Benefits of School Choice - School Committee

April 7, 2026

Benefits of Opening School Choice Spots (Middle School & Grades 9–10)

- **<u>Maximizes Resources and Provides Funding we have Relied on</u>**
    - Filling available seats utilizes existing staffing and facilities more effectively without significant additional cost.
- **Strengthens School Culture Early**
    - Bringing in students at the middle school level helps shape norms, expectations, and peer culture before high school.
    - Students who enter earlier are more likely to internalize Tahanto's values and contribute positively over time.
- **Enhances Collaboration with Increased Variety in Experiences and Perspectives**
    - A broader pool of students can elevate classroom collaboration
    - School choice can bring in students with varied backgrounds, interests, and talents, enriching the learning environment for all.
- **Supports Program Sustainability**
    - Protects opportunities in singleton courses in low enrollment grades that depend on enrollment numbers.
- **Creates Leadership Pipelines**
    - Students who enter in middle school or early high school have time to grow into leadership roles (e.g., student government, NHS, athletics, arts).
    - As seen with Tahanto's current senior class president, early entrants can become central contributors to school identity and success.
- **Strengthens Community Reputation and Demand**
    - Opening seats signals confidence in the school's programming and culture.
    - Continued demand through school choice reinforces Tahanto's strong reputation in the region.