



2025

Arlington School District

Fisher Elementary School

Arlington Memorial High School

School



ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

DEANNE LACOSTE

Arlington School District



Dear Arlington Community,

This year has been grounded in connection. Across Fisher and AMHS, we have worked intentionally to strengthen collaboration, build unity, and reinforce that we are one learning community serving students from pre-kindergarten through graduation.

That spirit of partnership has been evident in our shared events and programming. From school-wide celebrations to meaningful academic experiences, our staff and students continue to support one another in ways that reflect a cohesive and aligned district. Chinese International Cultures Night was a wonderful example of this collaboration in action, bringing families, faculty, and students together to celebrate learning, culture, and global understanding. Events like this highlight what is possible when we work together.

Behind the scenes, we have also strengthened our internal collaboration by bringing faculty meetings together across both schools. This shift has allowed for shared planning, consistent expectations, and a unified approach to student support. When adults collaborate effectively, students benefit.

At the high school level, Exam Week reflected this same commitment to alignment and accountability. The structured schedule and clear expectations created a focused academic environment, and we received positive feedback from students and families who appreciated the clarity and sense of responsibility it fostered. It was a strong reminder that thoughtful collaboration leads to meaningful results.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support of our community and our partners who enrich our students' experiences. Thank you to JISP, the Martha Canfield Library, Riley Rink, and the Arlington Commons for walking alongside us and strengthening the connection between our schools and the greater Arlington community.

Together, we continue to build a district rooted in collaboration, opportunity, and shared purpose. Thank you for being part of that journey.

Deanne Lacoste
Principal
Arlington School District



VOTING DAY



Tuesday, March 3
Arlington Memorial High School
10:00 am - 7:00 pm

Plan ahead! If you can't make it to the high school, contact the Arlington Town Office.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

TODD WILKINS

Arlington School District Board Chair



To the Arlington Community:

As many of you have seen, the education landscape in Vermont is changing with the passing of Act 73. While it's still unclear exactly how and when these changes will take effect, it is without a doubt that education in Vermont will look different in the future. This uncertainty has created significant challenges for school administrators and boards across the state. Small schools like ours are at the heart of the ongoing debates and discussions taking place daily in our State Capitol.

Despite these challenges, the students, staff, and administration of the Arlington School District continue to rise above and make our community proud. Our students continue to excel in the classroom, on the athletic fields, in artistic programming, and in so many other areas. Our dedicated staff works tirelessly to provide high-quality instruction and create exceptional classroom experiences. It's important that we remain focused on educating our students and ensuring they have a safe, supportive environment in which to learn. Our students are the future of our community. Now more than ever, we must remember they are the reason we continue to support our local schools.

This year, the Arlington School District Board of Directors, along with our administrative team, faced some very difficult budget decisions. We continue to see substantial increases in uncontrollable costs, such as healthcare. Combined with ever-changing information from the state, we were forced to make tough choices to keep budget increases minimal while preserving educational opportunities for our students.

The proposed Arlington School District budget for this year reflects a 2.48 percent increase, a total of \$248,743 over last year's budget. Despite this relatively modest increase, several factors are contributing to a more significant rise in the estimated tax rate compared to previous years. These include:

- A 5.8 percent decrease in our Long-Term Weighted Average Daily Membership (LTW-ADM), due to changes in how the weights are calculated.
- A decrease in the Town of Arlington's Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) by more than 10 percent, from 69.63 percent to 62.12 percent.

These factors, combined with a current property tax yield of \$8,849, result in a projected estimated Homestead Tax Rate of \$1.93 for FY27. Please note that this is only an estimate. The Governor and Legislature continue to discuss ways to reduce the education fund shortfall and ease the burden on property owners. It is likely that some action will be taken to lower tax rates.

We recognize that increases in property taxes are difficult for homeowners. We will continue to advocate with our elected state officials to find meaningful ways to relieve this pressure. We will also advocate for solutions that do not eliminate small schools or fundamentally dismantle Vermont's educational system.

I am incredibly thankful for the Arlington community and for our schools, which give us so much to be proud of. When I attend school events and see the number of community members who come out each night to support our students, I'm reminded just how fortunate we are.

Thank you all for your continued support of our schools and our students. Each year, you show them how much their education and our school community truly matter.

We are beyond grateful.

Todd Wilkins
Arlington Board Chair
Arlington School District Board

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

TIM PAYNE

Superintendent of Schools



The Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union is committed to developing lifelong learners who contribute to their community and succeed in a diverse and evolving global society. As the new superintendent of the SVSU, I am proud of the work that is being done in every school and classroom within our SU. This work is supported by dedicated teachers, staff and administrators. This is a point of pride when I meet with community members and colleagues from around the state; I am happy to share our many successes, especially given the challenges we continue to face in our local communities.

As part of my transition as superintendent, I have engaged with staff and outside experts to review policy, current practices, and student outcomes. Working closely with central office staff, I have worked consistently to educate the public on the state's education funding system, which is not transparent or predictable. As the legislature takes up education reform this year, there are factors beyond the control of our communities, including declining enrollment, lower levels of appraisal, and rising health care costs. Given the challenges that Vermont faces, it is easy to overlook the opportunities that we have in front of us as a community.

If we accept that change is necessary, we can build a new educational system that meets the needs of all students. I believe our best choice is to not wait for an answer from the legislature, but to consider our options and make good decisions for our communities and our students. It is important to examine what our students need to be successful in our evolving society, and how we can best support them as they look towards the future. I believe that we can reconsider staffing needs to meet the needs of all of our students, and reconfigure our school buildings to do the same.

The following report offers a current snapshot of the financial status of the SVSU and its member districts. I hope you will take the time to review this report and other resources at our website www.svsu.org. I also strongly encourage you to participate in the education conversation by attending board meetings, engaging your elected representatives and advocating for all our students.

Tim Payne
Superintendent of Schools
Southwest Vermont Supervisory Union

RUNNING THE NUMBERS

Arlington School District Total Expenditures - by Category

Budget Category	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Approved Budget	FY27 Adopted Budget	Variance	% Var
01. Salaries	\$3,458,481	\$3,836,784	\$4,329,551	\$4,799,645	\$4,806,007	\$6,362	0.13%
02. Benefits	\$1,251,072	\$1,368,198	\$1,543,797	\$1,995,942	\$2,026,374	\$30,431	1.52%
03. Contracted Services	\$105,183	\$113,303	\$106,137	\$169,050	\$169,050	\$0	0.00%
04. Operations	\$404,327	\$387,542	\$436,480	\$484,680	\$501,709	\$17,029	3.51%
05. Transportation	\$0	\$656	\$522	\$31,740	\$31,740	\$0	0.00%
06. Tuition	\$156,738	\$175,778	\$190,718	\$237,461	\$283,372	\$45,911	19.33%
07. Supplies	\$243,898	\$254,429	\$283,686	\$321,445	\$326,945	\$5,500	1.71%
08. Equipment	\$0	\$10,279	\$124,544	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
09. Dues/Fees	\$34,370	\$23,588	\$23,585	\$27,700	\$26,115	-\$1,585	-5.72%
10. Assessments	\$1,246,744	\$1,578,939	\$1,594,536	\$1,568,112	\$1,710,941	\$142,829	9.11%
11. Debt Service	\$164,260	\$182,054	\$174,890	\$168,055	\$164,321	-\$3,734	-2.22%
12. Contingency	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
13. Misc / Prior Year	-\$163	\$241	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
14. Transfers	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
15. Food Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Total	\$7,064,909	\$7,931,792	\$8,808,445	\$9,803,830	\$10,046,574	\$242,743	2.48%
<i>Less:</i>							
<i>On-behalf Tech Center</i>	\$60,276	\$71,129	\$87,170	\$93,458	\$104,829	\$11,371	12.17%
<i>Tech Center Tuition</i>	\$64,294	\$60,292	\$83,894	\$120,111	\$154,651	\$34,540	28.76%
<i>Total to Operate ASD</i>	<i>\$6,940,339</i>	<i>\$7,800,371</i>	<i>\$8,637,381</i>	<i>\$9,590,261</i>	<i>\$9,787,094</i>	<i>\$196,832</i>	<i>2.05%</i>

FY27 Budget - Adopted 01/20/2026

RUNNING THE NUMBERS

Arlington School District Revenue

Description	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Approved	FY27 Adopted	Variance	%
Tuition - PreK	\$25,592	\$33,876	\$27,188	\$19,910	\$12,318	-\$7,592	-38.13%
Tuition - Elementary	\$274,160	\$248,000	\$356,000	\$340,000	\$304,000	-\$36,000	-10.59%
Tuition - Secondary	\$348,897	\$380,000	\$442,061	\$504,000	\$462,000	-\$42,000	-8.33%
Interest	\$21,347	\$61,208	\$54,748	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	0.00%
Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$352,929	\$147,544	-\$205,385	-58.19%
Education Funding	\$6,615,929	\$7,155,832	\$7,773,488	\$8,527,491	\$9,061,212	\$533,720	6.26%
ELL Categorical Aid	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	0.00%
Tech - State on Behalf	\$60,276	\$71,129	\$87,170	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Driver's Education Reimbursement	\$0	\$2,318	\$2,091	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	0.00%
High School Completion	\$890	\$750	\$0	\$500	\$500	\$0	0.00%
Refund of Prior Year Expenditure	\$17,865	\$381	\$308	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Adjustments to Prior Year	\$877	\$8,690	\$10,268	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Insurance claim	\$2,700	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Miscellaneous	\$727	\$292	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Forestry Grant	\$2,824	\$2,790	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
Subgrants - Other	\$0	\$0	\$3,215	\$0	\$0	\$0	--
Total Revenues	\$7,386,479	\$7,965,267	\$8,782,537	\$9,803,830	\$10,046,574	\$242,743	2.48%

FY27 Budget - Adopted 01/20/2026



RUNNING THE NUMBERS

Arlington School District - FY27 Budget (Adopted 01/20/2026) Per Pupil Spending & Estimated Homestead Tax Rate Calculation

	ESTIMATED FY27	FY26	FY25	Recalculated FY24
1 Expenditures	\$10,046,574	\$9,803,830	\$9,055,380	\$8,142,943
2 - Offsetting Revenues	\$985,362	\$1,276,339	\$1,194,722	\$915,982
3 Education Spending	\$9,061,212	\$8,527,491	\$7,860,658	\$7,226,961
4 LTW ADM (prelim v15 - 12/31/25)	598.97	635.53	633.55	551.42
5 / Ed Spending / LTW ADM	\$15,127.99	\$13,417.92	\$12,407.32	\$13,106
6 Est. Property Yield (with SA 70.33%)	\$8,849	\$8,596	\$9,893	
7 / Estimated Equalized Homestead Rate	\$1.7096	\$1.5609	\$1.2542	
8 2025 Common Level of Appraisal (CLA)	62.12%	69.63%	80.16%	
CLA with Statewide Adjustment (70.33%)	88.33%	96.23%		
Actual Homestead Rate				
9 / (estimated)	\$1.9355	\$1.6221	\$1.5646	
change from previous year	\$0.3134 19.3%	\$0.0576 3.7%	\$0.0754 5.1%	

Estimated education tax on assessed home value of:

\$100,000	\$1,935.51
increase/(decrease) over FY26:	\$313.36
\$200,000	\$3,871.03
increase/(decrease) over FY26:	\$626.73
\$300,000	\$5,806.54
increase/(decrease) over FY26:	\$940.09

- 1 The expenditures line is the school district's budget
- 2 Offsetting revenues are money the district will bring in to be applied against the total expenditures. (Including tuitions, surplus, interest, donations, etc.)
- 3 Education spending (Ed spending) is the amount needed from the Vermont education fund
- 4 Long-term weighted (LTW) average daily membership (ADM) is a two-year weighted average of enrolled students during the census period
- 5 Ed spending per LTW ADM determines the education homestead tax rate
- 6 Property yield is set annually by the Legislature. Tax Commissioner letter from December 1, 2025 - recommended yield of \$8,849 which has already had the estimated "statewide adjustment" applied (70.0%). (For every \$8,849 a district spends per equalized pupil, it's equalized homestead tax rate will be \$1.00.)
- 7 Equalized homestead tax rate is the rate a district would have if all properties were assessed at fair market value.
- 8 Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is the ratio of the town's listed values versus the state's listed value. The state's listed value is comprised of actual sales averaged over three years. The state's fair market value is the equalized education grand list. The CLA is also to be adjusted by the newly introduced "statewide adjustment" (indicated in green text).
- 9 Actual homestead rate is the education tax rate seen on a property tax bill of a resident homeowner.



FISHER IN FOCUS

Fisher's dedicated teachers and staff inspire and support every student's journey.



Fisher joins National Walk to School Day, promoting health and community!



5th-grade annual field trip to Adirondack Extreme.



Art Day drew a big crowd, showcasing student artwork and interactive art stations.



One of Fisher's favorite traditions is our School Spirit Days, especially Pajama Day.



Our week-long Fisher Artist-in-Residence program focused on puppet making.

WE ARE ARLINGTON



Our team continues to grow and evolve in exciting ways. This year, Crystal Setzer stepped into the role of Assistant Principal at Fisher, bringing strong leadership and heart to our elementary community. At the same time, Charlie Cummings moved up the hill to teach at the middle school, continuing to make an impact in a new setting.

We are proud of the talented educators and leaders who are stepping into new roles and the incredible new team members we continue to welcome to Arlington.



GROWING OUR TEAM

Our district proudly participated in Sandy Hook Promise's Start with Hello Week, a nationwide initiative focused on building connection and belonging.

Through classroom activities and spirit days, students and staff embraced the power of a simple hello, small actions that make a big impact. We remain committed to creating a school community where every student feels seen, supported, and valued.



START WITH HELLO WEEK



The Arlington PTG continues to be an incredible partner to our schools, bringing energy, creativity, and support to every event they touch. In 2025, the PTG proudly expanded its role to represent and support events for both schools, strengthening the connection across our entire district community.

From hosting memorable student experiences to supporting staff and families, their commitment makes a meaningful impact. We are grateful for their leadership and dedication to helping our schools thrive.



ARLINGTON PTG



AMHS AT A GLANCE



The AMHS team is dedicated to creating a positive, enriching learning environment for all students.



AMHS Academics in Action, where students rise to every challenge.



AMHS Athletics shine across every season!



The AMHS Chorus performs for families during a winter concert.



Celebrating the Arlington Memorial Class of 2025.



AMHS Varsity Theater proudly showcased "The Court Jester."

WE ARE ARLINGTON



This year, our Chinese Language Club once again hosted a vibrant International Cultures Night, continuing what has become one of our school's most successful and anticipated events.

The evening featured international cuisine, live performances, cultural demonstrations, and hands-on activities that brought families and community members together to celebrate traditions from around the world. This special night showcases the dedication of our students while strengthening our appreciation for the diversity that makes our school community so rich and welcoming.



INTERNATIONAL CULTURES NIGHT



FIRE PREVENTION DAY

Fisher and AMHS were proud to take part in Fire Prevention Day, an interactive and informative experience focused on building essential fire safety skills. With the support of the Arlington Fire Department, students learned directly from local firefighters, explored hands-on demonstrations, and practiced important emergency preparedness strategies.

The day reinforced the importance of fire prevention and helped strengthen students' understanding of how to stay safe at home, at school, and throughout our community.



JISP PROGRAM

Our JISP program continues to be a valued part of the student experience. After thoughtful conversations, our community voiced nearly unanimous support to keep this opportunity running for our students.

We now proudly partner with Bromley Mountain, Riley Rink at Hunter Park, and Martha Canfield Memorial Library, while also offering a cross-country skiing option. Together, these partnerships allow our students to continue learning beyond the classroom, building skills, confidence, and lifelong memories through meaningful outdoor experiences.

TOWN WARNING

Arlington Town School District Warning FY27

Arlington Town School District Warning FY27

ANNUAL MEETING OF ARLINGTON TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

The legal voters of the Arlington Town School District being the inhabitants of the Town of Arlington, Vermont, who are qualified to vote in the Town District Meeting, are hereby warned for the **Annual Meeting in the Arlington Memorial High School Gymnasium, Arlington, Vermont on Monday March 2, 2026** or remotely via the Zoom computer application/program utilizing meeting ID: 858 3204 7328 with Passcode: 780974 (a direct link is available on the SVSU website www.svsu.org which also lists numbers to access by phone), **at 6:30 o'clock in the evening** to transact the following business from the floor:

- Article 1 To elect a Moderator and Recording Clerk for the Meeting.
- Article 2 To receive the reports of the District Officers for the preceding year.
- Article 3 To fix the compensation to be paid to the Officers of the District for the year beginning July 1, 2026.
- Article 4 To authorize the School Board acting on behalf of the District, to borrow such sums of money in anticipation of taxes as may be necessary to properly finance the affairs of the School District.
- Article 5 To have presented by the School Board its estimates of the expenses of the School District for the ensuing year. This is a public informational hearing regarding the budget and related items (Articles A and B).
- Article 6 To transact any other business found proper when met.

Dated at Arlington, Vermont this _____ day of January, 2026.

Todd Wilkins, *Chair*

Dan Wood, *Vice Chair*

Jessica Bachiochi, *Clerk*

Teresa Sweet, *Board Member*

Nicol Whalen, *Board Member*

Received for recording this _____ day of _____, 2026.

The legal voters of the Arlington Town School District are **further warned to meet on TUESDAY March 3, 2026 at the Arlington Memorial High School Gymnasium** to transact the following business by Australian Ballot. **The polls will be open from 10:00 o'clock in the morning to 7:00 o'clock in the evening.**

Susan Paustian, *District Clerk*

Article A To elect the following School Director Officers:

School Director	2 year term
School Director	3 year term

Article B Shall the voters of the Arlington Town School District approve the school board to expend \$10,046,574, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the 2026-2027 fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in per pupil education spending of \$15,128, which is 12.7% higher than per pupil education spending for the current year.





OUR MISSION

Fisher Elementary School aspires to establish an environment where students and faculty can develop in a climate of caring and trust. We are committed to creating an instructional process whereby all students are able to achieve their academic potential. In addition, we at Fisher wish to nurture a sense of school pride that is felt and recognized by students, faculty, and the community.

The Arlington Memorial school community strives to create a safe, caring, and respectful environment of academic excellence where students are uniquely challenged to reach their potential.

"We are a community that works, learns, and succeeds together." #GOEAGLES

Arlington School District

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SVSU.ORG



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