



## NMRSD Update April 12, 2025

### **FY2026 Reductions**

As we discussed at Thursday evening's school committee meeting, the reduction from a level-service budget to our current 2.25% budget has resulted in the following reductions:

Elementary	7.0	Elementary Teacher (All 3 Buildings)
	1.0	Assistant Principal (SMS)
	2.77	Paraprofessional (2 VBES/.77 SECC)
Middle	6.0	Middle Teacher (4.0 NMS, 2.0 HBMS)
	2.0	Paraprofessional (1 NMS/1 VBES)
	0.6	Registered Behavior Technician (NMS)
High	3.0	Teacher
Districtwide	2.0	Custodian

### ***Total 24.37 FTEs***

Reductions have been made in the following areas:

- Curriculum programming
- Technology
- PR Firm

***It is important to note that a significant number of staff reductions are the result of district consolidation:***

Building	2025-2026 Status
Ashby Elementary	Unoccupied

Squannacook Early Childhood Center	Ashby/Townsend PreK - Grade 1
Spaulding Memorial School	Ashby/Townsend Grades 2-4

***If the 2.25% budget, which is dependent on an override in Pepperell, the above staffing reductions will double.***

### **Budget Update from the House**

I also want to share some news of hope! Yesterday, the House overwhelmingly passed Bill 4010, which allocates the one-time \$1.3 billion FY2024 millionaire's surtax surplus and has been referred to the Senate.

Some key provisions in the bill include:

- Full (100%) reimbursement for FY2025 Regional School Transportation (RST), up from 80-82%.
- 75% reimbursement for FY2025 Out-of-District (OOD) special education transportation costs through the Circuit Breaker program, increased from 44%.
- 75% reimbursement for FY2026 OOD special education transportation costs.
- A directive for the Office of Inspector General to review school transportation and provide recommendations by February 2, 2026, to reduce costs, enhance purchasing power, and streamline services.

As we discussed at Thursday night's school committee meeting, letters supporting this are critical at this time as the broken funding formula for regional schools and the need for its overhaul is gaining traction.

***For those interested in following the stakeholder advocacy group, you can learn more at [www.fixfundingformulama.com](http://www.fixfundingformulama.com)***

### **Joint Ways & Means**

***I would like to thank:***

- Qenan Francois, NMRHS Student
- Shannon Kelly, NMRHS Student
- Kelly Kelly, Townsend Resident/Parent
- Jenn Fors, Townsend Resident/Parent
- Jackie White, Pepperell Resident/Parent
- Carla Lima, Ashby Resident/Parent
- Rick Bailey, Townsend Resident

- Lisa Martin, Pepperell Resident/NMRSD SC Member
- Kym Craven, Townsend Resident/NMRSD SC Member
- Chuck Walkovich, Pepperell Resident/Selectboard Member

All of them took up a significant portion of their day on Tuesday, April 8th, to go to the state house and advocate for NM and regional school funding. It was an interesting day for sure, and I am hopeful that the message was heard and that appropriate action will be taken in the very near future.

I appreciate how seriously our advocates are taking the budget issue and the support they are providing to ensure that the voice of NM is heard. At the Ways and Means Joint Committee Hearing, Kym Craven and Chuck Walkovich joined me in presenting our statements to the members, and Townsend's Town Manager, Nelson Mui, addressed the group remotely.

In the meantime, please continue to advocate in writing to your legislators whenever possible – we have to maintain the momentum.

### **Update on Ashby Elementary**

As you know, NM will consolidate its physical footprint next year due to the FY2026 budget. With AES being taken offline for the year, there were some questions around the overall impact, as the Massachusetts School Building Authority generally requires such action to be permanent.

That said, we have been advocating for a 1-year “delay” in making any permanent decisions.

I would like to personally thank the Secretary and Acting Commissioner of Education, Patrick Tutwiler, for his advocacy for NM. The MSBA has authorized NM to wait a full year before making any final decisions regarding AES.

This is much appreciated and would not have been possible without Secretary Patrick Tutwiler's support.

### **April Title I Newsletter**

We're excited to share our April Title I Newsletter, highlighting our recent Family Literacy Night and valuable insights on reading fluency. In this edition, you'll find:

Family Literacy Night Recap: A look at the engaging activities and memorable moments we shared.

Focus on Fluency: Understanding what fluency is, why it matters, and practical tips to support your child's reading development at home.

Access the [\*\*April Title I Newsletter!\*\*](#)

Thank you for your continued support in fostering a love of reading within our school community.

Warm regards,  
Lisa Comeau, Director of Title I & Early Literacy

### **March Title I Family Newsletter** 📖🔊

Check this out! **[March Title I Family Newsletter!](#)** 📖 ✨ Learn how children develop reading skills and explore simple, effective ways to support your child's reading journey at home. 🏠📚

Have questions? Contact Lisa Comeau, Director of Title I & Early Literacy, at [lcomeau@nmrsd.org](mailto:lcomeau@nmrsd.org) for more information.

### **Message from Project Graduation:**

Hello parents of the Class of 2025! Your senior will be graduating in just a few months and a great way to recognize this accomplishment is with a NM Yard Sign! Project Graduation is selling yard signs for 20\$ as a fundraiser to raise money for this year's celebration. Please see the attached link to our website to order your Senior Yard Sign and learn more about Project Graduation.  
<https://sites.google.com/view/nmrhs-projectgrad/home>

Can you believe your senior is just a few months away from graduation? What better way to celebrate this exciting milestone than with a North Middlesex Yard Sign!

Project Graduation is selling senior yard signs for \$20 as part of a fundraiser to support this year's celebration.

👉 Order your sign and learn more about Project Graduation here:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/nmrhs-projectgrad/home>

The Project Graduation Committee is hard at work planning an unforgettable, **FREE** celebration for the **Class of 2025**—and we need your support!

Please click [here](#) to learn how you can **donate** to help fund this special event for our seniors. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference!  
Want to learn more about Project Graduation and how you can get involved? Visit us at <https://sites.google.com/view/nmrhs-projectgrad>

Let's come together to make this a night to remember for our graduating seniors! 🎉🎊

### **District & School Report Cards Available**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has released the annual report cards for all public schools and districts in the state. These report cards provide important insights into school and district performance, including student achievement, teacher qualifications, and learning opportunities.

Click [here](#) for more details, including links to each school's report card. If your child attends a **Title I-funded school**, the letter also outlines your right to request information about their teacher's qualifications.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the report card further, please contact your child's principal.

### **Townsend Budget Override Forum**

Townsend will hold a public forum to explain and answer questions regarding the upcoming override. The meeting will be held at NMRHS in the Susan Robbins Performance Arts Center on Wednesday, April 16th, at 7:00 p.m.

### **Parents/Caregivers - Who to Contact**

Students and/or caregivers are often unsure who to contact in the North Middlesex Regional School District in case of questions, concerns, or problems. Please direct these to the appropriate contact(s) below to ensure a prompt response.

*Classroom issues...*contact the teacher first. If you have additional concerns, contact the School counselor. If you are still concerned, contact the building Principal.

*Scheduling issues...*contact the School Counselor first. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Curriculum issues...*contact the appropriate teacher first. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Principal. Finally, contact the Assistant Superintendent's office.

*Special Education issues...*contact the appropriate teacher(s) first and then your son/daughter's special education liaison (listed on your child's IEP), if warranted. If you have additional concerns, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal. Finally, contact the Special Education office.

*Behavioral issues...*contact the teacher first. If you are still concerned, contact the Guidance Counselor and then the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Social, emotional, personal, health, or family issues...*contact the School/Adjustment Counselor or the nurse to discuss your concerns with them. If necessary, also contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal. Contact the Assistant Superintendent's office if you feel your concern has gone unresolved.

*Homeless or temporary housing (McKinney Vento Status):* Contact the Guidance Counselor and inform them of your status. In some instances, they may direct you to the building Principal. Finally, contact the Special Education office. The homeless liaison (Erin Upton) will be notified of the status, and transportation will be arranged through his office (if needed).

*Athletics issues...*contact the coach first. If you are still concerned, contact the Assistant Principal/Athletic Administrator at the High School.

*Attendance issues...*contact the School Counselor first. If attendance issues continue, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Report Cards & Transcripts...*contact the School Counselor first. If you have additional questions, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Harassment & Discrimination...*contact building Principal. If you are still concerned, contact the Title IX and VI Coordinators. Finally, contact the Human Resources office.

*Bullying...*contact the School Counselor. If you are still concerned, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Technology questions and/or issues...*contact the district technology office.

*Student Activities/Clubs...*contact the advisor first. If you are still concerned, contact the building Assistant Principal/Principal.

*Special Education Transportation (VanPool Transportation)...*contact the Special Education office.

*Transportation (Dee Bus)...*contact the building secretary, followed by the building Assistant Principal/Principal. Finally, contact the business office.

*Food Service...*contact the Food Services Manager. Finally, contact the business office.

*Ethics Questions...*contact the [Massachusetts State Ethics Commission](#). The

Commission's Legal Division provides free, confidential advice to anyone subject to the conflict of interest law. To obtain advice from the Commission, call (617) 371-9500 or (888) 485-4766 or request advice online.

*District Policies...*contact your School Committee representative or the committee chairperson.

For email contact to a specific faculty, staff, or committee member, please enter the person's first initial and last name @nmrsd.org, for example, [jdoe@nmrsd.org](mailto:jdoe@nmrsd.org).

### **2024-2025 NMRSD Administrative Team**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>School</b>
Anne Cromwell-Gapp	Principal Extended Day Program Director	AES / SECC
Kate Guziejka	Principal	SMS
Stephanie Thompson	Assistant Principal	SMS
Ami Dolan	Principal	VBES
Ashley McEndarfer	Assistant Principal	VBES
Chantele Olmstead	Principal	HBMS
Jason White	Assistant Principal	HBMS
Lauren Young	Principal	NMS
Evan Worth	Assistant Principal	NMS
Laurie Smith	Principal	NMRHS
Ryan Demar	Assistant Principal/Athletic Administrator	NMRHS
David Amari	Director of Facilities and Grounds	District
Cathryn Hampson	Supervisor of Health Services	District
Jeremy Hamond	Director of Operations Technology Facility Use	District

	Student Registration	
Nancy Haines	Business Manager	District
Anne Marie Tucciarone-Mahan	Director of Human Resources Title VI/IX Coordinator for Staff	District
Erin Upton	Director of Special Education Homeless Liaison Foster Care Point of Contact	District
John Judge	Assistant Director of Special Education Grades 5-8 Evaluation Team Leader Out-of-District Coordinator	District/NMS
Diane Gleason	Administrative Coach / Grants Grant Writer	District
Shannon Cole	Grade PK-4 Evaluation Team Leader	District/VBES
Gary Burboa-Reese	Assistant Superintendent Counseling Homeschooling ADA Compliance Officer Title VI/IX Coordinator for Students	District
Kevin Cormier	Director of Data & Accountability	District
Lisa Comeau	Director of Title I & Literacy	District
Brad Morgan	Superintendent Health Services	District

### **2024-2025 School Calendar**

[Please click here for the full 2024-2025 school calendar.](#)

### **2024-2025 School Committee Meeting Schedule**

[Please click here for the 2024-2025 School Committee meeting schedule](#)