



# Dedham Public Schools

## WARRANT ARTICLE 4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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***Funds appropriated through Article 4 will support the engagement of a professional consultant to assist the Dedham Public Schools in a comprehensive redevelopment of its Educational Model with a specific focus on how teaching & learning priorities intersect with the District's evolving facility needs and the new facilities master planning process underway.***

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### **What Is An Educational Model?**

A school district's Educational Model is the big-picture framework that reflects the values of the school district and its community, defining how teaching and learning take place across all schools in the system. A district's Educational Model ties together grade configurations, curriculum, instruction, assessment, and culture, creating a consistent pathway designed to help every student succeed.

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### **Why Do We Need to Redevelop the Educational Model?**

Redeveloping our Educational Model 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.

***Dedham's commitment to educational excellence demands a fresh look at how instructional models, grade configurations, program delivery, and physical learning environments work together.***

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### **How Does This Impact Future School Building Decisions?**

As the District evaluates its Educational Model, it must simultaneously assess how well existing buildings support those desired learning experiences. The Educational Model review will therefore provide the framework to ensure that future facility investments—whether renovation, consolidation, or new construction—directly reflect the teaching and learning priorities of Dedham's schools.

A range of ideas have surfaced in the community about how to move forward to address the needs of our school buildings —ideas that touch on grade level configuration, school consolidation, program offerings, and how best to use limited resources. Before advancing new building solutions, it is essential for the community to align around a clear and shared vision for how Dedham will educate its students in the years ahead.

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***The District's Educational Model and the Town's Facilities Master Plan are inherently connected—one defines what the District WANTS teaching and learning to look like, and the other determines WHERE and HOW that vision can be supported through physical spaces. Running these two processes in parallel creates an opportunity for alignment and efficiency.***

## **How Will This Work Actually Connect to the Facilities Master Plan Project?**

The redevelopment of the Educational Model will 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.

***A new Educational Model would integrate academic visioning, community engagement, and facilities strategy into a comprehensive framework for long-term transformation.***

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By investing in professional guidance, Dedham ensures that decisions about its Educational Model are thoughtful, data-driven, and rooted in community values.

**The consultant's role** is to provide independent expertise and a systems-level perspective that connects the educational model with physical infrastructure and financial reality.

### **Why Use a Consultant?**

**The consultant's deliverable** will be a strategic series of options that integrate educational priorities, program structures, and facility planning into an actionable framework. Beyond considerations of consolidation or grade configuration, the roadmap will examine how Dedham's educational systems can evolve to meet future needs. The roadmap will position Dedham to make decisions that are **educationally sound, fiscally responsible, and community-informed**. It will serve as the foundation for both short-term adjustments and long-term capital planning.

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## **Is There Any Flexibility Or Ability to Scale the Study to Budgetary Constraints?**

The proposed Article 4 appropriation was designed to provide flexibility. The redevelopment work and study could be scaled in scope and depth depending on available funding and priorities. By structuring the work in a phased manner, Dedham could advance critical educational and facilities alignment work within the community's fiscal capacity. This approach would require an adjusted timeline as phasing will take a longer period of time to complete.

***The redevelopment of Dedham's Educational Model represents a strategic opportunity to align educational vision, facilities, and community investment. By engaging a professional consultant, the District seeks to ensure that decisions about the future of our schools are guided by a clear, evidence-based framework that reflects both Dedham's values and the realities of 21st-century education.***

## **Where Can I Find Additional Information?**

Additional materials prepared for the School Committee and the Finance and Warrant Committee by the Dedham Public Schools Business Office can be found at:

**[www.dedham.k12.ma.us/educational-model](http://www.dedham.k12.ma.us/educational-model)**