GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson (remote), Adrian Johnson Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman, Dean Antipas, Sean Corcoran, Jay Weitlauf (remote), Ian Thomas, Jennifer White (remote), Michael Whitney

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Denise Doolittle, Rita Parciak, Sam Kilpatrick

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington - Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The first order of business was the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

II. RECOGNITION AND PARTICIPATION OF VISITORS AND DELEGATIONS

- Martin Lither King Scholarship Recipients – Dr. Ackerman introduced the Martin Lither King Scholarship Recipients – Jillian Arcilla, Jeremiah Baig, Lauren Bullock, and Nicholas Donaldson. Dr. Ackerman also noted that the Martin Luther King Scholarship dinner was on October 23, 2025.
- CABE Master Board of Education Member – Superintendent Austin recognized Dr. Andrea Ackerman as the CABE Master Board of Education Member.

III. COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

- Mrs. Portia Bordelon, 24 Jefferson Drive, addressed the following:
  - Gave her congratulations to the Martin Luther King Scholarship recipients.
  - Asked that the Board bring back the Honor classes.
  - She urged funding for programs like ROTC.
  - Shared her concern for programs being cut at the last minutes.
  - That the Board needs to plan to track the needs of the district.

III. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

NONE

V. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student representatives noted the following:

- Seniors responded well to the Phone policy
- Seniors are more involved in curriculum.
- Seniors are selling Homecoming tickets. Homecoming is on October 4, 2025.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

A. Legislative Update (Attachment #1) – Dr. Anne Marie Mancini and Denise Doolittle gave an overview of Legislative Education Brief 2025.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT AND ADMINISTRATION REPORTS – cont.

B. Reports and Information from the Staff

1. Director of Finance – Mrs. Parciak gave an overview of the General Fund Summary as of September 17, 2025 that shows a balance of $786,549.54 (Attachment #2).
2. Director of Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Kilpatrick reported:
   Facilities
   - The EB Scoreboards at the middle school has been installed.
   - His department has cleaned out the garage for Robotics.
   - They are moving forward at the high school for Robotics.
   - Noted the need for an environmental review if Robotics were to move to S.B. Butler.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Policy – Mr. Thomas noted that the Policy Committee met on September 9, 2025, and discussed the policies on the agenda for first and second readings.
2. Curriculum – Mr. Johnson noted that the Curriculum Committee met on September 3, 2025, and discussed the Curriculum Handbook. Mr. Johnson also noted that the Curriculum Committee met on September 18, 2025, and discussed the MYP Personal Project.
3. Finance – Mr. Antipas stated that the Finance/Facilities Committee met on September 2, 2025, and they received a report from Mr. Kilpatrick regarding Facilities Use Rate Schedule and to look over the FHS facilities to move Robotics over.
4. Communications – Mr. Weitlauf noted that the Communications Committee met on September 11, 2025, and had a discussion regarding family and community engagement; discussed the GPS Website, and is reviewing the Communication Plan.
5. Ad Hoc Budget Procedures – There was no report.
6. AGSA/GEA/BOE Liaison – There was no report.
7. Athletic Fields – There was no report.
8. LEARN – There was no report.
9. Trails – There was no report.
10. Library – There was no report.

VIII. <u>ACTION ITEMS</u>

A. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Antipas, Whitney: To approve the consent agenda with corrections to the August 25, 2025, minutes as follows: Under Information and Proposals – "Mr. Johnson noted possible correlations and concerns with middle school students cut from participating with sports teams due to space limitations and the possible effect on chronic absenteeism." PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

B. Old Business

1. Discussion and possible action regarding a second reading of policy P 6131.3273/5GRO1-A1 Generative Artificial Intelligence (Attachment #3)

MOTION: Thomas, Corcoran:	To approve policy P 6131.3273/5GRO1-A1 Generative Artificial Intelligence as a second reading.
MOTION – Thomas, Johnson:	To amend the motion to reinsert the sentence "The Board of Education suggests the committee shall be comprised of administrators, teaching staff, parents, Board members and will seek guidance in the district council as necessary." YES – Thomas, Antipas, Corcoran, Johnson NO – White, Ackerman, Whitney, Washington, Weitlauf FAILED
VOTE on MAIN MOTION:	YES – Corcoran, White NO – Whitney, Ackerman, Johnson, Antipas, Thomas, Weitlauf, Washington MOTION FAILED

C. New Business

1. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the 2025-2026 Strategic Plan (Attachment #4)

MOTION: Thomas, Whitney:	To approve the 2025-2026 Strategic Plan. YES – Weitlauf, Washington, Ackerman, Johnson, Corcoran, Thomas, White, Whitney NO – Antipas PASSED

2. To approve Fitch High school's travel club's field trip request to Japan scheduled for July 8, 2027, through July 16, 2027

MOTION: Antipas, Corcoran:	To approve the Fitch High School's travel club's field trip request to Japan scheduled for July 8, 227 through July 16, 2027. PASSED – UNAIMOUSLY

3. Discussion and possible action regarding the Nature Everywhere Communities (NEC) Catalytic Grant

MOTION: Thomas, Corcoran:	To approve the Nature Everywhere Communities (NEC) Catalytic Grant PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

C. New Business – cont.

4. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of the preferred class size guideline (Attachment #5)

   This item was postponed action until the October 22, 2025, COW Meeting.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding moving the available general fund balance in the amount $786,549.54 to the non-lapsing account to support the FY26 Board of Education budget.

   MOTION: Whitney, Ackerman: To approve moving the available general fund balance in the amount $786,549.54 to the non-lapsing account to support the FY26 Board of Education budget.
   PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

   MOTION: Thomas, Whitney: To accept the budget functions transfer proposed by the Director of Finance report on September 22, 2025.
   PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

6. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of policy P 5113 Attendance as a first reading (Attachment #6)

   MOTION: Thomas, Antipas: To approve policy P 5113 Attendance as a first reading.
   PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Weitlauf left the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of policy P 6161.12 Library Material Review and Recommendation as a first reading (Attachment #7)

   MOTION: Thomas, Corcoran: To approve policy P 6161.12 Library Material Review and Recommendation as a first reading.
   PASSED – UNANIMOUSLY

8. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of policy P 6161.13 Library Collection Development and Maintenance as a first reading (Attachment #8)

   MOTION: Thomas, Johnson: To approve policy P 6161.13 Library Collection Development and Maintenance as a first reading.
   YES Ackerman, Johnson, Antipas, White
   NO – Washington, Corcoran, Thomas, Whitney
   MOTION FAILED

9. Discussion and possible action regarding approval of policy P 6161.14 Library Display and Program Policy as a first reading (Attachment #9)

C. New Business – cont.

MOTION: Thomas, Corcoran: To approve policy P 6161.14 Library Display and Program Policy as a first reading.
YES – Whitney, Ackerman
NO
MOTION FAILED

10. Discussion and possible action regarding recognition of October 2, 2025, as National Custodian Day

MOTION: Ackerman, Johnson: To recognize October 2, 2025, as National Custodian Day, and to direct the Superintendent of Schools to send a letter of appreciation to the custodial staff.
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

IX. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

Letters, communications, and comments by Board members on meeting items and any other items in their jurisdiction.

- Mr. Corcoran asked how the Board supports the homeless students.
- Dr. Ackerman noted the invitation to the Martin Luther King Dinner, and she presented Mrs. Washington a token of condolences regarding the death of her father.
- Mr. Johnson noted communications regarding Robotics and discussion of cuts in sports at the middle school level.
- Mr. Thomas noted communications regarding Robotics and communications re AI.
- Mrs. Washington noted recommunication regarding a bus issue and robotics.

X. ADVANCE PLANNING

A. Future Meeting Dates and Calendar Items

As noted in the agenda.

B. Suggested Agenda Items

- NONE

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Thomas: To adjourn at 9:48 p.m.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Legislative Education Brief 2025

Presentation to GPS Board of Education

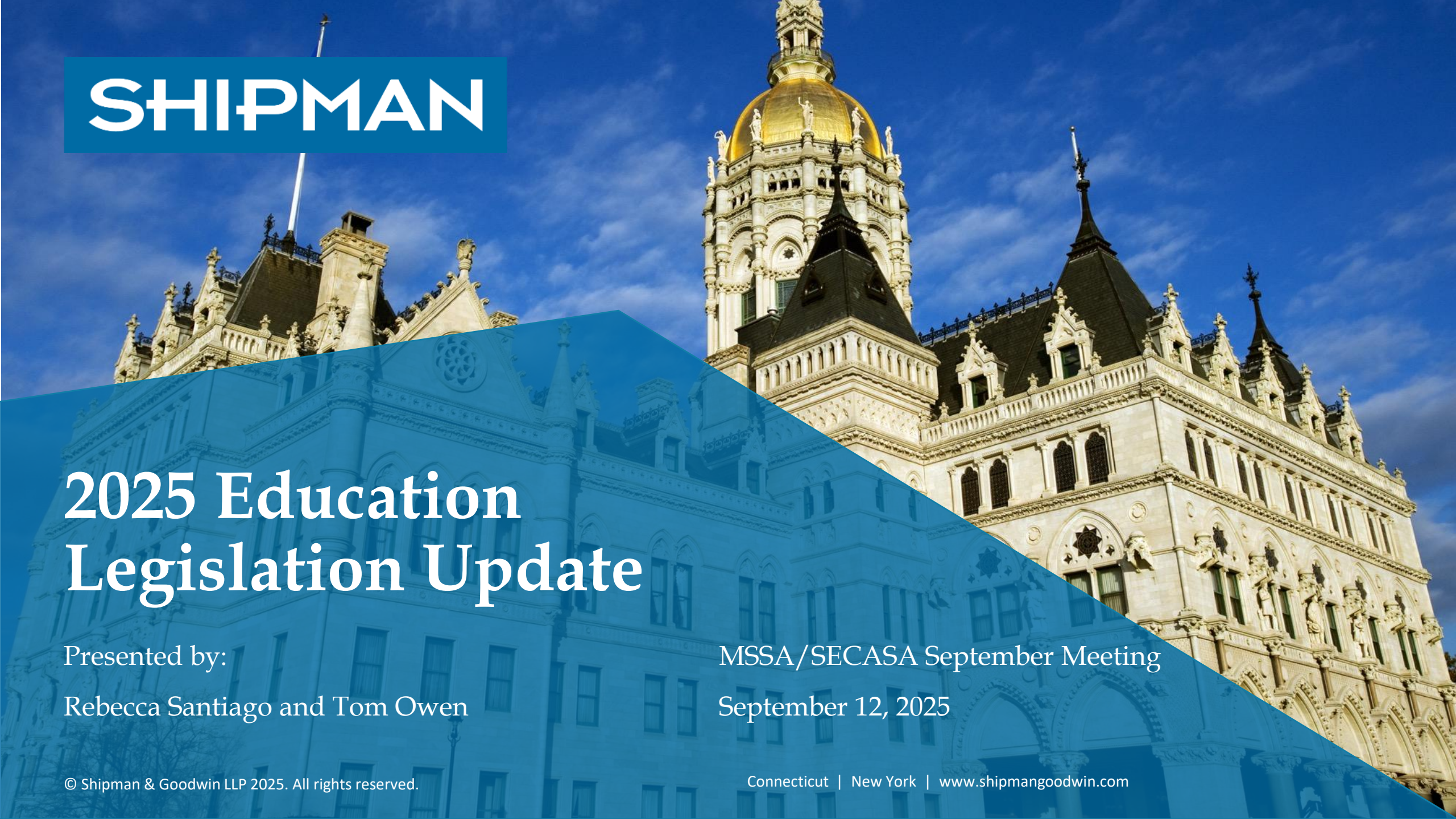
September 22, 2025

Susan Austin, Superintendent

Denise Doolittle, Pupil Personnel Director

Laurie LePine, Human Resource Director

SHIPMAN



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2025 Education Legislation Update

Presented by:

Rebecca Santiago and Tom Owen

MSSA/SECASA September Meeting

September 12, 2025

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Chronic Absenteeism Prevention and Intervention Plan

Public Act 25-93, Section 34



- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-198d requires the CSDE to develop a **chronic absenteeism prevention and intervention plan** for use by BOEs.
- The CSDE must now **semiannually review** the plan and revise as needed.
- The plan must also include **policies and procedures concerning truants** and the use of an **early indication tool** designed to quickly identify students at risk for being chronically absent or disconnected from school (e.g., students at risk of not fulfilling graduation requirements, students with a history of behavioral concerns or disciplinary issues, and students who are homeless).

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Homelessness and Student Discipline

Public Act 25-93, Sections 38 and 39



- Before holding a suspension or expulsion hearing, an administrator, school counselor, or school social worker at the school in which a student is enrolled must contact the BOE's designated local homeless education liaison to determine **whether the student is homeless.**
- If the student is identified as homeless, the BOE or impartial hearing board, in the case of an expulsion hearing, or the administration, in the case of a suspension hearing, must **consider the impact of homelessness on the student's behavior** during the hearing.
- A homeless student may not be expelled unless a plan of interventions and supports is developed to mitigate the impact of homelessness on the student's behavior.

Any student who is determined to be homeless and expelled for a second time must be provided a meeting with the local homeless education liaison.

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Educational Stability for Military-Connected Students

Public Act 25-15, Sections 7 and 8



- When a student with an IEP or Section 504 plan enrolls after the start of the school year because of a parent's military transfer or reassignment, the district must:
  - Transfer the student's records and evaluations,
  - Perform any reevaluations,
  - Hold a PPT or Section 504 meeting within 30 days, and
  - Take any other steps necessary to ensure a minimally disruptive transition to the provision of comparable services.
- When a parent in the armed forces receives orders resulting in a change in residency during the school year, the student may remain enrolled in their current school for the remainder of the school year, provided the parent remains a member of the armed forces.
  - A student in grade 11 may continue to be enrolled for an additional school year, through grade 12.

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CT FMLA for Noncertified School Employees

Public Act 25-174, Section 237



- Previously, boards of education were exempt from the requirements of the CT FMLA.
- Effective October 1, 2025, CT FMLA covers employees of public school operators ***whose positions do not require a license*** under Chapter 166 of the Connecticut General Statutes (referred to as "noncertified school employees").
- CT FMLA allows eligible employees to take unpaid, job-protected leave for qualifying reasons.

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CT Paid Leave for Noncertified School Employees

Public Act 25-174, Section 234



- Effective October 1, 2025, CT Paid Leave **covers non-certified school employees.**
- Through CT Paid Leave, eligible employees can apply for **partial wage replacement** during their leave, funded through a mandatory 0.5% payroll tax deducted from employee paychecks.
- Employers are responsible for ensuring the appropriate **payroll deductions** for noncertified employees, and non-certified employees **cannot opt out** of such payroll deductions.

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Interactions Between School Personnel and Immigration Authorities

Public Act 25-1, Sections 1-2



- Each public school superintendent shall designate at least **one administrator** at each school to be responsible for **interacting with federal immigration authorities** who appear in person at the school or contact the school to request information.
- This administrator shall also join the school security and safety committee that is described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222m.

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Developmental Delay Exceptionality Designation

Public Act 25-67, Section 1



- Under the IDEA, a state may define the term "child with a disability" to include a child aged 3-9, or any subset of that age range, who needs special education and related services due to developmental delays.
- Previously, a "child requiring special education" was defined in Connecticut to include children aged 3-5 experiencing a developmental delay.
- Now, Connecticut's definition is **expanded to include children aged 3-8** experiencing a developmental delay.

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Special Education Costs

Public Act 25-143, Sections 16-17



- Under existing law, to be eligible for reimbursement of special education costs paid to a private provider of special education services, a BOE must have entered into a written contract with such provider for the provision of such services.
- The Act requires any such written contract entered into or amended on or after July 1, 2025 to include a provision that requires the private provider to submit a base tuition and cost for services not later than December 31 preceding the school year in which services are to be provided.
- Each RESC providing special education services for a BOE must submit a base tuition and cost for services not later than December 31 preceding the school year in which services are to be provided.

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Fixed Annual Costs for Provider Services

Public Act 25-67, Section 2

- Prohibits a charging entity from increasing the amount charged to a BOE for a service provided pursuant to a student's IEP during that school year, ***unless*** the change is due to a change in the services provided pursuant to a change in a student's IEP.
- The CSDE may permit, ***upon request***, a charging entity to increase the amount it charges for special education services to a BOE if there is a substantial increase in costs:
  - For the services being provided for a student, or
  - To the operation of such charging entity.



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Rate-Setting

Public Act 25-67, Section 3



Not later than January 1, 2028, the CSDE, in consultation with OPM, must establish a rate schedule for:

- All costs related to the provision of special education services (excluding special education transportation services) provided by a public provider of special education; and
- Related services provided by a charging entity pursuant to an IEP, including but not limited to, speech, behavioral and occupational therapies.

The rate schedule shall be accompanied by standards for billing that describe how the charging entity's operational expenses should be proportionately and appropriately attributed to the services provided to individual students.

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Rate-Setting

Public Act 25-67, Section 4



- Not later than December 31, 2027, the CSDE shall develop and post on its website billing standards for special education providers that charge BOEs for transportation to and from special education outplacements.
- The billing standards will be effective at the start of the 2027-2028 school year.

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FY25 General Fund Expenditure Summary as of 09-17-25

Major Acct	DESCRIPTION	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE EXP	AVAILABLE BALANCE	% Available
100	Salaries	$ 53,994,462.00	$ 53,730,773.13	$ 263,688.87	0.49%
200	Benefits	$ 13,413,020.00	$ 12,435,569.82	$ 977,450.18	7.29%
300	Other Professional Services	$ 2,072,326.00	$ 2,175,016.57	$ (102,690.57)	-4.96%
400	Purchased property services	$ 906,174.00	$ 1,245,298.91	$ (339,124.91)	-37.42%
500	Other Purchased Services	$ 12,806,411.00	$ 12,585,629.27	$ 220,781.73	1.72%
600	Supplies	$ 4,608,032.00	$ 4,875,642.92	$ (267,610.92)	-5.81%
700	Equipment/Property	$ 74,050.00	$ 37,297.73	$ 36,752.27	49.63%
800	Dues & Fees	$ 84,009.00	$ 86,706.11	$ (2,697.11)	-3.21%
Grand Total		**$ 87,958,484.00**	**$ 87,171,934.46**	**$ 786,549.54**	**0.89%**

Major Acct ***Narrative***

100 Salaries have an available balance mostly due to unfilled positions. Unpaid leave of absences and workers comp can have an impact on expenses as well.

200 Employee Health Benefit including OPEB contributions.

300 Other Professional Services, legal and computer network services were under budgeted.

400 Service contracts (including leases) and repairs and maintenance were under budgeted.

500 Tuition & Transportation including Field Trip/Athletic Transportation. SPED Magnet Tuition were under budgeted.

600 Supplies including computer software instructional and non-instructional. Utilities was underbudgeted.

730 Equipment and property.

800 Memberships, fees and dues.

ACCOUNT	-----TITLE-----	FY25 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE EXP	AVAILABLE BALANCE	YTD/ BUD	NOTES
101	CLASSROOM TEACHERS	$ 25,446,855.00	$ 25,316,776.14	$ 130,078.86	99.49%	Leave of absence covered by sub
102	SPECIAL EDUCATION C	$ 8,281,901.00	$ 7,788,244.14	$ 493,656.86	94.04%	unfilled, Transfers filled with subs while hiring.
103	MEDIA SPECIALIST	$ 717,193.00	$ 634,572.58	$ 82,620.42	88.48%	Savings 1 FTE
104	GUIIDANCE	$ 1,256,648.00	$ 1,236,535.78	$ 20,112.22	98.40%	
105	ADMINISTRATION	$ 1,361,451.00	$ 1,452,288.87	$ (90,837.87)	106.67%	
106	PRINCIPALS	$ 1,196,641.00	$ 1,202,206.80	$ (5,565.80)	100.47%	
107	ASST PRINCIPALS/SCH	$ 2,485,883.00	$ 2,419,117.64	$ 66,765.36	97.31%	
108	DEAN/COORDINATOR	$ 55,011.00	$ 77,577.52	$ (22,566.52)	141.02%	
109	ATHLETIC DIRECTOR/O	$ 154,799.00	$ 154,799.00	$ -	100.00%	
111	SPEC EDUCATION AID	$ 825,697.00	$ 816,473.13	$ 9,223.87	98.88%	
112	CLERICAL, SPECIAL E	$ 168,799.00	$ 171,909.24	$ (3,110.24)	101.84%	
113	CLERICAL, SCHOOL	$ 762,276.00	$ 767,812.96	$ (5,536.96)	100.73%	
114	CLERICAL, ADMINISTR	$ 1,061,278.00	$ 1,208,591.89	$ (147,313.89)	113.88%	
117	CUSTODIAL	$ 1,869,959.00	$ 1,678,081.22	$ 191,877.78	89.74%	
118	MAINTENANCE	$ 835,460.00	$ 682,418.02	$ 153,041.98	81.68%	
119	OTHER	$ 212,805.00	$ 165,609.84	$ 47,195.16	77.82%	Athletic Trainer / BCBA
120	REGULAR SUBSTITUTE	$ 733,200.00	$ 2,021,927.72	$ (1,288,727.72)	275.77%	filling in for absences (long and short term)
121	SPEC ED SUBSTITUTE	$ 94,360.00	$ -	$ 94,360.00	0.00%	
123	SUMMER SCHOOL	$ 161,418.00	$ 35,294.88	$ 126,123.12	21.87%	
124	ADULT EDUC/H. S. CO	$ 42,230.00	$ 24,313.78	$ 17,916.22	57.57%	
125	HOMEBOUND	$ 677,376.00	$ 1,046,783.26	$ (369,407.26)	154.54%	
126	COACHING STIPENDS	$ 353,571.00	$ 331,017.00	$ 22,554.00	93.62%	
127	OTHER STUDENT ACTIV	$ 139,383.00	$ 125,974.00	$ 13,409.00	90.38%	unfilled positions
128	SCHOOL SECURITY	$ 176,201.00	$ 276,643.00	$ (100,442.00)	157.00%	
129	OTHER (TUTORS, ETC.	$ 784,448.00	$ 818,256.79	$ (33,808.79)	104.31%	Tutors
130	TEMP REGULAR TEACHE	$ 295,351.00	$ 314,408.21	$ (19,057.21)	106.45%	
131	TEMP SPEC ED TEACHE	$ 2,827,935.00	$ 1,795,502.45	$ 1,032,432.55	63.49%	unfilled Paras and aide positions
133	TEMP CLERICAL, SCHO	$ 12,037.00	$ 22,260.00	$ (10,223.00)	184.93%	substitute needs in school offices
134	TEMP CLERICAL, ADMI	$ 92,287.00	$ 173,236.14	$ (80,949.14)	187.71%	During enrollment
136	TEMP SCHOOL BUS AID	$ 331,208.00	$ 393,385.72	$ (62,177.72)	118.77%	Per IEP
137	TEMP CUSTODIAL PART	$ 304,130.00	$ 196,988.43	$ 107,141.57	64.77%	unfilled positions
139	TEMP SALARIES OTHER	$ -	$ 38,642.82	$ (38,642.82)	386428200.00%	
143	CLERICAL,SCHOOL	$ -	$ 67.50	$ (67.50)	675000.00%	
144	CLERICAL,ADMINISTRA	$ 5,000.00	$ 131,066.44	$ (126,066.44)	2621.33%	Under Budgeted
147	CUSTODIAL OVERTIME	$ 92,400.00	$ 70,683.41	$ 21,716.59	76.50%	
148	MAINTENANCE OVERTIM	$ 20,200.00	$ 21,818.22	$ (1,618.22)	108.01%	Unfilled positions
149	OTHER	$ 39,500.00	$ 41,961.90	$ (2,461.90)	106.23%	Media support / Computer support
151	RESIDENT TEACHER	$ 119,571.00	$ 77,526.69	$ 42,044.31	64.84%	similar to an intern & fill in as sub as needed
201	GROUP INSURANCE, PR	$ 8,022,178.00	$ 8,937,223.75	$ (915,045.75)	111.41%	OPEB & HC

ACCOUNT	-----TITLE-----	FY25 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE EXP	AVAILABLE BALANCE	YTD/ BUD	NOTES
202	GROUP INSURANCE, OT	$ 2,031,065.00	$ -	$ 2,031,065.00	0.00%	OPEB & HC
211	WORKMAN'S COMPENSAT	$ 429,210.00	$ 429,210.00	$ -	100.00%	Fully dispersed
212	SOCIAL SECURITY	$ 855,144.00	$ 918,261.13	$ (63,117.13)	107.38%	
213	TOWN RETIREMENT	$ 897,000.00	$ 897,000.00	$ -	100.00%	Fully dispersed
214	MEDICARE	$ 782,923.00	$ 885,083.76	$ (102,160.76)	113.05%	
222	RETIREMENT AWARD	$ 242,500.00	$ 152,795.68	$ 89,704.32	63.01%	
223	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPEN	$ 35,000.00	$ 112,304.00	$ (77,304.00)	320.87%	
224	GRADUATE CREDIT COU	$ 115,000.00	$ 81,913.50	$ 33,086.50	71.23%	
226	EMPLOYEE ASS'T PROG	$ 1,500.00	$ -	$ 1,500.00	0.00%	
227	MENTOR STIPEND	$ 1,500.00	$ 21,778.00	$ (20,278.00)	1451.87%	
321	INSTRUCTIONAL SERVI	$ 82,375.00	$ 100,503.60	$ (18,128.60)	122.01%	Mystic, Denision Peq, Flock theater, CT story telling Project Ocean, CAHPERD membership, College board, 300k Wit & Wisdom to transfer budget to obj 640
322	INSTR. IMPROVEMENT	$ 65,600.00	$ 60,766.90	$ 4,833.10	92.63%	GREAT MINDS PBC, Rice Un, CES, PMT Assoc Ed Advance, Learn, CPR , CREC, Other PD Providers,
325	STUDENT INTERN	$ -	$ 38,060.00	$ (38,060.00)	3806000.00%	Sacred Heart, CREC
331	PROFESSIONAL SERVIC	$ 297,051.00	$ 365,040.73	$ (67,989.73)	122.89%	Piano Acc, Relay, BG Checks, CCLM, Surveillance Services, Audit allocations, CT Boiler Insp, Shredding, TOG Compliance fees, Air quality testing, Bio Serv
332	OTHER PROFESSIONAL	$ 575,000.00	$ 451,333.46	$ 123,666.54	78.49%	Red Cross, Health Services, CREC, Learn, EAST CONN, Psyc Evals, Frontline, Waterford Country School, Pro Care, NECHEAR, Interpreters, Learn well, American School for the Deaf, Therapist, Coun, Shoreline reading , New London PS, Learnwell, Neuro testing, Colchester PS
333	OT AND PT SERVICES	$ 787,772.00	$ 765,647.40	$ 22,124.60	97.19%	CREC, Lear, Physiocare, Waterford Country, Amercian school, New London PS
334	LEGAL SERVICES	$ 71,100.00	$ 144,199.37	$ (73,099.37)	202.81%	Expulsion hearings and BOE consultations
341	ATHLETICS OFFICIALS	$ 71,950.00	$ 70,150.36	$ 1,799.64	97.50%	Arbiter, all programs
342	OTHER SERVICES/ATHL	$ 22,100.00	$ 16,840.75	$ 5,259.25	76.20%	Scorekeeper, event workers, security
343	COMPUTER NETWORK SE	$ 99,378.00	$ 162,474.00	$ (63,096.00)	163.49%	Comcast, Breezeline, SHI, CEN
410	WATER	$ 66,844.00	$ 72,705.50	$ (5,861.50)	108.77%	Southeast water, WB,
411	SEWERAGE	$ 34,963.00	$ 36,275.90	$ (1,312.90)	103.76%	Town of Groton
421	GARBAGE REMOVAL	$ 88,341.00	$ 101,144.41	$ (12,803.41)	114.49%	
422	SNOW REMOVAL	$ 50,000.00	$ 19,924.56	$ 30,075.44	39.85%	
430	REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT	$ 108,886.00	$ 136,192.83	$ (27,306.83)	125.08%	music equip repair, Kiln repair, Ryan bus sys,Science equp repair, cailbrate audiometers, Pitney lease, Kinsley Power, TOG maintenance & equip repair

FY25 Exp Status Rpts as of 09-17-25 BOE

ACCOUNT	-----TITLE-----	FY25 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE EXP	AVAILABLE BALANCE	YTD/ BUD	NOTES
431	REPAIRS TO GROUNDS	$ 245,256.00	$ 273,632.72	$ (28,376.72)	111.57%	Mystic Lanscape, Trugree, Replay sports, Kropp env, CAM, national lawn
432	GENERAL BUILDING RE	$ 27,135.00	$ 63,614.53	$ (36,479.53)	234.44%	Kenvo floor, Columbus door, roof repair, Glass repair,
433	PAINTING	$ 5,146.00	$ -	$ 5,146.00	0.00%	
434	HEAT & PLUMBING REP	$ 48,400.00	$ 120,055.52	$ (71,655.52)	248.05%	Emcor, Ratick Comb, Trane, Pump & Well, Energy system waste disp, Flow tech
435	ELECTRICAL REPAIRS	$ 10,572.00	$ 1,845.60	$ 8,726.40	17.46%	
441	RENTALS, OTHER	$ 133,770.00	$ 304,244.43	$ (170,474.43)	227.44%	Swim team pool rentals, st Marys church, Porta Potties, Canon financials, Leaf Capital, Dell
490	EXTERMINATING SERVI	$ 12,926.00	$ 19,304.00	$ (6,378.00)	149.34%	
491	BUILDING PROTECTION	$ 48,289.00	$ 47,917.00	$ 372.00	99.23%	
499	OTHER PURCHASED SER	$ 25,646.00	$ 48,441.91	$ (22,795.91)	188.89%	Eye to Eye, fire ext, Encore, CT inspections, vent cleaning, elevator insp & service, lighting services
510	REGULAR PUPIL TRANS	$ 3,954,690.00	$ 4,023,912.92	$ (69,222.92)	101.75%	Regular, midday and late bus costs
511	SPEC ED TRANSPORT C	$ 1,787,832.00	$ 1,629,698.46	$ 158,133.54	91.16%	
512	SPECIAL EDUCATION O	$ 1,216,531.00	$ 1,174,062.02	$ 42,468.98	96.51%	
522	LIABILITY INSURANCE	$ 601,324.00	$ 576,092.50	$ 25,231.50	95.80%	
525	STUDENT ACCIDENT IN	$ 22,673.00	$ 13,410.00	$ 9,263.00	59.15%	
530	TELEPHONE	$ 275,155.00	$ 251,084.88	$ 24,070.12	91.25%	
531	POSTAGE	$ 30,650.00	$ 17,459.35	$ 13,190.65	56.96%	
540	ADVERTISING	$ 5,000.00	$ 7,277.35	$ (2,277.35)	145.55%	
541	MINORITY RECRUITMEN	$ -	$ 1,650.00	$ (1,650.00)	165000.00%	
550	PRINTING, ADMINISTR	$ 11,542.00	$ 4,040.90	$ 7,501.10	35.01%	
551	SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS	$ 4,000.00	$ 3,299.59	$ 700.41	82.49%	
561	SPED VOCATIONAL/VOA	$ 355,630.00	$ 375,197.04	$ (19,567.04)	105.50%	
562	SPED BOARD PLACEMEN	$ 2,513,182.00	$ 2,062,522.41	$ 450,659.59	82.07%	
563	SPED, STATE AGENCY	$ 382,840.00	$ 348,451.49	$ 34,388.51	91.02%	
564	ADULT EDUCATION	$ 210,105.00	$ 207,000.00	$ 3,105.00	98.52%	
566	MAGNET SCHOOL TUITI	$ 502,128.00	$ 461,196.00	$ 40,932.00	91.85%	
567	VOAG REG ED TUITION	$ 71,226.00	$ 59,360.10	$ 11,865.90	83.34%	
568	SPED MEGNET CHOICE	$ 542,895.00	$ 1,156,456.91	$ (613,561.91)	213.02%	Learn, NL Public Schools
580	TRAVEL FOR REG INST	$ -	$ 165.93	$ (165.93)	16593.00%	
581	TRAVEL FOR SPEC EDU	$ 5,900.00	$ 4,962.75	$ 937.25	84.11%	
582	TRAVEL FOR ADMN SCH	$ 19,000.00	$ 27,188.10	$ (8,188.10)	143.10%	
583	TRAVEL FOR MAINTENA	$ 100.00	$ -	$ 100.00	0.00%	
584	TRAVEL FOR WORKSH &	$ 48,356.00	$ 16,136.83	$ 32,219.17	33.37%	
587	TRAVEL FOR ATHLETIC	$ 123,400.00	$ 118,812.19	$ 4,587.81	96.28%	
588	FIELD TRIPS	$ 99,977.00	$ 29,190.55	$ 70,786.45	29.20%	
591	ENTRY FEES	$ 13,075.00	$ 10,839.00	$ 2,236.00	82.90%	

ACCOUNT	-----TITLE-----	FY25 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE EXP	AVAILABLE BALANCE	YTD/ BUD	NOTES
592	GREEN FEES	$ 1,200.00	$ 1,200.00	$ -	100.00%	
595	ADMISSION FEES	$ 4,600.00	$ 3,667.00	$ 933.00	79.72%	
596	OTHER PURCHASED SER	$ 3,400.00	$ 1,295.00	$ 2,105.00	38.09%	
601	GENERAL CLASSROOM U	$ 159,026.00	$ 301,348.42	$ (142,322.42)	189.50%	Amazon, Wilson Lang, ACCO, WB, S&S, Quill, NASCO, Blick, School Specialty, Demco, Mystery Science, Staples
602	SCIENCE	$ 35,300.00	$ 14,076.87	$ 21,223.13	39.88%	Mystery Science, butterfly Kit, Staples, Amazon bird feeders, wards natural, Flinn Scientific
603	ARTS & CRAFTS	$ 26,600.00	$ 19,478.34	$ 7,121.66	73.23%	Blick, S&S, Amazon, WB, NASCO, B&H, Rio Grande
604	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	$ 11,900.00	$ 7,896.40	$ 4,003.60	66.36%	V-Bal test kit, BSN Sports, Staples, Toledo Physical, Gopher sport, Amazon
605	MUSIC	$ 13,700.00	$ 14,355.38	$ (655.38)	104.78%	West Music Co, Alfred Sound innovation, Reeds, Valve oil, violin strings, rosin, Sax tips, sheet music, Johnson strings
606	KINDERGARTEN	$ 3,350.00	$ 51.12	$ 3,298.88	1.53%	Note: Prioritizing supply needs throughout the year
607	PUPIL TESTS	$ 80,700.00	$ 62,062.96	$ 18,637.04	76.91%	
609	TECHNOLOGY EDUCATIO	$ 11,000.00	$ 5,393.39	$ 5,606.61	49.03%	
610	COMPUTER SUPPLIES	$ 29,650.00	$ 29,031.01	$ 618.99	97.91%	
612	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	$ 871,797.00	$ 806,879.37	$ 64,917.63	92.55%	
613	HOME ECONOMICS	$ 20,000.00	$ 16,407.26	$ 3,592.74	82.04%	
615	SPECIAL EDUCATION	$ 34,750.00	$ 23,517.46	$ 11,232.54	67.68%	
616	ATHLETIC SUPPLIES	$ 55,300.00	$ 36,770.05	$ 18,529.95	66.49%	
617	MATHEMATIC SUPPLIES	$ 6,900.00	$ 640.69	$ 6,259.31	9.29%	
618	HEALTH SUPPLIES	$ 500.00	$ -	$ 500.00	0.00%	
619	OTHER SUPPLIES	$ 53,500.00	$ 14,158.80	$ 39,341.20	26.47%	
621	SUPPORT SERV GUID I	$ 24,600.00	$ 11,197.05	$ 13,402.95	45.52%	
622	HEALTH SERVICES PAT	$ 5,750.00	$ 7,483.69	$ (1,733.69)	130.15%	
623	SCHOOL LIBRARY SUPP	$ 4,275.00	$ 1,554.44	$ 2,720.56	36.36%	
624	AUDIO VISUAL	$ 4,800.00	$ 2,403.44	$ 2,396.56	50.07%	
626	GENRAL ADMINISTRATI	$ 12,110.00	$ 13,031.41	$ (921.41)	107.61%	
627	SCHOOL ADMINISTRATI	$ 16,550.00	$ 7,618.04	$ 8,931.96	46.03%	
628	FOOD, DRINK, SNACKS	$ -	$ 4,901.97	$ (4,901.97)	490197000.00%	PD
631	ELECTRICITY	$ 1,184,118.00	$ 1,671,233.21	$ (487,115.21)	141.14%	CCM Services, Eversource, Constellation, Groton Utilities, CEFIA Power purchase agreement, KS State Bank
632	GAS	$ 386,868.00	$ 486,332.48	$ (99,464.48)	125.71%	Hocon, Sprague, Eversource
633	FUEL OIL	$ 242,780.00	$ 287,086.78	$ (44,306.78)	118.25%	East River
634	GASOLINE FOR SCH BU	$ 398,432.00	$ 345,302.94	$ 53,129.06	86.67%	Town of Groton
640	TEXTBOOKS	$ 325,500.00	$ 248,009.59	$ 77,490.41	76.19%	Budget transfer from 321 to correct budget
641	WORKBOOKS	$ 21,435.00	$ 10,713.75	$ 10,721.25	49.98%	Scholastics (workbooks all classes)
642	TEXTBOOK REBINDS	$ 500.00	$ -	$ 500.00	0.00%	

ACCOUNT	-----TITLE-----	FY25 BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE EXP	AVAILABLE BALANCE	YTD/ BUD	NOTES
645	LIBRARY BOOKS	$ 23,100.00	$ 7,233.21	$ 15,866.79	31.31%	Various books, Amazon, Mackin Ed, Follett
647	PERIODICALS FOR PUP	$ 2,500.00	$ 1,065.88	$ 1,434.12	42.64%	Day Pub, EBSCO CT mag, New Yorker, NG, Consumer Reports
650	REPAIR OF EQUIPMENT	$ 24,315.00	$ 47,873.66	$ (23,558.66)	196.89%	J Peila Elect, Johnson HDWR, Yantic River Auto, Amazon, Town of Groton
651	GROUNDS	$ 19,527.00	$ 27,879.25	$ (8,352.25)	142.77%	Home Depot, Tilcon Asphalt, Whittles (loom), Site One landscape, US playground
652	GENERAL BUILDING RE	$ 62,839.00	$ 21,319.33	$ 41,519.67	33.93%	Home Depot, Johnson HDWR, Best Plumbing, Allston Supply, Beacon, FW Web, Columbus Door
653	PAINTING	$ 2,500.00	$ 9,992.31	$ (7,492.31)	399.69%	S. Williams, Rings End, Johnson Hdwr (all schools)
654	HEAT & PLUMBING	$ 214,053.00	$ 80,561.07	$ 133,491.93	37.64%	J Piela Elec, Johnson Hdwr, Granite group, Airex Filter, grainger, FW Web, McMaster Carr
655	ELECTRICAL	$ 30,247.00	$ 14,811.29	$ 15,435.71	48.97%	Northest Elec, Johnson Hdwr, Home Depot, Rexel, Grainger,
656	GASOLINE FOR MAINT	$ 44,563.00	$ 30,945.29	$ 13,617.71	69.44%	Town of Groton
657	CLOTHING ALLOWANCE	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,700.00	$ 300.00	94.00%	
658	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	$ 106,150.00	$ 169,909.00	$ (63,759.00)	160.07%	Amazon, Hillyard, WB, Amazon, CCP Inds,
659	SAFETY SUPPLIES	$ 8,047.00	$ 4,948.60	$ 3,098.40	61.50%	Grainger, dust covers, masks, gloves, eye wash, cardiac probs, defib,
690	PROFESSIONAL MATERI	$ 23,500.00	$ 5,467.72	$ 18,032.28	23.27%	Lang arts, lanyards Amazon, subscriptions,
730	REPL INSTRUCTNL EQU	$ 27,150.00	$ 14,910.69	$ 12,239.31	54.92%	Music repairs, science equip, Anthem sports, BB Backboard, Spec Ed washer repair
731	REPL NON-INST EQUIP	$ -	$ 18,841.53	$ (18,841.53)	188415300.00%	Cisco switches, Access points
735	ADD INSTRUCTIONAL E	$ 46,900.00	$ 3,545.51	$ 43,354.49	7.56%	Bookcase (elem)
810	DUES/BOARD OF EDUCA	$ 22,604.00	$ 22,845.00	$ (241.00)	101.07%	CABE (BOE)
811	DUES/GENERAL ADMINI	$ 16,310.00	$ 21,966.11	$ (5,656.11)	134.68%	Conn-Case (SPED), NCTM (Super), CAPPS, AASA, NEAS, CASPA, CASBO
812	DUES/SCHOOL ADMINIS	$ 36,300.00	$ 35,380.00	$ 920.00	97.47%	MYP Fee, CP annual fee, NEA, NHS
819	OTHER DUES	$ 8,795.00	$ 6,515.00	$ 2,280.00	74.08%	EastConn, Mystic Chamber, Speech & Hearing Services dues (recertification), CT License renewal maintenance personnel
	GRAND TOTAL	**$ 87,958,484.00**	**$ 87,171,934.46**	**$ 786,549.54**		

FY25 GF by Function for BOE 09-17-25

FUND	FUNCTION	- - - - - TITLE - - - - -	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE EXP FINAL	UNAUDITED AVAILABLE BALANCE	BUDGET TRANSFER
1	1101	ELEMENTARY	$ 14,366,965	$ 14,989,922	$ (622,957)	$ 622,957
1	1102	ART	$ 643,876	$ 642,357	$ 1,519	$ (1,519)
1	1103	COMPUTER EDUCATION	$ -	$ 65,281	$ (65,281)	$ 65,281
1	1104	LANGUAGE ARTS	$ 2,507,227	$ 2,425,643	$ 81,584	$ (81,584)
1	1105	WORLD LANGUAGES	$ 1,394,268	$ 1,263,081	$ 131,187	$ (131,187)
1	1106	CONSUMER SCIENCE	$ 176,115	$ 177,204	$ (1,089)	$ 1,089
1	1107	TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION	$ 969,796	$ 579,967	$ 389,829	$ (389,829)
1	1108	MATHEMATICS	$ 2,202,727	$ 2,044,974	$ 157,753	$ (157,753)
1	1109	MUSIC	$ 728,472	$ 720,424	$ 8,048	$ (8,048)
1	1110	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	$ 1,036,423	$ 1,010,821	$ 25,602	$ (25,602)
1	1111	SCIENCE	$ 2,422,455	$ 2,368,640	$ 53,815	$ (53,815)
1	1112	SOCIAL STUDIES	$ 1,931,136	$ 1,962,639	$ (31,503)	$ 31,503
1	1113	MYP	$ 26,000	$ 26,412	$ (412)	$ 412
1	1114	HEALTH EDUCATION	$ 341,777	$ 371,716	$ (29,939)	$ 29,939
1	1115	MAGNET SCHOOLS	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	1116	CO-OPERATIVE WORK EXPERI	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	1117	INTERN. BACCALAUREATE	$ 60,000	$ 48,654	$ 11,346	$ (11,346)
1	1118	IB CAREER PROGRAM	$ 14,000	$ 4,722	$ 9,278	$ (9,278)
1	1119	UNCLASSIFIED	$ 1,873,796	$ 1,873,796	$ 0	$ (0)
1	1121	BUSINESS EDUCATION	$ 262,453	$ 269,896	$ (7,443)	$ 7,443
1	1123	DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	1124	HEALTH OCCUPATION	$ 100,089	$ 98,735	$ 1,354	$ (1,354)
1	1126	FOOD SERVICES	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	1205	PRESCHOOL 3-5	$ 1,248,171	$ 1,066,840	$ 181,331	$ (181,331)
1	1210	SPED SUMMER SCHOOL	$ 59,872	$ 12,365	$ 47,507	$ (47,507)
1	1220	OTHER SPECIAL INSTRUCTIO	$ 1,097,546	$ 1,498,824	$ (401,278)	$ 401,278
1	1230	SPECIAL EDUCATION	$ 9,718,367	$ 8,650,056	$ 1,068,311	$ (1,068,311)
1	1240	LEARNING SKILLS	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	1250	BLIND	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	1260	AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT	$ 39,829	$ 36,696	$ 3,133	$ (3,133)
1	1270	REMEDIAL INSTRUCTION	$ 3,263,426	$ 3,216,269	$ 47,157	$ (47,157)
1	1280	HEARING IMPAIRED	$ 111,123	$ 108,420	$ 2,703	$ (2,703)
1	1310	HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION	$ 85,519	$ 59,072	$ 26,447	$ (26,447)
1	1320	ADULT EDUCATION	$ 210,105	$ 207,000	$ 3,105	$ (3,105)
1	1411	REGULAR SUMMER SCHOOL	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	1412	SUMMER SCH HIGH SC CREDI	$ 74,307	$ 16,529	$ 57,778	$ (57,778)
1	1413	MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER SCH	$ -	$ 21,748	$ (21,748)	$ 21,748
1	1501	BASEBALL	$ 29,894	$ 25,298	$ 4,596	$ (4,596)
1	1503	BASKETBALL,MEN	$ 45,564	$ 47,540	$ (1,976)	$ 1,976
1	1504	BASKETBALL,WOMEN	$ 45,564	$ 32,135	$ 13,429	$ (13,429)
1	1505	CROSS COUNTRY, MEN	$ 15,525	$ 15,720	$ (196)	$ 196
1	1506	CROSS COUNTRY, WOMEN	$ 15,525	$ 7,106	$ 8,419	$ (8,419)
1	1507	FOOTBALL	$ 67,664	$ 68,331	$ (667)	$ 667
1	1508	GOLF	$ 12,913	$ 14,701	$ (1,788)	$ 1,788
1	1509	FIELD HOCKEY, GIRLS	$ 18,393	$ 19,850	$ (1,457)	$ 1,457
1	1510	GYMNASTICS	$ 5,365	$ 4,365	$ 1,000	$ (1,000)
1	1511	SOCCER, MEN	$ 33,004	$ 30,354	$ 2,649	$ (2,649)
1	1512	SOCCER, WOMEN	$ 33,004	$ 30,707	$ 2,297	$ (2,297)
1	1513	SOFTBALL, WOMEN	$ 35,852	$ 30,778	$ 5,074	$ (5,074)
1	1514	SWIMMING	$ 33,731	$ 35,592	$ (1,862)	$ 1,862
1	1515	TENNIS,MEN	$ 7,299	$ 9,044	$ (1,745)	$ 1,745
1	1516	TENNIS,WOMEN	$ 7,439	$ 7,222	$ 217	$ (217)

FY25 GF by Function for BOE 09-17-25

FUND	FUNCTION	- - - - - TITLE - - - - -	BUDGET	YEAR TO DATE EXP FINAL	UNAUDITED AVAILABLE BALANCE	BUDGET TRANSFER
1	1517	TRACK,OUTDOOR,MEN	$ 33,606	$ 31,421	$ 2,185	$ (2,185)
1	1518	TRACK,OUTDOOR,WOMEN	$ 33,606	$ 24,711	$ 8,895	$ (8,895)
1	1519	WRESTLING	$ 28,416	$ 22,671	$ 5,744	$ (5,744)
1	1520	INTRAMURAL SPORTS, MEN	$ 16,154	$ 23,501	$ (7,347)	$ 7,347
1	1522	CHEERLEADING	$ 16,792	$ 13,926	$ 2,865	$ (2,865)
1	1524	VOLLEYBALL	$ 24,382	$ 22,357	$ 2,025	$ (2,025)
1	1525	TRACK, INDOOR	$ 25,490	$ 24,965	$ 525	$ (525)
1	1526	LACROSSE-MEN	$ 20,199	$ 19,327	$ 872	$ (872)
1	1527	LACROSSE - WOMEN	$ 20,199	$ 16,668	$ 3,531	$ (3,531)
1	1528	SWIMMING, WOMEN	$ 31,731	$ 31,616	$ 114	$ (114)
1	1529	FENCING	$ 16,849	$ 15,245	$ 1,604	$ (1,604)
1	1530	UNIFIED SPORTS	$ 11,564	$ 10,387	$ 1,177	$ (1,177)
1	1549	OTHER EXPENSES, SPORTS	$ 266,128	$ 255,299	$ 10,829	$ (10,829)
1	1550	SCHOOL NEWSPAPERS	$ 3,299	$ -	$ 3,299	$ (3,299)
1	1551	AMPHORA	$ 6,751	$ 3,300	$ 3,451	$ (3,451)
1	1552	YEARBOOKS	$ 3,480	$ 1,647	$ 1,833	$ (1,833)
1	1555	OTHER ACTIVITIES	$ 110,687	$ 101,031	$ 9,656	$ (9,656)
1	2101	SUPPORT SERVICES	$ 1,211,294	$ 1,061,331	$ 149,963	$ (149,963)
1	2110	SOCIAL WORK SERVICES	$ 396,972	$ 366,812	$ 30,160	$ (30,160)
1	2120	GUIDANCE SERVICES	$ 1,803,721	$ 1,705,791	$ 97,930	$ (97,930)
1	2130	HEALTH SERVICES	$ 1,350,272	$ 1,221,422	$ 128,850	$ (128,850)
1	2140	PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	$ 1,329,987	$ 1,235,204	$ 94,783	$ (94,783)
1	2150	SPEECH & HEARING SERVICE	$ 1,477,860	$ 1,359,369	$ 118,491	$ (118,491)
1	2201	SUPPORTING SERVICES	$ 360,491	$ 439,644	$ (79,153)	$ 79,153
1	2202	DIVERSITY,EQUITY,INCLUSI	$ 15,000	$ 5,417	$ 9,583	$ (9,583)
1	2210	IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTI	$ 319,429	$ 309,517	$ 9,912	$ (9,912)
1	2220	EDUCATIONAL MEDIA SERVIC	$ 1,212,296	$ 1,135,241	$ 77,055	$ (77,055)
1	2311	BOARD OF EDUCATION SERVI	$ 22,604	$ 24,782	$ (2,178)	$ 2,178
1	2312	SUPERINTENDENT OFFICE SE	$ 1,874,409	$ 1,613,605	$ 260,804	$ (260,804)
1	2313	BUSINESS OFFICE	$ 1,304,813	$ 1,992,933	$ (688,120)	$ 688,120
1	2410	SCHOOL ADMINSTRATION	$ 4,787,583	$ 4,994,098	$ (206,515)	$ 206,515
1	2510	OPERATION AND MAINTENANC	$ 8,252,372	$ 8,406,439	$ (154,067)	$ 154,067
1	2520	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	$ 7,755,254	$ 7,630,698	$ 124,556	$ (124,556)
1	2530	FOOD SERVICES	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	2540	COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICE	$ 2,296,072	$ 2,588,081	$ (292,009)	$ 292,009
1	2560	HEALTH SERVICES STAFF	$ 1,250	$ 1,233	$ 17	$ (17)
1	3310	CIVIC ACTIVITIES	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
1	3710	NONPUB PUPIL TRANSPORT.	$ 132,632	$ 156,811	$ (24,179)	$ 24,179
1	4110	TUITION - VOAG SCHOOL	$ 71,226	$ 59,360	$ 11,866	$ (11,866)
1	4111	TUITION - PUBLIC SCHOOL	$ 502,128	$ 461,196	$ 40,932	$ (40,932)
1	4121	TUITION SE PUBLIC SCHOOL	$ 1,516,434	$ 2,089,112	$ (572,678)	$ 572,678
1	4122	TUITION SE NONPUB SCHOOL	$ 1,922,483	$ 1,478,319	$ 444,164	$ (444,164)
1	8888	HOLDING ACCOUNT	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 786,549
			$ 87,958,484	$ 87,171,934	$ 786,550	$ (0)

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Instruction/Students

Electronic Resources

Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) [hereinafter "GAI"]

I. Statement of Purpose/Need

Artificial Intelligence is a complex and evolving technology which demands user reflection in composing effective research questions, student analysis of reliability of computer-generated responses, verification of sources to distinguish fact from opinion, higher-level critical thinking to discern the absence of unintentionally-omitted data, and the ability to evaluate the veracity of knowledge and value claims.

Groton Public Schools (GPS) is committed to providing its students with the most innovative and effective educational experiences to foster high levels of teaching and learning. To prepare students for a future that demands adaptability, critical thinking, and digital literacy, we recognize the potential and challenges of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) and related technology tools.

GAI refers to any subset of AI trained to create new and unique content based on human prompts that is programmed to resemble content created by humans. This includes "large language models" (LLMs) that produce text content, including ChatGPT, as well as GAI that create audio, images, videos, or other types of content.

While ensuring the responsible use for those interacting with and creating content from GAI technologies, Groton Public Schools underscores its commitment to fostering a dynamic and engaging learning environment that leverages advances in GAI to enhance student learning and equip students with the skills and dispositions needed for success in the digital age.

The regulations associated with this policy establish guidelines for the integration and use of GAI in the District's teaching and administrative practices. It aims to enhance learning outcomes, support staff development, and improve operational efficiencies by fostering an environment in which students can safely explore the potential of artificial intelligence while prioritizing ethical practices.

II. Collaborative Approach

The Board requests the Superintendent ~~shall~~ establish or designate a committee to serve in an advisory capacity ~~in relation to~~ regarding matters pertaining to GAI ~~. The Board of Education (Board) suggests the committee be comprised of administrators, teaching staff, parents, and Board members that (who) will seek guidance from District counsel as necessary. It will~~ to study ~~GAI's~~ evolving opportunities and challenges as they relate to teaching and learning. This committee will also make recommendations based on current GAI practices in all schools. Administrators will meet and work ~~regularly~~ with the designated GAI Advisory Committee and will regularly present updates ~~schedule a yearly presentation at a Regular~~ to the Board ~~meeting~~.

Policy Adopted:

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut

Instruction/Students

Electronic Resources

Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) [hereinafter "GAI"]

I. Elements of Operational Concern to be addressed in Regulations

Elements for students include:

1. Authorized GAI platforms, by grade level and subject matter;
2. Age-developmentally-appropriate access and equity
3. Age-appropriate instructional modalities aligned with teaching and learning;
4. Student GAI ethical use standards, safety considerations, and clear guidance on permission to use specific tools
5. Student GAI resource utilization (e.g. - analytic evaluation of GAI outputs, documentation, and critical thinking skills needed to discern the technology's limitations);
6. Inclusion in the GPS Digital Literacy curriculum.

Elements for teaching staff will include:

1. Incorporating GAI tools into the curriculum to familiarize students with the technology and its ethical use appropriate to the lesson;
2. Providing on-going professional development focused on leveraging GAI to improve student outcomes by identifying learning gaps and providing targeted interventions;
3. Creating GAI-resistant assignments and assessments;
4. Integrating GAI as a creative tool within the teaching "palette";
5. Fostering student discussion of ethical standards both within and beyond GAI use;

Elements for Administrative operational productivity and functionality will include:

The Superintendent will develop a process to assess and leverage GAI use across the District to improve the organization in its mission to meet the needs of all students. ~~achieve increased administrative **efficiencies**~~. The Superintendent will share the findings at a COW.

Instruction/Students

Electronic Resources

Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) [hereinafter "GAI"] – Cont.

II. Mandated Review Process

The designated GAI Advisory Committee will regularly review District use of AI and recommend updates to the Board that address safety, privacy, staff and student needs, and other relevant areas. The Committee will provide an annual presentation to the Board to address relevant updates to State and Federal laws and guidance concerning GAI regulation.

The Board directs the Superintendent to include GAI updates at Regular Board monthly meetings on the designated GAI Advisory Committee's work as well as other GAI-related initiatives needing potential policy update/modification.

Regulation Adopted:

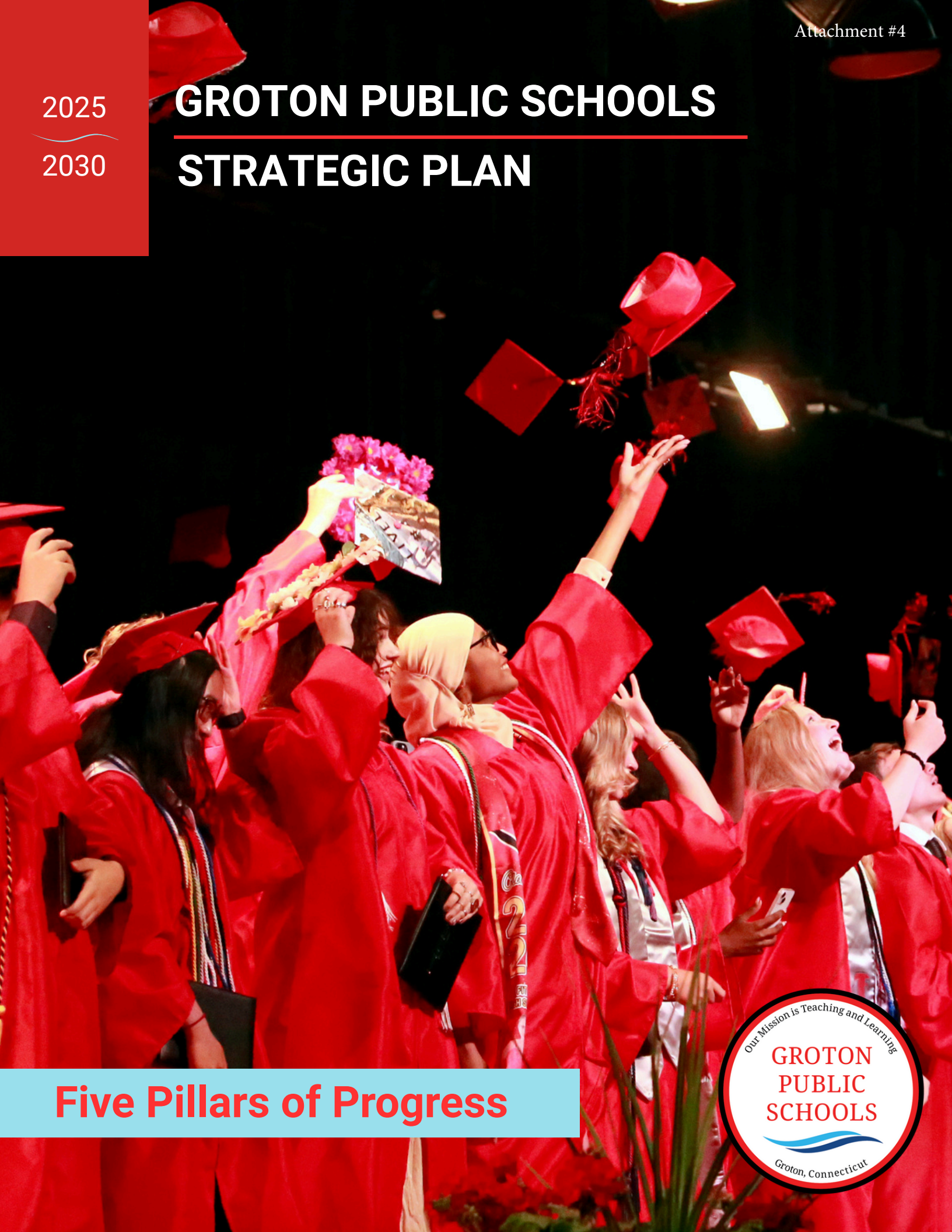
GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut

2025

2030

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN



Five Pillars of Progress

Our Mission is Teaching and Learning

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Groton, Connecticut

Introduction

Groton Public Schools' new strategic plan, *The Five Pillars of Progress (2025-2030)*, was thoughtfully developed through a comprehensive and collaborative process. Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives, the district actively sought input from various stakeholder groups, including teachers, administrators, students, and caregivers. To gather this crucial feedback, the district employed a multi-pronged approach. A district-wide survey was distributed to collect broad quantitative data, while targeted focus groups provided opportunities for in-depth qualitative discussions. Furthermore, a dedicated district committee, composed of representatives from these stakeholder groups, worked diligently to synthesize the collected data and shape the plan's direction. Ultimately, this strategic plan serves as a vital roadmap for Groton Public Schools, outlining clear goals and actionable strategies to ensure continuous improvement and the success of all students.

The Strategic Plan Committee Members

Beverly Washington, Board of Education Chair
Susan Austin, Superintendent
Anne Marie Mancini, Ed.D, Assistant Superintendent
Jennifer Anthony, Elementary Math Specialist, CK
Rebecca Beyus, Communications Specialist
Megan Bishop, Elementary Teacher, TRMS
Brenda Borrelli, Elementary Literacy Specialist, CK
Lauren Casini, Student Data Manager
Ryan Chaney, Principal, NEA
Chelsey Courtright, FHS Department Head, School Counseling
Jemal Davis, Asstistant Principal, GMS
Jamie Giordano, Principal, TRMS
Todd Higgins, FHS Department Head, Social Studies
Carmita Hodge, Assistant Principal, FHS
Andrew Ilvento, Teacher, GMS
Jaime Kane, Elementary Math Specialist, CB
Kerry Leff, Elementary Literacy Specialist, MRMS
Melissa Manzione, FHS Deptartment Head, CTE
Mark Masterjoseph, Elementary Math Specialist, NEA
Alyson Merrill, Elementary Literacy Specialist, TRMS
Kevin Montanaro, SPED Teacher, FHS
Benjamin Moon, Elementary STEM Coordinator
Christina Post, Assistant Principal, CB
Laura Quashnie, VP of GEA, ELA Teacher
Daisy Rhau- Elementary Math Specialist, TRMS
Mikayla Sawchuk, Elementary Teacher, CB
Sarah Beth Stonoha, Elementary Literacy Coordinator
Cheryl Townsend, EL Teacher, GMS

About Groton Public Schools

Our Mission is Teaching and Learning

Groton Public School welcomes nearly 5,000 unique students each year and is committed to fostering a community of inclusivity and academic excellence for all students.

From Early Childhood to Adult Education, we provide challenging opportunities for every student to reach their full potential. Our schools offer academic and enrichment programs that allow students to pursue their interests and talents and prepare for their future as global citizens.

Our district features five specialized K–5 magnet theme schools, a comprehensive STEAM and International Baccalaureate (IB) middle school, and Robert E. Fitch High School—one of only three high schools in Connecticut to offer the IB Program.

Located between the Thames and Mystic Rivers, Groton Public Schools is strengthened by our strong local history and strong community partnerships. As home to Submarine Base New London, we proudly serve the families of those who serve us.

Our Mission is Teaching and Learning



Early Childhood



Elementary (K-5)



Middle (6-8)



High School (9-12)

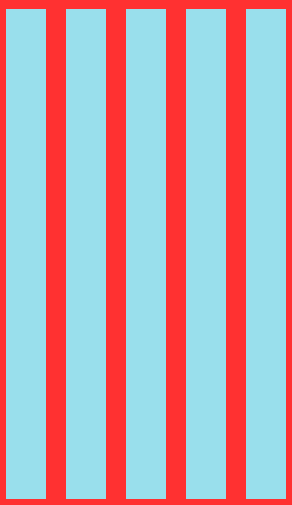


Transition Academy



Adult Education

The Plan Pillars



The Plan Pillars

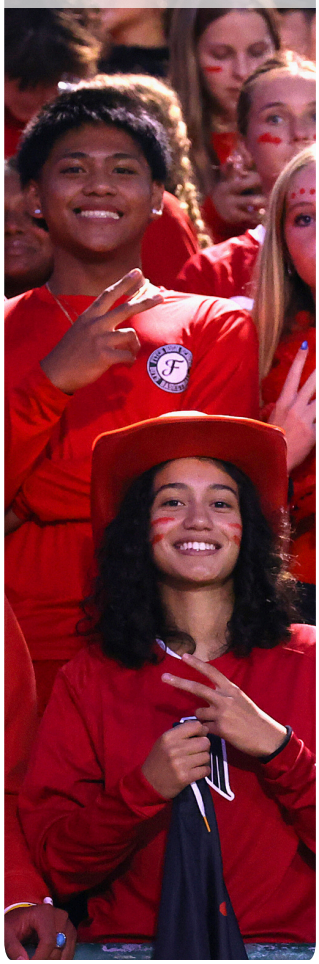
1

Accelerate Academic Achievement



2

Cultivate a Rich and Vibrant Learning Community



3

Strengthen Pathways that Develop Post Secondary Readiness



4

Attract and Grow A Skilled and Supported Workforce



5

Improve Operational Efficiency and Increase Fiscal Responsibility





1 Accelerate Academic Achievement

Provide all students with standards-aligned curricula, student-centered instruction, and engaging learning experiences that support the Vision of the Graduate.

Priorities:

- **Ensure a comprehensive, standards-aligned curricula** for all students, PreK-Grade 12.
- **Provide engaging, student-centered instruction** that promotes active learning and meaningful connections.
- **Use district, school, and classroom assessment data** to make informed decisions about instruction and improve student outcomes.
- **Ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities**, including differentiated interventions and multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS).



2 Cultivate a Rich and Vibrant Learning Community

Foster a safe and inclusive environment that engages and empowers students, families, and staff.

Priorities:

- **Prioritize the physical and mental well-being of staff and students** through supportive programs and initiatives.
- **Ensure students have at least one trusted adult** who cares about them and knows their name, strengths, and story.
- **Foster meaningful family and community engagement** through accessible, frequent, and welcoming communication.
- **Encourage students to use SEL strategies** to build healthy identities, manage emotions, build empathy, maintain positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and achieve goals.
- **Empower student and educator agency** by providing opportunities for voice, leadership, and celebrations of learning.
- **Increase student and staff engagement** by emphasizing the importance of daily attendance.

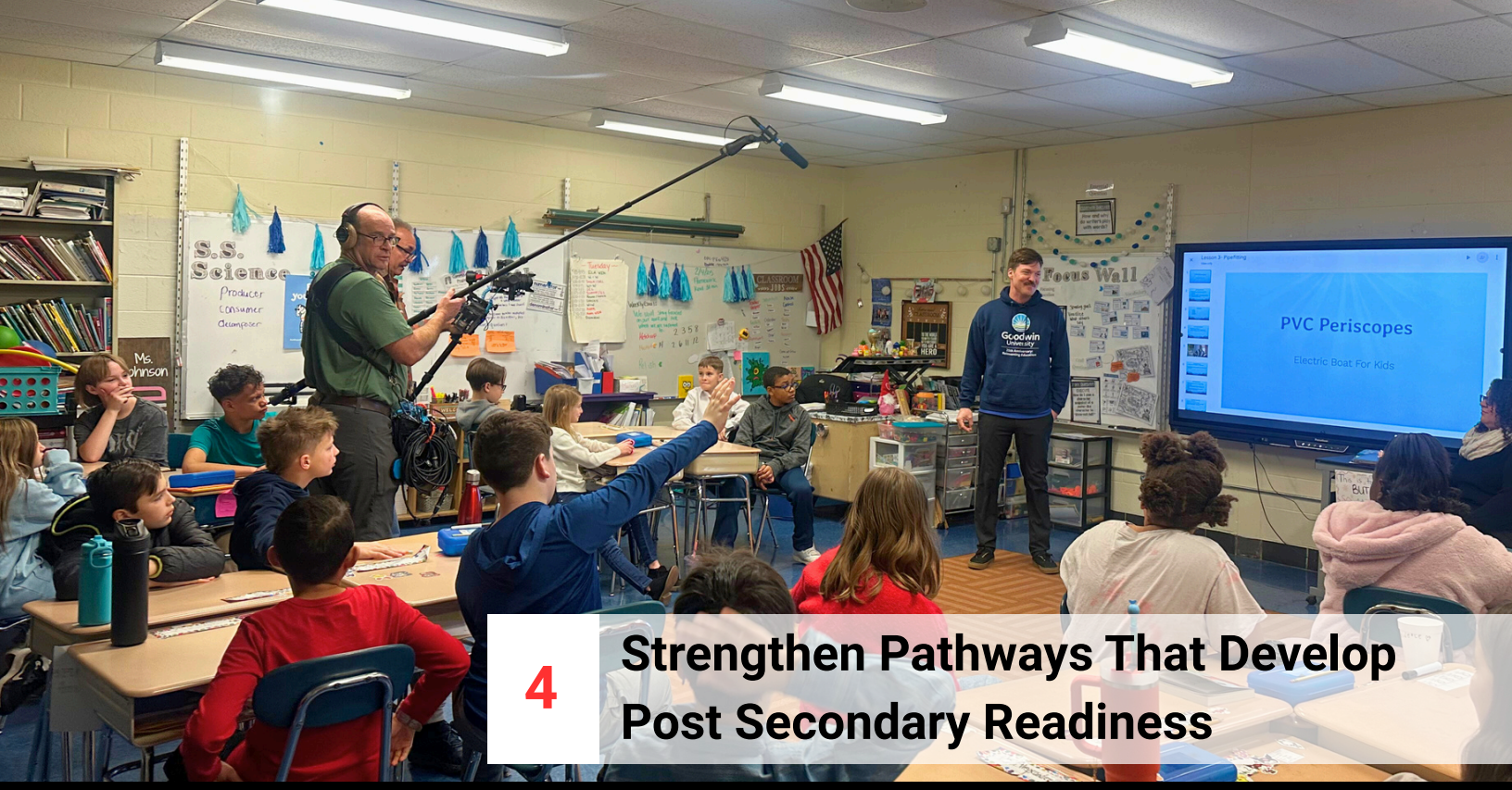


3 Attract and Grow A Skilled and Supported Workforce

Recruit, develop, retain, and celebrate exceptional talent.

Priorities:

- **Attract, hire, and retain a highly skilled, diverse, and mission-driven workforce** by implementing innovative recruitment strategies, providing competitive compensation, and fostering a culture of continuous professional growth and excellence.
- **Design and implement a targeted professional development plan** tailored to the needs and interests of teachers and paraeducators.
- **Increase district coherence** by emphasizing communication and providing opportunities for relationship-building between educators at all levels.
- **Offer comprehensive support for all new GPS staff**, including structured programs such as TEAM and mentoring, to ensure a smooth transition and continued growth within the district.
- **Promote a culture of innovation and empowerment** by actively soliciting staff input and feedback, ensuring that employee voices are heard in organizational decision-making processes.



4 Strengthen Pathways That Develop Post Secondary Readiness

Prepare all GPS learners to be future ready and globally-prepared citizens.

Priorities:

- **Expand PreK programming** so that all children are set up for academic and social success .
- **Strengthen the district's magnet and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs** by enhancing alignment across all grade levels and implementing outreach strategies to increase student participation and community awareness.
- **Create a system of personalized support and planning** to guide students through key academic transitions that prepare them for post-graduation success.
- **Ensure authentic, hands-on learning experiences** within each magnet program that align with the district's career pathways.
- **Develop rigorous, coordinated partnerships** in collaboration with higher education institutions and local/regional employers that support career pathways aligned with economic opportunity and individual aspirations.
- **Promote meaningful opportunities** that prepare students for college and career and workforce development through experiences such as service learning, digital citizenship, and technology's impact on humanity, Industry Recognized Credentials (IRCs), internships and apprenticeships.



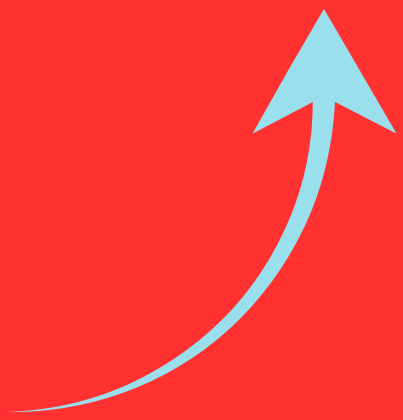
5 Improve Operational Systems and Increase Fiscal Responsibility

Refine and implement structures and policies that transform district systems and remove barriers to educator and student success.

Priorities:

- **Seek out and secure state and federal grant funding** to support innovative initiatives and develop a plan for program sustainability.
- **Improve all systems related to budget and finance**, streamline the district budget approval process, and integrate the MUNIS system to support efficient and transparent financial planning.
- **Ensure the safety, security, and maintenance of all schools and facilities** through ongoing improvements that protect students, staff, and the wider GPS community.
- **Define and pursue a long-term vision for capital improvements** that support strategic goals.
- **Develop and implement a sustainable technology infrastructure plan**, including refresh cycles and for end-user devices and scheduled upgrades for IT hardware equipment, displays, and Promethean Boards.
- **Establish instructional environments** that support innovative teaching, enhanced student collaboration, and state-of-the art technology.
- **Develop and share a cohesive communications plan** that outlines how information will be shared with all GPS stakeholders and the larger community.

Key Performance Indicators



Key Performance Indicators - Academics

INDICATOR	SY 2026	SY 2027	SY 2028	SY 2029	SY 2030
Academics	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target
Accountability Index	75	77.5	80	82.5	85
DPI - ELA	69	71	73	75	75
DPI - Math	65	67.5	70	72.5	75
DPI - Science	66	68	70	72	75



Key Performance Indicators - Attendance

INDICATOR	SY 2026	SY 2027	SY 2028	SY 2029	SY 2030
Attendance	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target
Average Daily Attendance	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%
% Students Chronic	13%	11%	9%	7%	5%
Average # of Staff Absences	15	13.5	12	10.5	9



Key Performance Indicators - Behavior

INDICATOR	SY 2026	SY 2027	SY 2028	SY 2029	SY 2030
Behavior	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target
# of Incidents of ISS	513	462	416	375	338
# of Incidents of OSS	186	168	152	137	124



Key Performance Indicators - College and Career Readiness

INDICATOR	SY 2026	SY 2027	SY 2028	SY 2029	SY 2030
	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target
% On-Track to Graduation	87%	89%	91.5%	93%	94%
% Taking Courses	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
Postsecondary Entrance	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
4-Year Graduation Rate	92.2%	92.8%	93.4%	94%	94.6%



Key Performance Indicators - Communication and Climate

INDICATOR	SY 2026	SY 2027	SY 2028	SY 2029	SY 2030
	Target	Target	Target	Target	Target
% of K-5 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult	85%	85.5%	86%	86.6%	87%
% of 6-12 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult	85%	85.5%	86%	86.6%	87%
% of Staff Reporting PD is Connected to Position	65%	65.5%	66%	66.5%	67%
% of Parents Who Believe There are Opportunities for Caregiver Involvement	86%	88%	90%	93%	96%



The Vision of the Graduate

Groton Public Schools students will strive to R.I.S.E.

They will be:

Resilient Individuals.
Innovative Learners.
Socially Aware Citizens.
Engaged Communicators.



Groton Public Schools
1300 Flanders Road
Mystic, CT 06355
www.grotonschools.org

PREFERRED MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE GUIDELINES

(Approved by Groton Board of Education at its Regular Meeting on _____)

ACADEMIC	PREFERRED MAXIMUM CLASS SIZE
Kindergarten – 1	20
Grades 2-3	23
Grades 4-12	25
Remedial Self-Contained 6-12	14
Remedial Individual/Small Group	40 (total teacher load)

SPECIAL AREAS	
Technology Education (9-12)	20
Culinary Arts (9-12)	16
General Music (K-12)	25
Art (9-12)	20
Physical Education (6-12)	30

PUPIL – TEACHER RATIOS FOR SUPPORT PERSONNEL	
Guidance Counselors	200:1
Library/Media Specialist	500:1
Special Education:	
Self-contained	12:1
Resource Room	20:1

P 5113

Students

Attendance

The Groton Board of Education (Board) believes that consistent school attendance is crucial for student success. The instructional experiences provided in school are vital and irreplaceable components of a child's learning process. Therefore, it is the policy of Groton Public Schools to promote and encourage regular, daily attendance for all students.

Regular student attendance in school is essential to the educational process and is a key factor in the success a student achieves in school. Responsibility for ensuring that students attend school rests by statute with the parent/guardian or other person having legal responsibility for the child. To assist parents and others in meeting this responsibility, the Groton Board of Education instructs its superintendent/designee to adopt and maintain regulations.

Classroom learning experiences are the basis for public school education. Time lost from class is a lost instructional opportunity. The Board of Education requires that accurate records be kept of the attendance of each child, and students should not be absent from school without parental knowledge and consent.

Connecticut state law requires parents to cause their children, ages five through eighteen inclusive, to attend school regularly during the hours and terms the public school is in session. Parents or persons having control of a child five years of age have the option of not sending the child to school until ages six or seven. Mandatory attendance terminates upon graduation or withdrawal with written parent/guardian consent at age seventeen.

A student is considered to be “in attendance” if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent. A student not meeting the definition of “in attendance” shall be considered absent.

If a child is absent from school and the school has not received any notification from a parent or guardian, school staff must make a reasonable effort to contact the parent or guardian by phone or electronic communication.

Responsibility for completion of missed classwork lies with the student, not the teacher. Please see each school handbook for specific requirements and timelines.

Mental Health Day

Students enrolled in grades K-12 are permitted two mental health days during the school year. These days provide students time to attend to their emotional and psychological well-being in lieu of attending school. The student shall not be required to present documentation. The absence shall be identified as a “mental health wellness day.” A student cannot take two consecutive mental health wellness days.

Attendance – cont.

Excused Absences for Children of Service Members
An enrolled student, age five to eighteen, inclusive, whose parent or legal guardian is an active duty member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting, shall be granted ten days of excused absences in any school year and, at the discretion of the Board of Education, additional excused absences to visit such child's parent or legal guardian with respect to such leave or deployment of the parent or legal guardian. In the case of such excused absences such child and parent or legal guardian shall be responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's teacher prior to any period of excused absence, and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by such child prior to their return to school from such period of excused absence.

Dismissal
No school, grade, or class may be dismissed before the regularly scheduled dismissal time without the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

No teacher may permit any individual student to leave school prior to the regular hour of dismissal without the permission of the Principal.

No student may be permitted to leave school at any time other than at regular dismissal without the approval of the student's parent/guardian. If a court official with legal permission to take custody of a child, or if a police officer arrests a student, the parent/guardian should be notified of these situations by the administration.

~~The Groton Board of Education recognizes that regular attendance in school is fundamental to a child's achievement. Instructional experiences that occur in school are meaningful and essential components of the learning process. Time lost from class is irretrievable. It shall be the policy of the Groton Public Schools to encourage regular, daily attendance by all students.~~

~~Connecticut State Board of Education policy states *"A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., a field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent."* According to this policy a student who is not "in attendance" is considered absent.~~

~~In order to identify those students who are chronically absent and at risk of becoming truant, and to provide clear guidance to school districts for complying with truancy laws and reporting student truancy statistics, the State Board of Education has adopted the following definitions and guidance regarding student absences:~~

~~**Disciplinary Absences** – Absences that are the result of school or District level disciplinary action (e.g., out-of-school suspension and expulsion) are excluded from State-level accounting and will not be counted against the student for the purpose of this policy.~~

~~**Excused Absences** – A student's absence from school shall be considered excused if written documentation of the reason for the absence has been submitted within ten (10) school days of the student's return to school, or the absence is in accordance with section 10-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes (exclusion for medical reasons), and student's absence meets the following criteria:~~

A. For absences one through nine (1-9), a student's absences from school are considered excused when the student's parent/guardian approves such absence, regardless of the reason, and submits appropriate documentation; and

B. For the tenth and subsequent absences, a student's absences are considered excused for the following reasons:

1. Student illness (Note: all student illness absences must be verified by an appropriately licensed medical professional for the absence to be excused, regardless of the length of the absence);
2. Student's observance of a religious holiday;
3. Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
4. Mandated court appearances (additional documentation required);
5. The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a school district other than Groton (no parental documentation is required for this reason); and
6. Extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by the Principal, or his/her designee, per the guidance in this policy.

Unexcused Absences – A student's absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless it meets the definition of an excused absence (including the documentation requirements) or the absence was a disciplinary absence.

Note that the State Board of Education's policy only considers a student absent when he/she misses half or more of the normal school day. A student missing less than half the school day will be considered tardy; student tardiness shall be dealt with at the school building level.

Documentation of Student Absences

The State Board of Education requires careful and thorough documentation of all student absences. Parent or guardian notes and other documentation are central to determining whether a student's absence is excused or unexcused. While a written note from a parent or guardian will likely be the most common form of documentation, other methods of reporting a student's absence are acceptable, such as a parent/guardian making a report in person to the designated school staff member, through an online system with controlled access, or via video chat. E-mail and texting do not meet the State's security requirements; however, e-mail may be used to deliver a scanned image of a note.

The school staff must be certain that the student's parent/guardian was the one providing the information regarding the student's absence in order for it to be excused should the absence meet all the applicable criteria specified herein.

School staff must receive or generate documentation for each instance of absence, which is one or more consecutive school days absent. Schools should only accept notes covering a series of absences for non-consecutive school days if the absences share a common cause.

Once a student has accrued a total of nine (9) absences, including both excused and unexcused, additional documentation (besides the note from the student's parent/guardian) is required in order for absences resulting from illness or mandated court appearances to be excused:

A. Students missing school for mandated court appearances must provide additional documentation such as a policy summons, a subpoena, a notice to appear, or a signed note from a court official.

Attendance (continued)

B. For absences resulting from illness, students must either provide a signed note from a medical professional who has evaluated the student confirming the absence and giving an expected return date or have the school nurse verify the student's absence with the medical professional treating the student. Families who lack health insurance and/or those with limited means may find it challenging to meet this requirement to obtain a note from a licensed medical professional. In these cases, school nurses can evaluate the ill student, either in person or over the telephone, and, where appropriate, provide the required documentation for an excused absence.

For parents/guardians who are not proficient in reading and writing English, the schools shall make efforts to help these parents report their child's absences, including accepting notes in languages other than English. For parents who are not proficient in writing in any language, schools should verbally inform them of the attendance requirements and that they may report a student's absence in person at the school.

Absences for Emergency Situations

For the purposes of the definition of excused absences, emergencies are generally significant events that are outside of the control of the student's family. They are normally short absences consisting of a few days at most. The only required documentation is a parental note clearly explaining the emergency situation that result in the student's absence. Examples of emergencies include, but are not limited to:

- Family member who is very ill and close to dying;
- Student's home is lost to fire or eviction;
- Family's home being quarantined;
- Natural disaster;
- A student who is a parent and whose child needs to go to the hospital; or
- A family member's military deployment or return from deployment.

Absences for Extraordinary Educational Opportunities

From time to time, students may be presented with an exceptional opportunity for an experience of an educational nature. While these events may not be part of the student's normal schoolwork, they can provide an excellent chance to further their education. Students and their parents/guardians must understand that approval as an excused absence is made on a case-by-case basis, in consideration of a number of factors, and that opportunities approved for one student may not be approved for another. Under the specific criteria outline herein, the days devoted to these opportunities can count as excused absences:

- The opportunity must be education in nature and have a learning objective related to the student's coursework or plan of study;
- It must be an opportunity not ordinarily available to the student;
- It must be grade and developmentally appropriate; and
- The content of the experiences must be highly relevant to the student.

It is important that the school administration, the student, and the student's family all have a common understanding of the extraordinary educational opportunity that is being requested and approved. To that end, building specific procedures implementing this policy shall include the following:

Attendance (continued)

- All requests for approval of an exceptional educational opportunity as an excused absence must be submitted in writing prior to the event, bear the signature of the student and his/her parent or guardian, describe the learning objective of the opportunity, and detail how the objective is linked to the student's coursework or plan of study; include additional documentation as appropriate to support a full understanding of the opportunity.

- Approval of an exceptional educational opportunity as an excused absence should be in writing, detail any requirements placed upon the student as a condition of approval, include the specific days approved for the opportunity, and include the caveat that the school administration may withdraw its approval if the opportunity is canceled or the student fails to meet the mutually agreed upon requirements of the approval.

Within ten (10) days after the end of the approved period for the extraordinary educational opportunity, the student must submit all required documentation as specified during the approval process, or the time away from school will be considered an unexcused absence.

Truancy

Connecticut State law defines a "truant" as a child age five to eighteen years, inclusive, who is enrolled in Groton Public Schools and has four (4) unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten (10) unexcused absences from school in any school year. Studies have shown that students who are truant are in danger of having significant difficulty in making the same academic progress as their peers who regularly attend school.

Within ten (10) school days after a student's fourth (4th) unexcused absence in a month or tenth (10th) unexcused absence in a school year, the school administration shall hold a meeting with the parent/guardian of the student who has become truant, or with such other person having control of the truant student, to review and evaluate the reasons for the child being truant.

If the truant student's parent/guardian, or other person having control of the truant student, fails to attend the required meeting or if such parent/guardian or other person otherwise fails to cooperate with the school administration in attempting to solve the truancy problem, the school administration will refer to recommendations from the Tiered Intervention document.

(See regulations and addendum.)

Investigating Student Absences

The Superintendent is authorized by the Board to designate one or more District employees to serve as an attendance officer for the purpose of investigating student absences. The role of an attendance officer is to gather/verify information so that school personnel may better understand the factors contributing to the student's absenteeism. This may include a visit to the student's residence.

When a principal believes that a student's absences, excused or not, are having a negative impact on the student's academic performance and that more information is needed regarding the factors behind the student's absenteeism, the principal shall recommend to the Superintendent that an attendance officer be assigned to further investigate the situation. Only the Superintendent, or her/his designee, may authorize the use of an attendance office in Groton Public Schools.

Attendance (continued)

Implementation

The Superintendent is responsible for the development of District-wide and building-specific procedures to implement the requirements of this policy. All elementary schools shall use a common procedure regarding student tardiness, absenteeism, and truancy. These procedures shall provide for:

- the clear expectation among students and their parents/guardians regarding the need for regular, consistent attendance at school;
- a uniform understanding among staff, students, and their parents/guardians of the requirements for excused absences;
- the potential of consequences for unexcused absences; and
- the possibility that a student may be required to receive remedial assistance even when all absences are excused but potentially have negatively impacted their education.

The Board requires that District and building-level procedures developed to implement this policy contain the following specific elements:

1. Annually at the beginning of each school year and upon enrollment during the school year, the school administration shall inform students and their parents/guardians of the school attendance requirements, the building-specific procedures regarding absenteeism, and obtain a phone number or other means of contacting the parents/guardians during the school day. This and all subsequent notifications regarding student absenteeism shall be made in such a manner as to be easily understood by both students and their parents/guardians (for example, using an alternative language when the primary language in the home is not English).

2. Each school shall monitor individual student absences; additionally, Fitch High School will track student absences for each class.

3. Whenever a child enrolled in grades Kindergarten to eight fails to report to school on a regularly schedule school day and no indication has been received by school personnel that the child's parent or other person having control of the child is aware of the pupil's absence, school personnel shall make a reasonable effort to contact the student's parents/guardians by telephone in regard to the student's absence. If school personnel are unable to reach the student's parents/guardians via telephone, then a letter will be sent to the student's home address requiring the parents/guardians to contact the school.

4. The District and each school shall have procedures for coordinating services with and making referrals to community agencies providing child and family services. These organizations should be used to address, where appropriate, the student's personal or family issues that may be affecting his or her ability to attend school on a regular basis.

5. Student tardiness and unexcused absences may be used as factors in determining eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities.

~~Attendance (continued)~~

6. ~~In an effort to prevent absenteeism from rising to the level that it affects a student's academic performance, building-level procedures implementing this policy shall include a tiered series of interventions designed to recognize the factors uniquely affecting a student's attendance and put in place various support actions that can have a positive effect on both their future attendance and academic performance.~~

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes
Sec. 10-15f. Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
Sec. 10-184. Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements.
10-185 Penalty
Sec. 10-198a. Policies and procedures concerning truants. (as amended by P.A.11-136, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes and PA 14-198, An Act Concerning Excused Absences from School for Children of Service Members, and PA 16-147, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee)
Sec. 10-198b. State Board of Education to define "excused absence", "unexcused absence," and "disciplinary absence" (as amended by PA 21-46 Section 19) ~~for "unexcused absence" for purpose of reporting truancy.~~
10-198d Chronic absenteeism (as amended by PA 17-14 and PA 18-182)
45a-8c Truancy clinic. Administration. Policies and procedures. Report. (as amended by PA 15-25)
10-199 through 10-202 Attendance, truancy - in general
Action taken by State Board of Education on January 2, 2008, to define "attendance."
Action taken by State Board of Education on June 27, 2012, to define "excused" and "unexcused" absences.
PA 17-14 An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Department of Education
PA 21-46 An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety and Education of Children
Action taken by the State Board of Education on September 7, 2022 to amend the definition of "in attendance."
~~Sec. 10-199. Attendance Officers. Duties.~~
~~Sec. 10-210. Notice of disease to be given parent or guardian.~~
~~Sec. 10-220. Duties of boards of education.~~

~~Connecticut State Boards of Education *"Guidelines for Excused and Unexcused Absences"* dated May 15, 2013~~

Policy Adopted: September 13, 1993
Revised: July 8, 1996
Revised: March 11, 2002
Revised: September 9, 2002
Revised: October 11, 2005
Revised: April 27, 2015
Revised: April 23, 2018

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut

P 6161.12

Community Relations/Instruction

Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy

Statement of Policy:

The Groton Board of Education (Board) understands that, on occasion, a member of the public will wish to lodge a complaint against instructional material used in the classroom or available in the school library/media center. Consideration of requests to reconsider and remove material, displays, or student programs is limited to individuals with a vested interest. An individual with vested interest may challenge any library and other educational materials, display or student program by initiating a review of such material via the submission of a request for reconsideration form.

It shall be the policy of the Board that the removal, exclusion or censoring of any book shall not occur on the sole basis that a person with a vested interest finds such book offensive. No library and other educational material, display, or program shall be removed from library media centers, or programs be canceled, because of the origin, background, or viewpoints expressed in such material, display, or program, or because of the origin, background, or viewpoints of the creator of such material, display, or program. Library and other educational materials, displays, and student programs shall only be excluded for legitimate pedagogical purposes or for professionally accepted standards of collection maintenance practices as adopted in the collection development and maintenance policy or the display and program policy.

Until a final decision is made by the review committee, any library and other educational material being challenged shall remain available in the school library media center according to such material's catalog record and be available for a student to reserve, check out, or access.

A school district may consolidate any requests for review and reconsideration of the same challenged library and other educational material. Once a decision has been made by **the review committee** on any library and other educational material, such material cannot be subject to a new request for review and reconsideration for a period of three years.

The Board will review and update this policy as necessary every five years.

Definitions

"Library and other educational material" means any material belonging to, on loan to or otherwise in the custody of a school library media center, including, but not limited to, nonfiction and fiction books, magazines, reference books, supplementary titles, multimedia and digital material, software and other material not required as part of classroom instruction.

Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy – cont.

Definitions (continued)

"School library staff member" means a school library media specialist, school librarian, any certified or non-certificated staff member whose assignment is in the school library or any individual carrying out or assisting with the functions of a school library media specialist or school librarian.

"Individual with a vested interest" means any school staff member employed by a local or regional board of education, parent or guardian of a student currently enrolled in a school at the time a reconsideration form is filed, or any student currently enrolled in a school at the time a reconsideration form is filed.

"Remove" means deliberately ~~taking~~ eliminating library material ~~out of~~ from a library's collection. **"Remove"** does not include the process of clearing such collection of any materials that are no longer useful.

General Provisions

Any school library media specialist who, in good faith, implements the policies described in this section shall be immune from any liability, civil or criminal, that might otherwise be incurred or imposed and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding that results from such implementation.

Legal References:

PA 25-168 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget

Policy Adopted:

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut

P 6161.13

Community Relations/Instruction

Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy

The Groton Board of Education (Board) recognizes that library and other education materials should be provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all students, and represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints in the collection as a whole.

Students shall have access to the library and other educational material that is relevant to the research, independent reading interests, and educational needs of students based on a student's age, development, or grade level.

The library media center is an important place for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas, and the promotion of free expression and free access to ideas by students.

A library media specialist is professionally trained to curate and develop a collection that shall provide students with access to the widest array of age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate library and other educational material.

The Board directs the Superintendent to create an administrative regulation that establishes a procedure for a certified library media specialist to continually review library and other educational material within a school library media center using professionally accepted standards which shall include, but need not be limited to: the material's relevance, physical condition of the material, availability of duplicates or copies of the material, availability of more recent age-appropriate or grade-level appropriate material and continued demand for the material.

Legal References:

PA 25-168 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget

Policy Adopted:

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Groton, Connecticut

P 6161.14

Community Relations/Instruction

Library Display and Program Policy

Library displays and student programs are critical in serving as resources for voluntary inquiry, the dissemination of information and ideas, and promoting free expression and free access to ideas by students.

The Groton Board of Education (Board) recognizes that library displays are provided for the interest, information and enlightenment of all students, represent a wide range of varied and diverging viewpoints, and provide access to content that is relevant to the research, independent interests and educational needs of students.

The Board acknowledges that a school library media specialist is professionally trained to curate and develop displays and programs that shall provide students with access to the widest array of age-appropriate and grade-level-appropriate library and other educational materials.

Legal References:

PA 25-168 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027, and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget

Policy Adopted:

GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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