

Bill Kimball Ed. D.
Superintendent

Megan Grube
Assistant Superintendent

Brianne King
Business Manager

Rebecca Greenough
Human Resources Director



Andrea Racek
Special Education Director

Stephanie Ripley
Early Childhood Programs

Alexis Hoyt
Student Support Director

Martin Kattam
Director of Technology & Innovation

Notice of Availability Annual Report

The legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57, consisting of the City of St. Albans, Town of St. Albans, and Fairfield, Vermont, are hereby notified of the availability of the District's Annual Report. Copies of the report are available online at <http://www.maplerun.org/o/mrusd/browse/34988>, by contacting the Maple Run Unified School District at 28 Catherine Street, St. Albans, VT 05478 or calling 524-2600.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS				
	Represents	Position	Term	Expires
Nilda Gonnella-French	City	Board Chair	Three Year Term	2027
Karlie Gunderson	City		Three Year Term	2027
Charles Brooks	City	Vice Chair	Three Year Term	2028
Suzanne Kenyon	City		Three Year Term	2026
Marianne Dubie	Fairfield		Three Year Term	2027
Joanna Jerose	Fairfield	Clerk	Three Year Term	2028
J. Nakuma Palczewski	Town		One Year Term	2028
Jessica Frost	Town		Three Year Term	2027
Jack McCarthy	Town		Three Year Term	2026
Amanda Giroux	Town		Three Year Term	2026
Amanda Forbes, Treasurer			Three Year Term	2027
Anna Bourdon, Clerk			Three Year Term	2027

SCHOOL CONTACTS			
Superintendent of Schools	Bill Kimball	bkimball@maplerun.org	370-3938
Assistant Superintendent	Megan Grube	megan.grube@maplerun.org	370-3970
Director of Special Education	Andrea Racek	aracek@maplerun.org	370-3949
Director of Early Childhood Education	Stephanie Ripley	sripley@maplerun.org	370-3953
Director of Technology & Innovation	Martin Kattam	mkattam@maplerun.org	527-6554
Director of Student Support	Alexis Hoyt	ahoyt@maplerun.org	370-3946
Director of Collins Perley Sports Complex	Tim Viens	tviens@maplerun.org	527-1202
Principal of Bellows Free Academy	Polly Rico	prico@maplerun.org	527-6589
Principal of Fairfield Center School	Kelsey Malboeuf	kmalboeuf@maplerun.org	827-6639
Director of Northwest Career & Technical Center	Leeann Wright	lwright@maplerun.org	527-6517
Principal of St. Albans City School	Stephanie Gagnon	smgagnon@maplerun.org	370-3780
Principal of St. Albans Town Educational Center	Christina Boissoineault	cboissoineault@maplerun.org	752-2601

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Dear Maple Run Community,

During the past year, we have continued to work on the goals and strategic plan we created together to help our students learn and grow. You told us you wanted schools to focus on raising academic standards, managing behavior and bias, supporting families, building strong connections with the community, and teaching about diversity and inclusion. Thanks to your ideas and partnership, we've made great progress!

In Maple Run Unified School District, we are committed to cultivating a welcoming environment where our students and community can tap into their love of learning. We do this through our relationships with our students, families, and each other. Our data shows that these relationships are meaningful and foster a strong sense of belonging among many of our students (86% of students surveyed report a positive sense of belonging). Most of the time, our interactions work well, but we have learned that this does not happen all the time, and harm can occur. At those points, we lean on our restorative practices training and work together with all parties to repair the relationship and find ways to work together to ensure the success of the students involved.

While I could list many more data points that show our growth in attendance, academics, and behavior, I believe the best way to illustrate our success is through the stories of the district, the schools, and our students. This past fall, Maple Run was recognized by the International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP) for how our implementation of restorative practices has increased our students' social-emotional learning and academic growth. As we have seen the sense of belonging increase across the student body, we have also seen growth in literacy and math. Just this fall, we have seen our attendance rate increase by 17% across the district.

Another area where we excel is our student leadership across all our schools. I am amazed every day by the leadership our students demonstrate, whether in the classroom, in the hallways, or across the state. For example, at Bellows Free Academy (BFA), students from across all student leadership organizations came together to learn about their collective purpose and how they can work together to engage more students in making Maple Run the best school system for every student. To that end, student leaders at BFA have connected with middle schoolers at the three PreK-8 schools to teach leadership skills and foster collaboration across campuses. In addition, we have several students working across the state with Up for Learning to elevate student voices in statewide educational matters.

Financial responsibility is also important to us.

Last spring, the legislature elected to transfer \$118 million to lower the impact of school budgets on taxpayers. In the Governor's January 20, 2026 Budget Address to the legislature, he proposed

a general fund transfer of \$105 million to lower tax rates. The tax rate estimates below do not include this buy-down of tax rates.

Here's how the proposed budget may affect taxes:

- **Saint Albans City:** Decrease of 10 cents per \$100 of property value
- **Saint Albans Town:** Increase of 9 cents per \$100 of property value
- **Fairfield:** Increase of 4 cents per \$100 of property value

These differences stem from how properties are appraised in each town. The board elected to recommend to the voters that we use some of last year's general fund balance to lower taxes by 2 cents and reserve more for tax relief in future years. On the ballot, Article III will read:

Directors to allocate its current fund balance, without effect upon the District tax levy, as follows: allocate \$1,200,000 as revenue for the 2026-2027 operating budget, allocate \$1,250,000 as revenue for future budgets and to transfer all remaining funds, to a Capital Reserve Fund, to be used for capital improvements and operations of the Maple Run Unified School District #57?

This year's spending per pupil is decreasing by 3.36%. Over the past two years, the board has worked with the administration to keep overall expenditures below the inflation rate.

We're here to help you learn more!

- Attend one of our informational meetings
- Visit www.maplerun.org
- Email the Board of Directors at mrusdschoolboard@maplerun.org

Board members will also attend community events and hold meetups to answer your questions.

Our Students. Your Voice. Your Vote.

Please vote on Town Meeting Day or contact your town clerk to request an absentee ballot if needed.

Thank you for supporting the Maple Run Unified School District. Together, we ensure a meaningful, flexible, rigorous, and safe education for all to thrive and excel.

Sincerely,



Bill Kimball

Superintendent of Schools

Bill Kimball Ed.D.
Superintendent

Megan Grube M.Ed.
Assistant Superintendent

Brianne King
Business Manager

Rebecca Greenough
Human Resources Director



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I am pleased to share the annual report for the Maple Run Unified School District (MRUSD). The MRUSD Board services the communities of Fairfield, St. Albans City, and St. Albans Town. It has been a busy productive year for the Board and our school leaders.

The primary role of a School Board is to establish a strategic vision, create policies, supervise and evaluate the superintendent, and develop a budget that ensures community supported educational goals. The Board's role is also to put systems in place to monitor progress towards the goals. The Leadership Team prepares a number of reports that are presented to the Board throughout the year to illustrate the progress towards achieving these goals. They are presented at regular school board meetings for the Board and for the public.

The MRUSD Board takes its role very seriously. We have spent the last few months working with the Leadership Team to formulate a financially responsible budget that meets the needs of our community and the needs of our students.

The legislature and governor have stated the average tax increase for Vermonters would be 12% for the upcoming school year. The Board recognized this would result in a hardship for many. Along with the school leaders we explored possible remedies for this issue. We decided to ask the electorate to approve the allocation of \$1,250,000 of the general fund balance as revenue to the 2026-2027 operating budget in order to offset the tax burden. This will lower taxes by 2 cents. We strategized a plan to also use the fund balance to offset the taxes for the next two years as well.

After all is calculated this results in a tax rate change of 8% decrease in St. Albans City, a 5% increase in St. Albans Town and a 4% increase in Fairfield.

This reflects an overall expenditure increase of 2.44%.

Of note, the overall expenditures increase in the last two years have been below the rate of inflation.

It is also important to be aware of the declining enrollment in the elementary schools. Other Vermont school districts have observed this occurring, but we are just starting to experience this in Maple Run. This will lead to tough decisions for school boards regarding staff, teachers, and programs in the future.

This year the community will vote on a purposed budget of \$79,655,912.

We encourage you to vote and to reach out if you have any questions. You can find more information on the MRUSD website (maplerun.org).

Thank you for your support of our schools and students!

In closing, "Be Kind, It Matters."



Nilda Gonnella-French
MRUSD Board Chair

Maple Run Unified School District
Summary of Expenditures for FY27 Budget

Department	FY25 Actual Expenditures	FY26 Adopted Budget	FY27 Proposed Budget
<u>Regular Education (PreK-12)</u>			
Pre-Kindergarten Pre-K Direct Instruction, Teachers, Admin, Admin Assistant, etc.	\$ 1,030,238.31	\$ 1,001,370.43	\$ 1,588,410.62
Direct Instruction K-12 Direct Instruction, Math, Literacy, Science, Soc Studies, Art, Music, PE, Dance, Drama, Health Ed, Business, etc.	\$ 19,349,521.47	\$ 20,484,801.61	\$ 22,320,389.68
Academic & Behavior Intervention Math & Literacy Interventions, Family Engagement Specialists, Behavior Personnel, etc.	\$ 2,372,200.63	\$ 2,633,708.22	\$ 2,650,325.48
Extra-Curricular & Co-Curricular Athletics, Extra-Curricular, Co-Curricular, Afterschool Programs, 21st C, Farm to School, Outdoor Classroom, etc.	\$ 1,666,418.68	\$ 1,488,756.91	\$ 1,438,242.51
Guidance & Student Support Services Guidance Services, Attendance, SAP Counselor, Home/School Coordinator, ELL, 504 Coordinator, Student Support Director, etc.	\$ 5,057,825.13	\$ 5,532,526.82	\$ 5,605,998.26
Health & Library Services School Nurses, Librarians, supplies, materials, etc.	\$ 1,371,415.65	\$ 1,473,903.98	\$ 1,617,128.08
Curriculum & Instruction Services Curriculum Director, Instructional Coaches, New Teacher Mentors, Instructional Staff Training, etc.	\$ 1,599,660.03	\$ 1,583,294.71	\$ 1,078,499.14
Office of the Principal Building Principals, Assistant Principals, Clerical Staff and school wide expenses	\$ 2,839,843.10	\$ 2,844,961.65	\$ 2,935,769.80
District Operations Business Office, Human Resources, Superintendent, Medicaid Clerk, CO Admin Assistants, Communications, Outreach, Board of Ed, etc.	\$ 1,907,862.76	\$ 2,595,984.44	\$ 2,125,716.49
Technology Services Information Technology staff, hardware and software for staff and students for all buildings, including student information systems, business operations, attendance, internet and phone services, etc.	\$ 2,268,109.83	\$ 2,317,511.00	\$ 2,354,956.74
Operations and Maintenance & Security Management, custodial and maintenance staff, DLO, School Safety workers, crossing guards, care and upkeep of grounds, utilities, repairs, contracts, etc.	\$ 8,070,681.63	\$ 6,778,933.76	\$ 6,416,460.56
Student Transportation Daily transportation of students to and from school, field trips, extra curricular transportation, etc.	\$ 1,966,781.49	\$ 2,227,237.00	\$ 2,354,532.00
Collins Perley Sports Complex Management, custodial and maintenance staff and custodial supplies, etc.	\$ 921,451.78	\$ 873,824.33	\$ 893,154.44
Long Term Debt Principal and interest payments on long term loans and bonds	\$ 1,144,394.15	\$ 898,348.00	\$ 614,529.00
Adult Education Admin, Clerical Staff, Instructors, supplies, etc.	\$ 169,787.22	\$ 166,429.67	\$ 153,913.69
<u>Subtotal Regular Education (PreK-12)</u>	\$ 51,736,191.86	\$ 52,901,592.53	\$ 54,148,026.49
<u>Special Education (PreK-12)</u>			
Pre-Kindergarten/Early Essential Education Pre-K Special Education Teachers, paraeducators, specialized supplies, materials, etc.	\$ 1,928,164.79	\$ 2,276,808.83	\$ 1,795,321.16
Direct Instruction K-12 Special Education Teachers and Paraeducators, specialized materials and contracts, etc.	\$ 8,803,267.30	\$ 9,407,991.76	\$ 9,927,735.96

Out of District Placement	\$ 3,875,209.52	\$ 3,720,686.00	\$ 3,803,000.00
Tuition, additional services, contracts, etc.			
Psychological Services	\$ 253,607.86	\$ 274,571.37	\$ 285,785.70
Psychologists, evaluation supplies, materials, etc.			
Speech Language Pathology Services	\$ 1,068,579.94	\$ 1,145,623.38	\$ 1,162,257.14
Speech/Language Pathologists, evaluation supplies, materials, etc.			
Student Supports	\$ 2,928,389.58	\$ 2,986,506.96	\$ 3,396,173.10
Behavior Personnel, Occupational and Physical Therapists, Visually Impaired supports, etc.			
Special Education Administration	\$ 255,570.04	\$ 280,930.18	\$ 259,377.70
Directors, assistants, supplies, materials, etc.			
Student Transportation	\$ 620,575.73	\$ 735,500.00	\$ 779,500.00
Transportation for students attending outside placements, specialized transportation, etc.			
Subtotal Special Education (PreK-12)	\$ 19,733,364.76	\$ 20,828,618.48	\$ 21,409,150.76
Northwest Career & Technical Center (NCTC)			
Direct Instruction	\$ 2,285,997.11	\$ 2,424,362.86	\$ 2,450,205.97
Instruction, Math, Literacy, Culinary, Human Services, Building Trades, Cosmetology, Auto & Outdoor Technologies, Academic Skills, Medical Professions, Engineering, Digital Media, Public Safety, etc.			
Office of the Director & Guidance Services	\$ 702,663.95	\$ 785,461.13	\$ 829,066.78
Director, Assistant Director, Admin Assistants, Guidance Counselor, Outreach, contracts, supplies, materials, etc.			
Indirect Services	\$ 746,675.00	\$ 775,000.00	\$ 775,000.00
In-Kind services from Supt's Office, Fiscal Services, Oper & Maintenance, Information Technology, etc.			
Student Transportation	\$ 21,383.91	\$ 42,462.00	\$ 42,462.00
Field trips, transportation to competitions, etc.			
Subtotal NCTC	\$ 3,756,719.97	\$ 4,027,285.99	\$ 4,096,734.75
Budget Totals	\$ 75,226,276.59	\$ 77,757,497.00	\$ 79,653,912.00

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Maple Run Unified School District
Summary of Estimated Revenues for FY27 Budget

Revenue Category	FY25 Actual Revenue	FY26 Adopted Budget	FY27 Proposed Budget
<u>Regular Education</u>			
Collins Perley Trust Fund Income	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Investment Income	\$ 333,453.43	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 252,722.00
Driver Education Reimbursement	\$ 21,958.86	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Adult Ed	\$ 187,965.64	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 110,000.00
Tuition Income	\$ 2,909,234.55	\$ 3,100,000.00	\$ 3,300,000.00
Education Spending	\$ 57,207,352.00	\$ 58,751,223.00	\$ 57,953,912.00
State Placed Students	\$ 100,387.84	\$ -	\$ -
State Transportation Aid	\$ 628,795.00	\$ 610,000.00	\$ 615,000.00
Prior Year Adjustments	\$ 274,353.79	\$ -	\$ -
ELL State Grant	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
IEP Medicaid	\$ 121,797.10	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 490,165.76
EPSDT Medicaid	\$ 42,663.61	\$ -	\$ 39,280.00
21st Century Grant/Program Track	\$ 88,771.30	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Consolidated Federal Grants	\$ 3,027,969.17	\$ 1,640,000.00	\$ 1,170,000.00
Student Assistance Program Grant	\$ 53,986.59	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00
Services Provided to NCTC	\$ 746,675.00	\$ 775,000.00	\$ 775,000.00
Capital Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,200,000.00
Misc.	\$ 152,336.77	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Subtotal Regular Education	\$ 65,997,700.65	\$ 65,411,223.00	\$ 66,256,079.76
<u>Special Education</u>			
Excess Cost Income	\$ 470,654.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
Block Grant	\$ 5,660,650.00	\$ 5,583,145.00	\$ 5,614,573.00
Extraordinary Reimbursement	\$ 3,653,145.53	\$ 2,013,131.00	\$ 2,500,000.00
Essential Early Education Grant	\$ 240,455.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 250,410.00
Pre-IDEAB	\$ 27,899.33	\$ -	\$ 22,376.71
IDEAB Grant	\$ 1,062,385.70	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 971,506.56
Subtotal Special Education	\$ 11,115,189.56	\$ 9,096,276.00	\$ 9,758,866.27
<u>Northwest Career & Technical Center</u>			
State Basic Education Grant	\$ 2,155,941.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00
State Tuition Assistance Grant	\$ 867,308.40	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 825,000.00
Tuition Income	\$ 480,889.51	\$ 480,000.00	\$ 510,067.00
Program Income	\$ 60,234.56	\$ -	\$ -
Grants	\$ 432,086.26	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 303,899.03
Prior Year Adjustments	\$ (875.16)	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal Northwest Technical Center	\$ 3,995,584.57	\$ 3,250,000.00	\$ 3,638,966.03
Total Revenues	\$ 81,108,474.78	\$ 77,757,499.00	\$ 79,653,912.06

- Using the revised December 1, 2025 Education Fund Outlook FY27 forecast, the FY27 education fund need results in a property yield of \$8,849 for every \$1.00 of homestead tax per \$100 of equalized property value, an income yield of \$12,154 for a base income percent of 2.0%, and a non-residential tax rate of \$1.785. New and updated data will likely change the proposed property and income yields and perhaps the non-residential rate.

- Final figures will be set by the Legislature during the legislative session and approved by the Governor.

WARNING
FOR THE MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #57
ANNUAL MEETING: March 3, 2026

The legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57, consisting of the City of St. Albans, the Town of St. Albans and the Town of Fairfield, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet in the respective polling places and times hereinafter named for each of the above referenced towns on **Tuesday, March 3, 2026**, to vote on the articles herein set forth. All Articles to be voted by the Australian Ballot system. The polls open at seven o'clock in the morning (7:00 a.m.) and close at seven o'clock in the evening (7:00 p.m.).

ARTICLE I

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, two (2) Directors from St. Albans Town for a three (3) year term.

To elect, at large, by the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District, one (1) Director from St. Albans City for a three (3) year term.

ARTICLE II

Shall the legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of Directors to borrow money not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year, pursuant to Title 16 V.S.A. § 562(9)?

ARTICLE III

Shall the voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 authorize the Board of School Directors to allocate its current fund balance, without effect upon the District tax levy, as follows: allocate \$1,200,000 as revenue for the 2026-2027 operating budget, allocate \$1,250,000 as revenue for future budgets and to transfer all remaining funds, to a Capital Reserve Fund, to be used for capital improvements and operations of the Maple Run Unified School District #57?

ARTICLE IV

Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend \$79,653,912, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year?

The Maple Run Unified School District #57 estimates that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$14,503, which is (3.36%) lower than per pupil education spending for the current year.

Informational Hearing

The legal voters of the Maple Run Unified School District #57 (MRUSD) consisting of the City of St. Albans, the Town of St. Albans, and the Town of Fairfield, Vermont, are hereby notified and warned to meet at 6:00 p.m. in the MRUSD Central Office Boardroom on February 25, 2026 to conduct an informational meeting on the budget.

Polling Places and Times

St. Albans City Residents - St. Albans City Hall, 100 North Main Street; polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

St. Albans Town Residents – Collins Perley Sports Complex, 890 Fairfax Road; polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

Fairfield Residents – Fairfield Center School 57 Park Street, Fairfield; polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m.

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Dated at St. Albans, Vermont, this 21 day of January 2026.

MAPLE RUN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #57 SCHOOL BOARD

Nilda Gonnella-French Charles Brooks
NILDA GONNELLA-FRENCH CHARLES BROOKS

Danna J.
DANNA JEROSE

Marianne Dubie
MARIANNE DUBIE

JESSICA FROST

Amanda G.
AMANDA GIROUX

Karlie Gunderson
KARLIE GUNDERSON

Suzanne Kenyon
SUZANNE KENYON

Jack McCarthy
JACK McCARTHY

Jessie Nakuma Palczewski
JESSIE NAKUMA PALCZEWSKI

Received for record and recorded prior to the posting this 21 day of January 2026.

Anna Bourdon
ANNA BOURDON, CLERK