



School Union 69
Office of the Superintendent
Hope, Appleton & Lincolnville

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Dear School Union 69 Families,

BUDGET

Have you been wondering just how the school budget is developed? Who weighs in? How is it finalized? When can the public have their say? Well, here's a quick rundown on how the school budget process works:

December-January: The principals gather information from school staff and analyze spending and previous budgets and begin developing a budget draft.

January: Preliminary budgets are shared with the school committee; these are public meetings anyone can attend!

February: the principals and superintendent continue to revise the draft budget; updates are shared at school committee meetings and a budget workshop date is set.

March: Budget workshops are public meetings where the school committee goes through the budget line by line and discussing the school's needs.

March: The school presents its budget to the budget committee, often more than one budget committee meeting during the month has some time dedicated to the school budget. These meetings are public meetings, posted and open to the public.

Early April: The budget committee votes on the school's proposal; the school committee finalizes the budget.

May: In an open town meeting, the public is welcome to discuss and vote on the proposal. *It is very important that school families attend this meeting to support the budget!*

June: On the ballot, the voters are asked for a Yes or No vote on the school budget.

Your vote counts!

Come to the open town meeting to show your support for your school!

May 16, 6 p.m. at AVS

May 19, 6 p.m. at HES

May 25, 6 p.m. at LCS

At this meeting, the actual budget will be discussed and voted on by taxpayers in attendance.

Then, on June 14, you will vote at the polls on two questions:

1. A yes/no vote to support the school's budget
2. A yes/no vote regarding the budget referendum process. Every three years, the taxpayers decide whether or not to continue the two-step process of open town meeting on the school's budget and a vote at the polls in June, (yes vote), or to forgo the open town meeting and vote once at the polls (no vote).

COVID:

As you likely know, COVID 19 cases have been rising in the state recently. Since April break, we have seen a significant increase in cases among our school populations. We sincerely hope that cases continue to be mild and that everyone who is sick has a speedy and full recovery!

There are a few things to keep in mind as we weather this latest round of COVID cases:

- Our school communities have been so diligent, monitoring their children for symptoms, reaching out to the nurses and keeping students home when they are sick. ***Your efforts are greatly appreciated!*** The burden this virus has put on staff and families cannot be understated and we are grateful for all you do to keep school spread to a minimum.
- Daily screening is still a very important tool to keep school spread to a minimum, please do not send your child to school if they are ill.
- The CDC has provided several options individuals can employ for greater protection: masking, distancing when possible, diligent hand hygiene and vaccinations are all available tools for preventing or lessening the impact of COVID 19 that can be employed at school.
- We are experiencing mild to significant staff and substitute shortages (depending on the day). Please be patient and understand that everyone working with your child is managing as best they can and has the students' best interest at heart. It can sometimes be a challenge to remain kind and calm when facing staff shortages or disruption of school services. Please keep in mind, we are still in the midst of an unprecedented challenge!

Just a reminder, Juneteenth is now an official holiday. This year, the 19th of June falls on a Sunday, so the holiday is celebrated on Monday. Therefore, for HES and LCS, who will still be in session: *Monday, June 20th is a holiday and there is no school.*

Enjoy the sunshine and warm weather

Kate