

To: Dedham Finance and Warrant Committee  
From: Ian Kelly, Deputy Superintendent  
Date: October 6, 2025  
Subject: Request for Appropriation Under Article 4 – Educational Model Redevelopment

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## **Purpose of Request**

The Dedham Public Schools respectfully requests up to \$350,000 under Article 4 at the November 2025 Fall Town Meeting. This appropriation would fund the engagement of a professional consultant to assist the District in a comprehensive redevelopment of its educational model—with a specific focus on the intersection between teaching and learning priorities and the District’s evolving facility needs and facilities master planning process.

## **Background and Rationale**

The District is at a pivotal moment facing acute facilities challenges and a pressing need to reexamine the educational model that guides how we organize teaching, learning, and student support. Many of the District’s school buildings are aging and were designed for an educational paradigm that no longer fully aligns with the instructional, social-emotional, and collaborative learning needs of today’s students.

At the same time, Dedham’s commitment to educational excellence demands a fresh look at how instructional models, grade configurations, program delivery, and physical learning environments work together. The redevelopment of the educational model must therefore proceed in tandem with strategic facilities planning, so that the District can evaluate creative, feasible solutions that optimize student learning outcomes and the long-term stewardship of community assets.

This dual focus will allow Dedham Public Schools to explore innovative approaches such as:

- Reimagining how existing spaces can be repurposed or rehabilitated to support modern instructional practices;
- Evaluating alternative school configurations that better serve student developmental and programmatic needs;
- Considering strategic facility replacement or consolidation where appropriate; and
- Ensuring that any future capital investments are directly informed by educational priorities and equity considerations.

## **Use of Funds**

The requested funds will support the hiring of an independent consultant or firm with expertise in both educational systems design. The consultant will:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the District’s current educational delivery model;
2. Collaborate closely with the Facilities Master Planning Steering Committee and the independent consultant retained to support the Town in redevelopment of the Facilities Master Plan;

3. Facilitate stakeholder engagement with educators, families, students, and community members to identify priorities and opportunities;
4. Benchmark Dedham's practices and facilities against comparable districts and emerging models of school design; and
5. Develop integrated recommendations that align educational goals, program structures, and facility strategies into a cohesive, actionable framework.

The final deliverable will provide the School Committee and the District with options and recommendations for an updated educational model. The newly articulated educational model will serve as a strategic roadmap that positions the District to make informed, community-supported decisions about both instructional innovation and facility investment over the coming years.

## **Summary**

This initiative represents a proactive, strategic step toward ensuring that Dedham Public Schools remains a future-ready, student-centered district. By engaging professional expertise now, the District will be equipped to make well-informed, creative, and fiscally responsible decisions that balance the dual imperatives of educational innovation and facility sustainability.

We appreciate the Finance and Warrant Committee's continued partnership and thoughtful consideration of this request in support of Dedham's students and schools. If any member of the Committee would like additional information on this initiative, I have [linked here](#) a document I prepared for the School Committee in late September.