

INFORMATION ABOUT MSAD No. 75

Maine School Administrative District No. 75 serves the towns of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell and Topsham. The District is comprised of six elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. Mt. Ararat High School and Bowdoin Central School are National Schools of Excellence.

MSAD No. 75 partners with Freeport and Brunswick to provide vocational education for 9-12 graders at the Maine Vocational Region 10 on Church Road in Brunswick. Currently, 131 students from Mt. Ararat High School attend vocational classes and comprise 41% of the vocational school population.

The District shares the Merrymeeting Adult Education program with Brunswick and is its fiscal agent. Its offices are located at 35 Republic Avenue, Topsham, Maine. The program provides classes year-round for adults in the greater Brunswick region.

Using the most recent State data (2002-2003), MSAD No. 75 is the ninth largest school system in Maine, with an enrollment of 3,395 students. The student population has decreased by 70 students since 2001-2002, and reflects the Statewide decline in enrollments. The District ranks 117 out of 261 school districts in the State in per-pupil operating costs, putting \$7,286 behind each student. The State average cost per pupil is \$7,018. In the 2003-2004 school year, the four District

towns raised an average of 9.82 mils for education. The State average was 10.92 mils. This District average mil rate for 2003-2004 is less than that raised in Richmond, Bath, Brunswick, Lisbon and Freeport.

A profile of the graduating class of 2003 found 60% going on to post-secondary school. The percentage of graduates attending post-secondary school has remained at this level for the last few years. At the same time, the dropout rate remains low. In 1998, the high school received a commendation for reducing its dropout numbers every year for four years. Most recent State calculations show the dropout rate for the 2002-2003 school year was 2.33% of its student body, below the state average of 2.71% and the Sagadahoc County average of 3.9%.

Mt Ararat High School offers 13 different Advanced Placement Courses accommodating 186 students. It also offers 15 advanced courses in subjects like pre-calculus, geometry, algebra, chemistry, computer science and English/Language Arts.

M.S.A.D. No. 75 uses a number of school assessment measures to gauge the quality of education provided. To receive the distinction of National School of Excellence, the high school and Bowdoin Central School submitted to an intense evaluation by the State and Federal Departments of Education.

In 1997, Mt. Ararat High School was re-accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and in 2002 had that accreditation reviewed. The school is preparing for re-accreditation in 2007. The District also utilizes a third-party evaluation of the teaching-learning process called the School Quality Review provided through the University of Southern Maine. This evaluation process has been conducted at Woodside Elementary School, Williams-Cone School and Bowdoin Central School. In 2001, the middle school underwent a third-party assessment by the University of Maine.

The District has a local assessment system of student progress that includes subject area checkpoint tests at specified grades in writing, reading and math, national standardized tests, and common assessments for common units of study. It also participates in the Maine Educational Assessment for grades 4, 8 and 11; National Assessment of Educational Progress in grades 4 and 8; and in the College Board Advanced Placement testing for all Advanced Placement courses.

Students in the graduating class of 2007 will have to show competence in the standards of the Maine Learning Results in English, science, social studies, math, health and physical fitness in order to graduate.