



An informational update from the Superintendent to the RSD 17 Board.

April 2025

Superintendent's Report, Jeffrey S. Wihbey, Superintendent of Schools

Department Updates

Finance

- Director Pierce successfully submitted the FY24 Annual Survey of School System Finances (Cash and Investments and Debt) to the U.S. Census Bureau, in partnership with the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES).

Operations

- RFP #25-1116 for Copier Equipment Services was completed, and a list of eligible respondents, along with the awarded vendor, is available on the district website.
- The district has engaged PowerSchool E-Enrollment and E-Forms, and the implementation process is now underway, marking a key step in streamlining our digital student registration and form workflows. SOP 3
- The Technology Committee convened for its Q3 meeting, with a special focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its potential impact on district operations and learning environments.
- The Community Room has been hardwired to ensure strong, reliable internet connections for virtual participants, enhancing the quality of hybrid meetings and events.

Student Services

- The team is currently working with Orton Gillingham to increase the number of staff who are trained in the science of reading.
- Ongoing professional development has occurred with teachers involved in the SPDG grant to ensure staff are familiar with the math strategies.

Food Services

- Food Service Director Shettleworth and all Head Cooks attended the Thurston Food Show on March 31st, where they explored new products and trends. The food service staff will implement these fresh menu ideas to enhance meal offerings across the district.

Talent, Accountability, & Human Resources

- The Spring Wellness Challenge begins on April 21! All staff can sign up to use an activity tracker, and based on participation, they will be entered into drawings for rewards such as a Sonicare toothbrush. Anthem funds this program, which has received positive feedback in the past.



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- RSD17 participated in the UCONN NEAG School of Education Career Fair. This recruitment effort provided an opportunity to showcase our district and attract high-quality candidates.
- Open Enrollment will take place later this spring and we are in the planning stage to roll out this process.

Curriculum Office

- Literacy How finished their final visit to the Middle School, where 6th- to 8th-grade teachers learned about the connection between syntax, comprehension, and writing.
- The STEM curriculum coordinator led an AI committee with the Library Media Specialist at HKIMS. They developed a guidance document that will be shared with all stakeholders. In addition, they planned professional development on 3/14/25 for all educators K-12, which was well received.

Schools

HKHS

- HKHS hosted a student-led “Town Meeting” style assembly this week, focusing on strengthening school culture. Student leaders shared personal experiences and invited all students to join their efforts to be models of kindness in school.
- HKHS’s Amelia Petersen became the first HK female wrestler to win a state championship at the 2025 CIAC Girls State Wrestling Championship on March 1st! Amelia (18-0) won her fourth girls’ tournament of the season by pinning Stratford's Winner Tshibombiin 3:29 in the final match of the 138 lb. class.
- Over 30 works of art from Haddam Killingworth students were accepted into this year’s Future Choices High School Visual Arts Competition. HK students won multiple 2nd & 3rd place awards as well as many Honorable Mentions in the Bas Relief, Mixed Media, Ceramics, Printmaking, Video, and Photography categories.
- The HKHS Math Team had a fantastic season this year as part of the Greater Middlesex County Math League, which includes 10 area high schools. The Junior Varsity Team took 1st Place and the Varsity Team took 2nd Place along with many individual awards including Highest Scoring Freshman in the League, Highest Scoring Sophomore in the League, Highest Scoring Underclassman in the League, and many more! The team then went on to win 4th place for small public schools at States and will compete in the New England Championship on May 2nd - a first-time appearance for HK!
- The HKHS Music department brought 41 students overnight to Boston to participate in the “Festivals of Music” showcase. Our groups received outstanding feedback and strong ratings in their respective categories: Jazz band (Superior Rating), Concert band, Treble Choir (Excellent rating, 2nd place), Concert Choir (Excellent rating, third place), and Jazz Choir (excellent rating, first place). Our percussion section led by Seniors Joey Jacobs and Jeff Thebeau was recognized as the outstanding instrumental section for the festival.



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- Larson McLaughlin was inducted into the **STN** (Student Television Network) **Honor Society**.

HKMS

- Our 6th graders recently completed a hands-on statistics project, collecting and analyzing real-world data to deepen their understanding of averages, variability, and graphical representations. The project emphasized collaboration, critical thinking, and the relevance of math beyond the classroom. Students either designed their own surveys or conducted research.
- HKMS celebrated Read Across America with a month full of literacy fun, including scavenger hunts, “masked readers,” and other creative activities that brought books to life. A huge thank you to Mrs. Callahan and Mrs. Honious for their amazing work organizing such a creative celebration!

HKIS

- We had a fantastic turnout for our Parent-Teacher Conferences. Teachers prepared summaries of each student’s progress, using data and anecdotal records to provide parents with insights into their child’s growth. We met with 262 families and 94% of families came to our spring conferences.
- HKIS came together for a "Town Meeting," where students had the opportunity to showcase the work of our winter clubs. Students presented their activities and accomplishments, highlighting the creativity and dedication they put into their club experiences. Some of our students shared the projects that they created in Maker Space during their Personalized Learning Time.
- We kicked off our spring clubs, which include Running Club, Kindness Club, Roller Skating Club, and Recycled Crafts Club. These after-school activities give students a chance to explore new interests, build friendships, and engage with their school community. 90 students are participating in our spring clubs.
- March was a science month for HKIS. Our Fifth Graders worked hard this month completing their state science testing and are preparing for a science field trip this spring. Fourth-grade students are looking forward to their own field trip to the CT Science Center in Hartford at the beginning of May. It was also Read Across America month with a March Madness of Genre competition, book trivia and reading challenges. Thank you to our committee for putting this together, and for the support of our HKIMS PTO.

BES

- Burr students and staff wrapped up March Learning Madness with mystery reader visits from staff including custodians, nurse, secretaries, and specials teachers.
- Burr select chorus students had the opportunity to perform during a recent Hartford Wolf Pack game. They did a beautiful job and were excited to see themselves on the jumbotron!

KES



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- KES Celebrated The End of Read Across America!! March was a great month of reading activities centered around the theme “For the Love of Reading.” At the closing ceremonies, we announced the winners of the bookmark and bookworm contest. Every student went home with a brand-new bookmark designed by one of our third-grade artists. Then students went off to read with their buddy classes and enjoyed a donut treat, so we “Donut” Stop Reading.

Social Media Posts:





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Regional School District 17
March 27 at 1:53 PM · 🌐

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🌟 Congratulations, to the HKIS January and February Cougar Pride award recipients! We are so proud of the students who demonstrate a commitment to making a difference in our community!



Regional School District 17
March 18 at 6:12 PM · 🌐

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Kindergarten Registration for 2025 is Open! 🇺🇸

D... See more

Kindergarten Registration

kindergarten
REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!

Registration for students entering kindergarten in RSD #17 schools in 2025 began in January 2025.

- ☐ Children eligible to enter kindergarten in 2025 must reach their fifth birthday before September 1, 2025.
- ☐ Original birth certificates (with a raised seal) should be shown at the time of registration.
- ☐ Original birth certificates must be presented before students can start school.
- ☐ Two proofs of residency are also required. Please bring them at the time of registration if possible. Acceptable forms of proof of residence include a deed or current mortgage bill, as well as a homeowners policy, rental agreement, bank statement, or current paystub — a complete list is available in the schools' offices.

Parent orientation and school visitation dates will be provided at registration.

Burr Elementary School
792 Killingworth Rd
Higganum, CT 06441
860-345-4584

Killingworth Elementary School
340 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419
[860-663-1121](tel:860-663-1121)



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