

JANUARY

2026

MONTHLY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT



DEAR SAU #35 COMMUNITY,

Below is the SAU report for January, which will be shared at all board meetings. Here is my [December Report](#) if you did not see it. I hope everyone has taken time with family and friends during the holiday season. And I don't know about you, but I have spent a lot of time reflecting on 2025 as I begin to focus on continued growth overall as I enter 2026. Here are some of my [reflections](#) on the year.

If you have any feedback on the good happening in our schools or how we can improve, please feel free to reach out at cj.watson@sau35.org and I'd be happy to meet with you. I've also attached my [job description](#) and a brief overview of [SAU #35's role](#) for anyone interested in better understanding how the organization functions.

Thank you for taking the time to stay informed and engaged. Below are the highlights and updates from the past month.



Happy Holidays,

C.J. Watson
Superintendent, SAU #35



SAU #35 UPDATES

01

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:

The committee met again on 12/18 at Profile and added a few more members, totaling 19 members. We reviewed the areas of potential improvement for the SAU and added more details to each. From that, we discussed as a group and then ranked what we felt were the most important areas of focus. Those four are below and we hope to meet again later in January or early February.

- Sharing of more resources and a potential alignment of systems. Sharing after school activities/programs as well. Maybe one recreation space to be shared long-term.
- Struggling with being able or willing to change and adjust. Paired with moving past old issues-letting go of egos-building trust. To grow the culture and climate overall.
- Clear set of standards/skills for students entering Profile. Cross-district horizontal and vertical opportunities and alignment-collective efficacy.
- Improving communication- within schools and between schools (cross school professional development collaboration for example). Leveraging staff strengths for professional development, workshops, coaching, etc...

02

BENCHMARK PLATFORM COLLABORATION:

The group is still looking at various quotes and communicating with one another on the pros and cons of iReady and Aimsweb for a benchmark platform to track growth in our students. The work will continue at the beginning of January, and we will come together again in the middle of January to update and review as a group. Updates will be provided in the February report.

03

PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS:

Below are the reports from Principals in the December board meetings. A lot of great work is happening from these schools right now.

[Bethlehem](#) [Lafayette](#) [Landaff](#) [Lisbon](#) [Profile](#)

04

SCHOOL DATA 2024-2025:

The New Hampshire DOE put out 24-25 state data for schools. Below are the links for each school, and the whole SAU. The SAU link compares 23-24 data to 24-25 data. This will be provided and discussed at board meetings in January. Landaff is too small for the state to report data on.

[Bethlehem](#) [Lafayette](#) [Lisbon](#) [Profile](#) [Whole SAU](#)

05

2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

This [calendar](#) for next year was tentatively adopted by the full board in December pending some state information, and will be official at the Executive Board meeting in January.

SAU #35 UPDATES, CONTINUED...

MOVING THE SAU OFFICE:

06

Near the end of June 2026, the SAU office will be exiting its lease and moving into a corner wing in Profile School. This was approved by the Profile and the full board in December, along with the 26-27 SAU budget. With Lisbon forming its own SAU on July 1st, 2026, it has been my goal to reduce the SAU budget as much as possible. Moving to Profile provides significant savings, and ensures we as an SAU staff are surrounded by teachers and students. I believe this connection keeps us grounded and realistic in our decision making and in how we support our schools.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS (EMC):

07

Bethlehem, Lafayette, and Profile are compiling numbers and plans for long-term facilities projects for the buildings, which will be supported by the upcoming Facilities Director for the SAU. I recommend attending budget hearings in February to receive updates and explanations as to what these plans will entail and why they matter. Landaff and Lisbon are currently not focusing on that yet, as they are in the process of making other decisions for their schools.

SCHOOL WALKTRHOUGHS AND CHECK-INS:

08

Between meeting with various staff, principals, and walking through for general observations, I visited the schools 30 times throughout the month of December. I shoot for an average of one or more a day, because I find these visits allow for quick problem solving conversations, relationship building, and it provides me a clear lens on how our schools are doing and what our students need.

SAU 110 STRUCTURING

09

In December, the SAU office and myself met with office staff and the Principal at Lisbon to brainstorm the structuring of roles and responsibilities for SAU 110 starting in July. The goal was to ensure clear checks and balances, and that not one person had too much responsibility over another. Now the SAU will continue to work with Lisbon over the next six months to begin training on how to implement those roles so that when they officially start in July, they are successful.

OPEN ENROLLMENT WEBINAR:

10

On 12/16 I attended an open enrollment webinar with Toni Butterfield to better understand where New Hampshire is with open enrollment and how to best respond as districts for our students, staff, and taxpayers. It provided lots of information and potential warrant articles to discuss. These will be brought forth as a point of discussion in the January board meetings.

NORTH COUNTRY CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND ASSESSMENT MEETING:

11

On 12/11, Rhienna Miscio and Bryan Smith attended the second meeting of the North Country Curriculum Instruction and Assessment group. If other staff in the SAU want to share their expertise within this topic, please email me so we can connect. Attached is a summary of the agenda and next steps for that group.

UNION/PRINCIPAL MEETINGS AND STAFF EVALUATIONS:

12

In meeting with unions and principals, it feels valuable to refer and our staff and principal evaluation process for stronger, clearer, and more supportive feedback. This will start in late January with various principals and union representatives so there is clarity for everyone.

JANUARY BOARD MEETINGS AND BUDGET HEARINGS

JAN 05 **Landaff Budget Hearing**
followed by Board Meeting
5:30pm @ Landaff Town Hall

JAN 13 **Bethlehem Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Bethlehem Elementary School

JAN 06 **Exec Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Profile School Library

JAN 14 **Lisbon Board Meeting (5:30pm)**
followed by Budget Hearing (7pm)
@Lisbon Regional School

JAN 08 **Lafayette Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Lafayette Regional School

JAN 15 **Profile Board Meeting**
5:30pm @ Profile School

OPEN POSITIONS

SAU Office

- 26-27 Part-Time Facilities Director
- 26-27 Part-Time IT & Data Specialist
- 26-27 Full-Time IT & Data Specialist/Facilities Director

Bethlehem, Lafayette and Landaff

- None

Lisbon

- Business Administrator/Manager
- Paraprofessional
- 26-27 Math Teacher
- Part-Time ESOL Teacher
- Paraprofessional

Profile

- Paraprofessional
- 26-27 French Teacher
- 26-27 Social Studies Teacher

For more information and to apply,
please visit [**sau35.org/employment**](http://sau35.org/employment)



STATE-LEVEL & EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS UPDATES

SAU COMMISSION REPORT:

Since our time with representatives reviewing the SAU consolidation report, the idea of consolidation seems to be losing momentum in the state. I don't think that's necessarily because of us, but I think there's been enough pushback to lose momentum. [Here is the report](#) on consolidation. However, the conversations around open enrollment throughout the state have really picked up. I will be keeping a close eye on this and potentially will hold informative sessions on this concept if legislation seems likely on this in Concord.

STATEWIDE MEETING 12/8:

I attended the statewide Superintendent meeting with NHSAA in Concord. We discussed upcoming legislation to keep an eye on, data requests as part of the study on special education costs in the state, and future professional development opportunities for SAU's and staff to keep on our radar.

LEGISLATION BEING MONITORED:

These are [bills linked](#) and being monitored by the New Hampshire Schools Boards Association as we soon enter the legislative session.

FAMILIES AS PARTNERS IN LITERACY:

This [resource](#) from the NH Department of Education is an initiative from the state to help educate and support families to continue growing literacy skills in their children while at home.

NORTH COUNTRY SUPERINTENDENT MEETING:

On 12/11 I attended in Littleton the North Country Superintendent meeting. We reviewed a program called ripple effects, which helps schools implement behavior interventions and supports. We got updates from the NH Department of Education on grants to potentially take advantage of. We got an update on an accountability task force from the state level, an upcoming legislative meeting in Gorham in which I will invite board members to engage with representatives on issues in education in NH, and then we discussed a lot around open enrollment and how we can work together in relation to it. And lastly, we reviewed 26-27 calendars to get as aligned as possible as a region.

NATIONAL UPDATES & EDUCATION TRENDS

EDUTOPIA TOP 10 STUDIES:

Edutopia is an educational website and they put out their annual article on the top 10 most significant education studies of 2025. The link is [here](#). These types of things are always good to look over and keep an eye on.

SEE YOU IN THE HALLS,

C.J. WATSON

cj.watson@sau35.org

603-444-3925

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

White Mountains School
Administrative Unit #35



NATIONAL UPDATES AND EDUCATIONAL TRENDS

- EDUTOPIA TOP 10 STUDIES:

Edutopia is an educational website and they put out their annual article on the top 10 most significant education studies of 2025. The link is [here](#). These types of things are always good to look over and keep an eye on.

SEE YOU IN THE HALLS,

C.J. WATSON

cj.watson@sau35.org

603-444-3925

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

White Mountains School
Administrative Unit #35

