



*New England School Development Council*

28 Lord Road, Marlborough, MA 01752 ➤ Tel: 508-481-9444 ➤ [www.nesdec.org](http://www.nesdec.org)

**Sunapee School District  
SAU #85**

**Present State of the District Profile**

**New England School Development Council  
28 Lord Road  
Marlborough, MA 01752  
Dr. Arthur L. Bettencourt, Executive Director  
508-481-9444  
[nesdec@nesdec.org](mailto:nesdec@nesdec.org)  
[www.nesdec.org](http://www.nesdec.org)**

## **Present State of the District Profile Introduction**

As a part of the Strategic Planning Process, NESDEC has been asked by the Sunapee School District to develop a profile of the Present State of the District that includes pertinent demographic and enrollment data, as well as information regarding existing programs, standardized test results, curriculum initiatives and District goals. This information would be used to inform the Strategic Planning decision-making process.

In preparing the demographic component of Sunapee District Profile, NESDEC reviewed:

- Population and housing data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Birth data provided by the New Hampshire Department of Public Health
- Existing home sales statistics and other related information made available by local realtors
- A regional and New Hampshire analysis produced by the New England Economic Partnership
- Information on Sunapee residential housing provided by the Sunapee Zoning/Planning Department and local realtors

In developing the educational and enrollment projection components of the District Profile, NESDEC:

- received information from the Superintendent and other administrators regarding pertinent district instructional issues and district goals
- reviewed and analyzed recent district NECAP, SAT and AP test data
- examined information related to current curriculum initiatives
- analyzed District enrollment data supplied by the District and the New Hampshire Department of Education

Based on the information gained from data analysis and interviews, NESDEC developed the following District Profile:

# **PROFILE OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DISTRICT**

## **SUNAPEE**

The Sunapee School District is located in Sullivan County, approximately 60 driving miles northwest of Concord, New Hampshire and approximately 105 driving miles northwest of Nashua, New Hampshire. Sunapee, which borders Lake Sunapee, has relatively easy access to U.S. Route 89. The town is governed by a Town Meeting form of government, a Select Board and a Town Manager. Sunapee was incorporated in 1781.

## **DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

### **Population Trends**

#### **The Outlook for Population Growth**

##### **National and Regional Factors Affecting the Size and Nature of Population Growth**

- On the national level, the “Baby Boomer” generation has begun turning 65 years of age at the rate of 10,000 per day, and this is projected to continue for the next 13 years! The most recent economic outlook analysis of the New England Economic Partnership’s 2015 Fall Conference noted that New Hampshire, like other areas of New England, is experiencing declining rates of in-migration.
- New England Economic Partnership – New Hampshire Economic Outlook Private services employment in New Hampshire is projected to increase by an average of 2% per year over the next 2 years.

##### **Data Related to the Population of Sunapee**

###### **General Population**

- In 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that Sunapee had a total population of 3,365. According to the Census Bureau’s 2015 Estimate Report, the Sunapee population had remained fairly constant, totaling 3,363.
- The 2014 U.S. Census Bureau Estimate indicated that the Sunapee’s age 55 and over population totaled approximately 2,793 people (48.7% of the total population), while the under age 18 estimate equaled 570 people (approximately 17% of the total population).
- The estimated Median Age in Sunapee in 2014 was 49 years.

## **Factors Affecting the Sunapee District's Population Growth**

### Births

- According to data provided by the New Hampshire Department of Public Health, the average number of births to residents of Sunapee District declined during the period from 2000 to 2014.
- Between 2000 and 2006, District births averaged 26 per year, while the average District birth rate during the 2007 to 2014 period was 22 per year.

### Residential Construction

- Government officials and realtors indicate that in recent years there has been significantly less new home construction, as compared to the housing boom years.
- Data provided by HUD indicates that the average yearly number of single-family permits issued in 2011-2014 was 15. During the housing boom peak year of 2005, Sunapee single family permits totaled 44.
- The Zoning/Planning Office has reported that there are no major subdivisions approved or in the approval pipeline.

### Existing Home Sales

- Local realtors indicate that although there has been an increase in residential housing sales compared to the period of the housing downturn, sales volume is still low compared to the boom years. They also noted that many of the sales involve vacation homes on the lake, rather than permanent residences.
- Most condominiums in the area are vacation homes and few are permanent residences.
- Many in-migrants are reported to be in the over 55 age group. Realtors indicate that the lack of significantly expanding job availability in the SAU #85 region is a factor that affects the in-migration of families with school-aged children.

## **THE SCHOOL DISTRICT – SUNAPEE SAU #85**

### **General Description**

- SAU #85 had an October 1, 2016 PK-12 student enrollment of 430 students.
- SAU #85 has an elected five-member School Board. School Board Goals for 2015-16 included:
  1. Maintain the fiscally responsible, sound financial management of the district to support high-quality, cost-effective programs, services and facilities.
  2. Provide highly-articulated, high-quality academic and extracurricular programs that offer every student the opportunity to participate, learn and succeed within the school community.
    - 2a. Support professional development that aligns curriculum and assessments with College and Career-Ready Standards, advances best instructional practices and broadens the District assessment repertoire.
  3. Create an environment of mutual respect, cooperation, and open communication through partnerships with parents, businesses, and the community at large.

4. Maintain appropriate Board policies aligned with educational goals and sound educational practices.
  5. Continue to improve the District's facilities and the maintenance of those facilities.
- District schools include:
    - **Sunapee Central Elementary School – Pre-K through Grade 5**  
*Mission – The mission of the Sunapee Central Elementary School is to empower students to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society by providing intellectual, social and physical experiences.*
    - **Sunapee Middle High School – Grades 6-12**  
*Mission – Sunapee Middle-High School is committed to preparing students to be positive, caring, and contributing members of society by maintaining high academic, social and civic expectations within a secure environment.*

### Enrollment History

- Between 2005 and 2016, the PK-12 enrollment of SAU #85 declined by 97 students (527 in October 2005 vs. 430 in October 2016).
- Of the 430 PK-12 total enrollments, 169 students were registered in Grades PK-5, 115 were attending Grades 6-8, and 146 students were enrolled in Grades 9-12.

### Enrollment Projections

- In 2015, NESDEC projected that enrollments will decline, but at a slower rate over the course of the next decade. The total K-12 enrollment was projected to decline by 20 students between 2015-2016 and 2025-2026. This projection, if it holds true, indicates a significantly slower enrollment decline during this decade than during the 2005-2015 time span. The analysis projects that the decline will be sporadic, and that there will most likely be occasional year-to-year upticks in enrollment at various grade levels.
  - ***NESDEC typically recommends that districts keep a close watch on changes in variables such as annual births, building permits and existing home sales. These factors play a key role in defining the assumptions upon which enrollment projections are based. If any of these assumptions need to be altered in the future, so too will the projections.***

### Curriculum and Instruction

- Curriculum Initiatives – Stages of Curriculum Review
  - The District has instituted Curriculum Renewal Cycle that involves the following sequences:
    - Stage I: Program Analysis and Research Development
    - Stage II: Implementation
    - Stage III: Implementation, Monitoring, Adjustment
    - Stage IV: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Cycles of Curriculum Review involve the following areas:
  - English Language Arts
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - Social Studies
  - Foreign Languages
  - Physical Education
  - Health
  - Art
  - Industrial Arts
  - Family Consumer Science
  - Business
  - Technology`
  - Life Skills
  
- Standardized Assessments
 

Students in the Sunapee SAU #85 District participate in several standardized assessment tests, including, but not limited to:

  - Advanced Placement Tests (AP) – In 2015, 45 AP exams were taken by Sunapee High School students and the students received a score of 3+ on 75% of the exams. The mean score for Sunapee students was 3.38 vs an average score of 3.23 statewide. At many colleges and universities a score of 3 or above qualifies for college credit.
  - Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SAT) – In 2015, on Critical Reading and Mathematics the average scores of Sunapee students exceeded the New Hampshire state average.
  - NECAP Tests – During the 2012-15 school years, Sunapee students scored in the acceptable range and met AYP requirements in all content area categories.
  - The Sunapee Graduation rate of 96.88% is significantly above the New Hampshire state average of 88.1%.
  - The Sunapee District currently has 51 Special Education students. (12%) In 2014-15, which is the most recent data analyzed by the State, Sunapee students with disabilities exceeded state proficiency rates in both Reading and Math:
 

Proficiency rate:	
Reading: 28% Sunapee	State Average: 19.31%
Mathematics: 28% Sunapee	State Average: 13.29%
  
- Sunapee Middle High School was recently ranked as the #2 high school in New Hampshire by *U.S. News and World Report*.

### **Extracurricular Programs**

- Over 75% of Sunapee Middle and High School students participate in at least one extracurricular activity.
- Sunapee Middle-High School offers the following: Athletic programs, Art Show, Close-Up Trip, Foreign Exchange Programs, Harvard Model Congress, MS Geography Bee, MS Robotics Club, Spelling Bee, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Outing Club, Prize Speaking, Student Council, Drama Productions, Athletic Leadership Council and several other activities.
- Sunapee Central Elementary school offers the following: Chess Club, First Place Robotics Experience, Spelling Bee, Destination Imagination, several after school clubs, and a winter activities program.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

The district has a Capital Improvements Plan that is reviewed each year. Several projects have been completed during the past three years and several other projects have been approved or are in the approval pipeline.