



Malden Public Schools

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

**Regular Meeting of the
Malden School Committee**

Monday, February 3, 2025

**Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
Superintendent**



Agenda

- Malden Reads
- Proposed Graduation Policy
- FY26 Budget Introduction
- Entry Plan Next Steps

Core Values



**Include and
Collaborate**



**Embrace
Growth**



**Do Right By
ALL Kids**

Malden Reads

2025 Book Selections and Programs



Supporting All of Our Students

“No person shall be excluded from or discriminated against in admission to a public school of any town, or in obtaining the advantages, privileges and courses of study of such public school on account of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.”

M.G.L. Chapter 76 § 5

State and federal law also require that school districts enroll all school-aged children who are residents without regard to immigration status.

Proposed Graduation Policy

- Graduation Requirements and Question 2 Review
- Proposed Policy Revision
- Next Steps

Question 2 Review

Massachusetts students have to meet both their district's **local requirements** and the standards of a **Competency Determination** to graduate.

Malden's Local Requirements

Students in the Class of 2025 must pass a minimum of 21 credits (combination of 1.0 full-year credits, and 0.5 semester course credits) based on the following requirements:

- *4 years/credits of English (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grade)*
- *4 years/credits of Mathematics, one of which must be an Algebra course*
- *3 years/credits of Science, one of which must be Biology (with lab requirement)*
- *3 years/credits of Social Sciences, which must include United States History I and II and the other in World History*
- *2 years/credits of Wellness (Physical Education and Health)*
- *2 years/credits from the following disciplines: Business, Technology Education, Fine Arts*
- *3 core/elective years/credits from any discipline*

Thanks to successful efforts over several years to adopt MassCore, the Class of 2026 and beyond will be required to pass 22 credits, including specific World Language (2 credits) and Fine Arts (1 credit) requirements.

Competency Determination

Students have to meet both their district's **local requirements** and the standards of a **Competency Determination** to graduate.

Before Question 2, the Competency Determination was based on achieving a minimum score on MCAS tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science, Technology and Engineering.

Now the Competency Determination must now be defined by School Committee policy.

Competency Determination

Policy Recommendation

- Demonstrating mastery of the skills, competencies and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the 2023 MCAS high school tests, as evidenced by a passing score in the class. These courses include:
 - Math: Math II or equivalent course*
 - ELA: English 10 or equivalent course*
 - Science: Biology I, Physics 1 or equivalent course*

**Many of our peer districts use “equivalent course” in their competency determination policy, especially for students transferring into the district.*

Competency Determination

Policy Recommendation

- Former Malden High School students who did not pass the MCAS exam and were awarded a Certificate of Attainment, but believe they have met the current competency determination requirements, may submit requests in writing inviting the district's consideration of their transcript.
- The determination regarding equivalent coursework shall be made by the Principal; any appeals to the decision of the Principal shall be submitted to and reviewed by the Director of Guidance and the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

This policy takes effect for the Class of 2025; the School Committee reserves the right to revise this policy for the Class of 2026 and beyond, pending further guidance from the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Proposed Graduation Policy

Next Steps

- School Committee discussion and recommended adoption of this revised policy for the Class of 2025 and 2026
- Interventions with current students in the Class of 2025 at risk of not meeting the graduation requirements
- Acceleration Academy to better prepare 9th and 10th graders for overall success, including on the high school MCAS tests

FY26 Budget Introduction

Chapter 70 Funding

- Chapter 70 Explained
- Foundation Budget
- Comparisons with Other Districts
- FY26 Budget: Next Steps

Chapter 70

- Massachusetts law that governs funding for all public elementary and secondary schools
 - Establishes minimum spending requirements for each school district (“net school spending”)
 - Establishes minimum requirements for each municipality’s share of school costs
- “Chapter 70 Aid” makes up the difference between a municipality’s share of costs and the statutory minimum spending requirement

Malden Foundational Budget

Compared to Previous Years

Year	Foundation Enrollment	Foundation Budget	Required Local Contribution	Chapter 70 Aid
FY23	6,803	\$105,452,144	\$51,377,517	\$54,074,627
FY24	6,940	\$117,616,659	\$54,419,682	\$63,196,977
FY25	6,863	\$121,527,751	\$57,647,090	\$63,910,729
FY26*	6,927	\$130,437,793	\$60,667,748	\$69,770,045

**Proposed; final FY26 budget pending approval by the state legislature and the governor..*

FY26 Funding

Compared to Nearby Urban Districts

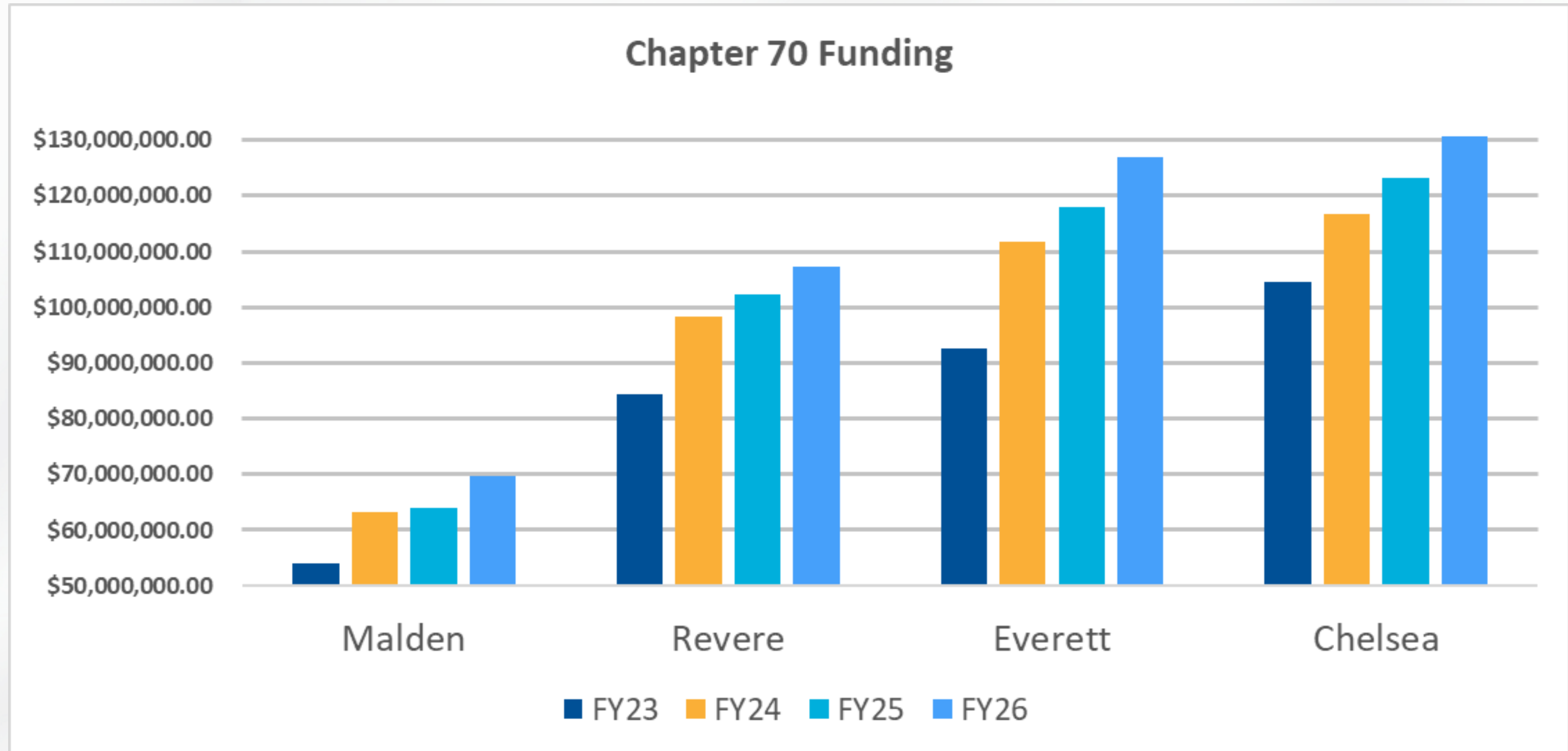
School District	Available Revenue (FY24)*	Population (2024)	Foundation Enrollment	Foundation Budget**	Required Local Contribution**	Chapter 70 Aid**
Malden	\$218,800,550	65,197	6,927	\$130,437,793	\$60,667,748	\$69,770,045
Chelsea	\$252,284,583	38,036	7,029	\$155,824,471	\$25,069,966	\$130,754,505
Everett	\$289,343,098	51,036	8,009	\$172,711,735	\$45,846,412	\$126,865,323
Revere	\$254,045,849	57,432	7,962	\$159,415,532	\$52,200,934	\$107,214,598

**Total FY24 Municipal General Fund Revenue ("Schedule A")*

***Proposed; final FY26 budget pending approval by the state legislature and the governor..*

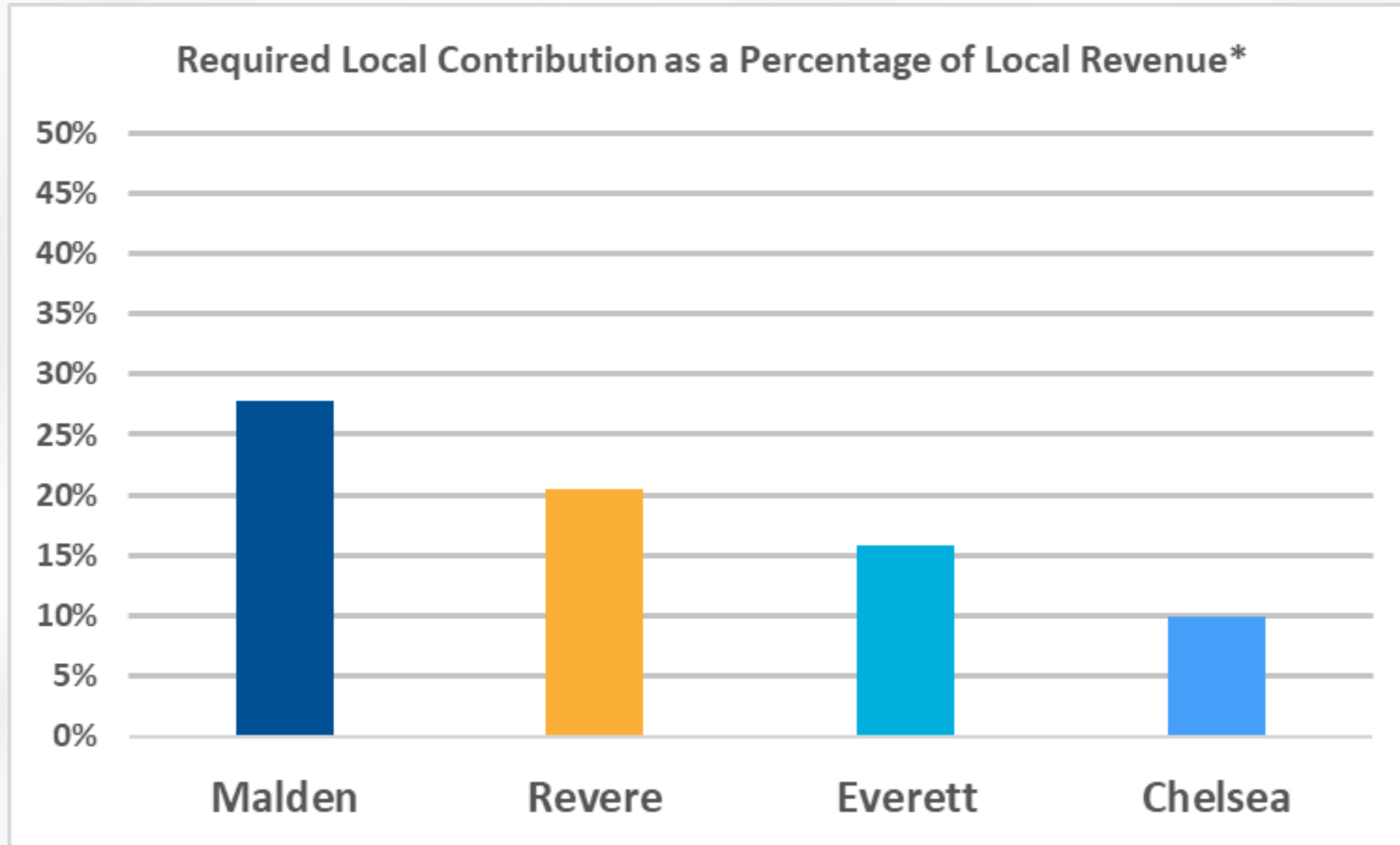
Chapter 70 Aid

4-Year Data Compared to Nearby Urban Districts



Local Contribution

4-Year Data Compared to Nearby Urban Districts



*Schedule A General Fund Revenue

FY26 Budget

Next Steps

- Preliminary base enrollment and staffing projection meetings with school principals
- Report of Entry Findings with proposed areas of development for next Strategic Plan
- Contract negotiations between the School Committee and Malden Education Association
- Budget Subcommittee meetings for FY26 budget development (*to begin after February break*)
- Continued advocacy with our state legislative delegation to reform Chapter 70 funding formula

Entry Plan

Upcoming Opportunities for Input

- Special Education Advocacy Council
 - *Monday, February 10 at 6:30pm* ← *Tentative*
 - *Salemwood School*
- District PTO Meeting
 - *Thursday, February 13 at 6:00pm*
 - *Beebe School*
- Superintendent Feedback Session
 - *Tuesday, February 25 at 6:00pm*
 - *Location to be announced*

Thank you!

