SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Superintendent's Coffee

Join us!

October 23rd
8:30-9:30AM
Central Office

Come share your thoughts, ask questions, and connect with our school community.

Please RSVP by October 20TH to LeJeunea@mersd.org

www.mersd.org



SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

MERSD 2025-2026 Class Size / Section Report
October 2025

High School Class Size 2025-2026

HS Academic Sections	Total # Sections	# Full Year Equivalent Sections
Total Sections	186	151.5
Sections under 5	6	3%
Sections 5-9	33	18%
Sections 10-14	38	20%
Sections 15-19	55	30%
Sections 20-24	36	19%
Sections 24+	17	9%
Over 30	1	1%

Type/Configuration	# Sections	Avg Class Size	% of Total Sections
Core Sections	99	16	53%
Elective Sections	87	16	47%
Full Year Courses	122	17	66%
Semester Courses	54	15	29%
Quarter Courses	10	14	5%
Mulit-Section	142	16	76%
Combined Sections	57	15	31%
Singleton Courses	44	15	24%

Middle School Class Size 2025-2026

MS Academic Sections	# of Sections	% of Total Sections
Total Sections	155	
Sections under 5	0	0%
Sections 5-9	1	1%
Sections 10-14	26	17%
Sections 15-19	73	47%
Sections 20-24	45	29%
Sections 24+	7	5%
Over 30	3	2%

	# Sections	Avg Class Size	% of Total Sections
Core Sections	75	18	48%
Explore	80	19	52%
All	155	19	

Essex Elementary Class Size 2025-2026

	# Sections	Avg Class Size	Total Students
Classroom Sections	12	17	200
Kindergarten	2	15	30
First Grade	2	13	25
Second Grade	2	19	37
Third Grade	2	18	35
Fourth Grade	2	18	35
Fifth Grade	2	19	38

Memorial Elementary Class Size 2025-2026

	# Sections	Avg Class Size	Total Students
Classroom Sections	14	19	306
Pre-Kindergarten	*3*	*13*	*38*
Kindergarten	2	18	36
First Grade	2	23	45
Second Grade	2	22	44
Third Grade	3	18	54
Fourth Grade	2	19	38
Fifth Grade	3	17	51

6-12 Specialized Program Special Education Class Size 2025-2026

	Students Per Program	Avg Class Size	State Class Size Max
Classroom Sections			
MS IRWL	11	5	8
MS SAIL	8	NA	8
MS SWING/ACE	9	5	8
HS Transitions	2	NA	8
HS SWING/ACE	11	6	8

K-5 Specialized Program Special Education Class Size 2025-2026

	Students Per Program	Avg Class Size	State Class Size Max
Classroom Sections			
IRWL 2/3	4	NA	8
IRWL 4/5	7	NA	8
SAIL	8	NA	8
RISE	5	NA	8
ACE	3	NA	8

Totals By Level	
Elementary Total	506
Middle School Total	278
HS Total	372
In-District Total	1156

Totals By Town	In Districnct	SPED Tuition Out	Total
Manchester	614	10	624
Essex	452	6	458
School Choice	86	4	90
SPED Tuition In	4	0	4
	1156	20	1176

as of October 15, 2025

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Class Size/Section Report

High School Schedule

- **Average Class Size:**
  The average class size at the high school has increased overall.
- **Section Distribution:** We continue to see a mix of small and large class sections, with most falling within the 10–24 student range.
  - Lower core class sizes are most evident in the English department.
- **Small Sections by Design:**
  Some small classes remain intentional — courses such as French, performing arts electives, and computer science are maintained annually to sustain and grow key programs.
- **Scheduling Challenges:**
  Singleton courses continue to create scheduling pressures. The high school team is reviewing the impact of setting a minimum class size of ten and considering options for rotating low-enrollment electives.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

MERSD District Improvement Plan Community Feedback Summary

- 24 Total Respondents Report having students at…
  - Manchester Memorial Elementary – 16
  - MER Middle School – 9
  - MER High School – 4
  - Essex Elementary – 2
  - No children enrolled – 1

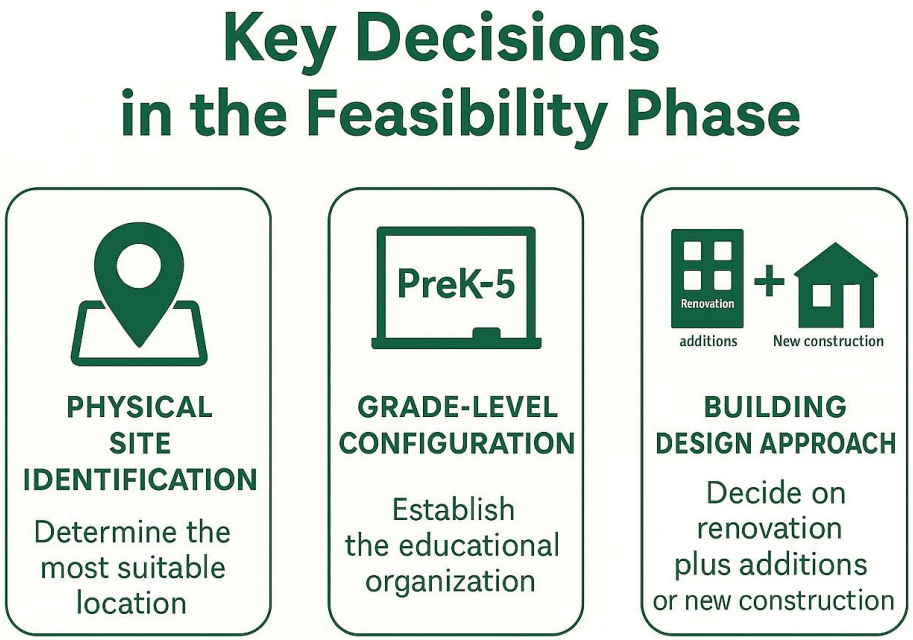
Key Themes (Response Mentions)

- **Academic Focus (11):** Emphasized strengthening core instruction and measurable academic outcomes; ~7 respondents called for prioritizing traditional academics over SEL/DEI initiatives.
- **SEL & DEI (13):** Expressed concern about overemphasis, cost, and unclear impact on academics; several cited ideological overreach or resource strain, while a few noted positive effects on belonging and school climate.
- **Communication & Transparency (7)**: Sought greater clarity, accountability, and outcome visibility
- **Community Connection (7)**: Requested stronger family engagement and clearer messaging simplifying the plan for easier understanding
- **Accessibility (1)**: Suggested simplifying the plan for easier understanding

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

- Federal Funding Outlook
- Annual Student Assessment Review – November 4th
- Essex Elementary Building Project

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

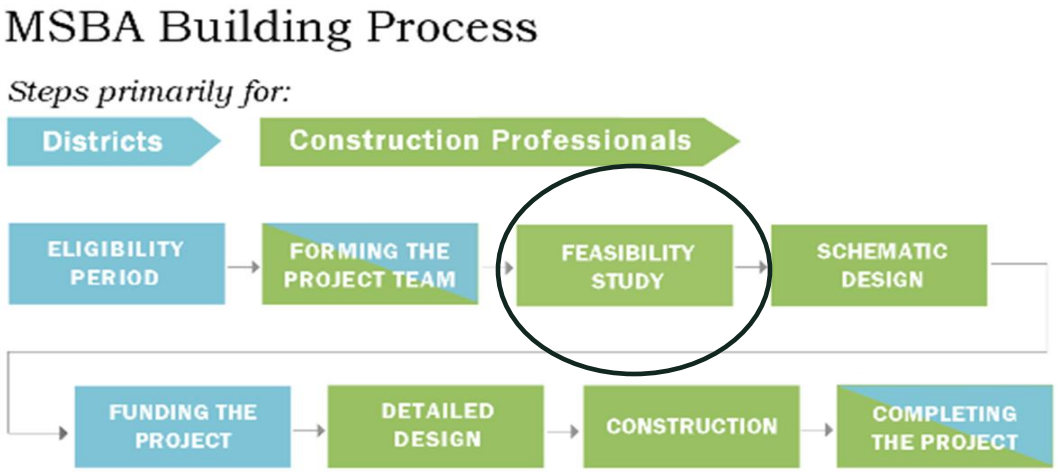
Feasibility Study **Essex Elementary Student Enrollment Configurations to be Studied**		
Grades PreK–3 165 Students *Sited in Essex w/ Grades 4 & 5 integrated into Memorial*	Grades PreK–5 250 Students *Sited in Essex*	Grades PreK–5 515 students *Sited at Manchester Memorial with all Essex & Manchester students in one school*
SC Program Vote / Redistricting		SC Program Vote / Redistricting
SC Vote to Amend Regional Agreement		SC Vote to Amend Regional Agreement
Essex & Manchester Town Meeting Vote to Approve Regional Agreement Amendment		Essex & Manchester Town Meeting Vote to Approve Regional Agreement Amendment
Essex & Manchester Town Meeting Full Project Vote & Debt Exclusion Vote		

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Essex Elementary Building Project

- ✓ Forming the Project Team Phase
  - Owner's Project Manager on Board – Dore & Whittier
  - Designer on Board – JCJ Architecture

- ➢ Feasibility Study
  - *PDP (Preliminary Design Program)*
  - *PSD (Preferred Schematic Design)*
  - *MSBA Approval*



MERSD - Projected Essex Elementary – Projected Timeline For Planning Purposes

MSBA Module/Actions	Length	Potential Timeline	
Module 1 - Eligibility	**270**	**March 4, 2024**	**11/29/24**
BOD Authorization invite to eligibility	0 days		
Initial Compliance Certification	30 days	3/4/2024	4/4/2024
SBC	60 days	3/4/2024	5/3/2024
**Educational Profile Questionnaire*	90 days		6/3/2024
Enrollment Projections	90 days		6/3/2024
Maintenance & Capital Planning Information	130 days		8/30/2024
Enrollment Meeting	180 days		8/30/2024
Local authorization of funding	270 days		11/29/2024
BOD Authorization invite to F&S	270 days		11/29/2024
Module 2 – Forming the Project Team	**185 days**	**Wed 11/29/24**	**Tue 8/12/25**
Key Activities *Hire Owners Project Manager (OPM)* *Hire Designer (Architect)* *MSBA Approvals*			
Module 3 – Feasibility Study	**202 days**	**Wed 8/13/25**	**Thu 5/21/26**
Key Activities *PDP (Preliminary Design Program)* *PSD (Preferred Schematic Design)* *MSBA Approval*			
Module 4 – Schematic Design	**151 days**	**Fri 5/22/26**	**Fri 12/18/26**
Key Activities *Schematic Design* *MSBA Approval*			
Module 5 - Local Actions/approvals	**70 days**	**Mon 10/26/26**	**Fri 1/29/27**
Final Appropriation / Fall Town Meeting	50 days	Mon 10/26/26	Fri 1/1/27
Module 6 – Detailed Design			
Module 7 – Construction			
Module 8 – Project Closeout			

FEASIBILITY FUNDING

Existing Conditions /Site Development /Educational program /Develop Prelim Alternatives /Final Evaluation of Alternatives

We Are Here

**Can indicate interest in studying consolidation/reconfiguration.*

Essex School Building Committee

Fall 2025 Meeting Schedule
Location: Essex Elementary Cafeteria / Webex
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

September 30 (Tuesday) – Business Meeting

October 8 (Wednesday) – Essex SBC Community Meeting

October 14 (Tuesday) – Business Meeting

October 28 (Tuesday) – Business Meeting

November 6, 13, or 17 – TBD

November 20 (Thursday) – Essex SBC Community Meeting

November 25 (Tuesday) – Business Meeting

December 9 (Tuesday) – Essex SBC Community Meeting

December 15 (Monday) – Business Meeting

📌 *Note: Business meeting time is typically the **4th Tuesday of each month.***