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To: City Council - All
Subject: Proposed 2027 school budget

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City Council members:

With regard to the proposed 2027 school budget, a 9% increase AND \$3.5 million dollars over the tax cap allowance is insane!

This burden is STILL put upon the taxpayer when it was decided DECADES ago (1993) by Supreme Court ruling that the state must provide an "adequate education" -- shifting the burden from local property taxes to the state AND setting a precedent for increased state responsibility.

This battle over "how much more" has gone on for OVER THIRTY YEARS causing financial strain for GENERATIONS of NH families.

Add to that NH's steadily declining public school enrollment (over the past two decades), yet the 4th highest increase in per-pupil spending in the US and increasing school staffing despite falling enrollment.

It is beyond maddening to see the judiciary's power to mandate action only to be upended by the political processes ability to delay or resist. Contrast that with the typical, swift consequences for average citizens who disobey court orders.

Until NH stops "kicking the can down the road" on fully funding it's public schools, DOVER CAN stop the madness and protect it's citizens from undue financial burden by trimming costs and lowering new project expectations, AS WELL AS, exercising fiscal prudence by staying STRICTLY within the established tax cap.

We rely on the City Council to be good stewards of public funds. Respecting the tax cap demonstrates accountability.

The Fahey's
Dover, NH