



SUSTAINABILITY STUDY: ONE PAGE OVERVIEW

Spring 2026

What is the Sustainability Study?

The 2 district 8 towns Sustainability Committee was organized to study and analyze the operating and organizational structures of the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont school districts in light of ongoing **enrollment, fiscal and educational pressures**. Formed in early 2024, the Committee's goal is to develop a plan to provide students with a broad array of **high-quality educational opportunities** that prepare them for future success – in college, career and life – and to do so in a sustainable way that our rural towns can afford.

This document provides stakeholders with a concise, factual summary of the 2D8T Sustainability Study, the Steering Committee's recommended Plan of Action, and the ongoing work being done to provide additional detail to the Plan and address questions raised by stakeholders. We encourage informed dialogue and constructive feedback as this process continues.

Why Conduct the Study

Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont face critical challenges that affect most rural districts: **declining enrollment, rising costs, flat state aid, and increasing student needs**. Without action, these challenges will continue to produce budget deficits, cuts to educational programming and staff, rising town assessments, and limited academic and social opportunities for students.

How the Study Was Conducted

Over 16+ months, the Steering Committee, composed of community members and district leadership, supported and reviewed in-depth analysis of current **educational programming, enrollment, staffing, finance, facilities, and transportation**. Initial findings were shared in extensive outreach communities and staff, and the input received has helped shape the ongoing work.

Models Examined

After reviewing 177 ideas offered by stakeholders and staff, 5 operational models were selected for detailed review:

1. Status Quo

No change to existing operations

2. Merger

Merger of Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont

3. Move Grade 6

Create a Grade 6-8 middle school on the Mohawk Trail campus

4. Partial Elementary Consolidation

Consolidate elementary students into fewer schools

5. Create a Single PreK-12 Campus

Consolidate all elementary schools and create a single PreK-12 on the Mohawk Trail site

Key Findings of Comprehensive Option Analysis

- Maintaining the **Status Quo** does not address existing fiscal or educational challenges.
- A single campus provides the greatest opportunity for long-term **fiscal Sustainability**.
- Larger student bodies best support **robust academic and social** environments; ensure **equitable access** to academics, student supports, co- and extra-curricular activities; and encourage **strong professional collaboration**.
- Creating a single campus will require **some modifications** to existing Mohawk Trail facilities.

SUSTAINABILITY STUDY OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

✓ Steering Committee Recommendation

In Spring 2025, The Steering Committee and both School Committees voted to pursue the aspirational goal of **educating all students** at a **single PK–12 campus at Mohawk Trail**. – and to complete additional work to better understand potential outcomes, address community concerns and develop detailed operational and educational plans. This goal would be achieved gradually over 5–7 years.

Key Benefits Identified:

◆ Robust Academics

◆ Maximum Economies of Scale

◆ Unique Programming Accessible to All Students

◆ Enhanced Sports, Music, Theatre via larger student body

◆ Centralized/Shared Staffing

◆ Greater Opportunities for Staff Learning/Collaboration

◆ Fiscal Savings

◆ Improved learning facilities

👤 Staffing & Programming

Impact: Centralized staffing results in (estimated) 41-65 fewer staff across all roles.

Goal: To the extent possible, manage reductions through retirement and staff turnover.

⚠️ What Has NOT Been Decided

No specific decisions have been made. Educational visioning work (now underway) will determine specific needs.

🌍 Current and Future Planning

Phase III focuses on **planning, not implementation**. Key activities include:

- ◆ Developing a detailed education vision (all grades)
- ◆ Analyzing staffing impact
- ◆ Refining transportation models
- ◆ Creating detailed financial projections
- ◆ Exploring economic and social impacts on communities
- ◆ Developing a new Regional Agreement (details changes)
- ◆ Investigating school building re-use

Fall 2025- Summer 2026	Fall 2026 – Winter 2027	Winter 2027– Spring 2028	Late Fall 2028	3-5 years, 2032 or later
● Complete operational planning and educational visioning	● Secure funding for full facilities planning (Town Vote or other sources)	● Complete regional agreement with significant community input	● Vote to approve regional agreement Vote to authorize capital for facilities modifications	● Construction New campus opens 2030 or later

Bottom Line: The Sustainability Study identifies a structured pathway to address our current challenges. It does not mandate immediate change. Community input remains essential. **Nothing happens without a unanimous vote of all 8 towns.**