2Districts8Towns

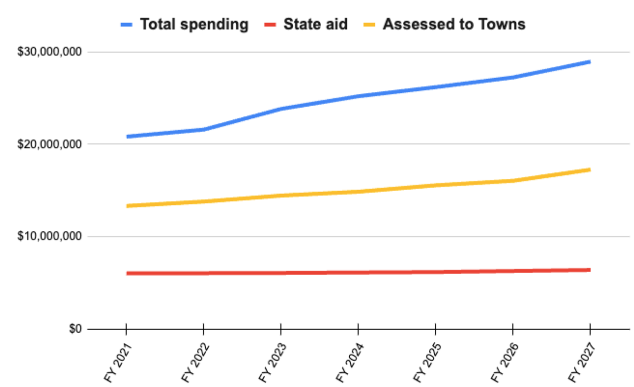
# FINANCE

## KEY FINDINGS AND CONSIDERATIONS

## OUR CURRENT SITUATION

- Chapter 70 state aid is flat—based on student enrollment and does not account for the rise in fixed costs.
- Operational costs—driven significantly by staffing, benefits, special education, and transportation—are greatly outpacing Chapter 70 revenue, resulting in an increased burden on local taxpayers.
- Many district towns direct more than 50% of their budgets toward public education. Several may soon be facing budget overrides that would increase property taxes.

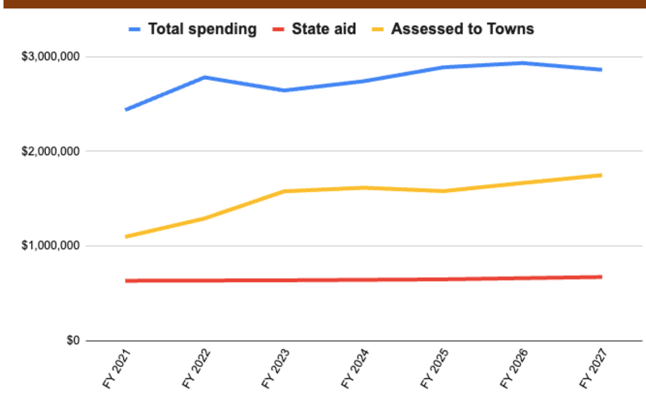
### Mohawk Trail (FY21 – FY27)




Since Fiscal Year 2021, Total spending has increased 39%

- Town assessments have increased 29%
- State aid has increased just over 6%

### Hawlemont (FY21 – FY27)




Since Fiscal Year 2021, Total spending has increased 17%

- Town assessments have increased 59%
- State aid has increased just over 6%

## OUR INITIAL ANALYSIS INDICATED A SINGLE CAMPUS WOULD:

**INCREASE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY:** Savings are possible through reduced duplication of programming, personnel, and facilities, resulting in improved economies of scale.

**STABILIZE SCHOOL BUDGET:** Consolidation would improve long-term budget planning and flexibility, and better align operational costs with available funding.

**PROVIDE REINVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Operational savings could be used to fund new educational programming, to reduce the rate of town assessment growth, and to offset some if not all capital expenditures.

***NOTE: ONGOING ANALYSIS WILL INCLUDE REVIEW OF CONSTRUCTION OPTIONS/CAPITAL COSTS AND THE IMPACT OF THESE COSTS ON TOWN ASSESSMENTS***

***Long-term sustainability will require aligning district structure, programming, staffing, and costs with changing enrollment and revenue realities.***

Learn more at **2districts8towns.org**