

FY 2020 Building Aid
Maximum Allowable Costs for School Construction
 (revised November 20, 2019)

In accordance with RSA 198:15-b VII(a) the table below provides the maximum allowable cost per square foot for the purpose of calculating School Building Aid for projects which begin construction between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. These cost limits apply to the gross building size of the school facility measured from exterior surface. These construction costs include: contractor fees; cost to erect the substructure and shell; cost for interior construction such as partitions, doors, fittings, stairs, and wall/floor/ceiling finishes; and costs for services such as plumbing, HVAC, fire protection, and electrical. These costs do NOT include the purchase of land, site work, utilities, planning and design, legal and administrative fees, furniture, seating, fixtures, lockers, bleachers, clock systems, sound systems, commissioning fees, elevators, kitchen equipment, and other equipment which is not part of a building system.

Costs are derived from data from the RS Means, a national cost estimating company. The costs published below are based on the average enrollment in New Hampshire public schools: a 700 pupil high school, a 500 pupil middle school and a 300 pupil elementary school, and have been adjusted for each county using the nearest RS Means location factor.

School districts, designers, and construction firms should understand these costs to be the upper limit for the payment of school building aid. They are not intended to be an accurate estimate for the actual cost of construction for a particular design in current or future market conditions. Project budgets should be developed independent of these cost limits. Bidders should not assume that these limits represent the budget available for a particular project.

County	Cost per Square Foot		
	High School	Middle School	Elementary
Belknap	\$183	\$190	\$194
Carroll	\$177	\$184	\$188
Cheshire	\$172	\$178	\$182
Coos	\$177	\$184	\$188
Grafton	\$177	\$184	\$188
Hillsborough	\$185	\$192	\$196
Merrimack	\$183	\$190	\$194
Rockingham	\$179	\$186	\$190
Strafford	\$183	\$190	\$194
Sullivan	\$168	\$174	\$178

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