

What Ripton voices have to say:

Laurie Cox (Selectboard Chair): Ripton is a small, mountain town. It is geographically isolated from other towns, a circumstance that I believe has engendered our strong, positive sense of community. We have pride in our community, in our school, and ownership of our children. This is why so many of us who moved here stayed, why students who attended school here twenty years ago are choosing to return, and why we have had an increase of young families moving here in recent years.

Carol Ford (RES Board Chair for 30 years): Ripton Elementary School is in my heart. I absolutely will vote in favor of withdrawal because of the importance of the school to our children and to our town.

Jane Phinney (Former RES Principal): So far, there has been no evidence of financial savings by consolidating the schools. And the promises of better equity of education for students and future financial savings by closing some of the small schools is lacking in data.

Bill McKibben: For 200 years, through times much leaner than these, Ripton has somehow been able to educate its youth; it seems unlikely that we're suddenly too poor for that.

www.saveourschoolsvt.org



Local Postal Customer

Vote YES to withdraw

On January 12, 2021 the town of Ripton will hold a vote on whether to withdraw from Addison Central School District (ACSD).

We urge you to vote YES to withdraw from the district. The destiny of our town and our school should reside in the voters' hands—your hands.

Voting will be on 1/12 from 7am-7pm at the Community House or request a mail-in ballot at: <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>





More than a structure,
RES is a pillar to the
sustainable rural life we
choose.

If our school is closed...

- We will have to pay our share of a large bond (\$15-40 million) for elementary school repairs/new construction the district is planning for as early as 2024.
- Our youngest children will have to be transported daily down the mountain and possibly be split between Mary Hogan and Salisbury.
- Young families will no longer find Ripton appealing.
- All of our students will be in continual flux for many years to come as the district's plan isn't cohesive.

If our school remains open...

- We regain effective oversight of the budget and the educational programming.
- We can maintain our PreK program that the district is cutting from next year's budget.
- Middlebury College will continue to provide complimentary skiing lessons to Ripton School students.
- Our students can continue to learn in a setting that invites the exploration of nature.
- Ripton School can continue to be a cultural center of the town providing events like The Ripton Ridge Run, pizza sales, the annual Thanksgiving and Grandfriends Luncheon, Artist-in-Residence performances, and Biking for Books.
- Ripton can continue to offer its children small class sizes and more individualized attention and instruction.
- Parents and guardians can easily stay involved in their student's education, and kids can continue to feel safe and seen.
- Place-based learning can continue to encourage engagement and authenticity.

Vote "yes" to withdrawal because...

- The ACSD board is planning to close Ripton.
- Ripton built our school and paid for it within 20 years.
- Ripton has a well-maintained (from 1989-2016) facility with solar panels on the roof that significantly offsets utility costs.
- Ripton has never once voted down a budget.
- Ripton School's population has stabilized; it's the district's high school that have the most severe declining enrollment.

