

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Michael A. Morgan, Superintendent of Schools—SAU 16**  
**SEPTEMBER 2014**

**September Enrollments**

Student enrollments generally fluctuate during the school year and official records are maintained and provide annual comparisons of information available on October 1<sup>st</sup> each year. September enrollments show some minor variations from the 2013-2014 school year. Actual enrollment as of September 8, 2014:

Exeter High School—1727  
Cooperative Middle School—1363  
East Kingston Elementary School—146  
Main Street School, Exeter—488  
Lincoln Street School, Exeter—528  
Kensington Elementary School—126  
Newfields Elementary School—134  
Swasey Central School, Brentwood—335  
Stratham Memorial School—599

More detail about student enrollment, especially with regard to an annual comparison and/or trends, will be provided in October.

**Cost Per Pupil by District**

Each year the State of New Hampshire receives information relative to the cost per pupil for the past school year. This actual cost includes all services provided to students. It encompasses staff salaries and benefits, books, supplies, facility upkeep and maintenance, and extracurricular activities. In order to maintain some level of consistency among school districts in the state, this figure does not include student transportation, food service, debt service, or out-of-district special education costs. These numbers are subject to change after review by the New Hampshire Department of Education and the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration. Preliminary figures for 2013-2014:

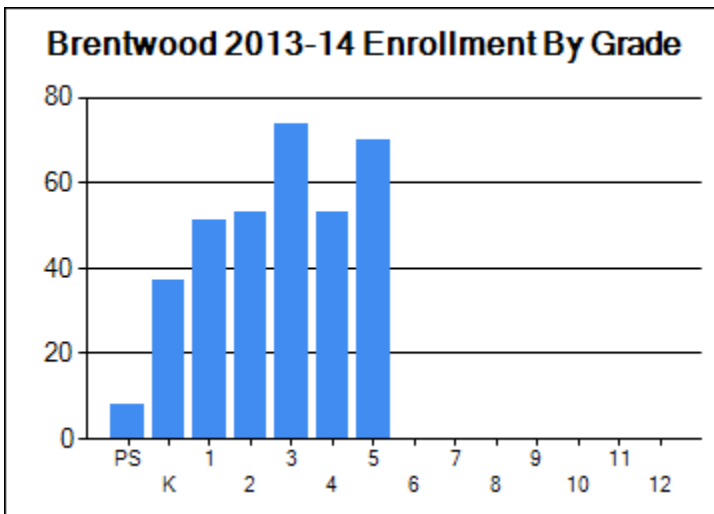
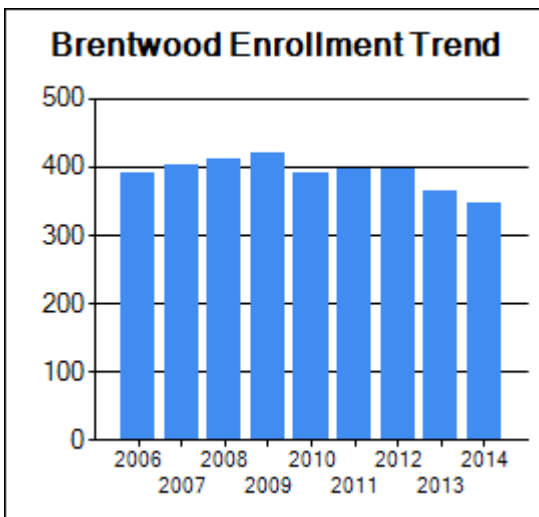
Brentwood--\$13,291.13  
East Kingston--\$15,934.81  
Exeter--\$15,066.52  
Exeter Region Cooperative--\$13,431.97 (CMS: \$12,243.43; EHS: 14,378.83)  
Kensington--\$18,545.23  
Newfields--\$14,776.73  
Stratham--\$14,530.92

## Exeter Adult Education Programs

An extensive array of programs for high school completion and for personal enrichment is available through the Exeter Adult Education Program located at the Tuck Learning Campus. These opportunities are part of the numerous programs offered to local residents. Contact 775-8457 or [www.sau16.org](http://www.sau16.org) for more information.

## Spotlight: Swasey Central School, Brentwood

Given the fact that SAU 16 has an excellent reputation for its local schools, each month a different school will be highlighted here as a way of sharing more specific information with the wider SAU and community audience.



## 2013 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) Results

Student Assessment								
Achievement Level (%)	Reading		Mathematics		Writing		Science	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
Substantially Below Proficient (%)	2	7	4	17	0	8		
Partially Proficient (%)	11	16	14	18	20	34		
Proficient (%)	53	53	50	43	38	47		
Proficient with Distinction (%)	34	23	31	21	41	9		
Testing Participation (%)	99	99	99	99	99	98		

Student Achievement Trends							
Number and Percent of Students Scoring Proficient or Above							
N is the number of students enrolled during testing minus the number of state-approved nonparticipants							
Grade	Content Area	2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
3	Reading	70	84	50	80	74	85
	Mathematics	70	80	50	80	74	73
4	Reading	69	80	69	93	53	81
	Mathematics	69	77	69	87	53	85
5	Reading	82	98	70	89	69	93
	Mathematics	82	96	70	81	69	87
	Writing	82	80	70	79	69	78

### Educational Attainment of Teachers in NH in 2013-2014:

Bachelor's Degree: 42.2%

Master's Degree: 56.5%

Beyond Master's Degree: 1%

### Educational Attainment of Brentwood Teachers in 2013-2014:

Bachelor's Degree: 7.0%

Master's Degree: 93%

Average NH Teacher Salary in 2013-2014: \$54,712

Average Brentwood Teacher Salary in 2013-2014: \$67,848

Average NH Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2013-2014: 12.1

Average Brentwood Student-to-Teacher Ratio in 2013-2014: 12.8

SAU 16 Square Miles: 81.66  
Brentwood Square Miles: 16.97  
Brentwood Population:  
    4,666 (2013 estimate)  
    3,197 (2000 census)  
    4,486 (2010 census)  
Registered Voters: 2,824 (March 2014)

Total Equalization Valuation of Property: \$466,845,515  
Tax Rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation: \$23.88  
    Town Rate: \$3.73  
    County Rate: \$1.05  
    State School Rate: \$2.33  
    Local School Rate: \$16.77

### **Did You Know?**

Robinson Female Seminary in Exeter closed in 1956. The building was destroyed in a fire in 1961. The Seminary occupied land on what is now the playground behind Lincoln Street School.

In 1938, the equalized valuation of property in Stratham was \$786,129. In 2013, that valuation had risen to \$1,092,087,301.

Since the 1998-1999 school year, Exeter High School (EHS) has received the Division I "Sportsmanship Banner" ten (10) times: 1999, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2013.

Chris Stowell, a 2013 graduate of Exeter High School, captain of the basketball team and SST Marketing Technologies student, is now a freshman and playing forward for the University of Miami (FL) basketball team. Chris earned a spot on the 14-man roster as a walk-on player.

The Seacoast School of Technology (SST) offers twelve (12) different courses for college credit from: Great Bay Community College, Southern NH University, Manchester Community College, Lakes Region Community College, and Central Maine Community College. This dual enrollment opportunity allows students to earn college credits at a nominal cost (usually about \$150 per course) while simultaneously meeting high school graduation requirements.

A new POW/MIA Memorial Chair was dedicated in William Ball Stadium during an impressive ceremony at the first home football game on September 12, 2014.

As part of its outstanding Personal Development and Enrichment Program, Exeter Adult Education offers classes in Conversational Spanish, French, and Italian. There are also

courses in Beginning Guitar, Ballroom Dancing, Tai Chi, Rug Braiding, Chair Caning and Rush Seating, Genealogy, and the New Testament Book of Revelation as Literature.

Exeter High School offers 13 Advanced Placement (AP) courses through which students may earn college credit prior to beginning college. This year 244 students are enrolled in AP courses.

There were 419 graduates from Exeter High School in the Class of 2014. Of those students, 73.5% are attending post-secondary schools. This class also did well on their Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) offered through The College Board. Scores are reported between 200 and 800 in three different categories. The average scores for the Class of 2014 are: Critical Reading—551; Math—555; Writing—542.

The YMCA hosted its formal Groundbreaking Ceremony on the site of the old Exeter Area Junior High School on Linden Street in Exeter on September 16, 2014. The ‘Y’ will soon begin the first phase of construction of a new facility to serve the needs of the community. Featured speakers included Governor Maggie Hassan, Exeter Town Administrator Russ Dean (EHS alumnus, Class of 1987), and gold medal Paralympian Victoria Arlen (EHS alumna, Class of 2013). Several local legislators, SAU 16 School Board Members, administrators, teachers, and students also attended.

### **SAU 16 Forty Year Club**

Five veteran staff members within SAU 16 joined Dr. David Atwood, Technology Education teacher at the Cooperative Middle School (CMS), in the SAU 16 “Forty Year Club” this year in recognition of their 40 consecutive years working within the SAU. These include: **Janice Bastille**, SAU Title I; **Margaret Meyer**, SAU Fiscal Services Manager; **James McMahon**, East Kingston Elementary teacher; **Bonnie Rosencrantz**, Main Street School teacher; and **Jan Smith**, Lincoln Street School Assistant Principal. These individuals have distinguished themselves by their dedication, commitment, and service to the students, families, staff, and communities within SAU 16. This recognition confers special honor and appreciation to these wonderful people who can now boast that they are among a very select group of SAU colleagues. Many sincere thanks to each of them!

### **Reading and Writing Courses**

Continuing with the SAU’s commitment to offer more professional opportunities for teachers and staff and to complement the important work being done with reading, writing, and language arts initiatives, Plymouth State University will begin offering a series of graduate level Reading and Writing courses at the Seacoast Professional Development Center (SPDC) beginning this fall. The goal is to have a different course taught each academic term (fall, winter, spring, and summer) from now through the summer of 2016. This series of courses can lead either to a graduate degree or a professional certificate in this important academic area.

*Special Topics in Reading and Writing* will be offered on four Saturdays this fall. The class will be team taught by Exeter School Board Member Jean Tucker and teachers Chris Culver from Kensington Elementary and Lisa Swasey from Swasey Central School - Brentwood. The formal course description and registration information are available at [www.plymouth.edu](http://www.plymouth.edu).

### **SAU 16 Educational Channel 13**

All local Comcast subscribers have unlimited access to the SAU 16 Educational Channel 13 in each of the six communities within the SAU. Programs of local interest dealing with students' efforts in classrooms are regularly available. Additionally, a wide variety of athletic events are covered, as well as regular meetings of the Exeter and Exeter Region Cooperative School Board.

"Around SAU 16" is a regular feature on Channel 13 as well. This involves the Superintendent interviewing local educators and/or alumni with the goal of introducing these individuals to the wider community. Within the past month, the following interviews have been recorded: Mr. Jonathan Kuiper (EHS Class of 1997; teacher and writer); Ms. Joanna Pellerin (EHS Class of 1956; Robinson Female Seminary student; retired teacher who spent 11 years teaching in Morocco); Sgt. Seth Barham (EHS Class of 2002; US Army media specialist with tours in Iraq and Afghanistan; now lives in Honduras); and Mrs. Carol Dawson (EHS English teacher and Drama Director).

Approximately forty such interviews have been conducted over the past two years.

### **New Coop Board Member and Board Chair**

Mr. Denny Grubbs has been selected as the new Exeter member of the Cooperative School Board. Mr. Grubbs is a retired independent school career educator who moved from Newmarket to Exeter, his wife's hometown, within the last year. (His father-in-law served on the Exeter School Board for several years.) Mr. Grubbs grew up in Connecticut and recently served on the Newmarket Superintendent Search Committee.

Mr. Grubbs will fill this seat vacated by the resignation of Mrs. Kate Segal when she became the principal of Newfields Elementary School on July 1, 2014. He will serve in this position until March 2015 when an open seat with a two-year term of office will be available.

With the resignation of Mrs. Segal, who was the presiding Chair of the Coop Board, Mrs. Helen Joyce was recently selected as the new Chair.

### **The Three C's—Curriculum, Communication, Community Service**

**Stratham Memorial School (SMS)** has a cohort of teachers who have been working together on ways to improve their teaching skills using researched and identified "best practices." This group, comprised of Deb Craig, Caroline Ganier, Melissa Mastin, Christina Gaynor, Robyn Powley and Cindy Fitzgerald, will present some key aspects of

their work at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual New England Reading Association (NERA) Conference in Springfield, MA this month. In November, joined by new second grade teacher Amy Riley, this group will travel to Washington, DC for a national conference to make another presentation dealing with reading and technology.

The **Seacoast School of Technology** (SST) will participate in a “State Monitoring Visit” in late September. This is conducted by the NH Department of Education and will focus on the evaluation of programs and teachers with an eye toward making connections between and among the competencies tied to each lesson and the assessment of each competency. This process takes place every five years and is designed to assist the school in improving its delivery of services to students.

Second graders at **Swasey Central School** (SCS) have begun school with some significant highlights. The students are studying life cycles as they observe the metamorphosis of butterflies in the classrooms. This investigation will culminate in a special field trip to *The Butterfly Place* in Westford, MA in early October. These students will also participate in the O.R.E.O. (Our Really Exciting Online) Project which uses Oreo cookies as math manipulatives. The students estimate how many Oreo cookies they can stack before they tumble and, after two attempts, record their best effort. The beginning of second grade is also a time to discuss and implement the routines and guidelines of *Responsive Classroom* that teaches students more about communication skills and the need to respect each other while becoming good citizens in and out of the classroom.

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade art students at the **Cooperative Middle School** (CMS) are beginning the school year by learning how to use the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design in the creation of their individual art work. Their work began with an introduction to the element of lines and how artists use different lines to make patterns and design. They use this foundation to focus on pattern, use of line direction, shapes, space, contrast, emphasis, and unity. The importance of art and how it can boost student creativity and self-esteem is emphasized.

The following **Exeter High School** (EHS) seniors have been named “semifinalists” in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program: Guinevere Gilman, Meredith Gilman, Cameron Morris and Caroline Ritter. These four students qualified for this honor through the administration of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) which is given as an EHS service to all high school juniors in mid-October each year. These academically talented seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition and have to complete several other requirements. Statistically, about 90% of semi-finalists become finalists and of those, more than half win a National Merit Scholarship. Congratulations to each of these excellent students!

To enhance many of its regular educational opportunities for students at **Lincoln Street School** (LSS) this year, traditional After School Activities will begin at the end of September and be available on Thursdays for six weeks this fall. These special offerings

include Sports Medley, Arts and Crafts, Jump Rope Club, Top Secret Adventure; and Chess. Participation in these programs offers students the chance to learn new skills, meet new friends and develop different problem solving strategies.

The kindergarten team of teachers at **Main Street School** (MSS) has been updating their curriculum to better meet the needs of students and to raise expectations for them. This involves students learning more sight words and more letters earlier in the year. Doing this allows teachers to focus more on developing reading skills for the children throughout the year. An early assessment of incoming students showed that approximately 60% of entering kindergarteners knew most of their letters. The 40% of the students who knew less than 20 letters and showed other literacy and math needs have been offered the “extended day program” that will enhance the needed support for these students to be more successful as they continue through elementary school.

Teachers and staff at **Kensington Elementary School** (KES) have begun to collect baseline data on students in reading, writing, and mathematics. Using the STAR assessment, Developmental Reading Assessment and other Curriculum-Based Measures, teachers are gathering information they will then use to inform their instruction for students this year. This practice is an important step in gathering critical information each year because benchmark assessments throughout the school year are so helpful in making sure that students make progress toward both common and personal education goals. KES has also been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in reading, mathematics and science. This assessment will be administered to all fourth grade students in February 2015.

**Newfields Elementary School** (NES) continues to be very involved with promoting safety and security within its building and on its grounds. Police Chief Art Reed recently met with the staff to review various safety protocols, including lockdown procedures. The school is very committed to its community effort to “Have Fun! Challenge Yourself! Be Responsible; Be Respectful; Take Care of Each Other.”

## **Reflection**

Sixty years ago this fall, I started kindergarten at the Marston School in Berlin, NH. I remember Mrs. St. Hilaire as a kind, compassionate and caring teacher who made coming to school an enjoyable and happy time. We learned our letters and learned how to color—even if we didn’t always stay within the lines. That was my foundation for learning, for going to school. Dwight Eisenhower was President of the US then. First class postage was three cents a letter and a gallon of gasoline cost \$.25. Things have changed on the outside in so many ways, but I still love coming to school every day. As a matter of fact, I have gone to school every September for 60 years! I wonder what I will do for work when I have to get a job!