

The Heart of Our Community: Why RSU 9 Public Schools Matter

By Christian Elkington, Superintendent

As we begin the early phases of budget development for the 2027 fiscal year, it is important to reflect on the vital role RSU 9's public schools play in our region. More than just buildings, our schools serve as the heart of our community and an essential investment in our collective future.

A Place for Every Child Our mission is simple: "Working together to provide high-quality educational opportunities for all." We welcome every student from our ten towns into the RSU 9 community at no additional cost to families. This ensures that every child, regardless of background, has a fair path to success. Furthermore, because our schools are guided by locally elected neighbors and community feedback, they remain a true reflection of the people they serve.

More Than Just Academics While we maintain a core commitment to math, literacy, science, and social studies, we believe education must also be about exploration. Through diverse programs in the arts, sports, and career and technical education, students are encouraged to lead, create, and build. By interacting with peers from all walks of life, our students gain the critical thinking and social skills necessary to become informed, active participants in a diverse world.

A Hub of Support for Families We believe that academic excellence begins with student wellness. Our schools act as a safety net, providing healthy meals, counseling, and a safe environment to ensure every student—from PreK through Adult Education—is supported in their learning. This stability allows students to reach more of their full potential while our schools and staff serve as a center of HOPE for families.

Strengthening Our Local Economy Public schools are a primary driver of economic strength. By attracting new families, providing stable professional opportunities, and graduating career-ready individuals, we contribute directly to the stability of both Franklin County and Maine's workforce.

Public Education is RSU 9. It is the space where we unite to provide every child with the resources to refine their natural abilities. As educational leader John Dewey once said, "What we want for our own children, we must want for every child in our community". Through this partnership, we empower our youth and strengthen the very fabric of our shared community in the years to come.