

FY 2021 Building Aid
Maximum Allowable Costs for School Construction
 (Indexed to July 2021)

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 starting construction in July 2021. Projects starting in a different month will be indexed accordingly. 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	\$223	\$219	\$216
Carroll	\$212	\$208	\$205
Cheshire	\$212	\$208	\$205
Coos	\$212	\$208	\$205
Grafton	\$212	\$208	\$205
Hillsborough	\$226	\$222	\$218
Merrimack	\$223	\$219	\$216
Rockingham	\$217	\$213	\$210
Strafford	\$223	\$219	\$216
Sullivan	\$210	\$206	\$203

Table indexed to July 2021