

CONSOLIDATION BENEFITS

2010 – 2011

Curriculum initiatives to support all learners since consolidation: Reading Streets – Core Reading Program at RES & JSMS; Lexia – Technology-based phonological support at WPS, RES, and Manchester; Fast Math – Technology-based math facts fluency at WPS, RES & Manchester; IXL – Technology-based content support for math at JSMS and WMS; Odyssey – Technology-based core content support for math and English/Language Arts at WHS, WMS, piloting at JSMS; ReadAbout – Technology-based comprehension support at JSMS and WMS; Virtual High School – 196 virtual class electives for high school credit at WHS; Advanced Placement – High School Honors Committee – 100% increase in AP enrollment; ALEKS – Technology-based support and acceleration at JSMS for Geometry students and WHS.

As a result of consolidation the following positions were eliminated, thus reducing our budget costs: two Special Education Directors; one Maintenance Director; one Transportation Director; one Business Manager; one Superintendent of Schools; two bus drivers; one District Office secretary.

The FY11 Budget did not increase taxes in Raymond (on the school side). The FY12 budget will also not increase taxes in Raymond (on the school side).

The Healthy Lakes / Communities Putting Prevention to Work group has been able to convene the Local Foods Workgroup and as a result, our students are receiving fresh local produce and grass-fed beef. They are looking into providing fish from the Gulf of Maine also.

In the first half of the 2009 – 2010 school year, we have positioned ourselves to allow the following potential benefits:

- Enhance the quality of Education: Response to Intervention is now in all schools in Raymond and Windham. Positive Behavior Supports is in its first year at Raymond Elementary School. All-Day Kindergarten has been in operation in Raymond for a number of years and was implemented at Windham Primary School this year. Literacy intervention programs have been implemented at Jordan Small Middle School. Infinite Campus (a student database system) has had a unified implementation approach thanks to all technology staff. LEXIA, a phonological intervention program, was piloted last year at Raymond Elementary School and this year at Windham Primary School. The Poetry Project, which started at Manchester School, is now being shared by all three elementary schools.
- We have seen stronger and newer District policies developed due to the merger of both Windham and Raymond policies.
- Food Service continues to show not only savings, but improvement with the quality of menus, food, and the operation of this Department. By providing a 3-way community consolidation effort (Windham, Raymond and Westbrook), I am optimistic that additional benefits will evolve.
- We centralized our Transportation Department at the Windham site. We will no longer utilize the Town of Raymond's municipal garage / parking lot.
- Increased purchasing power and central warehousing, as well as contracted services, will continue to evolve.

- Attorney services are now consolidated.
- Residents of Raymond now have better access to Windham’s Adult Education services and do not have to pay a “non-resident” fee.
- Approval of significant grant monies has been an asset to all schools in the District.
- Sustainability of educational programs had been in jeopardy, particularly with Raymond schools, given the exorbitant amount of State subsidy financial cuts in the last 3-to-4 years. Consolidation should provide more sustainability for our programs.
- Recycling efforts – Windham schools are beginning to recycle as Raymond schools have been doing for some time. Cost savings with trash removal will occur over time.
- Curriculum alignment between schools.
- Equity in programming across individual schools.
- Flexibility of staffing between schools.
- By sharing in-house expertise and wisdom of each past District, the Regional School Unit # 14 (RSU # 14) has seen improvements with energy and recycling savings.
- More Raymond students are choosing Windham High School as their school of choice.
- Voter turnout on November 4, 2009 may have hit the highest level for voter turnout in nearly four decades in the State. Not bad for an off-year referendum election in Maine. Windham and Raymond voters unquestionably supported and defeated Question # 3: An Act to Repeal the School District Consolidation Law.

Windham	1725 Yes	5274 No
Raymond	670 Yes	1425 No

- Reallocation of guidance services within the RSU.
- On numerous occasions, RSU # 14’s consolidation planning efforts were an exemplar for other communities as they engaged in Maine School Consolidation efforts. Several media sources cite RSU # 14 – Education Week (a national educational magazine) and the Portland Press Herald.
- Reduction of administrative costs since the beginning of planning for school consolidation.
 - Elimination of Secretary to Assistant Superintendent
 - Full-time Food Services Supervisor is now shared with Westbrook
 - Elimination of Secretary in Raymond (Superintendent’s and Special Education)
 - Elimination of one part-time clerical position at District Office
 - Elimination of one part-time secretary at District Office
 - Assistant Principal at Manchester School is now an Instructional Leader
 - Elimination of Business Manager in Raymond
 - Technology Coordinator reduced from 1 FTE to .8
 - Elimination of .6 Director of Teacher & Program Development
 - Elimination of two Assistant Directors of Special Education

- Maintenance Supervisor
 - Move Raymond buses to JSMS – savings on costs of using Raymond’s Town Garage
 - District-Wide Office – one support person
 - Reorganization at Raymond Elementary School

- Targeted and on-going New Teacher Induction program for new staff.

- More consistent bus schedule for Raymond Elementary School. Fewer bus incidents to-date. (Norma)

- Quicker response to maintenance issues at RES and JSMS.

- We have a K – 12 focus in our consolidated District – and a shared high school
- Raymond supported and shows pride for the Windham Eagles Champion Football Team.

- Improved technology access for all students / staff K – 12.

- Built a sense of community with a new RSU # 14 website.

- More efficiencies in managing school funds with a single accounting software management program for the entire District.

- Guiding Stars, the world’s first storewide nutrition navigation system, has been implemented at Windham High School and will expand the food rating system to all schools in the District in subsequent years. RSU # 14 is the third school system in Maine to adopt the Guiding Stars food rating system.

- The Department of Education gives points on criteria for major capital improvement funding applications / new school building applications to those districts which have consolidated.

