

Facilities Decision Center: Glossary

COMMUNITY REFERENCE | SEPTEMBER 2026

Plain-language terms to help residents read the facilities materials and follow public discussions.

Buildings and students

Enrollment. The number of students attending a school or district. Future projections are estimates, not guarantees.

Capacity. How many students a building can serve, based on assumptions about classrooms, programs, and space use.

Consolidation. Combining students or programs into fewer locations. The term alone does not authorize a school closure.

Receiving school. A school proposed to welcome students moving from another school or grade configuration.

Critical Needs¹. Priority systems needed for safe, reliable building operation. The District report gives early estimates, not final designs.

Closure / discontinuance². Ending a school's operation. Discontinuance is the legal term in HB 1374; it is not cooperative withdrawal.

Costs and funding

Capital cost. A cost to build, renovate, or replace a long-lived facility or major system, rather than routine operations.

Operating cost. A cost of running schools, such as staffing, utilities, supplies, and transportation.

Recurring savings. Ongoing annual cost reductions. Net savings subtract added ongoing costs; one-time transition costs are reported separately.

Bond. Borrowing, commonly for a capital project, that a district repays over time with interest.

Debt service. Principal and interest payments due during a stated period, not the total project price.

State building aid³. State grants toward school construction or reconstruction. Estimated aid is not an approved award.

Decisions and voting

Warrant article⁴. A formally posted question or proposal submitted to voters, such as a budget or borrowing proposal.

Deliberative session⁴. The first SB 2 annual-meeting session: discussion and possible article amendments within legal limits, not final ballot approval.

Ballot session⁴. The second SB 2 session, for final article votes. Separate statutory votes may follow different procedures.

Petition². A signed written request for official action. Signature requirements and procedures depend on the petition type.

Cooperative withdrawal². A member district leaving a cooperative through a separate legal process. School closure is not itself withdrawal.

HB 1374². New Hampshire's 2026 school-discontinuance and cooperative-withdrawal law. The enacted text contains the legal requirements.

Explanatory reference only, not a vote, legal opinion, or final cost estimate. Official records and applicable law govern.

1. KRSD Facilities B summaries (May 2026)

https://www.kearsarge.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf731/f/pages/facilities_b_final_summaries_5-18-26.pdf

2. HB 1374, Chapter 303, Laws of 2026

https://gc.nh.gov/bill_Status/pdf.aspx?id=34150&q=billVersion

3. NH Department of Education: building aid overview

https://gc.nh.gov/LBA/Budget/House_Finance_Division_II/DOE_School_Building_Aid_3.3.21.pdf

4. NH Municipal Association: SB 2 FAQ

<https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/budget-committee/files/faq-sb2>