



EXPLORE. DISCOVER. THRIVE.

Mill River

Unified Union School District

Dear Mill River Unified Union School District Residents,

September, 2025

On July 1st, Governor Scott signed into law Act 73, *An Act Relating to Transforming Vermont's Education Governance, Quality, and Finance Systems*. The law is fundamentally changing the state's education system by restructuring funding and governance. We're providing this summary of the law so that interested residents can stay informed.

Chronological summary of Act 73 by effective date:

- **School Choice & Independent Schools:** Tuition to approved independent schools will be limited to those located in Vermont, among other new requirements. This section requires districts to continue to pay tuition on behalf of resident students enrolled for the 2024–2025 school year and those who have been accepted by approved independent schools for the 2025–2026 school year, until they graduate from those schools. This took effect on July 1, 2025.
- **Class Size Minimums:** The law creates minimum class size requirements (starting with the 2026-2027 school year) that vary by grade level. For grades 1-8, class size minimums are 10-15 students. Currently, class sizes in grades 1-8 range from 3 to 24.. For grades 9-12 class size minimum is 18 students. Currently, class sizes in MRUHS range from 2 to 25
- **School District Consolidation:** A significant reduction in the number of school districts from the current 100+ school districts and 50+ supervisory unions/districts will occur. A task force will suggest up to three new district maps by December 1, 2025 for lawmakers to review in January 2026. Each new district will serve 4,000–8,000 PreK–12 students. The MRUUSD currently has 779 students enrolled. Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Wallingford and Tinmouth residents will no longer vote for school directors for the MRUSD once it's been dissolved. New district operations will start on July 1, 2028.
- **Property Tax Reform:** Act 73 replaces the current statewide education property tax credit with a homestead property tax exemption based on income. Homeowners with an annual household income of \$115,000 or less will be allowed to exempt a portion, 90% to 10%, of their housesite value—up to \$425,000—from their property taxes. A new property tax classification, “non-homestead residential”, is meant to ensure that second homes are taxed at a higher rate than businesses and apartment rentals. The section takes effect on July 1, 2028.
- **Education Funding:** The law transitions education funding to a foundation formula. The state will provide districts a base amount per student, adjusted annually for inflation, with additional weights for special education, English language learners, economically disadvantaged, etc. Town Meeting Day 2027 will be the last time Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Wallingford and Tinmouth residents will vote on a school budget. This section takes effect on July 1, 2028, provided that new school districts approved by the legislature in 2026 have begun operating.

We know these changes are big, and we've highlighted above only a few of the major ones. If you have any questions or want to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out. We'll continue to share updates as they become available. Staying informed helps all of us navigate these changes together.

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