

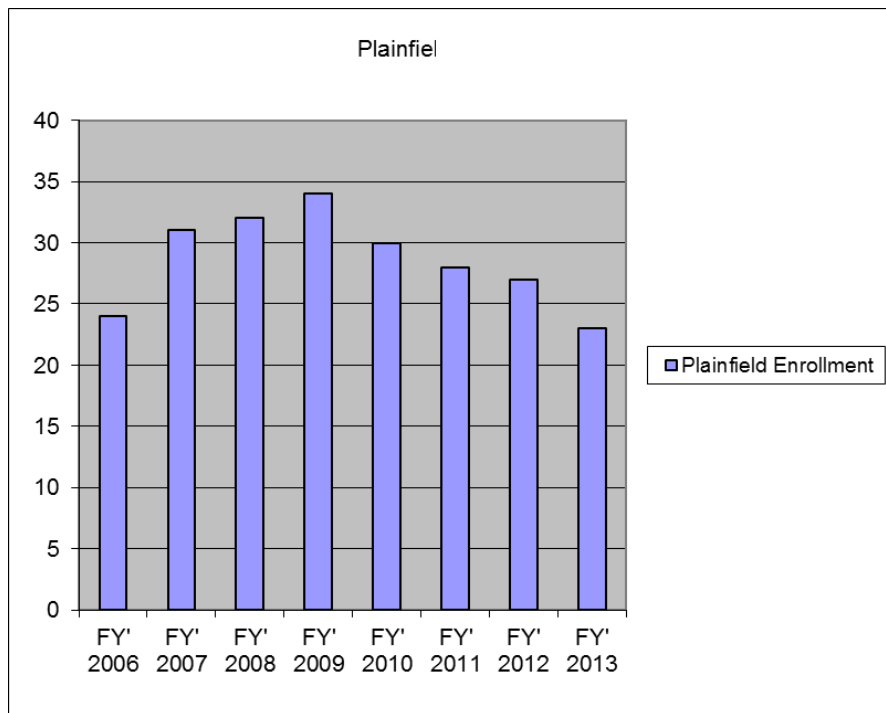
KIMBALL UNION ACADEMY STUDY COMMITTEE

The charge of this committee is to meet with representatives of the Kimball Union Academy (KUA) administration and maintain an ongoing review of the relationship between the academy and the town, and to report its findings at annual town meeting. This year's committee held four meetings between November 2012 and January 2013.

SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S FINDINGS:

Based on all that your committee was able to learn and discuss, the committee supports the granting of no less than an 80% tax exemption this year.

The percentage of this exemption may vary in future years if the declining enrollment at the elementary school results in a corresponding reduction in the number of Plainfield students enrolling at KUA. If this trend continues, the need to discuss the merits of a partial exemption will receive close examination by the committee each successive year.

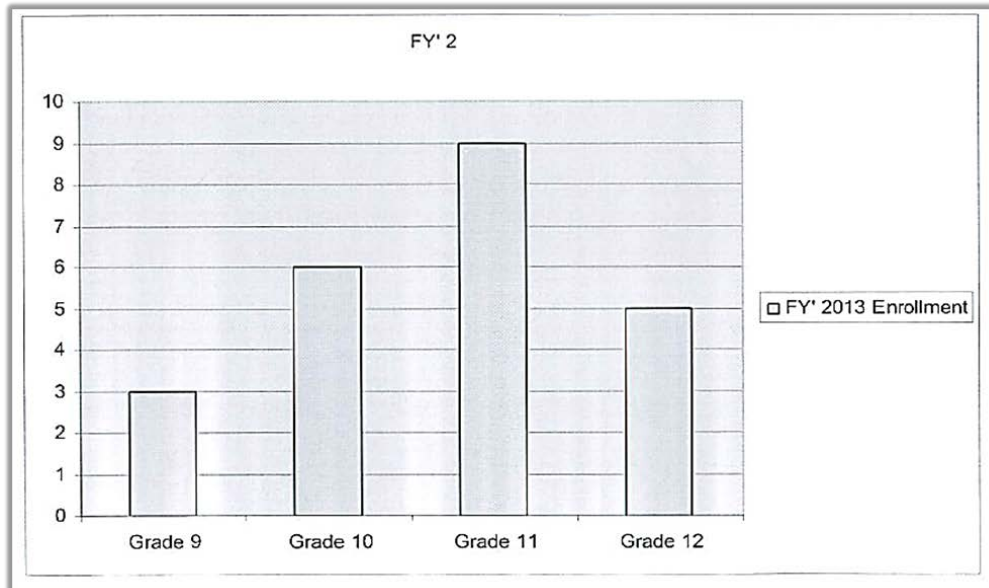


**FIGURE 1:
Plainfield Students Enrolled at KUA Grades 9 -12**

The committee supports decreasing or increasing the discretionary grant depending on the number of local students attending the school. The more Plainfield students that attend KUA, the greater the benefit to Plainfield taxpayers and therefore the more funds the town should exempt. Given the forecasted, stable number of Plainfield students attending KUA next year, the committee recommends that the current 80% exemption, 20% taxable level continue next year (as it has for the past two years).

KUA TAX ABATEMENT 2012 AND FINANCIAL AID:

- KUA owns \$34.4 million dollars in property, \$24.9 million of that figure is exempt by state law.
- KUA pays \$56,000 in property taxes on \$2.3 million of property that is always taxable.
- The assessed value of Kitchens, Dining Halls and Dormitories is \$7.2 million that may be exempted at the discretion of the Town's voters. At the current 80% exempt level property value exempted equals 5.7 million and taxes exempted equals \$139,000. RSA72:23 provides for a \$150,000 tax exemption on these properties regardless of town action.
- KUA pays property taxes of \$92,000 to the Town of Plainfield. This makes KUA the highest property taxpayer in the town.
- During the 2012/13 academic year, KUA provided a total of \$304,730 in financial aid to Plainfield students attending KUA. This aid **exceeded** the tax abatement last year by \$165,730.
- Five local students will graduate from KUA this year and currently the school has received applications from local 8th graders. Applications are due by February 1st, therefore, the outcome of the applications will not be known prior to the writing of this report.
- KUA anticipates that the number of local students (ninth through twelfth grades) attending the school next year will stay approximately the same at 23.



**FIGURE 2:
Plainfield Students Enrolled at KUA Grades 9 -12**

- Lebanon tuition is currently \$13,996 per student for school year 2012-2013.
- The 2012-2013 Plainfield Elementary School (PES) tuition budget would have been \$321,908 higher if the 23 Plainfield students had not chosen KUA as an alternative education to Lebanon High School (LHS).
- Neither the Town of Plainfield nor the Plainfield school district pays any portion of the KUA tuition for local students.
- KUA’s day student tuition for the 2013-2014 school year is \$29,990/year. \$49,500/year for a boarding student.

BENEFITS OF THE RELATIONSHIP:

- The KUA administration has again, in an effort to alleviate uncertainty, agreed to guarantee that at least three (3) local students from the eighth grade will attend the academy. If not, the academy will reimburse the school district the cost of the difference in the LHS per-student tuition.
- KUA is Plainfield’s largest employer. Fifty-three of KUA’s 144 full- and part-time employees live in Plainfield.
- Plainfield School is currently educating 14 students from KUA faculty that live on campus.

- Residents have use of the KUA facilities for various activities and functions.
- Residents are encouraged to visit the town's web site and follow the "KUA Invites You link" for an up to date listing of events and happenings open to the public. Access times and directions to KUA facilities for Plainfield residents are available on the KUA website www.kua.org

Respectfully Submitted,

Shelley Andrews, Eric Brann, Betsy Duany, Myra Ferguson-PES School Board, Jim Gray-KUA, Robyn Hadlock, Steve Halleran-Town Administrator, Rob Hewett-Chair, Pamela Miller, John Yacavone.

Plainfield KUA Study Committee 2012/13