# School Committee Report/Director of Curriculum (6-12) and Grants

Renee Legendre
For September 9, 2025

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## Professional Learning

We began the year on a high note with an energizing opening to our professional learning, marked by the enthusiasm of our staff and the expertise of our presenters! Our opening days featured inspiring keynotes from Katie Novak and Nancy Frey, targeted workshops on UDL-aligned practices, specialized trainings for staff, and opportunities for IEP/504 planning.

This year's focus on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) will be our framework for inclusive, high-impact teaching practices guided by Dr. Susan O'Neil and informed by district data. Grounded in neuroscience and cognitive science, UDL emphasizes Engagement, Representation, and Action & Expression to reduce achievement gaps, particularly for students with disabilities.

As we move forward, teachers will be reporting out on the successes of these opening sessions and will begin crafting professional and student learning goals connected to this work, ensuring strong alignment between district priorities and classroom practice.

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## Strategic Plan

As the School Committee is well aware, BBRSD is launching a Strategic Planning process with the support of the Teaching and Learning Alliance (TLA). The committee—made up of parents, guardians, faculty, school council members, town officials, and School Committee representatives—will meet at Tahanto from 3:30–6:00 PM on Oct. 8, Nov. 19, Dec. 17, Jan. 21, Mar. 3, and Apr. 1 (alternate May 6); interested parties must be able to commit to all meeting dates and times. Renee will need to submit the names of interested School Committee members to TLA by Sept. 10. Those not on the committee will still have opportunities for input, including a focus group for the School Committee and town officials on Oct. 14 at 6:00 PM.

The following links include the Strategic Plan Committee Invitation and the Checklist with all dates:

Strategic Planning Committee Invitation

Strategic Planning Checklist with Dates

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## Grants

### Federal Title Funding Grant:

BBRSD is currently updating its Federal Title grant application and plans to submit it to DESE by September 9th. Funding allocations for the district can be viewed at the following link: Title Program Allocations

These Title funds help support our literacy tutors and reading intervention programs throughout the district, as well as provide funding for professional learning opportunities, curriculum, and assessment resources.

**PACE Grant:**

Our PACE (Programming the Acceleration of Computing Education) '24-'25 report has been accepted, and the district has been awarded an additional $11,000 grant for the '25-'26 school year. This funding supports our middle school computer science courses and a new high school elective: Introduction to Python, which has been one of the most requested electives according to the guidance department. Middle school students, many of whom have shown strong interest in computer science, will now have expanded opportunities to continue their studies at the high school level.

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## Curriculum (6-12)

Over the next few weeks, students in grades 6–8 will be completing Benchmark assessments using the IXL platform. Tahanto has transitioned from Aimsweb to IXLBenchmark assessments, as IXL is a platform already in use at these grade levels, and it provides personalized learning plans based on the student assessment data. IXL is widely used across Massachusetts and aligns with state frameworks. Teachers will also receive additional training on IXL this school year. More information will be shared with parents in the coming weeks, and some helpful resources are provided below:
IXL for Massachusetts Schools

IXL - Analytics Guide for Parents

IXL Reports for Families Guide

Parent Handout IXL at Home

By the end of this month, I look forward to reaching out to organize meeting times for The STEAM and Wellness Committees.

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