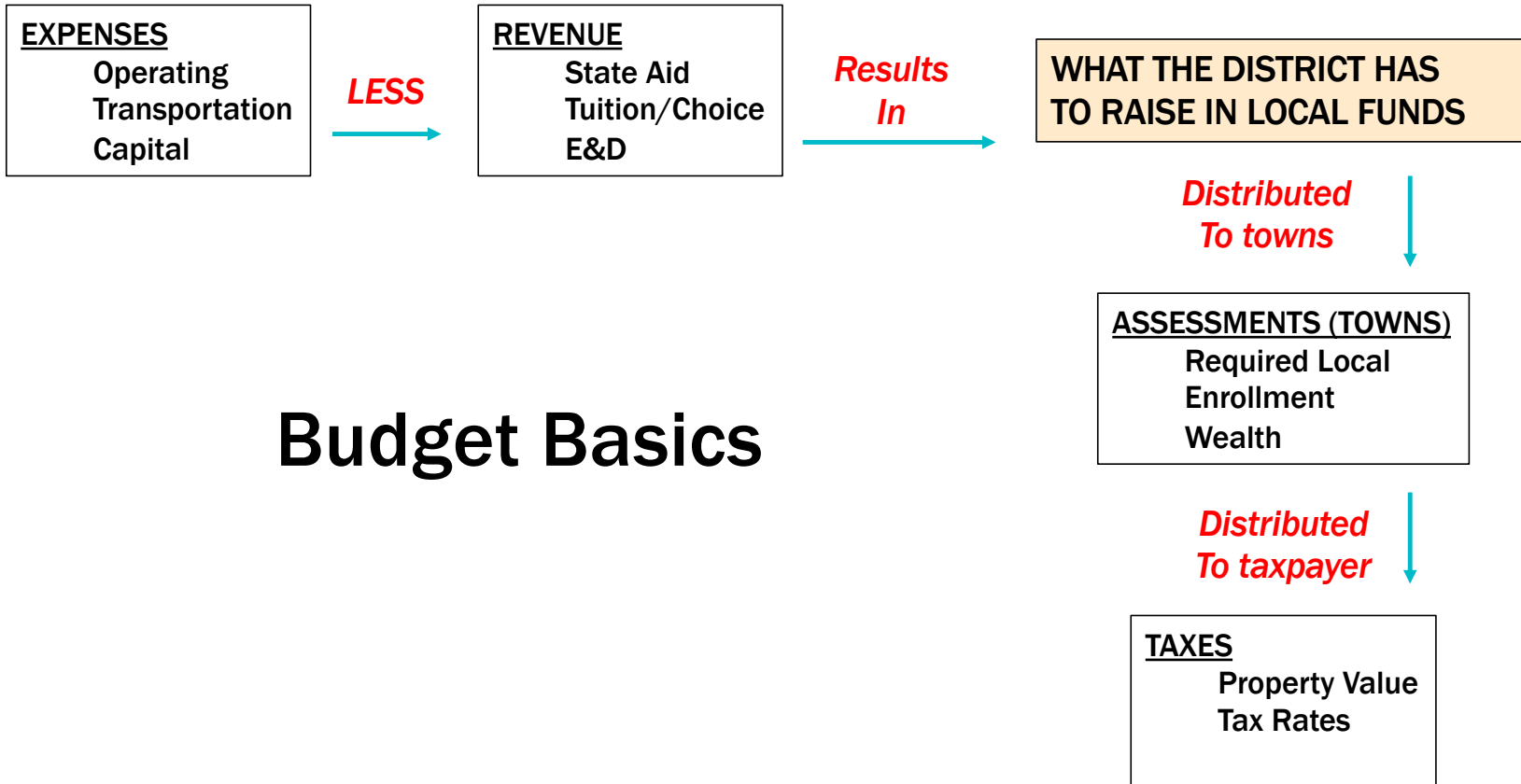


SOURCE: DESE, MARS/NESDEC

HAWLEMONT RSD



SOURCE: DESE



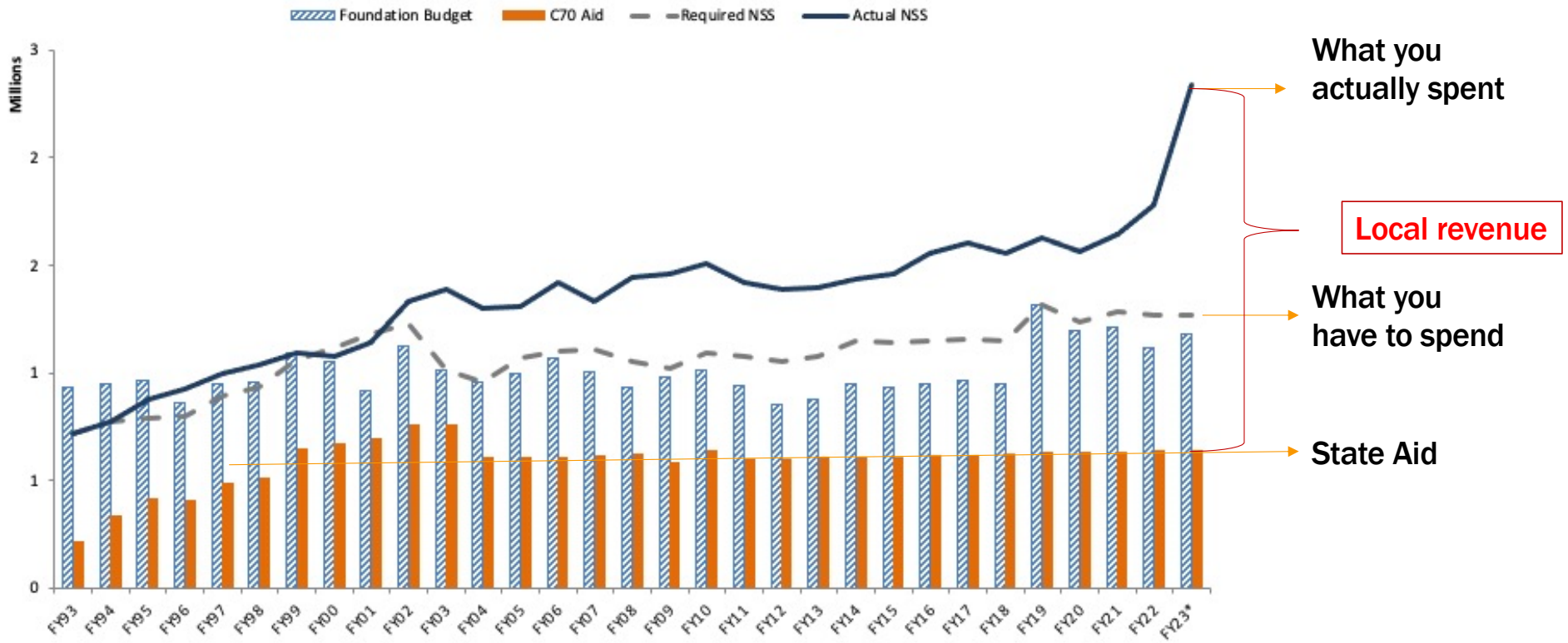
Budget Basics



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Chapter 70 District Profile

7/25/23

0685 Hawlemont

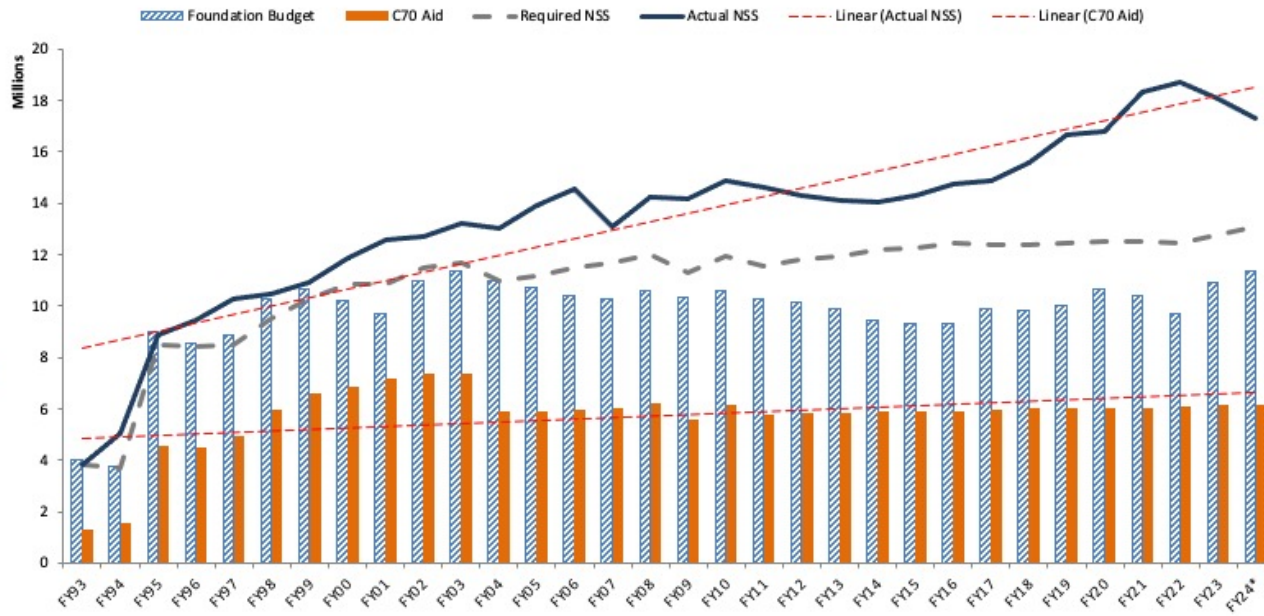


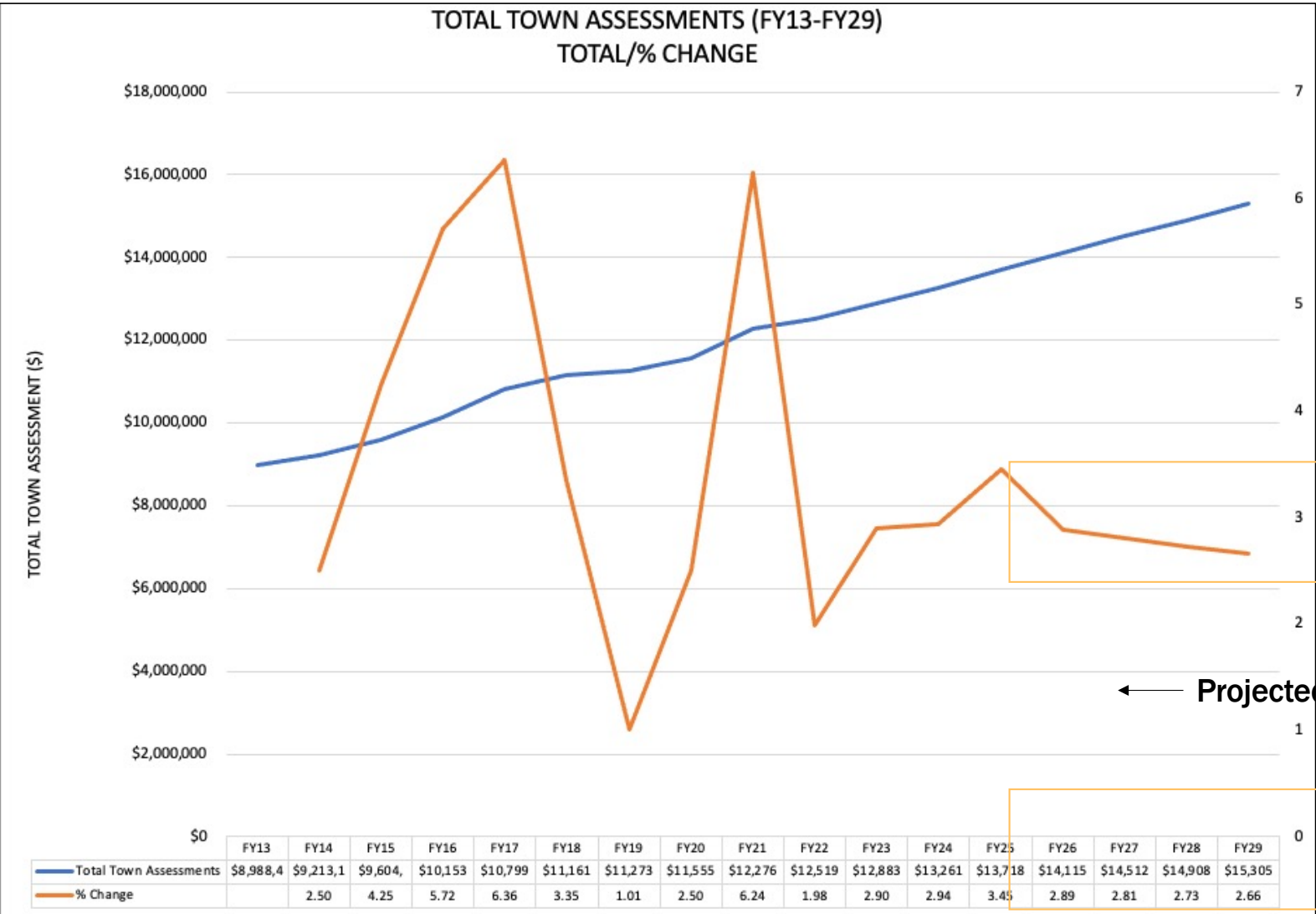


Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Chapter 70 District Profile

2/21/24

0717 Mohawk Trail





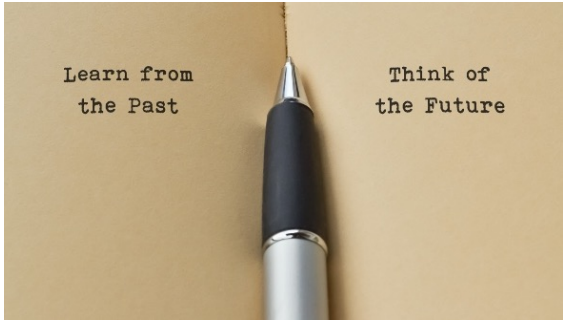
% Change 24-25 (All*)

- 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 beginning to meet

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

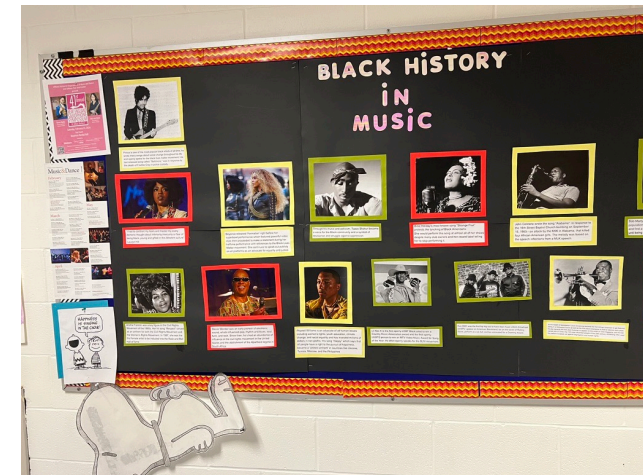
Three meetings held; next meeting 4/18, 5:30p



STEERING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Greg Lilly, Ashfield, District Athletic Director
Paula Consolo, Buckland, Finance Committee
Jenny Van Wyk, Colrain, Parent and Educator
Lindsey Sall, Charlemont, Parent
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

Facilities

Buildings and grounds
Maintenance
Operations

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

[HOME](#)[WHO WE ARE](#)[RESOURCES](#)[CONTACT](#)

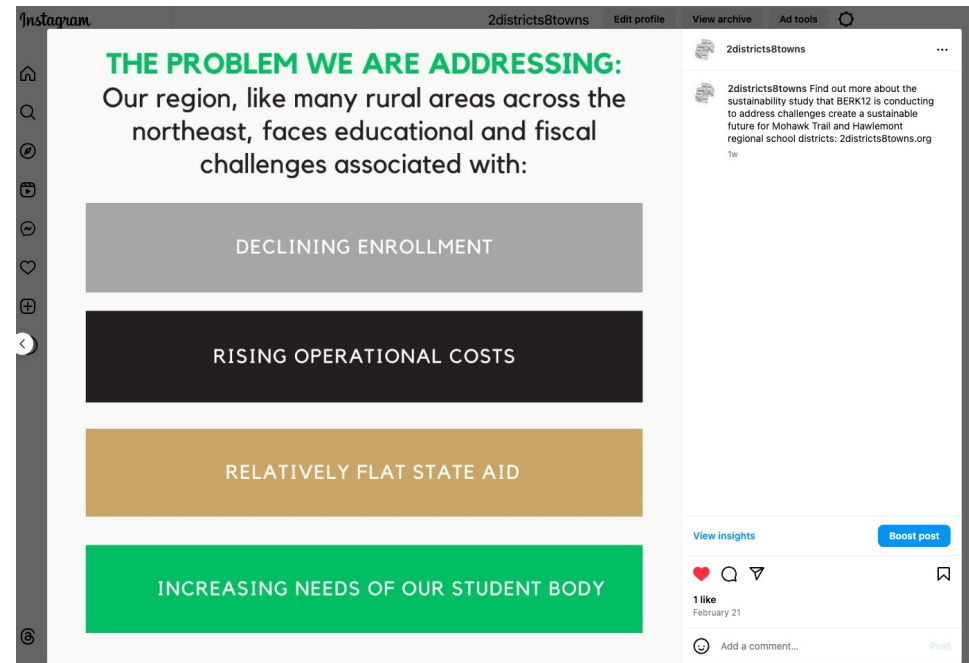
**2 DISTRICTS, 8 TOWNS
SUSTAINABILITY STUDY**



[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?

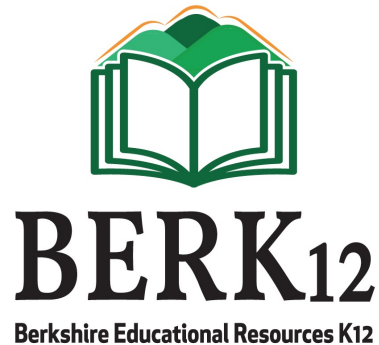
YOUR FEEDBACK: Q5

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



2Districts8Towns

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