

Fact Sheet

Lisbon Regional School District Withdrawal from SAU #35

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT: Historically, the Lisbon Regional School District (LRSD) board members have had limited ability to influence change in SAU #35 due to being consistently outvoted by the members from Bethlehem, Lafayette, Landaff, and Profile school districts.

Leaving SAU #35 will allow our school and communities to have full autonomy and decision-making control of the LSRD, allow LRS to continuously strive for the highest educational value and opportunities for our unique student population; while respecting and controlling the budgetary impact it has on our communities.

SAU #35 BUDGET: The adopted SAU #35 budget for the 2025-2026 school year is \$1,011,491 of which Lisbon Regional School District's portion is **\$269,194.** (*LRS District share is ~ 26.6%*)

Important Notes about the SAU #35 Budget

The SAU projects that the current fiscal year will end with an unassigned fund balance of \$75,000. This fund balance is higher than normal because the position of special education director was funded, but not filled. Applying this fund balance reduces the amount of tax dollars to be raised to fund the core expenditure in 2025-2026.

The SAU board considered a number of budget alternatives for 2025-2026. One of the budgets included funding for two additional SAU employees; the special education director and a support staffer. Had that budget been approved, the budget would have been \$176,712 more than the approved budget with the LRSD portion being \$316,223.

It is reasonable to assume that SAU #35 will consider hiring these employees in the future (perhaps next year) and that next year's unassigned fund balance will be lower or non-existent. Please consider how such increases in core expenditure would affect the cost and allocation of Lisbon Regional School District's share of the SAU #35 budget. *See reverse side.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lisbon Regional School Website: Planning Committee report and associated documents,
<https://www.lisbon.k12.nh.us/>

SAU #35 Website: SUA #35 budget and associated documents.
<https://www.sau35.org/>

See Reverse Side for More Information

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The numbers presented in this fact sheet have been updated from the Planning Committee report. The revised cost estimates include 1) changes in the estimated operating and start up cost, and 2) the approved SAU #35 budget for the 2025-2026 school year; both of which occurred after the committee report was submitted to the New Hampshire State Board of Education.

COST: To start up and operate a new SAU: *(Year 1)*

Salaries & Benefits	\$282,656
Operating Costs	\$33,000
<u>One-Time Start-Up Costs</u>	<u>\$52,790</u>
Total Year 1 Cost	\$368,446

NET COSTS & ALLOCATION: The net cost to the Lisbon Regional School District and the allocation of 1st year costs between Lisbon and Lyman are shown in the following tables.

Cost To Remain in SAU #35 - LRS District Share	\$269,194
<u>Cost to Withdraw from SAU #35 - Start Up and Year 1 Operating Costs</u>	<u>\$368,446</u>
(Increase) Decrease to Withdraw from SAU #35	(\$99,252)

Cost to be allocated: \$99,252 (Operating Cost + One Time Costs - SAU #35 Cost 25-26)				
Community	Allocation Rate	Amount of Apportionment	Change in Property Tax Rate Per \$1,000 Valuation <i>(Estimated)</i>	Estimated Property Tax Increase <i>Assessed Valuation - Property Tax Increase</i>
Lisbon	78.6%	\$78,058	\$0.34	\$250,000 - \$ 85 \$350,000 - \$119 \$500,000 - \$170
Lyman	21.4%	\$21,194	\$0.27	\$250,000 - \$ 68 \$350,000 - \$ 95 \$500,000 - \$135

Note: Change in Property Tax Rate based on the School Tax Rate for each town on its 2024 Property Tax Bill, the property valuations published by the New Hampshire State Department of Education on 9/3/2024 and the 2024-2025 LRSD budget.

Don't forget that costs for subsequent years will not include one time start up costs.

NEXT STEPS: The decision to withdraw from SAU #35 is up to the taxpayers of the Lisbon Regional School District. A Warrant Article will be presented at the Annual LRSD meeting on March 19, 2025. If 3/5 (60%) of the votes cast on the question in the withdrawing district shall vote in the affirmative, the LRSD shall withdraw from SAU #35 on July 1, 2026.

See Reverse Side for More Information