
CHAPTER 5

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

Introduction

Waldoboro is a part of SAD 40 which serves the towns of Waldoboro, Washington, Warren, Union, and Friendship. The SAD 40 high school (Medomak Valley High School) is located in Waldoboro and has a student body of approximately 700, increasing dramatically. Miller Grade School is also located in Waldoboro and has been named a School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. A.D. Gray is the middle school in Waldoboro. Waldoboro is also a member town of Region 8 technical school Mid-Coast School of Technology. It is thus able to provide quality education at all levels. There is also an extensive Adult Education program at Medomak Valley High School.

Educational Attainment

Table 5-1 contains information on educational attainment for Waldoboro, Lincoln County, Knox County and the State of Maine. Considering the fact that many of the people in Waldoboro who have less than a high school education are older people who were educated at a time when less high school education was more common, the 70.5 percent "high school graduate or higher" is not surprising. Considering the rural nature of the Town the same can be said for percent with Bachelor's Degree. The critical issue is whether or not the educational system is adequate to prepare students for the best opportunities after graduating and whether it is of a quality that will encourage business to locate here.

On the positive side, as noted, the Miller Elementary School has been named a "School of Excellence." Though after some acrimonious debates at budget time, the Town generally supports quality education. In 1995 about \$100,000 in scholarships were provided by SAD 40 area businesses and organizations. The local schools are blessed with a number of excellent teachers. The high school offers a wide selection of programs ranging from Tech Prep courses aimed at students desiring extended training in the more technical fields to advanced courses designed to prepare students for high level college study. All the schools offer extended extra curricular activities ranging from a variety of sports to math teams (the high school math team has won statewide honors in recent years) to excellent drama opportunities and numerous other horizon broadening organizations.

TABLE 5-1

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR PERSONS 25 YEARS AND OVER

	Waldoboro	Lincoln County	Knox County	State of Maine
Total Persons 25 yrs +	2,983	20,674	24,778	795,613
Less than 9th grade	343	1,265	1,553	70,153
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	536	2,575	3,197	98,307
High School graduate	1,100	7,287	9,593	295,074
Some college, no degree	461	3,668	3,959	127,799
Associate Degree	162	1,286	1,570	54,928
Bachelor's Degree	238	3,035	3,414	100,788
Graduate or professional degree	143	1,558	1,492	48,564
Percent high school graduate or higher	70.5	81.4	80.8	78.8
Percent Bachelor's Degree or higher	12.8	22.2	19.8	18.8

Source: U.S. Census, 1990.

School Facilities

SAD 40 operates a total of nine schools including six primary schools, two middle schools and one high school. Three of these schools are located in Waldoboro: Miller Elementary School, A.D. Gray Middle School, and Medomak Valley High School which serves the entire district.

Miller Elementary School (grades K-6). This school is a brick and frame facility which sits about 200 feet back from the road on a 10.2 acre site in Waldoboro Village. Recreational fields are located behind the building. Originally constructed in the 1960s, the facility has since been expanded and had a 1996-97 enrollment of 502 students.

A.D. Gray Middle School (grades 7-8). This school is located on 1.1 acres near the center of the village. The 3-story building was constructed in 1936 and originally served as Waldoboro High School. The 1996-97 enrollment was 191 students.

Medomak Valley High School (grades 9-12). Medomak Valley High School was built in 1968. It is located on a 100-acre piece of land on the Manktown Road approximately four miles from Waldoboro Village and four miles from Warren Village. The faculty consists of 44 full-time and four part-time teachers. Enrollment for 1996-97 was 709.

Highlights from a 1996 Report of the Visiting Committee (New England Association of Schools and Colleges) include the following:

1. **Overall Atmosphere.** Medomak Valley High School, for the most part, is a "good" place to be for administration, faculty, staff and students. The school presents a relaxed, comfortable, and safe atmosphere in which a dedicated faculty strives to educate a student body whose needs are diverse.
2. **Problems.** Medomak Valley High School is affected by the same problems as is the rest of society, including drug and alcohol abuse, divorce and remarriage, crime and abuse of children.
3. **Curriculum.** The High School offers a diversified and balanced course of studies. High learning, substantial expectations, and coordinated assessment tools are in place. Over the past 20 years, a large influx of people from outside the State of Maine have settled in the midcoast area. This immigration has resulted in a greater mix of backgrounds. Consequently, the expectations for educational and cultural activities have changed with financial support provided for these changes by the residents.
4. **Staff.** The administration and faculty are hard working and dedicated professionals who freely give extra time to assist students. An open-door policy and accessibility to faculty, staff, parents and community create a positive administrative atmosphere.
5. **Student Services Program.** This program is staffed by a competent, caring, and dedicated group of professionals.
6. **Special Education.** The structure and comprehensive nature of the special education program is very noteworthy.
7. **Media Center.** The media center projects a warm and friendly atmosphere and is open to students, the community and adult education classes one night per week.
8. **Physical Needs.** The currently facility, for the most part, has been well maintained by a dedicated custodial staff. Despite this effort, some of the present spaces are showing their age and lack of ability to meet faculty, student, and program needs. Finding adequate space is becoming a major issue. Limited budgets in the past have prevented a timely program for preventive maintenance and the results are very apparent. A long range plan needs to be established to address the physical needs of the school.
9. **Financial Support.** Adequate financial support is an ongoing struggle. Additional funds need to be generated for such critical areas as technology in the classroom, staff development, long-term planning for facility adequacy and use, and purchase of new textbooks and educational supplies. For the year 1993-94, the per pupil expenditure in the district was \$4,498 for secondary students, considerably less than the State average of \$5,485. During that same period, 63.9% of Waldoboro's total municipal tax collection went towards education.
10. **Community Support and Involvement.** The degree of community support and involvement at the High School is inconsistent. Participation in school events fluctuates with interest in the activities and their successes.

Enrollment

As shown in Table 5-2, overall enrollment in S.A.D. 40 is expected to remain relatively stable over

the next five years, even though overall population levels in the district are expected to grow. However, overall grade school enrollments are expected to decline by about 10%, junior high enrollments are expected to decrease by one percent, and high school enrollments are expected to grow by 23%.

TABLE 5-2
ENROLLMENT ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS
S.A.D. 40
(Assuming 1.46% Population Growth)

	Grade K-6	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12	Total
Schools in Waldoboro				
1996-97	502	191	709	1402
1997-98	496	194	785	1,475
1998-99	480	178	856	1,514
1999-2000	464	191	886	1,541
2000-2001	452	194	875	1,521
Change 1996/97-2000/01	-50 (-10%)	3 (2%)	166 (23%)	119 (8%)
Other Schools in District				
1996-97	797	230	-	
1997-98	757	249	-	
1998-99	733	241	-	
1999-2000	713	225	-	
2000-2001	718	222	-	
Change 1996/97-2000/01	-79 (-10%)	-8 (-3%)		
Total District				
1996-97	1,299	421	709	2,429
1997-98	1,253	443	785	2,481
1998-99	1,213	419	856	2,488
1999-2000	1,177	416	886	2,479
2000-2001	1,170	416	875	2,461
Change 1996/97-2000/01	-129 (-10%)	5 (-1%)	166 (23%)	

Source: SAD 40 Business Administration Office.

Educational Assessment Scores

The Maine Department of Education administers the Maine Educational Assessment Tests annually to 4th, 8th and 11th graders in school systems across the State to provide one measure of how well students in various systems are doing relative to students in other systems. As shown in Table 5-3 below, the performance of students in SAD 40 varies considerably from grade to grade. In terms of the three-year cumulative average, students in the 4th grade performed below State averages by 20 to 30 points in all categories. However, students in the 8th grade did considerably better, scoring at the statewide average in reading (300), and above the statewide average by five to 20 points in all other categories. Students in the 11th grade scored below statewide averages by 15 to 50 points in all categories.

TABLE 5-3
MAINE EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT
TEST SCORES AS OF 1996 - SAD 40

Grade 4 Three-Year Cumulative Average Scores		
Subject	SAD 40 Scores	Statewide Student Scores
Reading	250	280
Writing	240	270
Mathematics	280	300
Science	260	285
Social Studies	230	255
Arts and Humanities	265	285
Health	240	260
Grade 8 Three-Year Cumulative Average Scores		
Subject	SAD 40 Scores	Statewide Student Scores
Reading	300	300
Writing	270	265
Mathematics	365	345
Science	295	285
Social Studies	250	245
Arts and Humanities	280	270
Health	275	265
Grade 11 Three-Year Cumulative Average Scores		
Subject	SAD 40 Scores	Statewide Student Scores
Reading	275	300
Writing	225	275
Mathematics	280	295
Science	290	305
Social Studies	250	275
Arts and Humanities	260	280

Source: Maine Department of Education

