

# Curriculum/Technology/Student Service Committee Meeting

Upper Merion Area School District  
November 17, 2025



Upper Merion Area School District



# Agenda

- ❑ **Update on K-6 ELA pilot**
- ❑ **New HS English course: Sports Literature**
- ❑ **Chief Science Officers**
- ❑ **2025-2026 Student Voice/Parent & Community Advisory Committee Update**
- ❑ **Federal Grant Programs 2025-2026 - Stakeholders Update**



# English Language Arts pilot, K-6

- Oct 30-31 – midpoint check-in with K-6 teachers
  - Meetings for primary, intermediate, and 6th grade
- 3 programs:
  - Emerge/Study Sync (McGraw Hill)
  - Into Reading/Into Literature (HMH)
  - Arts & Letters (Great Minds)
- Evaluation based on qualitative & quantitative data
- Families may request to review materials being piloted
- Pilot will be completed in January
- Implementation of new materials in August 2026



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# Sports Literature, HS English elective

This semester-long High School English elective course includes:

- Critical reading, discussion, analytical writing
- Themes of athletics, competition, wellness, team dynamics
- Students' experiences, cultural literacy, media
- Traditional and contemporary prose and poetry
- Complex texts, literary devices, diverse perspectives
- Guest speakers and student practice in public speaking



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# Chief Science Officers (CSO)

## What is the CSO Program?

An international initiative dedicated to elevating student voices through leadership opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

## CSOs in our region.

Students participate in the CSO program through the PA SEED STEM Ecosystem. We have approximately 90 CSOs across the ecosystem.



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# Chief Science Officers (CSO)

## Goals of the Program

- 1) Cultivate a network of diverse STEM leaders
- 2) Foster communication & collaboration among CSOs
- 3) Enrich school STEM culture and career awareness
- 4) Amplify student voice in STEM conversations in the community

## CSOs in the Upper Merion Area School District

Who: (4) high school seniors + Ms. Himler and Dr. Vreeland

Previous Action Plans: Stemonstrations

Proposed Action Plan: Outdoor classroom



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# Student Voice

UPENN Consortium for Mental Health & Optimal Development Partnership

Team: Susan Silver, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Gina Ross, Director of Student Services, Whitney Howard, High School Counselor, Dr. Tyree Thompson, School Psychologist, & Ashia Philippe, Advisor for Student & School Engagement

Tasks for 2025-2026 - Student focus groups will discuss recommendations for actionable steps to address themes using “improvement science” techniques: “Creating a theory for improvement and testing changes.

## UMAHS Student Leadership and Belonging Workshop

- November 11
- November 18
- December 4
- December 16

## Dreaming Forward Program

- October 7, 2025
- December 2, 2025
- February 19, 2026
- April 21, 2026



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# Parent & Community Voice

**Team: Susan Silver, Assistant Superintendent and Dr. Barbara Moore-Williams**

**Tasks for 2025-2026 - The Parent & Community Advisory Committee holds monthly meetings to discuss issues and formulate actionable recommendations to address key themes. The committee is also engaging in a book study with the book, *Beyond the Bake Sale, The Essential Guide to Family/School*. We have over 45 parents participating.**

**Dates: Next meeting is November 20, 2025 - In-Person**



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# Federal Grant Programs 2025-2026

## Stakeholders Engagement & Feedback

### November 17, 2025

***Stakeholder Engagement is the process of communicating to, learning from, and partnering with stakeholders that acknowledges the unique needs and strengths of the stakeholders involved.***



Stakeholder Meeting #3



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**Purpose: Learn about these grants and gain an understanding of how our District allocates these funds to help ensure an equitable education for all of our students.**

***The Upper Merion Area School District receives Federal funding categorized as:***

***Title I,***

***Title II,***

***Title III and***

***Title IV***



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# Title I, Part A Program

Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

- Eligibility based on Free and Reduced Lunch Percentages
- Serve one school due to current funding allocation:
  - **\$724,929.00** (reduction of \$8,239.00 from 2024-2025 School Year)

## Bridgeport Elementary School

- Two Reading Specialists, Two ESL Teachers, & One Counselor
- Materials for Parent and Community Engagement
  - Take home books
  - Parent and Family Events



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# UMASD Equity Plan

LEAs that choose to accept Title I funding are required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 to develop an equity plan to ensure that their poor and minority students in Title I schools are not being taught at a disproportionate rate by teachers who are ineffective, inexperienced, or who are teaching out of field.



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**Title II Program - \$120,807.00**  
**Class Size Reduction**

**Additional ESL Teacher - Middle School**



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# **Title III, Language Instruction of English Learners**

**\$66,748.00**

**Title III, Immigrants - \$1,337.00**

**The overarching purpose is to ensure that English learner (EL) students, including immigrant children and youth, attain English language proficiency (ELP) and meet the same challenging state academic standards that other students are expected to meet.**

- Salary and Benefits for 2 ESL Instructional Aide**
- Supplies for Parent and Family Engagement**
- Salaries for ESL ADULT classes**



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## **Title IV, Part A, Student Support and Academic Enrichment - \$54,403.00**

- ❑ Well-Rounded Education - English Language Arts Focus on Data Analysis to Drive Instructional Practices - Amber Molloy, ELA Consultant**
- ❑ Safe and Healthy School - Membership to the UPENN Consortium for Mental Health & Optimal Development Membership**
- ❑ Effective Use of Technology - Funding of Google Advanced Licensing for ELs**



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# Nonpublic Schools - Allocations

**Title I** - Partner with MCIU/DCIU to provide remediation services to nonpublic eligible schools (Follow the student)

**Title II** - Professional Development focus for nonpublic eligible schools within the UMASD catchment area provided by the MCIU.

**Title III** - Support for ELs through screenings ,resources, and professional learning for nonpublic eligible schools within the UMASD catchment area.

**Title IV** - Funding for materials with a focus on English/Language Arts.



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# Stakeholder Feedback Form



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# THANK YOU

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